

Community and Government Affairs Committee
Meeting Minutes
Monday, March 8, 2021 6:00 PM

Present: Councilpersons Ben Bell, Tim Brennan, Noni West, Jennifer Jarret, and Larry Browne as well as Borough Manager John Davis, Borough Council President Jack O'Brien, and Mayor Ron Strouse.

The **Minutes** of the January 2021 meeting were unanimously approved.

Ben discussed the **Farmer's Market License Agreement**, which has been given to the Committee previously to review. The agreement is not changed from last year. Ben requested a spelling correction, but other than that, the agreement is fine with the Committee. Representatives from the Farmer's Market, Kelly and Alex, attended the meeting to discuss plans for this year, including an opening Day ceremony, with Mayor Strouse attending to ring the opening bell. At this point, opening day vendor spots are sold out for April 17th. Noni made a motion, seconded by Larry, to forward the existing license to full Borough Council for approval.

John had an ordinance drafted to advertise the **Creation of an HRC Student Member Position**. On a motion from Noni, seconded by Tim, the ordinance will be recommended to Borough Council for formal approval.

Nancy Reilly, a member of the HRC, is moving out of town and does not work in town. She does not want to leave the Board, and there is an allowance of her to remain as an out-of-town member. John will forward that information to the Personnel Committee to be aware of that and discuss it further.

Mural Arts Program. Jennifer and Ben presented ideas to change the name of the **Mural Arts Program** to Doylestown Public Art Initiative to allow for further examples of art events throughout town in the future. In response to questions from Noni, Ben explained there will be a new committee developed to plan various art exhibits. Jen does have a small list of various artists and business owners in town to send a letter of invitation. The hope of this new committee and the art exhibits is to encourage more exploration of the town. Some discussion continued on whether this planning group could include not just the downtown area, but the new park area as well. Jen will continue to put together this working group with members of the public and will report back to this committee.

Mayor Strouse provided updates on State-level legislation, including the resolution passed recently by Borough Council regarding a ban on fire arms in municipal buildings. That resolution is being introduced in the State Senate. The PA Municipal League has made this a priority and is working hard to gain support for it. Also, the legislative effort for local municipality police departments' permission to use radar is moving forward. In the past, this has never been approved for police departments other than State police. Mayor Strouse feels comfortable that this bill has more support in the State. Mayor Strouse was among others who had a conference call with Governor Wolf regarding police reform. He will work with Chief Knott on his ideas on police reform and further discussions with Governor Wolf will be forthcoming.

New/Old Business: Tim discussed the idea of Sister Cities with a friend in Ireland, who is also very involved in the idea there. He is willing to discuss how they apply this relationship to their own city. This is something members are interested in as well, without the fees involved in actually using the Sister City program. After discussion, Tim agreed to research it further and report back.

Christmas tree pick-up program: John noted Public Works does have a lot of concerns with the feasibility of this program. Ben had questioned if there is space for the trees if community groups would be interested in picking them up and dropping them at the Public Works Complex. Capacity won't be a problem, as this really is more or less an extension of the current Christmas tree drop-off program.

Ben is still trying to work out planning food drives and is waiting to hear back from outside organizations.

Meeting Adjourned 6:55pm

Respectfully submitted,
Amy Kramer