



COMMUNITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING

Committee Members: Ben Bell (C), Larry Browne, Curtis Cowgill, and Amy Popkin

Monday, April 10, 2023 – 6:00 p.m.

Borough Hall, 10 Doyle Street, Doylestown, PA 18901

AGENDA

1. Approval of March 13, 2023 Minutes
2. Linden Elementary School
3. Rules of Conduct for Public Meetings
4. Old/New Business

JHD:sa

c: Council
Mayor
Phil Ehlinger, Deputy Manager

Community and Government Affairs Committee
Meeting Minutes
Monday, March 13, 2023 6:00 PM

Present: Councilpersons Ben Bell, Amy Popkin, and Larry Browne. Also in attendance were Kris Boger, Borough Manager John Davis, Mayor Noni West, and Borough Council President Jack O'Brien.

Approval of September 12, 2022 Minutes: Minutes were approved as submitted.

Hybrid Meetings in Council Chambers Update: John updated the Committee on efforts to provide Zoom capability for Council members at Council meetings. Tom Brunt conducted a successful test during the February Council meeting so there is now capability. That capability depends though on Tom being present and streaming the meeting as well. An additional staff member to monitor the Zoom in the Council Chambers will also be required.

Youth Leadership Award Nominations: Ben and the Committee reviewed the four nominations received and voted to recommend Jackson Manning and Reese Grasso as co-winners of the inaugural award.

Pride Crosswalk: Kris Boger was present on behalf of Doylestown Pride to request the creation of a "rainbow crosswalk" in the vicinity of their annual Block Party. Pride would be willing to pay for the installation. John stated that the Public Works Department could install the crosswalk(s) and felt that Printers Alley and Donaldson Street where they intersect with East State Street were good locations that avoided a State Highway. After discussion, the Committee voted to recommend that crosswalks be installed in these locations contingent upon the cost being borne by Doylestown Pride and confirmation from Public Works that there were no issues with the installations.

2023 Pedestrian Zone Program: The Committee reviewed and approved the 2023 Pedestrian Zone schedule.

2023 Farmers' Market License Agreement: The Committee reviewed and approved the 2023 Farmers' Market License Agreement.

Rules of Conduct for Public Meetings: The Committee reviewed a draft resolution and related guidelines for participation in public meetings. John will update both to incorporate the Committee's input for review at the next meeting.

Comprehensive Plan Community Engagement: Ben discussed the importance of engaging as many community members as possible in the Comprehensive Plan process. He, along with Jennifer Jarret and Amy Popkin, offered to host community engagement activities in order to encourage more input from the community. After some discussion, it was determined Ben, Jennifer and Amy can hold these events informally but should make the Planning Commission aware of such events.

New/Old Business: Larry suggested some information be provided on the Borough website that helps to differentiate Borough and Township residents as well as some type of signage that could be taken to various Borough events with a QR code to help residents sign up for D-Mail as well as learn more about Borough events.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:35pm

Respectfully submitted,
Amy Kramer
Minutes Secretary



BOROUGH OF DOYLESTOWN

Bucks County, Pennsylvania

OFFICIALS:
NONI WEST, Mayor
JACK O'BRIEN, President
WENDY MARGOLIS, Vice President
JOHN H. DAVIS, Manager
PHILIP C. EHLINGER, Deputy Manager

March 29, 2023

Dana Hunter, President
Central Bucks Board of School Directors
20 Welden Drive
Doylestown, PA 18901

Dear Ms. Hunter:

At our March 20, 2023 Borough Council meeting, a large group of Doylestown residents asked Council to adopt a resolution in opposition to the closing of Linden Elementary School. They spoke glowingly about Linden and elaborated on its value to the community. Several told us Linden is the reason some people move to the Borough, calling it "a beacon" for young families entering the community. Serious concern was also expressed about what was deemed a lack of transparency from the school district in this matter since it was first broached last fall.

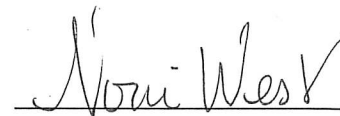
At the School Board meeting where the recommendation to close Linden was publicly announced, there was a promise of a public meeting where the community could ask questions and provide input. Our community is still waiting for this meeting and we ask that it take place without further delay.

We are further requesting a meeting between Borough and Central Bucks School District officials to share the importance of Linden Elementary and to discuss a future in which it remains a vital and vibrant institution in the Doylestown community.

Sincerely,



John J. O'Brien
President, Doylestown Borough Council



Elnora "Noni" West
Mayor

JD:sa/miscel

c: Kevin Spencer, Director of Operations
Tara Houser, Chief of Operations
School Board Members Karen Smith, Leigh Vlasblom, Lisa Sciscio, Dr. Mariam Mahmud, Sharon Collopy, Debra Cannon, Dr. Tabitha Dell'Angelo, and Jim Pepper

Rules of Conduct for Borough, Council, Board, and Commission Meetings

In order to conduct efficient and productive Council, Board, and Commission meetings, residents are encouraged to follow these simple rules when offering a public comment:

- Stay focused on the topics listed on the prepared agenda; Council (or the Board or Commission) will provide an opportunity to comment on each agenda item
- Accept divergent perspectives and respect the opinions of others
- Listen carefully to what others are saying whether or not you agree
- Do not interrupt others when they are speaking and do not disrupt the meeting; Council has the right to adjourn the meeting or take other necessary, appropriate actions to resolve disruptions
- Wait for recognition from the Chair before speaking
- If the Chair directs, speak from a designated microphone or location
- Before speaking, identify yourself by name, street, and municipality
- Limit your comments to three (3) minutes as may be adjusted by the Chair and avoid repetitious comments, to allow time for others to participate in the meeting discussion
- Focus on positive, constructive outcomes
- Hold comments on topics other than those identified on the prepared agenda for the public comment period at the end of each Council meeting; a general public comment period may be held at the end of a Council, Board, or Commission meeting, at the Board or Commission's discretion
- Do not hold side conversations; they are distracting
- Encourage & support different points of view
- When in doubt, ask for clarification
- Understand that Council (or the Board or Commission) has the right to take action, including adjournment, to resolve disruption
- Recognize that everyone shares responsibility for the success of the community

Council believes that these simple rules will encourage positive discourse on matters involving the Borough and its government, improve cooperation among meeting participants, and help keep the Borough of Doylestown a great place to live, work, and raise a family.

JD:sa(CouncilMiscel)

RESOLUTION No. 2023 – _____
BOROUGH OF DOYLESTOWN
BUCKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

**APPROVING PUBLIC PARTICIPATION RULES AND GUIDELINES FOR
PUBLIC MEETINGS**

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Pennsylvania Sunshine Act, 75 Pa. Cons. Stat. § 710.1 *et seq.*, municipalities may adopt reasonable rules and guidelines for public comment periods to maintain an orderly process, including imposing time limits; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Council of Doylestown Borough may, from time to time, direct the publication and posting of an agenda for any regular or special meeting prior to such meeting in such a manner as the Council may determine; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Council of Doylestown Borough wishes to adopt reasonable rules and guidelines for the public comment periods during public meetings and hearings.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Borough Council (“Council”) of Doylestown Borough (“Borough”), Bucks County, Pennsylvania, the below listed rules and guidelines for public comment periods be followed during all public meetings of the Borough, including Council meetings and all Borough Boards and Commissions:

1. Public comment will be allowed after each agenda item for that public Council meeting to allow residents and/or taxpayers the opportunity to comment prior to Council voting on the agenda item. A general public comment period with limitation shall be held at the end of each public Council meeting to allow residents and/or taxpayers the opportunity to comment on Borough issues more broadly.
2. Public comment for all other Borough Boards and Commissions will be allowed after each agenda item for that public Board or Commission meeting to allow residents and/or taxpayers the opportunity to comment prior to the Board or Commission voting on the agenda item. A general public comment period with limitation shall be held at the end of the public Board or Commission meeting, at the discretion of the Board or Commission, should public demand warrant the opportunity for residents and/or taxpayers to comment on issues more broadly.
3. After the comment period has ended, if a resolution or ordinance is added to the agenda or amended to make its substance differ, residents and/or taxpayers shall be provided an additional opportunity to comment on the addition or amendment before a final vote is taken.
4. Any resident and/or taxpayer of the Borough who wishes to address the Council in-person at a Council meeting should first sign his or her name to a sign-in sheet to be provided by the Borough. All prospective speakers should come to the podium or lectern if physically able; if unable, a prospective speaker should wait for a portable microphone to be brought to his or her seat. The prospective speaker must first be recognized by the Council President prior to speaking. The speaker must identify him- or herself by name, street name, and municipality of residence. For personal safety, the exact location of a residence is not required. If representing a

Speakers shall not read written comments in their entirety to have them become part of the record. Speakers are encouraged to verbally summarize their written statement.

- 13. Public comments shall either be recorded or taken on the record.
- 14. While the public has the right to make critical and harsh remarks, the public does not have the right to disrupt meetings. In cases of serious disruption, the Council will adjourn the meeting or take such other action to resolve the disruption, as appropriate under the circumstances.
- 15. The procedures will be posted in the meeting room and on the Borough website.
- 16. The above procedures may be modified at any time by a majority vote of the Council.

RESOLVED and ENACTED, this _____ day of _____ 202____ .

DOYLESTOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL

By:

Jack O'Brien, Council President

Approved:

Elnora "Noni" West, Mayor

ATTEST:

Borough Secretary