

February 28, 2022
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 Wendy Margolis, and Council Members Ben Bell, Tim Brennan, Larry Browne, Joe Frederick, Jennifer Jarret, Dennis Livrone, and Amy Popkin. Also present were Mayor Noni West, Junior Councilperson Mary Frances McNulty, Borough Solicitor Ernest Closser, Central Bucks Regional Police Department Police Chief Karl Knott, Borough Engineer Jim Dougherty, Borough Manager John Davis, Building and Zoning Karyn Hyland, and Planning/Public Works Director/Deputy Borough Manager Phil Ehlinger. Finance Director Caroline Brinker was absent due to her attendance at the Fanny Chapman Board Meeting.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Plaque presentation to Vince Volpe. Mayor West said that tonight we are honoring Vince Volpe with an abundance of respect and appreciation, who retired at the end of 2021 from Bucks County Transport after three decades. She said that his contribution to our community has been the oversight and care of the Doylestown Dart system. Lou and Nancy Adam from Senator Santarsiero's office honored Mr. Volpe's work, and then Mayor West read a citation from 10 members of the House of Representatives. Barbara Lyons, Chair of Doylestown Township's Board of Supervisors (via zoom) and Lou White, Dart Bus Committee Chair and longtime Doylestown Borough Councilperson also honored Mr. Volpe. A plaque from Doylestown Borough Council and Doylestown Township Board of Supervisors was then presented to Mr. Volpe.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. O'Brien called for a motion to approve the **January 24, 2022 Council Meeting Minutes.** (Browne-Livrone) The vote was called and the minutes were unanimously approved.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor West said that since our last Council meeting, progress continues perfecting our new Borough Hall and Park, and a grand opening is being worked on. She reported the following: Discover Doylestown is working on an Easter Bunny visit, the Bicycle Film Fest in the end of April, the 5k race on May 28, the June Pride Festival, and September's Arts Festival; that the produce market will open on April 16; Doylestown at Dusk is planning the car show for July 16; the dates are set for Memorial Day planning; Borough Staff and the Community and Governmental Affairs are working on the pedestrian zone program. Mayor West noted that COVID is on the wane. She

said that even though some days are still cold, the spring, summer, and fall activities that are the fabric of the Borough are on their way.

PUBLIC SAFETY - Mr. Frederick

1. **Consideration of Ordinance No. 2022-2, Regulating Parking on Doyle Street at the New Borough Hall.** Mr. Frederick said this ordinance creates two restrictions for the six on-street parking spaces on Doyle Street between Broad Street and Belvedere created by the Borough Hall and Broad Commons Park project: (1) one space, directly east of the crosswalk, limited to handicap; and (2) five spaces limited to 30-minute parking from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, and to a three-hour time limit at all other times.

Mr. Frederick said that the Public Safety Committee is recommending the adoption of Ordinance No. 2022-2, and if Council wished to follow the recommendation, it can do so by motion. (Frederick-Browne)

Ms. McNulty said in the memo provided with this ordinance, it states there would be one handicap space and then the other five spaces have a 30-minute time limit. She said in the fourth "Whereas" of the ordinance, however, it states all spaces have a 30-minute parking time limit. She asked for clarification on this.

Mr. Davis stated that the memo is imprecise, but the ordinance does limit all the spaces, including the handicap space, to 30 minutes, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

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

2. Mr. Frederick said that the Doylestown Fire Company monthly report had been provided to Council in their packets and was available to the public by following the packet link noted on this meeting's Agenda.

PUBLIC WORKS AND ADMINISTRATION - Mr. Browne

1. **2022 Milling Bids.** Mr. Browne reported that on February 2, 2022, bids were opened for the milling of roads for the 2022 paving season. [A tabulation of bids was provided.] He said that the Public Works Committee reviewed the bids and is recommending that Council award the Base Bid to the lowest bidder, A Giullani Co., Inc., at a price of \$24,276.00, conditioned upon receipt of a properly executed performance bond and compliance with bid specifications. He said that if Council wished to follow the Committee's recommendation, they could do so by motion. (Browne-Margolis) With no further comments from Council, Staff, or the public, the vote was called. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

2. Mr. Browne stated that the monthly **Public Works Department Report** was provided in Council's packet and was available to the public by following the packet link noted on tonight's meeting Agenda. He then asked Mr. Ehlinger if he had anything to add. Mr. Ehlinger reported that the Public Works Department is in standby mode for winter storms and they have also started

some other projects, including moving about 100 cubic yards of mulch into the park. He said they are getting ramped up for spring.

Mr. O'Brien commented that he noticed the brick pavers have been installed in front of the Police Department. Mr. Ehlinger said they took advantage of the weather and the bricks were either finished this afternoon or would be completed tomorrow.

COMMUNITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS - Mr. Bell

1. **Borough of Doylestown Social Media.** Mr. Bell reported that Borough social media policy was drafted by the Borough Solicitor in consultation with Staff and the Community and Governmental Affairs Committee. He said that the policy sets guidelines for community interaction on Borough social media accounts including Facebook and Twitter. Mr. Bell said that the Committee is recommending the adoption of the policy, and if Council wished to follow the recommendation, it could do so by motion. (Bell-Browne) With no further comments from Council, Staff, or the public, the vote was called. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

2. **2022 Doylestown Borough Pedestrian Zone Program.** Mr. Bell said that an outline of the proposed 2022 Doylestown Borough Pedestrian Zone Program had been provided to Council in their packets and it was also shared with the affected businesses.

Mr. Bell said that the Committee is recommending that Council approve the 2022 Pedestrian Zone Program and schedule, and if Council wished to follow the recommendation, it could do so by motion. (Bell-Browne) With no further comments from Council, Staff, or the public, the vote was called. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

ZONING AND PLANNING - Mr. Brennan

1. **Zoning Hearing Board Report.** Mr. Brennan deferred to Ms. Hyland, who reported that the Doylestown Borough Zoning Hearing Board held a Public Meeting on February 23, 2022 to hear the following applications: 50 North Main Street, by Worth & Worth, which requested relief from sign size and height requirements. She said that application was approved and the variances were granted; and, 297 North Street, by Louis Bodine, who requested dimensional relief for setback requirements for a garage. Ms. Hyland said that application has been continued.

2. **Historic & Architectural Review Board (HARB) Recommendations.** Mr. Brennan said there were three building applications: (1) 191 Belmont Avenue, demolition and new dwelling, (2) 130 Cottage Street, demolition and new construction, and, (3) 261 West Court Street, garage renovation and addition. Mr. Brennan said that the Zoning & Planning Committee recommended 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-Margolis) 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** and 4. **Building Inspection Monthly Report**. Mr. Brennan stated that these reports were provided in Council's packet and they are available to the public by following the packet link noted on this meeting's Agenda.

ENVIRONMENT AND RECREATION - Ms. Margolis

Ms. Margolis stated that the Committee did meet, but there were no items to bring to Council this month.

WATER UTILITY - Ms. Jarret

Ms. Jarret reported that the Committee did not meet for the lack of an agenda.

FINANCE/PENSION - Ms. Popkin

1. **Consideration of Ordinance No. 2022-1, Changing the Location of Borough Council Meetings**. Ms. Popkin said that Ordinance No. 2022-1 updates the current Code of Ordinances to relocate the monthly meeting of Borough Council from 57 West Court Street to 10 Doyle Street, Doylestown, Pa. She said that Council authorized the advertisement of this ordinance at their January 24, 2022, and the ordinance has since been properly advertised.

Ms. Popkin said that the Finance and Administration Committee is recommending that Council adopt Ordinance No. 2022-1, and if Council wished to follow the recommendation, it can do so by motion. (Popkin-Brennan) 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. Popkin noted that Ms. Brinker was not present as she was attending another meeting. She then commented that at their Committee meeting, they had a presentation given by our investment firm and they spoke about our non-uniform pension plan and provided updates. She said she's happily reporting that the investment return was a little over 11% for last year.

Ms. Popkin said that all the payables were included in Council's packet. Mr. O'Brien clarified that the total of all funds expended was \$720,664.78. Motion to approve the Finance Report. (Popkin-Brennan) 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. **Authorization to Draft and Advertise an Ordinance Expanding the Planning Commission**. Mr. O'Brien said that after conducting the latest round of interviews for volunteer boards and commissions, the Personnel Committee is recommending that Council authorize the drafting and advertising of an ordinance increasing the size of the Planning Commission to up to seven members. He said that although the current ordinance sets the size of the commission at five members, the Municipalities Planning Code allows anywhere from three to nine members.

Mr. O'Brien said that if Council wished to follow the recommendation of the Personnel Committee, it could do so by motion. (O'Brien-Margolis) With no comments from Council, Staff, or the public, the vote was called. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

2. **Appointments to Volunteer Boards.** Mr. O'Brien said that on December 15, 2021, Council authorized the advertisement of various board/commission vacancies. On February 2 and 8, 2022, the Personnel Committee met to interview candidates to fill the board/commission vacancies. As a result of the interviews, the Committee is recommending the following appointments: to the Building and Fire Code Board of Appeals for a five-year term, Phil Maguire; to the Environmental Advisory Council for a three-year term, Patricia West, and for a term ending December 31, 2022, Lindsay Troyer; to the Fanny Chapman Pool Board for three-year terms, Ed Walsh, Lori Howard, and Brian Lange; to the Historical and Architectural Review Board for a term ending December 31, 2023, Constance Magnuson; to the Park and Recreation Board for a five-year term, Karissa Elser; and, to the Planning Commission for four-year terms, MaryAnn Baenninger, subject to the ordinance to increase the number of members, and Lynn Bush.

For Student Board Members, with a term beginning May 2022 and ending April 2023: Mason Lange to the Fanny Chapman Pool Board, William Shandlay to the Human Relations Commission, Mason Hitchon to the Park and Recreation Board, reappoint Marlon Hitchon to the Park and Recreation, and reappoint Jack Swartley to the Historical and Architectural Review Board.

For Junior Councilperson, with a term beginning September 2022 and ending May 2023, Brooke Wassmann.

Mr. O'Brien said that if Council wished to follow the Personnel Committee's recommendations as stated, it could do so by motion. (O'Brien-Margolis) With no 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 - Ms. Waldron: 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 855 incidents in the Borough in January 2022, and year-to-date, the Department spent \$485,138.49, and were at 7.41% of their yearly budget.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: None.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. McNulty noted that today was the last day of Black History Month and pointed to an article in the February 10, 2022 edition of the Bucks County Herald by Jean Rollo from the

Doylestown Historical Society, wherein it is noted that much of the land that is Doylestown was owned by Cudjo and Jo, two former slaves. She recommended that people read it. Mr. O'Brien commented that he did read that article and it was interesting.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

Resident Theresa McNulty asked for further clarification of the time limit for the six parking spots discussed earlier. She asked if all six, which includes the handicap space is limited to 30 minutes. Mr. Davis replied yes, 30 minutes for all six spaces which includes the handicap space, during business hours. The woman said that for someone who is disabled, it could take longer than 30 minutes to complete their business at Borough Hall. Mr. Davis said that by law, handicap persons have an extra hour on an expired meter and that law supersedes any ordinance.

Mr. Brennan thanked Mr. Bell for his efforts on the Social Media Policy for a job well done.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:41p.m., Ms. Margolis made a motion to adjourn in solidarity with the people of the Ukraine, seconded by Mr. Browne. The vote was called and the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

John H. Davis
Borough Manager

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