

February 22, 2021  
7:00 p.m.

The regular meeting of Doylestown Borough Council was held on the above date and time via a Zoom meeting, with the following members present: Council President Jack O'Brien, Vice President Noni West, and Council Members Ben Bell, Larry Browne, Joe Flood, Joe Frederick, Jennifer Jarret, and Wendy Margolis. Also present were Junior Councilperson Ben Morris, Mayor Ron Strouse, Borough Manager John Davis, Borough Solicitor Ernest Closser, Central Bucks Regional Police Department Police Chief Karl Knott, Borough Engineer Jim Dougherty, Building and Zoning Director Karyn Hyland, and Planning/Public Works Director/Deputy Borough Manager Phil Ehlinger. Councilperson Tim Brennan was absent. Finance Director Caroline Brinker was also absent due to her attendance at the monthly Fanny Chapman Pool Board meeting.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:** None.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. O'Brien called for a motion to approve the **January 25, 2021 Council Meeting Minutes**. (Margolis-Browne) The vote was called and the minutes were unanimously approved.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:** None.

**PUBLIC SAFETY** - Mr. Frederick

1. **Resolution No. 2021-2, to Provide for the Safety of Borough Employees and Elected Official.** Mr. Frederick stated that this resolution calls upon the General Assembly to adopt measures to allow local municipalities to prohibit firearms in municipal buildings, and that the Public Safety Committee is recommending that Council adopt Resolution No. 2021-2. He said that If Council wished to follow the recommendation, it could do so by motion. (Frederick-Flood) Mr. Frederick read the resolution:

**RESOLUTION NO. 2021-2  
TO PROVIDE FOR THE SAFETY OF BOROUGH EMPLOYEES AND ELECTED OFFICIALS**

**WHEREAS**, it is essential for the Borough of Doylestown to provide a safe environment for all who are employed by the Borough; and,

**WHEREAS**, it is essential for the Council of Doylestown Borough and the Mayor to conduct business in Doylestown Borough Hall in a safe manner; and,

**WHEREAS**, it is beyond negligence that Borough Council and the Mayor are not allowed to provide adequate security measures in Borough Hall; and,

**WHEREAS**, laws of the Commonwealth prohibit firearms in our courthouses, but fail to regulate their use in Borough Hall; and,

**WHEREAS**, there is a history of violence and death by firearms in local Pennsylvania government offices; and,

**WHEREAS**, heated discussions can be good and strong, and heart-felt views are cornerstones in Democracy, but potential violence has no place in conversation and firearms have no place in the halls of local government.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that Doylestown Borough Council and the Mayor call upon the Pennsylvania General Assembly to adopt measures to allow local municipalities to prohibit firearms in municipal buildings;

**AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be transmitted to state legislators representing the Borough of Doylestown, appropriate leadership in the state legislature, and the office of the Governor of Pennsylvania.

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

2. The **Doylestown Fire Co. No. 1 Report** showed there were 19 incidents requiring the Fire Company's response in January 2021.

#### **PUBLIC WORKS AND ADMINISTRATION - Mr. Flood**

1. **Public Works Monthly Report.** Mr. Flood said that the Work Order Report and the Fleet Services Report were provided, and noted that if anyone from the public wanted to view the reports, they should just follow the packet link noted on this meeting's Agenda.

Mr. Flood then asked Mr. Ehlinger how the Borough is fixed for salt. Mr. Ehlinger replied that we got low last week, but our supplier, Morton Salt, got caught up and we received a bunch of deliveries, so we're in good shape.

Mr. Flood commented that the Public Works Department is doing a great job plowing and cleaning up. He said he's heard nothing but good things from people in the Borough about it and was sure the rest of Council joined him in this. He asked Mr. Ehlinger to pass this along to the Department guys.

#### **COMMUNITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS - Mr. Bell**

Mr. Bell reported that the Committee did not meet. He announced that the Farmers' Market starts its official 2021 season on April 17, which is very welcome news. He said the Committee continues to work with groups that are planning the normal events in the Borough that the community has learned to cherish. He said that many of the events are tentatively on track and decisions will be made as conditions unfold.

## ZONING AND PLANNING

1. In Mr. Brennan's absence, Ms. Margolis deferred to Ms. Hyland for the **Zoning Hearing Board Report**. Ms. Hyland stated that the Doylestown Borough Zoning Hearing Board met on February 17, 2021, via Zoom, to hear the following applications: 280 North Broad Street, by Frioconnect LLC, which requests a special exception to allow warehousing. She said the Zoning Hearing Board approved the request. Ms. Hyland said the Zoning and Planning Committee had asked what would be warehoused and the answer is that it would be shoes, purses, and accessories.

Ms. Hyland said there were two other applications, 24 North Main Street and 29 North Church Street, both of which she previously reported on previously and both were continued on the record.

2. **HARB Certificates of Appropriateness.** Ms. Margolis stated that In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Historic and Architectural Review Board did not hold its regular monthly meeting on January 28, 2021. The following applications were submitted for review and have been distributed to the HARB for consideration. She said that Borough Staff, in conjunction with feedback received from individual HARB members, recommends approval of the following applications as submitted: **Sign Application:** 24 North Main Street, Two Ladies Bakery Business, Caglar Ozkan, Applicant; and, **Building Applications:** 105 East State Street, for an addition, by Roseann and Don Jones; 9 West Court Street, for a window, by William Reichert - with the amendment that the certificate of appropriateness should also include approval to use dark neutral trim and hardware. Ms. Jarret noted that the applicant applied for white and that's okay, as is the dark neutral, if they would choose that; 70 South Main Street, for an addition, by Tomedyan LLC; and, 41 Mary Street, for windows, by Mary Kane.

Ms. Margolis said that the Zoning & Planning Committee recommends that Council approve the applications in accordance with Staff's recommendations. If Council is in agreement with the recommendations, it may approve issuance of the certificates by motion. (Margolis-Browne) With no 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.** Ms. Margolis stated the report had been provided. Anyone wishing to view the report can access it through the packet link on the meeting's Agenda.

4. **Building Inspection Monthly Report.** Ms. Margolis stated this report had also been provided. Anyone wishing to view the report can access it through the packet link on the meeting's Agenda.

## ENVIRONMENT AND RECREATION - Ms. Margolis

1. Ms. Margolis said that this is coming from the Environment Advisory Council and they did a lot of work for this. **Resolution 2021-1, Authorizing Grant Application for Electric Vehicle Charging Station for New Borough Hall.** Ms. Margolis said that Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

reached a \$77 Million settlement with Volkswagen after the company admitted problems in their “clean diesel” vehicles. The Commonwealth has used this money to provide grants for clean automobile initiatives in the state. She said that the Environmental Advisory Council has investigated the grant program and recommends that a dual plug charging station be installed at the public parking lot of the new Borough Hall. Ms. Margolis said that these charging stations would add to the existing Borough chargers at the Hamilton Street parking lot and the Pine Street parking lot. Ms. Margolis said that the funding is up to \$4,500 per charging plug or 80% of the total cost, whichever is less. She said that the costs are broken down and shown in everyone’s packet. Ms. Margolis said that the Environment and Recreation Committee recommends authorizing submission of the grant application, and if Council agrees, it may do so by approving Resolution 2021-1. (Margolis-Frederick)

Mr. Bell asked if the cost to the Borough is what is indicated in the table. Ms. Margolis replied yes. Mr. O’Brien added that we’ve already run the conduits, etc. to allow us to hook this up. Mr. Davis said that the \$4,460 is the actual figure on a Change Order to the Broad Street Project contract for the charging station, so that’s already been spent. Mr. Bell asked if that was spent in anticipation of this grant being awarded. Mr. Davis said that we’re aware that there is a lot of money out there for these types of charging stations, so we were fairly confident that if one program didn’t work, another would, and this is the most timely program out there right now.

With no further questions or comments, the vote was called. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

#### **WATER UTILITY - Ms. Jarret**

Ms. Jarret reported that the Committee did meet and they discussed reorganization of the Water Department and a new hire, and that information has been gotten out to the public. She said that search process is currently underway.

**Maplewood Standpipe Cell Site Agreement: Verizon.** Ms. Jarret stated that this agreement replaces a 2002 agreement with Verizon that expires on December 31, 2021. She said that the new agreement carries a term of five years with three five-year renewal periods. Ms. Jarret said that the 2020 rent under the current agreement is \$40,545 and that would increase to \$49,251.14 in 2022, with a two percent annual increase for the life of the agreement.

Ms. Jarret said that the Committee is recommending approval of the agreement, which has also been reviewed by the Borough Solicitor, and if Council wished to follow the recommendation, it could do so by motion. (Jarret-Flood)

Mr. Bell asked if the proceeds from that go into the Water Reserve Fund. Mr. Davis responded that they go into the General Fund.

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

**FINANCE/PENSION - Ms. West**

**1. Borough Hall/CBRPD Headquarters Project - Furniture and Fixture Contracts.**

Ms. West stated that the contracts, along with a cost summary, were in everyone’s packets. She said that although the two contracts are \$142,853.74 over the budget estimate for these project components, the overall project cost including them is \$209,148 under budget. Ms. West said that Borough Staff has reviewed the contracts and, after authorizing \$74,969 in cuts from the first fixture contract draft, is satisfied and recommending Council approval.

Ms. West said that the Finance and Pension Committee is recommending that Council approve the contracts, and if Council wished to follow the recommendation, it could do so by motion. (West-Margolis) With no comments from Council, Staff, or the public, the vote was called. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

**2. Finance Report.**

Ms. West noted that the bills list and prepaid bills list had been provided. She reported that the total of all funds expended was \$975,411.55. Motion to approve the Finance Report. (West-Bell) 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**

**1. Appointment of Junior Councilperson and Student Board Members.**

Mr. O’Brien said that on February 17, 2021, the Personnel Committee interviewed candidates to fill the upcoming Junior Councilperson vacancy, as well as the student board member vacancies on the Fanny Chapman Pool Board, the Historical and Architectural Review Board, the Park and Recreation Board, and the Shade Tree Commission. As a result of these interviews, the Personnel Committee is recommending the following appointments:

<u>Board/Commission</u>	<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Term</u>
Fanny Chapman Pool Board	William Shandlay	May 2021-April 2022
Historical and Architectural Review Board	Jack Swartley	May 2021-April 2022
Park and Recreation Board	Marlon Hitchon	May 2021-April 2022
Park and Recreation Board	Jackson Laing	May 2021-April 2022
Shade Tree Commission	Brooke Wassmann	May 2021-April 2022
Junior Councilperson	Mary Frances McNulty	September 2021-May 2022

Mr. O’Brien said that if Council wished to follow the recommendation, it could do so by motion. (O’Brien-Flood)

Mr. Flood commented, which has been said many times before, but he wanted to say it again now because it bears repeating, that he was impressed with the people who interviewed for these positions. He said these young people are just amazing and they’re going to do a terrific job. He said that it’s great that we have so many young people interested in giving time to help out the Borough. Mr. O’Brien concurred, saying we’re very fortunate in that regard, and added that it also seems we have people who may apply for one position, but when they find out other

positions are available, they're willing to step up to those as well. He said this speaks well of the next generation.

With no further comments 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. Closser: No report.

**Central Bucks Regional Police Department (CBRPD) Activities Report.** Chief Knott: No report other than what was included in the packet. The CBRPD monthly activity report showed there were 1089 incidents in the Borough in January 2021, and year-to-date, the Department spent \$439,140.57 and were at 7.07% of their yearly budget.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** None.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS:** None.

**OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** None.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

At 7:22 p.m., President O'Brien entertained a motion to adjourn. (Browne-West) The vote was called and the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

John H. Davis  
Borough Manager

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