

BOROUGH OF CHALFANT – WORK SESSION

October 11, 2022

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

ABSENT: None

The work session began at 7:00 pm and ended at 8:50 pm.

BOROUGH OF CHALFANT - REGULAR MEETING

October 12, 2022

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

ABSENT: None

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

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

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

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

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

MAYOR

There were 170 routine patrols by the Forest Hills Police Department and 32, 911 calls in September. The majority of the 911 calls were:

- 3- Alarm calls
- 3- Domestic
- 3- Suspicious activities
- 2- Welfare checks
- 2- Neighbor disputes
- 2- Loud music complaints

There were no questions from Council.

SOLICITOR

Sol. Evashavik advised that there is a new tax collection law that must be passed by Council directing their tax collector to implement the new law's provisions for the tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2023. Sol. Evashavik asked if Council has any questions regarding the new law; Mr. Hoover advised that Council went through the new law at the work session the previous night.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Ms. Fullwood advised that the resident that had previously volunteered to write the borough newsletter is no longer able to do so. If anyone is interested in volunteering, please reach out to the borough office or Ms. Fullwood directly.

Motion by Fullwood, seconded by Sauter, to donate \$725.00 to the Chalfant Crime Watch. This amount was the total net proceeds from the Chalfant Community Day on August 14, 2022. The motion was unanimous.

Ms. Fennell presented Ms. Bouvier with a check for \$725.00, payable to the Chalfant Crime Watch.

PERMITS AND ORDINANCES

Ms. Hillen advised that the Code Enforcement department is currently in between code officers once again; Mr. Snelson accepted a position in another community. A new code officer, Mr. Lombardi, is currently in training. Ms. Hillen advised that one building permit and two occupancy permits were issued in September. Mr. Hoover added that code enforcement may be in transition but that they are still pursuing the ongoing violations at 203 Greenfield aggressively.

ROADS AND PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. Sauter advised that he hopes to work with the DPW to ready the roads before the weather changes.

Motion by Sauter, seconded by Fennell, to sign the 2023 DPW agreement with Forest Hills in the amount of \$73,323.00 with an annual equipment charge of \$17,677.00. The motion was unanimous.

HEALTH AND SANITATION

Ms. Fennell advised that she does not have a report but would like to comment on Community Day. Ms. Fennell explained that she would like to organize and plan another Community Day in 2023. She asked that residents get involved and submit suggestions for the event over the next few months; please do not wait until two to three weeks before the event to make suggestions. Ms. Fennell advised that she would like to start planning for the event now and that she has a small group of volunteers helping to organize and plan, but they will need all of the help that they can get; she would love to have more residents volunteer to help. Mr. Hoover agreed, stating that the 2022 event was successful, but that volunteers are still needed for 2023.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Motion by Royster, seconded by Lilac, to sign the 2023-2025 police agreement with Forest Hills in the amount of \$65,067.00 for 2023 with three percent increases annually. The motion was unanimous.

PARKS AND RECREATION/BOROUGH PROPERTY

Motion by Lilac, seconded by Hillen, to ratify the purchase of gutter guards from Home Depot for the refreshment stand at the Chalfant Servicemen's Memorial Park in the amount of \$75.29. The motion was unanimous.

Mr. Lilac advised that the borough is planning to participate in the Duquesne Light Energy Efficiency Program and upgrade both the PSB and the Community Center to LED lighting which will save the borough money in the long run.

Motion by Lilac, seconded by Sautter, to accept Commercial Green Solutions' proposal to upgrade the lighting to LED fixtures at the PSB and Community Center. The total project cost is \$20,497.08, but under the Duquesne Light Energy Efficiency Program, the borough will only be responsible for 20% of the total project cost, while Duquesne Light will cover the other 80%. The borough share for the project will be \$4,099.42. All exterior fixtures will be replaced with new LED fixtures while the interior lights will be a mix of new fixtures and retrofit kits based on the condition of the existing fixtures. The project includes labor, material, and proper disposal of older fixtures, ballasts, and lamps. The motion was unanimous.

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WHEMS

Mr. Royster advised there were five calls to WHEMS in September. He read the date, location, and outcome of each incident. Mr. Royster advised that WHEMS is currently renegotiating the current director's contract.

CRIME WATCH

Ms. Bouvier reported that Crime Watch membership is increasing but she is still hoping more people will sign up and become involved. Ms. Bouvier explained that she plans to schedule guest speakers at the Crime Watch meetings. The first guest speaker will be Ms. Dreibelbes, the victim of the dog attack detailed at last month's meeting. Ms. Bouvier said residents will hear firsthand about the impact of the situation and Crime Watch will reiterate how important it is to call 911 when dogs are running at large in the borough. Ms. Bouvier discussed other upcoming guest speakers, including Animal Control Officer, Gary Hoffman, who will speak at the December meeting. Ms. Bouvier also has a self-defense demonstration planned for an upcoming meeting. Ms. Bouvier advised that the Crime Watch received a check from the former Chair, Mr. Swinney, in the amount of \$421.00, which was the balance remaining in the previous Crime Watch account. A new account and EIN number have now been established. Ms. Bouvier thanked Council for the donation to Crime Watch presented earlier in the meeting. Ms. Bouvier discussed the Crime Watch Welcome Committee and advised that she has been stopping by to introduce herself to new residents. Ms. Bouvier then discussed the existing Crime Watch signs and asked if the one on West St. could be moved to the other side of the street. Mr. Hoover advised that might be Forest Hills but he will take a look. Ms. Bouvier stated that she ordered new meeting notification signs from Signs N At. She plans to display the signs five days before Crime Watch meetings. Ms. Bouvier advised that residents are still hesitant to call 911. She stressed the importance of calling 911 so incidents are documented. A discussion regarding 911 and reporting incidents ensued between Ms. Bouvier and Council with Mr. Hoover explaining that Ms. Bouvier has been extremely responsible in posting and reporting borough crime information, but he hopes that she will continue to run things through Council or Mayor Perry before posting information to be sure that all of the facts are straight. Ms. Bouvier advised that the next Crime Watch meeting will be held on October 18th. She explained that motorists speeding and running stop signs are at the forefront of residents' concerns and asked if speed humps or speed bumps would be an option in the borough. Mr. Hoover advised that both the engineer and solicitor are not in favor of them due to liability concerns. A discussion regarding speed humps ensued between Ms. Bouvier and Council; Sol. Evashavik advised that all traffic control measures must adhere to the Traffic Control Manual; he recommended discussing the matter with the borough engineer. Council then discussed the issue of speeding in the borough with Mayor Perry stating that Officer Petri was going to ask Chief Williams for extra patrols in areas with known speeding.

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To Mayor Perry's knowledge, that was never done and Council deserves an explanation. Mayor Perry stated that most of the speeding offenders are residents of the borough and he would like to see them cited. Ms. Bouvier advised that Officer Petri will attend the October CW meeting. Council and CW then discussed the ongoing issues at 203 Greenfield Ave.; Mr. Hoover advised that the property owner will continue to be cited on a regular basis. He believes four dogs are still at the property.

TAX COLLECTOR

Ms. Donahue stated that she has no report but reminded residents that the first installment payment for the Woodland Hills School Tax for 2022 is due on October 31, 2022. All payments must be postmarked no later than October 31, 2022. The face amount is also due on October 31, 2022, if you are not paying installments.

Ms. Donahue advised that the WHSD has announced that they plan to pursue reassessments of homes that sold in the last few years during the COVID-19 pandemic. Ms. Donahue said that many homes may be affected; the district plans to pursue reassessment for properties that sold at about \$35,000.00 over the assessed value at the time of sale.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Doris Libell, 127 Lynnwood Ave., stated that residents are backing out of Lynnwood Avenue the wrong way toward Rossmore St. and she's concerned that it is going to cause an accident. Mr. Hoover advised her to please dial 911 and report the issue. Mayor Perry advised her to get a license plate number and reminded her that residents may remain anonymous when filing complaints. Ms. Libell explained that people also travel the wrong way up the street, especially between 3:00 and 5:00 p.m. Mayor Perry said he would request an officer sit at the PSB and monitor the issue.

Carol Donahue, 110 Greenfield Ave., asked about the borough's pet ordinance and if it limits the number of dogs residents may own. Mr. Hoover advised that state law supersedes local ordinances and state law states you can have 26 dogs before a kennel license is required. A discussion regarding pet ownership laws ensued with Mr. Hoover advising that while the borough may not necessarily limit the number of pets, the borough does have strict ordinances in place regarding sanitation and noise. Mr. Hoover added that if residents feel the police are not appropriately addressing an issue, please keep calling the police and report the issue. Mayor Perry advised residents should call him and report the matter as well.

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Luann Bouvier, 101 Highland Ave., explained that she plans to fulfill her work's volunteer requirement in the borough by collecting garbage after the frost when some of the vegetation has died back and the trash is more visible. Mr. Hoover thanked Ms. Bouvier and stated that garbage bags can either be placed in the dumper at the park or she may contact Mr. Sauter and he will ask the DPW to collect the bags.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Motion by Sauter, seconded by Hillen, to pass Resolution 570, requiring that the tax collector waive interest, fees, penalties, and late charges in excess of the face amount of the real estate tax in a year in which the ownership of the property was transferred and the new owner attests that they never received a tax bill. The total amount of the face value of the tax must still be paid. The new law takes effect on October 10, 2022. The motion was unanimous.

Motion by Fennell, seconded by Royster, to ratify the purchase of a flower arrangement in the amount of \$120.00 from Beverly's Flowers in Crafton, PA for the service of John H. Royster. The motion was unanimous.

Motion by Sauter, seconded by Hillen, to accept Ricoh's proposal to upgrade the copier at the Borough Office and enter into a five-year contract with a monthly lease payment of \$49.47. The motion was unanimous.

Motion by Fullwood, seconded by Lilac, to purchase a replacement draft inducer/exhaust venter motor for the Lennox furnace at the Community Center at a cost of \$223.61. The motion was unanimous.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Sauter, seconded by Lilac, to adjourn at 8:05 p.m. The motion was unanimous

ATTEST: _____
Borough Secretary Council President

