

January 28, 2019
7:00 p.m.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS: None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

MAYOR'S REPORT: No report.

PUBLIC SAFETY - Ms. Gordon

1. Ms. Gordon gave the **Doylestown Fire Co. No. 1 Report**, stating there were 20 incidents requiring the Fire Company's response in December 2018.

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 said they didn't have a lot of work orders as they were busy with leaves. Mr. Ehlinger said they are also getting started on routine maintenance projects, some water repairs were completed, and they are also getting ramped up for spring projects.

COMMUNITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS - Mr. Berk

Mr. Berk said there was no meeting this month, but he did want to let everyone know that the Pride Month Working Group is working hard and it looks like it is going to center around a film festival, probably at the County Theater.

ZONING AND PLANNING - Mr. Brennan

1. **Zoning Hearing Board Report.** Mr. Brennan said he would defer to Ms. Hyland for this report. Ms. Hyland reported that the Board will meet at 7:00 pm, on January 30, 2019, at Borough Hall to hear the following applications: 401 South Main Street, Parcel Nos. 8-11-43 and 8-41-23, the applicant, Tina Mazaheri, is requesting a special exception and several dimensional variances to allow for 21 apartments; and, Lantern Drive, Parcel No. 8-17-4-B, by Lantern Hill

Realty LP, which request a use variance and a dimensional variance to allow a restaurant in the Lantern Hill community. Ms. Hyland noted that the applicant requested that this be continued and the hearing will be held on March 20.

Mr. Brennan added that they had a lengthy, well attended meeting, where they heard from Lantern Hill residents who expressed a number of concerns about traffic and noise. He said he felt most of the concerns were pragmatic and a recommendation was made to send the Solicitor to the hearing. Mr. Brennan said the Zoning and Planning Committee recommends that the Borough Solicitor attend this hearing to represent the interests of the Borough, and if Council is in agreement, it may authorize the Solicitor 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. **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) 1 W. Court Street, Geronimo Brewing, by Andrew Scott for a new business sign and an A-frame sign; and, Building Applications: (1) 20/28 East State Street, County Theater, County Theater Inc., for the demolition of 28 East State Street and new construction. HARB recommends issuance of a Certificate of Appropriateness for the demolition of 28 East State Street and the approval of design as presented and the materials noted in the application. HARB suggests using split face block F89 Fazanno Grey for the façade of the auditorium. Applicant will provide additional materials list. As a condition of approval, HARB recommends the owner retain any significant historic elements unveiled during demolition; (2) 6 & 12 Lacy Avenue, Diane Bradley, for siding replacement and preservation of historic signage. HARB recommends issuance of a Certificate of Appropriateness with the following revisions to the application: the two historical signs will be sealed when the weather is amenable and to leave the wrap on for the winter, windows on the building will be repaired but not capped and will be painted to match the white trim, the front elevation sign will be bordered with 1"x 3" pf 1" x 4" board running from the second to third front windows, the sides of the dormer window on the front and back will be Portsmouth Shake by Crane, rafter tails will be shored up to receive K gutter with 1" x 5" gutter in white to match trim, 2" x 3" square downspouts in grey to match the siding and the gable side with the sign graphic would be bordered with 1" x 3" or 1" x 4" board grey to match siding; and, (3) 171 Mechanics Street, Joan Doyle, window replacement. HARB recommends issuance of a Certificate of Appropriateness to replace 12 windows with weather shield tilt sash replacement kit with wood.

Mr. Brennan said the Zoning and Planning Committee recommends that Council approve the applications in accordance with HARB's recommendations, and if Council wished to follow the Committee's recommendation, it could do so by motion. (Brennan-Gordon)

Public Comment.

John Toner, County Theater Founding Director, stated that the Theater bought the Poor Richards property next door to them three years ago this month. He said that since that time, they have been working on an expansion project. He said it is a community project and as such, they wanted as much input from as many people in the public as possible. They wanted the expansion project to be something that everyone in town likes and everyone agrees with. Mr. Toner said as a result that, they did a lot of work to get to the point they're at. He said they talked to as many people as possible, including neighbors, members, businesses in town, Borough

Staff, and anyone who was interested in giving input on the project, they had 20 public meetings, and they had an online survey. He said their goal the entire time was to end up with something that everyone would like and as a result of that, they didn't have a complete, fixed idea of what they wanted to do. Mr. Toner said as a result of all the feedback received, they made a lot of changes as to what they ended up with and what they presented.

Mr. Toner said the County Theater is a non-profit, with fiduciary responsibility to the community, they have a board of 20 community leaders, who lead them in everything they do, including this project, a quorum of which was probably present tonight. He said they have 5000 members, who were all very open about the project, and the board members and members of the Theater were ambassadors in spreading the word about this project and getting as much feedback as possible. In addition, Mr. Toner said they had to raise money to do this project and they received over 1300 gifts from the community to make this project happen.

Mr. Toner said historic preservation was something that was always on their minds as they went into this project. He said the architect they hired, John Cluver, was present and could answer questions. Mr. Toner said one of the reasons Mr. Cluver was hired was because he is very attune to historic preservation and is on various boards with regard to that.

Mr. Toner stated that they saved the County Theater in 1993, when it was close to being closed and turned into another purpose, and saved this historic building to preserve it for the future and future generations.

Architect John Cluver, from Voith and Mactavish, said he appreciates the opportunity that they've had to participate with the County Theater, the process they've gone through, and the various meetings. He said they were very clear throughout about the goals outlined for this project that 1) they find a way to expand the theater, 2) that it was done so in a way that it improves the experience for the theater-going public, 3) that it improves the historic character of Doylestown, and 4) that it provides a strong community presence and ability to have extended offers for the community. He said as they were doing this design, they had four guiding principles as well and he felt this design does that: 1) that the County Theater itself remain unchanged, 2) that the new addition be secondary to the County Theater, 3) that it supports the historic County Theater's appearance, and 4) that it also be supportive of Doylestown as a whole.

Mr. Cluver stated that there was a focus on historic preservation - they did not come into this initially assuming that they were going to be demolishing anything. He said they spent a lot of time reviewing the building, doing a survey of it, taking measurements, and trying to fit the County Theater's program into that building. He said it was not something that was done blindly or lethally; it was done looking to the long-term benefit of the County Theater of Doylestown

Mr. O'Brien asked audience members to please identify themselves, limit their comments to things not already addressed, and, in the interest of allowing everyone to speak, limit their comments to less than five minutes.

Kathryn Auerbach, said she is a lifetime resident of Bucks County, she put the Doylestown National Historic District on the National Register in 1985, and she's a historical preservation consultant and has done this for over 40 years. She said is very concerned about this project, about the historic building they want to demolish, how the process advanced to this point perhaps without many people understanding the importance of the building, and the ability of that building to incorporate the Theater's needs. Ms. Auerbach said she addressed the Zoning Hearing Board, but was not aware of the HARB meeting until the night of the meeting when she received

a phone call from one of their members asking frantically for information about the building. She said she wasn't home and couldn't return the call until the next day. Ms. Auerbach said the person who called indicated all they knew about the building from the Borough records was that it was from 1957. She said she was shocked because she had provided John Toner, when they purchased the building in January 2015, a complete assessment with regard to the history of the building, that it dates to approximately 1814, was built by Timothy Smith, who built the first county courthouse, the jail, and the county almshouse. He was the first auditor elected to Doylestown Township, which included the Borough, and he also started a bank. Ms. Auerbach said that Wilma Rezer calls Timothy Smith, "One of Doylestown's Greats." She said he built other buildings in Doylestown, including Hornberger's Bakery building. She said this building advanced to be owned by Samuel Sullivan, a very famous cloth maker and lumber dealer. She said it stayed a residence until 1928 and maps show at that point, it started to receive some additions. As many buildings in Doylestown, they put the addition in front of the older building. Ms. Auerbach said comments were made at the Zoning Hearing Board that the building no longer contributes to the district, but it certainly does, very much so. She said important aspects can be seen from the street: the gable roof was all merged, the date stone - one of the most beautiful she has ever seen carved with a clock face. She said plaster cannot be moved. She also noted it has some very unusual features and king-post trusses in the interior.

Ms. Auerbach said this is a very unique building with the upper stories holding a fair amount of authentic integrity. She said the downstairs was renovated for commercial use. She said like Nejad Oriental Rugs, the first floor was opened up with store front windows, but you still know it's an historic building and it still contributes to the district. Many of the buildings on those streets have two-story additions, you can't see the building exactly as you walk the street, but they are historic as part of Doylestown and part of its fabric.

Ms. Auerbach commented that stone masonry construction is unique to southeastern Pennsylvania - it has cultural affinities, it's stylistic. She said Bucks County is known for its stone buildings and we've got one right here, since 1814. She said it's part of Doylestown's early history and it's significant by location, next to the old crossroads in the center of town. Ms. Auerbach said the fact that the County Theater organization knew all of this and didn't really tell everyone surprised her. She said she spoke of preservation and maintaining an authentic appearance on the exterior at meetings and she even received a round of applause.

Ms. Auerbach stated that she shared the information again with Mr. Toner and Mr. Cluver, but the meeting was very brief and it seemed they weren't very interested, like they had another agenda. She said before the design competition or at that time, it was advertised that the building was going to be torn down. She said that was March 2016, before any public meeting, before anybody had an opportunity to share anything, they're already stating that was their intention. She said that was not a fair way to start out an honest appraisal of the building by stating it was going to be torn down. She commented that disturbed her.

Ms. Auerbach said it was with new hope that the Historical Architectural Review Board contacted the Borough immediately by sending an email to the Borough Manager and Zoning Officer alerting them to the fact that this was being represented as being torn down and it was a historical building from an early period. She said it seems like nobody knows about this building. She said the HARB member said that they did not have any information when they made their decision. Ms. Auerbach questioned the validity of their decision based on the fact that they may

not have had full information. She also questioned the County Theater's sincere attempt to fully assess the stone core of the front of the building for it to be part of the new design. She said the second place winner in the design competition noticed that it was a really old stone building and incorporated it into the design, so it can be done. She said if you overlay that design onto the County Theater's plan, you can fit it nicely.

Ms. Auerbach spoke of a performing arts theater built in Nantucket, Massachusetts, which showcased king-trusses like there is here in this building, and the building that the Brooklyn Historical Society is located in which utilized the old stone and brick walls. She said both of those buildings sustained the record of history which creates a very vibrant experience.

Ms. Auerbach said she hoped that Council either refrain from making a decision tonight and request more information, or deny the demolition of the Smith-Solliday/Poor Richards building because it is a too important component of Doylestown history. She said Borough Council took an oath of office to defend our Pennsylvania Constitution, and Council is to defend citizens' rights to their historic resources, it's not an arbitrary designation. Ms. Auerbach said that the National Register is a vetted, very carefully reviewed process, Doylestown was lucky to have received that recognition, and she was proud to have been a part of that. She said she is disappointed that she's seeing piecemeal demolition as once you take out too many, you're not going to have that designation anymore. Ms. Auerbach said that as a Council, it has the right and a duty to preserve Doylestown's long history, from 1750, and to make sure for all the other residents in the town – the whole story, not just the story of the County Theater. She said the County Theater is a great aspect of Doylestown's history and she's happy that is a major component of the center of town and that it can continue to be very vibrant and exciting, and also embrace the history of the town.

Lisa Crawford, Borough resident, said Ms. Auerbach described the details of the building, but she walks by that building a lot and she doesn't perceive those details, so it's been covered. She asked Ms. Auerbach ... Solicitor Yeager interrupted and stated this was not really a dialogue time between audience members and the recommendation is to direct all comments to Council. Ms. Crawford said her question is how long has it been since someone could see those historic details with their eyes. Mr. Yeager replied that this really isn't a question and answer session, it is really an opportunity for public comment.

Paul Boger, lifelong resident and Doylestown business owner, said he has always been very proud of the fact that Doylestown has always preserved its history and preserved these amazing buildings that we get to observe. He said he thinks part of Council's and HARB's obligations are to ensure that the town continues to prosper and continues to be a place of relevance and culture. He thought what makes Doylestown very unique, aside from its history, is that we have a very firm grasp on the importance of our arts and culture in town, and he thought the County Theater is an amazing statement to that. He said if a building no longer provides an experience or a value to someone aside from its historic benefit and can begin to become something new that would provide value for generations to come, he would argue that perhaps that is something that is of more value than the historic nature of a building that is decrepit, is very unsightly to the eye, and no longer has the relevance that it used to have. Mr. Boger thought it equally important that Council take that into consideration, as well as the cultural impact and the draw it would have for our town. He thought the County Theater has given great consideration to that and also to the sustainability and quality of that building. Mr. Boger thought the County Theater's plan makes a lot of good sense.

Bucks County resident Matt Metcalf, a history and preservation educator, said he moved back to the area after several years. He said he thinks it is important to consider the history of the County Theater in the town. Mr. Metcalf said the history of that particular structure and its historical nature is not pitted against its culture or its relevance in terms of the arts in town. He said that ideally, they all work together and he thought that was really important. He said he didn't know that was what he saw in some of the plans - those opportunities were not perhaps fully vetted or fully appreciated.

Mr. Metcalf said the other thing is that as Borough Council, they have the opportunity to think big about their historic district. He said there were some comments about the nature of some of these specific historic buildings and there is a potential problem when some of them start coming down, you do lose the integrity of your district. Mr. Metcalf said, having been away for six years, that coming back here is such a joy to be around all the history and to celebrate it, even when it's covered up by store fronts as has been noted tonight, but it has happened at several places on that block.

Mr. Metcalf further stated that there is a bigger picture issue too in the sense that, as the previous gentlemen mentioned about arts, culture, and history, the fact that they all work together, which is really important particularly for this town because as the County seat, de facto kind of set this sense of appreciation or understanding of history in your actions. He said if things start to fall apart in the Doylestown Historic District, what happens to some of the other places with places within our locality and that's really important in driving tourism dollars into not only this town, but all the boroughs of the County.

Lastly, Mr. Metcalf commented that the nature of arts, culture, and history are all working together and there was a survey conducted by American Express and the National Trust for Historic Preservation in 2017. He said that survey found that the majority of Millennials, your mid-20s to late-30s or so, the up and coming, the largest generation in terms of population and statistics, finds that the majority want to live in places that have character and part of what gives a town character is history, so this Borough is set up for fantastic opportunities. He encouraged Council that as they go forward and make decisions to be especially conscientious or the fact that when you lose these bits and pieces, you are losing what is going to be that appeal to the younger generation who do not see things the same way the Gen X and definitely not the same as the Baby Boomers. He said finding that sweet spot that respects art, history, and culture, while also providing for the opportunities for the future, is a narrow road. Mr. Metcalf encouraged Council to consider that and continue to do what is best for the future of the Borough in that context, particularly for history, arts, and culture.

Mitchell (full name not provided), a 12-year Borough resident and a proud member of the County Theater, said he thought the expansion project should go forward. He said a lot of people come into the Borough because of the theater, but when one goes into the theater itself, there is not enough room in there. He said we need to prepare for the future. He thought the County Theater's plan is for the good of the community.

Mirka Mancini, a Borough resident, said there are many repurposed buildings in Doylestown and this character is what people love about Doylestown. She felt this building could be beautifully incorporated into the plan instead of eradicating history and making new architecture. She said she didn't know what is historic about this design, but it does not blend in. Ms. Mancini said everyone can work together, not just one or other.

Ms. Mancini said that at the zoning meeting, she heard members talk about the Theater not knowing there was an old building. She said if it's so important, why is there no sign indicating that. She said if you are in the historic district, almost every building has an interesting story to tell.

Ms. Mancini said she didn't know anything about the 20 so-called public meetings, but it still seems no one knows anything about it. She said that in 1985, Doylestown signed up to be an Historic District and this is an important part of it. She asked how can you declare it non-contributing when it is one of the oldest buildings of Doylestown, one of the founding ones still left standing, maybe be last known kind of its craftsmanship, that it was the first office of the Doylestown Democrats and then the home and office of the clock and watchmaker. She said to do that, you lose the character that people love so much about Doylestown. She thought the Theater could be extremely unique if it incorporated the oldest building into its program.

Susan Plotnick, a resident of Bucks County for 21 years and a member of the County Theater, stated that she was at the meeting Ms. Auerbach spoke at, so she knows anyone attending that meeting who was interested in what was going to happen at the theater, had an opportunity to hear it and she thought they adequately addressed the issue of the building. She said she has walked by the building many times and it never looked very historic to her. She said it has been covered and if the people who owned it didn't maintain it, she didn't know why that wasn't taken care of in the past. Ms. Plotnick her other point is they are making the new part of the theater look like the old part of the theater, which is also part of Doylestown history. She said you cannot live in the 18th, 19th, or even the 20th century, you have to move forward, and we can't save everything. She said what the County Theater has done is a very good effort to preserve another time period – it may not be the original time period of that building, but it's an important time period of Doylestown and of Bucks County.

Former Councilperson Lou White said he and his wife have a special needs son and as he told the Zoning Committee, when they were looking for an apartment for him, they looked at the upstairs of this place. He said it was a total disgrace and he would not want anyone to live in there. Mr. White said you had to climb out of the existing original front wall of the building to get into another room which is now over what you see on the street. He said both the front and back walls had been compromised, which leaves the roof and two side wall. Mr. White said you can't make a theater out of that.

Mr. White further pointed out that as representatives of this town, he didn't think Council had any better endorsement of people's support for this than the fact that there has been more than \$2 Million Dollars raised within the time limit that they wanted to have it raised, they exceeded their goal, and they are now ready to start. He said he didn't think there was any better way for Council to understand how much support there is for this project.

Richard Crawford, a Borough resident for 32 years, said he thought Mr. White summed it up pretty well. He said that for the past 20 years, the County Theater has become the anchor of the Borough, and he urged Council to approve the plans as submitted.

Marlene, a member of the County Theater, said she thought Mr. Toner did his due diligence. She said she's known about this project from the beginning, has always liked the project, the theater does need expansion and things needs to be done there, and she felt this is a part of Doylestown. She said she likes the design, which has a deco feel to it, and she can't wait until it opens. She noted that as a senior, she loves going to movies now that she has the time.

Beth Meininger, born in Doylestown over 60 years ago and has lived here most of her life, showed Mr. O'Brien a photo depicting just the corner of the original house. She said she completely applauds and appreciates everything that everyone has done on the expansion project, and she completely supports it. She said the County Theater is a huge asset, but she wouldn't want a decision made tonight made on the fact that the County Theater overpowers another property. She noted they are two separate properties and a decision to demolish something has to be looked at based on the property being demolished. She said she hoped Council listened carefully to the variety of things said tonight. She said knew Ms. Auerbach did a lot of research on the property and she wondered if the front wall originally had large doors to support the carriage making or whatever was done there. Ms. Meininger said she didn't know what the original building looked like. She also said she was also curious what makes the site not historically significant because she heard a lot that does make it so. She was hoping there would be a way for the County Theater to incorporate maybe the two stone walls into the structure and actually have some of it visible so it incorporated the history of the property. She said she was also curious about whether this property was part of the Underground Railroad and didn't know if that was ever investigated.

Ms. Meininger asked if demolition is approved, is there any way it can be done in two phases where everything added on gets demolished first and then a full evaluation could be done in a short period of time, as a second phase, just to make sure there's nothing really unknown behind all the additions and façade that was added on and we see when we walk by. She wished the best for the County Theater. Ms. Meininger said she is a member and loves the place, and thanked everybody who donated. She said she just hoped we're not making a decision we will regret about total destruction of that building.

Borough resident Scott Fraser was present was his wife, and he said they have only lived here about three weeks. He said the expansion project was actually icing on the cake for them moving to Doylestown, as they are big fans of small community theaters. He said he heard people talking about the spirit and tourism, and history, and they are into that too.

Mr. Fraser said they went to the HARB meeting and he is surprised to hear so much resistance tonight because at that HARB, there was none. He said he did hear some attempts from the architect from the organization to think about the history and the story of the building. He said he actually never noticed the building until they went to the HARB. He said he would encourage Council to approve the project and he felt optimistic that the story of the old building will be incorporated in some way, it just hasn't been figured out yet. Mr. Fraser added that the Keystone was talked about in the HARB and he understands there are difficulties, but there is a story here that can't be told anywhere else, and the story could be told in the new building where more people would hear it and feel the spirit. He said when talking about tourism, the County Theater is an important part of Doylestown, and it's too small.

Councilperson Brennan commented that from a Zoning and Planning standpoint, he commended the County Theater, as he has done several of these meetings now and it's probably the most thorough and thoughtful presentation that they've had. He said he is happy to see a plan that's preserving the long term viability of probably one of the most iconic anchor properties in that district. He said a lot of these issues were fully vetted in Planning and Zoning. Mr. Brennan said that it's never an easy decision, but there was an incredible plan and presentation made and that's why they made the recommendation that they did.

Councilperson Margolis commented that she attended community meetings and there was considerable discussion about the historic aspects of the Poor Richards building. She said as a condition of the approval, HARB recommended that the owner retain any significant historic elements unveiled during demolition, so that is what Council will be acting on here - it includes that recommendation.

It was agreed that a motion was on the floor, but to be on the safe side, a motion was made again. (Brennan-Berk)

Mayor Strouse said, for full disclosure, he was on the original board of the County Theater and president of the Board early on. He commented that we talk in our community in terms of the incredible architecture and history we have, but we just not talk about it, we work actively to preserve the architecture and to promote the history. He said we have a robust Doylestown Historical Society, increasingly robust, that is determined to make sure this takes place. Mayor Strouse said that conversation takes place in conjunction with embracing the future. He said We don't embrace the future by tearing down the past – that's not what he is suggesting. The Mayor said it is a combination of the two. He suggested the process that the County Theater has gone through is one that involved not just an incredibly talented staff, who also happen to be residents of our community, but a Board of Directors, also residents of our community, that has been actively involved in the process of evaluating the property, raising money, and then determining the best theater going forward. Mayor Strouse said that has been the most transparent process that you can imagine, a more transparent process than we in public government, frankly, engage with because they did have 20-some meetings involving the public, actively involving and seeking their 5000 members to come to public meetings, and then making sure that our local media, whether it be the Herald or the Patch, knew about those meetings to inform and invite the public to them. The Mayor said there may be disagreements about whether this building is historic or not, but we can't have any disagreement about the opportunity for our residents to weigh in, in a very conscious way, as to whether this building preserves and whether it can be preserved or not. He said at the end of the day, he thought there should be praise given to the County Theater for that process and for the result that comes to Council tonight.

With no further comments from Council, Staff, or the public, the vote was called. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

3. **Code Enforcement Monthly Activity Report.** Mr. Brennan reported there were 24 residential and two non-residential use and occupancy inspections, 12 complaints were investigated, five building inspections, two recycling inspections, zero sidewalk/paving inspections, zero sidewalk/snow inspections, three litter enforcement, no graffiti, 14 fire company issues, and one tree removal permits/issues.

4. **Building Inspection Monthly Report.** Mr. Brennan reported there were 83 total permits and a total cost of permit fees of \$7,033.62.

ENVIRONMENT AND RECREATION - Ms. Margolis

Ms. Margolis reported that the Committee did not meet, "but we've got some good stuff cooking for next month."

WATER UTILITY - Mr. Flood

Mr. Flood stated they met, but did not have any action items. He then called upon Mr. Norris for the monthly Water Department Report. Mr. Norris reported that there were two water main repairs, 24 water meter repairs, eight well house repairs, four house calls, one emergency shutoff, two bulk chemical deliveries, and five SCADA System Alarms. From the front office, he said there were 14 final readings, 32 water leak notices sent, 16 meter repair notices sent, 162 late payment notices sent, and 75 shutoff notices sent.

FINANCE/PENSION - Ms. West

1. **Finance Report.** Ms. West said they met, but had no action items. Ms. West called upon Mr. Davis, who was filling in for Ms. Brinker who was attending the Fanny Chapman Pool Board meeting as happens twice a year, for the monthly finance report. Mr. Davis reported that the total of all funds expended was \$877,047.81 Motion to approve the Finance Report. (West-Margolis) 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

Mr. O'Brien reported that the Personnel Committee met on January 8 and 10, 2019, to interview candidates to fill vacancies on various boards. He said that as a result of the interviews, the Committee is recommending the following appointments:

<u>Board</u>	<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Term</u>
Economic Development Advisory Board	Brian Guerriero	02/2019-12/2021
Economic Development Advisory Board	John West	02/2019-12/2021
Economic Development Advisory Board	James Slizewski	02/2019-12/2020

Mr. O'Brien remarked that Mr. Slizewski is being appointed to complete Barbara Healy's term on the Economic Development Advisory Board.

Environmental Advisory Council	Dave Kapturowski	02/2019-12/2021
Fanny Chapman Pool Board	Kevin McCann	02/2019-12/2021
Human Relations Commission	Sharyn Brauns	02/2019-12/2021
Park and Recreation Board	Barbara Healy	02/2019-12/2021

Mr. O'Brien noted that Ms. Healy resigned from the Economic Development Advisory Board to serve on the Park and Recreation Board.

Junior Councilperson	Alec Maraska	09/2019-05/2020
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Mr. O'Brien stated that the Committee is also recommending that Carter van Dyke be reappointed to the Shade Tree Commission for another five-year term. He said Mr. van Dyke's term will expire December 31, 2023.

Mr. O'Brien said that if Council wished to follow the Personnel Committee's recommendations, it may do so by motion. (O'Brien-Gordon)

Mr. Flood commented that there were great applicants, more applicants than openings, which was obvious from two nights of interviews. He said he was just really impressed with people who want to help the Borough.

Mr. O'Brien concurred and added that this was his first time going through this process and he was quite impressed with the caliber of people. He said the Borough is very fortunate to have these people volunteering on all of our boards and commissions.

With no further comment from Council, Staff, or the public, the vote was called. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

PROFESSIONALS' REPORTS

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

Solicitor's Report - Mr. Yeager said he had no report, but there will be an Executive Session regarding a zoning appeal for 204 North West Street.

Central Bucks Regional Police Department (CBRPD) Activities Report. The Police Activity Report showed there were 1148 incidents in the Borough, for a total of 14,710 incidents in 2018. The Department spent \$5,431,424.65 and were at 100.21% of their yearly budget. Chief Knott commented that he had nothing to add.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: None.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Frederick commented that he came across a gentleman he had never heard of before and probably should have. He said Samuel Snipes, who lived just down below Newtown, was a ninth generation Bucks Countian and was a Quaker peacemaker and respected lawyer. Mr. Snipes passed away recently at the age of 99. Mr. Frederick said some of the unique things he did over the years were that in 1946-47, he worked for the National Relief and Reconstruction Organization, escorting thousands of displaced persons after the war back to their homes when they were afraid and unable to return to their homes behind the Iron Curtain because of Stalin. He said in 1957, Mr. Snipes held off an angry mob while representing the first black family to move into the all white development in Levittown. Mr. Snipes felt they had a right to live there and that's why he did it. Mr. Frederick said that in 1962, as Falls Township Solicitor, he found a law in the PSE&G application to build a nuclear power plant on Newbold Island on the Delaware just across from Pennsbury Manor which was William Penn's summer home. The Atomic Energy Commission then denied PSE&G's permission to build the plant, otherwise we would be sitting here with a nuclear plant right there. Mr. Frederick said that in 1967, Mr. Snipes represented clients who were opposing Centennial School District's distribution of Gideon Bibles to all school students. He said that went to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court which ruled against the school district and upheld the separation of church and state.

Mr. Frederick said Mr. Snipes, raised a Quaker, believed that "all people have a basic, intrinsic equality and it is our duty to stand up for that." He said that a friend of Mr. Snipes, Mr. Simons, stated that "he was somebody who didn't focus on what we needed to be against, but what we needed to be for."

Mr. Frederick wanted to recognize Mr. Snipes.

Next, Mr. Davis commented that the Borough got some decent publicity in the Sunday newspaper for our website and it just so happens that some folks who we couldn't get mentioned were present tonight: Paul and Kris Boger from Mind Your Design. He said they redid our website, and did a great job. Mr. Davis said they went way above and beyond what we paid them.

Mr. Berk said that in light of what Mr. Frederick said about Samuel Snipes, he suggested that the meeting, when the time comes, be adjourned in his honor. Mr. O'Brien said he had someone else in mind to recognize as well.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT:

Borough resident and past Council President Det Ansinn said he already spoke to a couple members of Council, but wanted to bring something to the Council at large, which was the premise of doing a plastic bag ban in Doylestown Borough. Ms. Margolis replied that's what she was referring to when she said the Environment and Recreation Committee "had something cooking" for next month, it's already being worked on. Mr. Ansinn said he's been tweaking various Council members and he was glad to hear that it's being worked on. He said it seems like Doylestown, when we have neighboring communities who have implemented this, this is something that should be here.

Mr. Brennan added that he just saw that Northampton County did a similar resolution on bags and straws.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council adjourned to Executive Session at 7:57 p.m. to discuss a matter of litigation. Upon their return at 8:06 p.m., a motion was made authorizing Solicitor Yeager to enter his appearance regarding the 204 North West Street zoning appeal. (Margolis-Gordon) The vote was called and the motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:08 p.m., Mr. O'Brien entertained a motion to adjourn in memory of Sam Snipes and the Challenger astronauts who lost their lives 33 years ago today. (West-Berk) The vote was called and the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

John H. Davis
Borough Manager

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