

May 17, 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, Tim Brennan, Larry Browne, Joe Flood, Joe Frederick, Jennifer Jarret, and Wendy Margolis. Also present were Junior Councilperson Ben Morris, Mayor Ron Strouse, Joanna Waldron, Esquire for Borough Solicitor Ernest Closser, Central Bucks Regional Police Department Police Chief Karl Knott, Borough Engineer Jim Dougherty, Borough Manager John Davis, Building and Zoning Director Karyn Hyland, Finance Director Caroline Brinker, and Planning/Public Works Director/Deputy Borough Manager Phil Ehlinger.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Strouse virtually presented plaques to the following volunteers for their service: Adam Howell on the Environmental Advisory Council from 2018 to 2020; Joe Wallace on the Environmental Advisory Council from 2014 to 2020; Emily Heaps on the Fanny Chapman Pool Board of Managers from 2018 to 2020; Kevin McCann on the Fanny Chapman Pool Board of Managers from 2019-2020; and, our Junior Councilperson, Ben Morris, who served from September 2020 to his last meeting here this evening, May 17, 2021.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. O'Brien called for a motion to approve the **April 19, 2021 Council Meeting Minutes**. (Browne-West) The vote was called and the minutes were unanimously approved.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Ever since 1962, May 15th and the associated week has been designated National Police Officers Memorial Day and National Police Week. It is a time to pay special recognition to law enforcement officers who have lost their lives for the safety and protection of others.

Social unrest has certainly served to shine a spotlight on community grievances, resentment and mistrust of police around the country. National Police Week, gives us the opportunity to focus on good law enforcement. That focus on good community policing is not more appropriate to any police department than the Central Bucks Regional Police Department.

First and foremost, we are all elected to provide for public safety. It is born out in smaller ways like deciding where stop signs and speed bumps might be installed and larger ways that grab headlines. It is born out through the commitment of very significant financial resources toward police services. Our police incident statistics

give credibility to our description of Doylestown as a safe community. A safe community that makes us safer as it makes it safer for police to do their work.

Our commitment to advanced training and equipment and programs like Victim Assistance, body cameras, and the establishment and expansion of a K-9 unit all play vital roles in advancing community policing. Our move to a new police headquarters will provide the lynchpin in achieving accreditation and the opportunity accreditation provides to test police performance.

As police performance is questioned throughout the country, it provides added impetus to elected members of Council and the Mayor who serve on the Central Bucks Regional Police Commission to work with Chief Knott and senior staff to seek the best community policing for Doylestown Borough. National Police Week provides one more opportunity to reinforce that commitment.

PUBLIC SAFETY - Mr. Frederick

1. **Consideration of Ordinance No. 2021-8, Creating Permit Parking on Doyle Street (South Side) Between Harvey and Hamilton** Mr. Frederick stated that a permit parking study on the south side of Doyle Street between Harvey and Hamilton was conducted by the Central Bucks Regional Police Department on March 10 and 15, 2021. He said the study determined that the area qualifies as a permit parking area. Mr. Frederick said that at their meeting held on April 19, 2021, Council authorized the drafting and advertising of an ordinance creating a permit parking area at the that location and prohibiting parking for those without a residential permit or guest pass from 9:00 am. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. He said that the ordinance was then drafted and properly advertised.

Mr. Frederick said that the Public Safety Committee is recommending that Council adopt Ordinance No. 2021-8, and if Council wished to follow the recommendation, it could do so by motion. (Frederick-Browne) 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** was provided in Council's packet, which showed there were 27 incidents requiring the Fire Company's response in April 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. He noted that these reports are also available to the public by following the packet link noted on this meeting's Agenda.

Mr. Flood then asked Mr. Ehlinger for any comments he had about the Broad Street project. Mr. Ehlinger stated that there was more to come about the project later on the agenda, but they are tagging and preparing to plant a large number of trees in the park on the eastern area. He said preparation for the park signs are underway because those had to be attached to the actual

building contract, so there are two lovely brick and cast stone signs at the corners of Broad and Doyle and Broad and Atkinson.

Ms. Margolis asked what the signs are going to say and Mr. Ehlinger said that right now, the placeholder text is "Public Park," so that needs to be decided. He added that the masonry work has to be done before any letters are put on.

Ms. Margolis then asked if there is a watering system set up for trees being planted. Mr. Ehlinger said there is water to the park and dribbler hoses will be set up for the summer or our water buggy can be deployed, as is often done with Borough plantings.

COMMUNITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS - Mr. Bell

1. **Resolution No. 2021-4, in Recognition and Support of June 19th as Freedom Day.** Mr. Bell said that the Community and Governmental Affairs Committee is recommending that Council adopt Resolution 2021-4, and if Council wished to follow the recommendation, it could do so by motion. (Bell-Frederick) Mr. Bell then read the resolution into the record:

A RESOLUTION OF THE DOYLESTOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL AND THE MAYOR IN RECOGNITION AND SUPPORT OF JUNE 19th AS FREEDOM DAY

Juneteenth (a contraction of June and nineteenth) is a holiday celebrating the emancipation of those who have been enslaved in the United States. It is commemorated on the anniversary date of the June 19, 1865, announcement of freedom from slavery in Texas, generally recognized as the end of slavery in the United States. While President Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation officially outlawed slavery two and a half years earlier, enforcement of the Proclamation relied on the advance of Union troops.

June 19th is also widely known as Freedom Day or Emancipation Day and it is now recognized in over 47 states.

WHEREAS, Juneteenth was recognized as a state holiday in Pennsylvania on June 19, 2019; and,

WHEREAS, President Lincoln proclaimed that "all persons held as slaves within any State or designated part of any State, the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the United States, shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free"; and,

WHEREAS, Juneteenth is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the end of slavery; and,

WHEREAS, Juneteenth is an important opportunity to honor the principles of the Declaration of Independence and the Emancipation Proclamation and celebrate the achievements and contributions African Americans have made throughout our

community's history and continue to make to strengthen our community and the entire Nation.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Doylestown Borough Council and the Mayor encourage all to join in celebrating Juneteenth Freedom Day. We further encourage rededication to work toward freedom and equality and justice for all.

RESOLVED this 17th day of May 2021.

Resident Doreen Stratton commended Council for recognizing this date stating that many African Americans who were living at the time were not aware of what President Lincoln had done, as it took two years for the U.S. military to reach Texas to let everyone know that they were now free. She said that June 19th has been dedicated throughout the U.S., and Pennsylvania has been on board for several years now. Ms. Stratton said it is an opportunity for people to be aware of African Americans' history and their contribution to America. She again thanked Council for this resolution.

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

ZONING AND PLANNING

1. **Zoning Hearing Board Report** Mr. Brennan deferred to Ms. Hyland, who stated that the Doylestown Borough Zoning Hearing Board will hold a Public Meeting on May 19, 2021, to hear the following applications: 423 North Main Street, by Alexis Fish, who requests a variance to permit a one-person tattoo shop in the rear portion of the building; and, 300-360 North Broad Street, by Turog Properties, Ltd., would like to install a fence to allow them to expand their dog grooming use so they can have an outdoor dog walk area.

2. **Historic & Architectural Review Board (HARB) Recommendations.** Mr. Brennan said that at its regular monthly meeting, the HARB recommended the following: Sign Application: 8 E. State Street, Soap Opera Company, motion to accept the application as submitted; and, Building Applications: 164 E. Court Street, Nicholas Gray and Beth Bingler, motion to accept the application as submitted to remove existing patio and add a garage in the rear of property. Foundation and walls will be block or poured concrete, stucco shingles, and wood steps and landing.

Mr. Brennan said that the Zoning & Planning Committee recommended that Council approve the applications in accordance with HARB's recommendations. He said that if Council wished to follow the Committee's recommendations, 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.** Mr. Brennan reported there were 43 residential and four non-residential use and occupancy inspections, 14 complaints were investigated, three recycling/trash inspections, 10 sidewalk/paving inspections, three litter

enforcement, and two tree removal permits/issues. He said there were also weekly communications with the Bucks County Emergency Operation Agency, Central Bucks Regional Police Department, Fire, and EMS.

4. **Building Inspection Monthly Report.** Mr. Brennan reported there were 96 building inspections and 67 plan and permit reviews. The total number of permits was 184 and the total cost of permit fees was \$59,023.50.

ENVIRONMENT AND RECREATION - Ms. Margolis

1. **Broad Street Gateway Park Plaza Project Bid.** Ms. Margolis stated that bids were opened and publicly read on April 15, 2021 for the Broad Street Gateway Park Plaza Project. She said that the low bidder is DePaul and Company, Inc. of Plymouth Meeting, Pa.

Ms. Margolis said that the Borough Staff, Environment and Recreation Committee, and Borough Engineer, Gilmore & Associates, Inc., have reviewed the bids and are recommending that Council award the bid to DePaul and Company, Inc. conditioned upon compliance with the bid specifications. She said that they are further recommending, however, that bid items number 27, Planting Beds, and number 28, Planting Bed Plantings, be eliminated from the award, reducing the overall cost and the bid amount to \$723,166.00. Ms. Margolis said that if Council wished to follow the recommendation, it could do so by motion. (Margolis-Frederick)

Mr. Flood asked if DePaul is aware that Council is altering the bid. Mr. Ehlinger stated DePaul was not aware since Council had not yet taken action on this, and it would have been premature to tell them beforehand. Mr. Davis said DePaul is aware that the line item is being questioned and they are well aware that \$58,000 for 10 bushes is not a reasonable amount and was probably a typing error, but they declined to remove it themselves.

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

WATER UTILITY - Ms. Jarret

1. **Water Main Easements: North Main Street Water Main Project.** Ms. Jarret stated that Water Main Easement agreements executed by TD Bank and 625 North Main Street needed to permit the construction of the North Main Street Water Main Project were provided. She said that the agreements were prepared by the Borough Solicitor.

Ms. Jarret said that the Water Utility Committee is recommending that Council approve the Water Main Easement agreements, and if Council wished to follow the recommendation, it could do so by motion. (Jarret-Flood) With no 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. **Bucks County SPCA Contribution Request.** Ms. West stated that the Borough received a contribution request from the Bucks County SPCA. She said that the Finance and Pension Committee considered the request and is recommending that Council contribute \$500 in 2021. Ms. West said that if Council wished to follow the recommendation of the Committee, it could do so by motion. (West-Margolis)

Ms. Margolis commented that the contribution recognizes the essential work that the Bucks County SPCA does on behalf of the Borough's animals who may be abandoned, lost, hurt, or surrendered, and this minimal amount is in lieu of any contract or agreement that the SPCA has every right to ask for and which would be much more costly. She said there are many other organizations that are worthy of support, but in this instance, this small contribution allows the Borough to obtain critical services that aid our law officers as well as our animals. Ms. Margolis said she is proud to support the SPCA and she's grateful they are willing to be there when we need them. She then read a paragraph from the letter that was in the contribution request letter, which she felt was very important to acknowledge:

Most SPCAs have contracts with local townships and boroughs to help fund around the clock animal services. We have not taken that route. *Instead, we ask for your financial support.* The difference is critical. Our relationships with our municipal partners are tightly knit and strong in Bucks County. You can count on us, and we can count on you.

Mr. Bell said he liked the contribution they were about to vote on and concurred with Ms. Margolis. He said Ms. Margolis offered some interesting insight when she said that part of the reason she was in support of the contribution is because this organization provides a tangible benefit to the Borough that would otherwise require that we incur costs with other kinds of remedies. Mr. Bell thought that was an interesting criterion for how Council should make determinations when we get requests for contributions. He recommended that Council explore how to codify in what circumstances we make or do not make a contribution.

With no further 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 called upon Ms. Brinker for the monthly **Finance Report**. Ms. Brinker reported that the total of all funds expended was \$855,010.45. Motion to approve the Finance Report. (West-Frederick) 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: No report.

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 1045 incidents in the Borough in April 2021, and year-to-date, the Department spent \$1,655,514.12 and were at 26.64% of their yearly budget.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: None.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Since Mr. O'Brien was having technology difficulties, Mr. Frederick read the following into the record:

Resolution No. 2021-3, extends Resolution No. 2020-4 Establishing Guidelines and Policy for Outdoor Sales of Food and Merchandise of Existing Business Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic. Council's Community Support Working Group, in light of the severe economic impact on existing Borough businesses resulting from the Coronavirus Pandemic, is recommending the extension of its guidelines and policy for outdoor sale of merchandise and outdoor dining beyond June 30, 2021 to December 31, 2021. If Council wished to follow the recommendation, it could do so by a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2021-3.

Motion to adopt Resolution No. 2021-3 (O'Brien-West). With no comments from Council, Staff, or the public, the vote was called. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Flood congratulated the CB West Girls Track & Field Team, which won the Suburban One Colonial Division Championship over the weekend, and wished them Good Luck at the District One Championships coming up this weekend. He said they are setting records all over the place this spring and he's very proud of the girls. Council members joined in the congratulations to the team.

Mr. Browne then brought to Council's attention that this is National EMS Week and gave a shout out to our providers from Central Bucks Ambulance and all of the mutual aid companies in the area that assist them, as well as members of the fire company who provide first responder services when needed and assist Central Bucks Ambulance.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:40 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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