

BOROUGH OF CHALFANT – WORK SESSION

November 12, 2024

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

ABSENT: Ms. Sivak

The work session began at 7:00 p.m. and ended at 8:13 p.m.

BOROUGH OF CHALFANT - REGULAR MEETING

November 13, 2024

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

ABSENT: Ms. Sivak

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

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

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

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

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

MAYOR

There were 165 routine patrols by the Forest Hills Police Department and 29, 911 calls in October. The majority of the 911 calls were:

4 - EMS calls

3 - Welfare checks

2- Domestic

2 - Calls for information

2 - Repossessed vehicles

2 - Suspicious persons

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There were no questions from Council.

SOLICITOR

No report.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Motion by Fullwood, seconded by Sauter, to pay the 2025 PSAB UC solvency fee in the amount of \$31.38. The motion was unanimous.

Motion by Fullwood, seconded by Lilac, to transfer \$14,000 from the GF MM Account to the GF Checking to cover the November invoices. The motion was unanimous.

Mr. Hoover thanked Ms. Fullwood for the newsletter.

PERMITS AND ORDINANCES

Ms. Hillen advised that three dumpster permits were issued in October. There were no building permits issued.

There were four initial occupancy inspections with two certificates of occupancy issued and two with violations found.

Ms. Hillen explained that two cases were closed in October, six cases were opened, and 100 cases were continued.

There were 23 citations issued through October 31st.

ROADS AND PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. Sauter advised that the first leaf collection went smoothly; Forest Hills DPW will be back again for a final leaf collection on December 2nd. Rossmore at Lynnwood is open again following corrective work.

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PUBLIC SAFETY AND WHEMS

Motion by Royster, seconded by Hillen, to transfer \$43.03 from the GF MM Account to the WHEMS MM Account. This was the amount of WHEMS Tax collected in October. The motion was unanimous.

Mr. Royster advised that there were 11 calls to WHEMS in October. He read the date, street, and outcome of each incident.

Mr. Royster advised that there were three incidents reported from the Forest Hills VFC in October. He read the dates and nature of each call.

ALCOSAN

Motion by Royster, seconded by Lilac, to pay the Satira Construction Inc. invoice in the amount of \$13,750.00 for work to Rossmore St. correcting drainage and runoff issues as recommended by Borough Engineer, Robert Zichkau.

Motion by Royster, seconded by Sauter, to transfer \$13,750.00 from the Sewer Line Fund to the General Fund Checking to cover the expense.

HEALTH AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Ms. Hillen advised that the Light Up the Borough Holiday Decorating Contest will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. on Saturday, December 14th. The event is sponsored by Chalfant Council and Crime Watch, and made possible by donations from community leaders. Neutral judges will award first, second, and third place winners; first place will receive a cash prize and the second and third place winners will be awarded gift cards. Santa, Sugarplum the Elf, and the Grinch will be in the borough for the event. Ms. Hillen said she hopes that the event is bigger and better this year; she would love to see all residents participate.

PARKS AND RECREATION/BOROUGH PROPERTY

No report.

CRIME WATCH

No report.

TAX COLLECTOR

No report.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Michael Pearce, 201 Wilkins Avenue, read the following statement which he provided in writing to Borough Manager, Stephanie Schwoegl, after the meeting:

At the last council meeting, I requested the identity of the two individuals who are responsible for police conduct listed in the borough contract. I was told they are Mayor James Perry and Council President Chad Hoover. I then demanded that both Mayor Perry and Mr. Hoover tender their resignations for failing to protect the citizens of our borough from a rogue police officer. This officer has committed felonious perjury. He is unfit to be a police officer patrolling our streets. I have proof of the criminal acts committed by this officer. The Borough Council has chosen to not examine the evidence nor take any action to protect its citizens. Also, I attempted to make a post on "The Official Chalfant Borough" Facebook page. This is a community page hosted by this council. Due to the fact that council is the admin of the group makes it a group open to any citizen of the borough. The post expressed my concerns over the council's lack of action against a police officer committing perjury. I violated no Facebook nor the group's rules. This council did not like being criticized, so my post was denied and I was banned from the community page. The council blocking me from a borough community page due to a civil suit can be perceived as harassment by defendants towards the plaintiff of the civil suit. I am demanding that the admins of the community page resign. They cannot deny free speech on a community group. I demand the community page be dissolved due to the council violating my rights as a citizen to express my 1st Amendment views. Again, I violated no rules. I am also requesting answers to two questions that I submitted to the Borough Secretary. Question 1: How many signatures are required on a petition to remove James Perry as Mayor and to remove Chad Hoover from this council? Question 2: I have requested the actual borough ordinance that forbids parking on the sidewalk. I have read the entire ordinance codes that are posted on the website. I found ordinance 15 Motor Vehicles and Traffic. In that is Title 15-201 that forbids driving on the sidewalk. It does not state that it is illegal to have a vehicle placed or parked on the sidewalk. I expect those two questions to be answered today and also sent to me via email or US Mail. Mr. Hoover responded that he does not intend to resign and the community Facebook page that Mr. Pearce is referring to is not an official borough page; there is no ordinance or resolution

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designating it or acknowledging it as an official page. Sol. Evashavik advised that if members of Chalfant Council are participating in a community Facebook page, they are doing so as citizens and residents of Chalfant Borough, not acting in the role of Council member. Sol. Evashavik advised that Mr. Pearce take whatever steps he feels are appropriate. Regarding Mr. Pearce's question about petitioning to remove Mayor Perry and Mr. Hoover from Council, Sol. Evashavik advised that the Borough Manager is not permitted to give legal advice; she is not going to provide an answer to that question. Regarding the ordinance, a Right to Know request should be filed. Mr. Hoover advised that you can't park on the sidewalk without driving on the sidewalk. Mr. Pearce stated that someone could use a fork truck or lift to place a car on a sidewalk. Mr. Hoover expressed that he thought that response was ridiculous. Mr. Pearce said he thinks it's unprofessional to call his response ridiculous and demanded the exchange be included in the borough minutes.

Bill Vaughn, 145 Highland Avenue, stated that for the first time in 77 years, he is unable to park in front of his house and he has to complain about it. Mr. Vaughn stated that it is creating issues between neighbors on the street. Mr. Hoover explained that 'no parking' signs have been installed on Highland Ave. under the existing ordinance, which has been in place for a long time. Over the years, the 'no parking' signs on Highland have gone missing and the ordinance was not being enforced. As a result, many residents were parking on both sides of the street, making it difficult for fire and EMS vehicles to navigate. Mr. Vaughn said he thinks EMS vehicles can bull their way through and asked why residents aren't permitted to park on the sidewalk. Sol. Evashavik advised that parking on the sidewalk is prohibited per state law.

Chad Darin, 230 North Avenue, stated that he would like to organize litter collection monthly and was wondering if he could get some residents to volunteer help. Ms. Hillen said she would be willing to help if Mr. Darin wants to organize the monthly event. She suggested he speak with her following the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

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NEW BUSINESS

Motion by Lilac, seconded by Sauter, to advertise the 2025 Budget and Tax Levy. The budget will be available for inspection at the borough office by appointment. There is no tax increase for 2025. The motion was unanimous.

Motion by Fullwood, seconded by Sauter, to advertise the 2025 caucus meeting and regular meeting dates. The motion was unanimous.

Motion by Hillen, seconded by Lilac, to advertise Ordinance 444, an Ordinance entering into agreement with other member municipalities of the Turtle Creek Valley Council of Governments for the establishment of a Property Maintenance Code Joint Board of Appeals as required by the International Property Maintenance Code. The motion was unanimous.

Motion by Sauter, seconded by Fullwood, to sign concurring Resolution 581 requesting a Statewide Local Share Assessment Grant of \$400,000.00 from the Commonwealth Financing Authority to be used for Public Improvements, Road Reconstruction, Phase II, and naming Stephanie Schwoegl and Chad Hoover as the authorized officials to file all applications, documents, and forms between Chalfant Borough and the Commonwealth Financing Authority. The motion was unanimous.

Motion by Lilac, seconded by Hillen, to make a \$100 civic contribution to the Allegheny County Boroughs Association's 2024 beneficiary, Presents from Police. Donations will be presented to Presents from Police at the ACBA General Membership Meeting on December 12th. The motion was unanimous.

COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Lilac, seconded by Sauter, to adjourn at 7:26 p.m. The motion was unanimous.

ATTEST: _____
Borough Manager Council President

