

BOROUGH OF CHALFANT – WORK SESSION

November 1, 2023.

PRESENT: Mayor Perry, Mss. Fullwood, Hillen, Fennell, Messrs. Hoover, Lilac.

ABSENT: Messrs. Sauter, Royster.

The work session began at 7:00 p.m. and ended at 8:10 p.m.

BOROUGH OF CHALFANT - REGULAR MEETING

November 8, 2023

PRESENT: Mayor Perry, Sol. Evashavik, Mss. Fullwood, Hillen, Fennell, Messrs. Hoover, Sauter, Royster, Lilac.

ABSENT: None

Mr. Hoover called the meeting to order and led the assemblage in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion by Fullwood, seconded by Fennell, to approve the minutes from the last regular meeting. The motion was unanimous.

Motion by Hillen, seconded by Royster, to approve the bank balances as read. The motion was unanimous.

Motion by Sauter, seconded by Lilac, to approve payment of the monthly bills after being properly countersigned. The motion was unanimous.

Motion by Hillen, seconded by Fullwood, to approve the Tax Collection report as read. The motion was unanimous.

MAYOR

Mayor Perry apologized to Council and explained that he did not receive a report from Forest Hills for October. When he receives the report, he will forward along any pertinent information. In light of Veterans Day, Mayor Perry acknowledged and thanked all the men and women serving in the Armed Forces.

Mayor Perry noted that the TCVCOG employees performing vector services in Chalfant have been parking in the VFC lot where the recycling containers are located. He thinks their vehicles may have prevented Swissvale from picking up the recycling. Ms. Fullwood said that on Saturday, the bins were empty so Swissvale did pick up the recycling last week. Mr. Hoover said the employees parking in the lot have permission to do so.

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SOLICITOR

Sol. Evashavik said that in his opinion, an existing ordinance recognizing the Chalfant VFC as the fire service provider for the borough does not need to be repealed. Once the Chalfant VFC is closed following the official merger with Wilkins VFC #3 and Forest Hills VFC and Relief Association begins coverage in Chalfant, the Chalfant VFC Tax ID is erased and the Chalfant VFC no longer exists. Sol. Evashavik does not believe there is a conflict with the existing ordinance and does not think it is necessary to repeal it.

Mr. Hoover explained that at 203 Greenfield Avenue, there is a tree growing into the street; he asked if the borough could address the situation and cut back the tree. Sol. Evashavik advised that because the tree is creating a threat to health, safety, and welfare, the borough is within its rights to cut the tree back and place a municipal lien on the property for the cost of removal.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Motion by Fullwood, seconded by Hillen, to pay the PSAB UC Solvency fee of \$34.38. The motion was unanimous.

Motion by Fullwood, seconded by Sauter, to transfer \$59,000.00 from the General Fund MM Account to the GF Checking to cover the cost of the November invoices. The motion was unanimous.

PERMITS AND ORDINANCES

Ms. Hillen advised that three dumpster permits were issued in October. No building permits were issued. There were five occupancy inspection applications submitted to TCVCOG and five occupancy inspections in October.

Ms. Hillen read a detailed street-by-street list of active code enforcement cases. Ms. Hillen advised that five new cases were opened in October, six were closed, and 23 were continued.

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ROADS AND PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. Sauter advised that leaf collection is scheduled for December 5th and 6th. He asked residents to please rake leaves to the curb, but not into the street, as close to collection as possible. Mr. Sauter noted that residents may still bag their leaves for regular garbage collection as well.

HEALTH AND SANITATION/CHALFANT COMMUNITY DAY

Motion by Fennell, seconded by Hillen, to pay State Pipes Services, Inc.'s invoice in the amount of \$2,080.00 for the CCTV inspection of the storm sewers and to locate the manholes on West St. and Shadeland St. The motion was unanimous.

Motion by Fennell, seconded by Lilac, to transfer \$2,080.00 from the Sewer Line Fund to the General Fund Checking to cover the expense. The motion was unanimous.

Ms. Fennell explained that Chalfant published a Request for Proposals for animal control services for 2024-2025 with a deadline for submission on October 27, 2023. The only proposal received before the deadline was the contract renewal from Hoffman Kennels. Motion by Fennell, seconded by Fullwood, to sign the Hoffman Kennel contract renewal to provide animal control services to the borough from January 2024 through December 2025. The motion was unanimous.

Ms. Fennell said she is excited to announce the Light Up the Borough Holiday Decorating Contest, which will be held on December 21st. Santa Claus will be traveling the borough in a fire truck and the Grinch will also be in attendance. There will be three prizes including a \$200 cash prize for first place, a \$75 Giant Eagle gift card for second place donated by Mr. Hoover, and a \$50 Amazon gift card for third place, donated by Ms. Hillen. Prizes will be awarded by neutral judges. Ms. Fennell said she is having posters printed to promote the event.

PUBLIC SAFETY

No report.

WHEMS

Mr. Royster advised that he did not receive a report for October from WHEMS.

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PARKS AND RECREATION/BOROUGH PROPERTY

Mr. Lilac said the Port-a-Potty will be removed from the park for the winter season and the benches have been put into storage. Mr. Lilac also called the WPJWA about turning the water off at the park for the winter. Mr. Lilac advised that the Community Center roof replacement is now complete.

CRIME WATCH

Ms. Bouvier stated that there are 125 CW members. She explained that changes are coming to CW in 2024; she is working on a new program that will hopefully be more effective and she will make an announcement in the new year. Ms. Bouvier is also hoping to host the Caulfields at a meeting next year. Ms. Bouvier said that she has video footage of men walking up and down Brighton Avenue in the middle of the night; she believes one of them stole a CW sign; she forwarded the videos to Council for the police. Ms. Bouvier stated that she is also concerned about kids in the park after dusk and people parked at the park after dark. She said the police should be aware this is happening. Mr. Hoover encouraged residents to call the police and report any suspicious activity. He noted that the police are interested in this sort of activity and will be sure to investigate.

TAX COLLECTOR

Ms. Donahue advised that penalty letters have been mailed; hopefully this prompts late payers to send in their payments. Ms. Donahue said that she recently attended the PA State Tax Collector Convention. The PA Treasury was there and explained how to look for outstanding monies. PA State Troopers were also in attendance teaching local tax collectors de-escalation tactics and tips for dealing with agitated residents due to assessment increases. Ms. Donahue said the convention was very informative and that she learned a lot. Mr. Lilac thanked Ms. Donahue for attending.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Doris Libell, 127 Lynnwood Avenue, congratulated the members of Council who were recently reelected. Ms. Libell then asked if there was any truth to the rumor of a car being stolen in the borough. Council advised that yes, there have been a few Kia Sportages stolen in the borough recently. Mayor Perry explained that this trend is consistent with other municipalities as well and advised Kia owners to invest in anti-theft devices such as The Club. Ms. Libell also explained that there have been garbage bags left in the yard at the apartment building across from her house.

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at 126-128 Lynnwood Avenue. Ms. Hillen advised that Code Enforcement is aware of the issue and is currently addressing the violation.

Carol Donahue, 110 Greenfield Avenue, thanked Ms. Fullwood and said that she did a good job on the recent Newsletter, it was very refreshing. Ms. Fullwood noted that she did include information regarding the stolen Kias in the Newsletter and asked residents with any suggestions or ideas to please let her know. The next Newsletter will be published in 2024.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Hoover explained that the borough has received the Tri-COG Land Bank's Notice of Intent to acquire 136 Brighton St., East Pittsburgh, PA 15112. Motion by Lilac, seconded by Hillen, to accept the Land Bank's acquisition of 136 Brighton St.; the borough does not object to the waiver of all taxes, tax claims, and municipal claims due against the property upon the TCLB's acquisition. The motion was unanimous.

Motion by Fullwood, seconded by Fennell, to reimburse Tax Collector, Carol Donahue, in the amount of \$195.00, for her attendance at the PA State Tax Collector's Association Convention on October 20th and 21st. The motion was unanimous.

Motion by Fullwood, seconded by Sauter, to pay the TCVCOG Community Development's invoice in the amount of \$4,907.50 for the local share of the CD 48-7.7a Pin Oak Ct. Reconstruction. The motion was unanimous.

Sol. Evashavik advised that the budget can be passed by simple resolution if there is no tax increase. Motion by Sauter, seconded by Lilac, to advertise the 2024 Budget. The budget will be available for inspection at the borough office. There is no tax increase for 2024. The motion was unanimous.

Motion by Fullwood, seconded by Fennell, to advertise the 2024 caucus meeting and regular meeting dates. The motion was unanimous.

Motion by Fullwood, seconded by Lilac, to make a \$100 contribution to the Allegheny County Borough's Association's 2023 beneficiary, Presents from Police. Donations will be presented to

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Presents from Police at the ACBA General Membership Meeting on December 14th. The motion was unanimous.

Mr. Hoover congratulated the newly reelected members of Council.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Sauter, seconded by Fennell, to adjourn at 7:38 p.m. The motion was unanimous.

ATTEST: _____
Borough Secretary Council President

