

October 15, 2018
7:00 p.m.

The regular meeting of Doylestown Borough Council commenced in Council Chambers, with the following members present: Council President Jack O'Brien, Vice President Noni West, and Council Members Ben Bell, Don Berk, Tim Brennan, Joe Flood, Joe Frederick, Sue Gordon, and Wendy Margolis. Also present were Junior Councilperson Josie Hall, Mayor Ron Strouse, Borough Solicitor Jordan Yeager, Borough Engineer Jim Dougherty, Borough Manager John Davis, Central Bucks Regional Police Department Police Chief Karl Knott, Planning/Public Works Director/Deputy Borough Manager Phil Ehlinger, Finance Director Caroline Brinker, and Director of Building & Zoning Karyn Hyland. Water Director Chris Norris was absent.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS: None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. O'Brien called for a motion to approve the **September 17, 2018 Council Meeting minutes**. (Berk-West) The vote was called and the minutes were unanimously approved.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Strouse said that with so much good going on in our community, it was difficult to focus on any one event, but our newest one certainly stands out. He said the event is the Bucks County Book Festival, which concluded Sunday night with a keynote presentation and conversation facilitated by Tracey Matisak of WHYY radio station. He said WHYY partnered with the festival and promoted it on the air. He said that partnership can be built on going forward.

The Mayor said this first year event involved significant planning, fundraising, and sponsorships in the range of \$40,000, coordination with organizations like the VIA, Doylestown Fire Company, Salem Church, and the Borough. He said they asked for volunteers for the festival, expecting to get around 25, but they got more than 100.

Mayor Strouse said there were workshops for newer and aspiring authors that were filled to capacity, readings, and interviews with children's book authors on Saturday at the firehouse. He said there were New York Times best selling authors, authors from Doylestown, and authors grounded in fire prevention too.

Mayor Strouse said that on Sunday, the festival showcased author interviews and conversations, podcast recordings, booths for all kinds of groups associated with publishing, and local authors talking about their work.

Mayor Strouse said the Bucks County Book Festival and its first year success brought credit to our community and beyond. He added that they started planing next year's festival today.

PUBLIC SAFETY - Ms. Gordon

Ms. Gordon gave the **Doylestown Fire Co. No. 1 Report**, stating there were 17 incidents requiring the Fire Company's response in September.

PUBLIC WORKS AND ADMINISTRATION - Mr. Frederick

Mr. Frederick stated he had nothing to report and he then asked Mr. Ehlinger for the **Public Works Monthly Report**. Mr. Ehlinger stated that the monthly Work Order Report and the Fleet Services Report were provided. He stated further that leaf collection started today although not a lot of leaves have fallen because of the warm weather. He said this is the second year in a row there's been a delay. Mr. Ehlinger said they'll make up for it at the back end of the schedule – no one will have their leaves left behind.

COMMUNITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS - Mr. Berk: No report.

ZONING AND PLANNING - Mr. Brennan

1. **Historic & Architectural Review Board (HARB) Report.** Mr. Brennan said that at their regular monthly meeting, the HARB recommended the issuance of Certificates of Appropriateness for the following applications: Sign Applications: (1) 22 North Main Street, Playa Bowls, Mars Investments, decal window signage and hanging sign as presented, and (2) 31 West Ashland Street, Joan Mazer and Ralph Mazer Esquire, an attorney and tax preparation business sign as presented; and, Building Application: 66 East Oakland Avenue, Tony and Anita Trassati, residential renovations and addition, with the following conditions: windows and door to have simulated light grills on the exterior, K gutters with the roof pitched on back, smooth HardiePlank siding, and paint the brick to match the stucco on the rear. Mr. Brennan said that those in attendance at the Zoning & Planning Committee meeting recommend that Council approve the applications in accordance with HARB's recommendations. He said that if Council wished to follow the Committee's recommendation, it could do so by motion. (Brennan-Gordon) With no comments from Council, Staff, or the public, the vote was called. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

2. **Code Enforcement Monthly Activity Report.** Mr. Brennan reported there were 29 residential and zero non-residential use and occupancy inspections, 27 complaints were investigated, eight building inspections, no recycling inspections, no sidewalk/paving inspections, no sidewalk/snow inspections, four litter enforcement, no graffiti, nine fire company issues, and 13 tree removal permits/issues.

3. **Building Inspection Monthly Report.** Mr. Brennan reported there were 135 total permits and a total cost of permit fees of \$13,022.50.

ENVIRONMENT AND RECREATION - Ms. Margolis

Ms. Margolis stated that the Committee did not meet and she had no report. She commented that it is a good thing to leave your leaves behind because it's good for wildlife and that's something people could consider.

WATER UTILITY - Mr. Flood

Mr. Flood gave the monthly Water Department Report: there was one water main repair, two water service repairs [with visual aids], 32 water meter repairs, 10 SCADA System Alarms, five well house repairs, 11 house calls, seven emergency shutoffs, and two bulk chemical deliveries. Mr. Flood reported the following from the front office: 108 shutoff notices were sent, four shutoff

door hangers were posted, 14 meter repair notices were sent, five meter repair door hangers were posted, 167 late notices were sent, 14 final readings, and there was one non-payment shutoff.

FINANCE/PENSION - Ms. West

1. **Finance Report.** Ms. West reported they have started the 2019 budget process. She then asked Ms. Brinker for the monthly finance report. Ms. Brinker reported that the total of all funds expended was \$850,484.76. Motion to approve the Finance Report. (West-Flood) With no comments from Council, Staff, or the public, the vote was called. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

PERSONNEL - Mr. O'Brien: No report.

PROFESSIONALS' REPORTS

Engineer's Report - Mr. Dougherty: No report.

Solicitor's Report - Mr. Yeager: No report.

Central Bucks Regional Police Department (CBRPD) Activities Report. Police Chief Knott stated the Police Activity Report was provided, showing that last month, there were 1236 incidents in the Borough. Chief Knott said they have spent \$3,694,620.53 and are at 68.17% of their yearly budget.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: None.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Flood noted that in addition to being Breast Cancer Awareness Month, it is also Down Syndrome Awareness Month, which, as everyone knows, is a cause very dear to his heart.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

Richard Tems commented on behalf of his wife that she is very unhappy with the drop off on cell phone service on both sides of East Street, going down to State and North Streets. He said she requested that the Borough do something about harassing these various cell services so we have coverage all over the Borough, especially since all those ugly cans are being put up all over. Mr. Davis said it should help. Mr. Tems replied that it hasn't so far. Mr. Davis said they haven't been installed yet. Mr. Tems said there are some up, to which Mr. O'Brien replied that they are not activated yet. Mr. O'Brien said the only ones that are up and active are the ones on the state right-of-way - one at the corner of Broad and North Main Street and there's one at South Main Street. He added there's also one at Church and East State Street, but that one is hidden in the trees. Mr. Davis added that the ones that are up only have an impact in a very small area right around them, but there are some slated for Mr. Tems' area that should help quite a bit from what we're hearing. Mr. Tems said he would pass along that message.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:10 p.m., Mr. Berk moved to adjourn, seconded by Ms. West. The vote was called and the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

John H. Davis
Borough Manager

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