

April 17, 2023
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, Larry Browne, Curtis Cowgill, Joe Frederick, Jennifer Jarret, Dennis Livrone, and Amy Popkin. Also present were Mayor Noni West, Borough Solicitor Ernest Closser, Borough Engineer Jim Dougherty, Central Bucks Regional Police Department Police Chief Karl Knott, Borough Manager John Davis, Building and Zoning Karyn Hyland, Finance Director Caroline Brinker, and Planning/Public Works Director/Deputy Borough Manager Phil Ehlinger. Junior Councilperson Brooke Wassmann was absent.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

1. Mayor West presented plaques to the following individuals for their dedicated volunteer service:

Richard J. Lyons, Economic Development Advisory Board, 2007-2022
Kristin Winters, Environmental Advisory Council, 2016-2022
Linda Quinn, Human Relations Commission, 2016-2022
Evelyn Rodriguez, Human Relations Commission, 2020-2022
Tim Brennan, Borough Councilperson representing Ward 2, 2016-2022

2. Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) members Grant Alger, George Mullikin, and Steve Nelson were present to receive a **Proclamation Recognizing April 22 as Earth Day** from Mayor West. Residents were invited to celebrate Earth Day at the Doylestown Farmers' Market, "and to do everything possible to reduce consumption of the earth's resources, fight climate change, support green economy initiatives, and encourage others to undertake similar actions."

3. **Bird Town Recognition.** The EAC members and Mayor West joined Leigh Altadonna, President of Wyncote Audubon and PA Audubon Council on the floor. Mr. Altadonna presented a certificate and a "Bird Town" sign to the Borough. The certificate designated Doylestown Borough as a Bird Town 2023, recognizing it as "a community working to promote conservation and stewardship through sustainable land care practices habitat protection and restoration of natural systems to function to create a healthier environment for birds, wildlife, and people."

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. O'Brien called for a motion to approve the **March 20, 2023 Council Meeting Minutes.** (Browne-Margolis)

Plumsteadville resident Vonna DeArmond stated that her comments about a Student Resource Officer (SRO) weren't included in the Open Public Comment section and feels it's

important for them to be in the record. She requested that the minutes not be approved until they were updated to include her comments.

Mr. Davis indicated that a sentence could easily be included in the April minutes that there was a comment about it.

Amended motion to approve the March 23, 2023 minutes, which will include an added sentence regarding Ms. DeArmond's comments. (Frederick-Margolis)

Mr. Bell motioned that approval of the minutes be tabled until next month to give Council time to consult with each other and the Solicitor to ensure the Minutes are capturing context for actions for Council. Mr. Frederick withdrew his amended motion. Mr. Bell then motioned to table approval of the Minutes, seconded by Mr. Browne. With no further comments, the vote was called and the motion to table the approval of the March 23, 2023 minutes was unanimously approved.

MAYOR'S REPORT: No report.

PUBLIC SAFETY - Mr. Frederick

1. **Authorization to Draft and Advertise an Ordinance Creating a Free 15-Minute Parking Space at 80 North Main Street.** Mr. Frederick said that at the March and April meetings, the Public Safety Committee considered a request to create a 15-minute free parking space in front of 80 North Main Street to benefit all of the building's tenants. The free 15-minute parking space would replace an existing three-hour metered space.

Mr. Frederick said that the Public Safety Committee considered the request and is recommending that Council authorize the drafting and advertising of an ordinance creating a free 15-minute parking space at 80 North Main Street. He said that if Council wished to follow the recommendation, it could do so by motion. (Frederick-Browne) Ms. Margolis stated she would be abstaining from the vote. With no further comments, the vote was called. The motion passed with one abstention.

2. **Authorization to Draft and Advertise Ordinance Creating Residential Permit Parking on Harvey Avenue (Union to Doyle).** Mr. Frederick said that in March 2023, the Central Bucks Regional Police Department conducted a parking study on Harvey Avenue between Union and Broad Streets, which study determined that the area meets the criteria to qualify as a residential permit parking district. He said that at their April meeting, the Public Safety Committee reviewed the study and is recommending that Council authorize the drafting and advertising of an ordinance creating a residential permit parking area on Harvey Avenue between Union and Doyle Streets with no parking for non-residents between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Mr. Frederick said that if Council wished to follow the recommendation, it could do so by motion. (Frederick-Jarret)

Public comment was heard: Harvey Avenue resident Barbara Long asked if residents would get visitor passes for use during the 9-5 restriction. Mr. Davis said residents are entitled to

free visitor permits for anyone visiting their homes and there is no charge to the residents for their residential parking permit.

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

3. **Authorization to Draft and Advertise an Ordinance Restricting Parking on Doyle Street Between Broad Commons and Main Street.** Mr. Frederick said that at their April meeting, the Public Safety Committee considered a request from residents of Belvedere to restrict parking on Doyle Street between Broad Commons and Main Street due to the influx of long term weekday parking by employees of near by businesses.

Mr. Frederick said that the Committee considered the request and is recommending the following: (1) a two-hour maximum parking limit from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, from Broad Commons to a point 192 west of Main Street, and, (2) a no-parking zone on Doyle Street for a distance of 192 feet west from Main Street.

Mr. Frederick said that if Council wished to follow the recommendation, it could do so by motion. (Frederick-Browne)

Mr. Bell asked if this would cause the installation of any new meters in that section. Mr. Davis said there would be no meter installations, only signage.

Public comments were heard from residents who live in the affected area.

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

4. **Doylestown Fire Company Monthly Report** was provided in Council's packet and is available to the public by following the packet link noted on this meeting's Agenda.

PUBLIC WORKS AND ADMINISTRATION - Mr. Browne

Mr. Browne reported that the Committee did meet.

1. **2023 Road Materials Bids.** Mr. Browne said that bids were publicly opened and read on February 28, 2023 by the Bucks County Consortium for the purchase of Road Materials for the 2023-24 season. A bid tabulation was provided. He said that based on the three most purchased materials, the low bidder is to Eureka Stone Quarry, Inc., which was also last year's low bid. Mr. Browne said that the Public Works and Administration Committee reviewed the bids and is recommending the award to Eureka.

Mr. Browne said that if Council wished to follow the recommendation, it could do so by motion, conditioned upon receipt of a properly executed performance bond and compliance with the bid specifications. (Browne-Margolis) With no comments from Council, Staff, or the public, the vote was called. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Browne noted that the annual branch pickup beginning in early May was announced today. If residents want their branches picked up, information is available on the Borough's website and a D-Mail was sent out.

Mr. Browne further noted that the hanging baskets began going up last week, which is a big thing for the Borough. Mr. Ehlinger commented that Destination Doylestown volunteers and the Borough's Public Works staff mustered together at DelVal University and planted thousands of plants in the baskets. He said that DelVal always does a fantastic job with the baskets/flowers.

2. The **Public Works' D-Works and Fleet Services reports** were provided in Council's packets and Mr. Ehlinger reported that the department has been busy with various spring projects.

As a follow up to Council meeting discussion, Mr. Ehlinger said that the department assisted the Church Street gardeners and installed a buried groundhog fence.

Ms. Margolis said she has received some compliments about the trash cans downtown. Mr. Ehlinger said the department deployed a new batch of trash cans a week or two ago, the same as the ones in the park. The department has been bringing people in on the weekends and the idea is get ahead of doing that.

Mr. Frederick stated that when the flower baskets are ready to be hung, volunteers will be needed and information about that will be sent out by D-Mail and Destination Doylestown.

COMMUNITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS - Mr. Bell

1. **Youth Leadership Recognition Program Plaque Presentation.** Mr. Bell said this is the inaugural year for this award and he thanked former Junior Councilperson Mary Francis McNulty to helped to get the program in place. Mr. Bell then presented a plaque to Jackson Manning and one to Reese Grasso, which read, "In recognition of your positive impact on the Doylestown Borough Community through your courage, leadership, and advocacy." Both Ms. Grasso and Mr. Manning gave their thanks and remarks.

2. **Resolution No. 2023-5, Supporting Linden Elementary School.** Mr. Bell said that the resolution expresses opposition to the recommendation of the Central Bucks School District's 2022 "Enrollment Capacity and Attendance Boundary Study" that Linden Elementary School be closed, and supporting the community's efforts to save it. Approximately 70 Linden Elementary supporters attended the April 10, 2023 Community and Governmental Affairs meeting, at which the Committee recommended that Council adopt the resolution.

Mr. Bell said that if Council wished to follow the recommendation of the Committee, it could do so by motion. (Bell-Browne) [The resolution was read in its entirety.] 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 - Ms. Jarret

1. **Authorization to Advertise Ordinance Adding Steep Slope Regulation to the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance.** Ms. Jarret said that this Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance amendment prohibits disturbance of steep slopes. She said that the Zoning & Planning Committee recommends authorizing advertisement of the ordinance, and if

Council agrees with that recommendation, it may authorize advertisement by motion. (Jarret-Livrone) With no comments from Council, Staff, or the public, the vote was called. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

2. **Zoning Hearing Board Report.** Ms. Jarret asked Ms. Hyland for this report, who said that the Zoning Hearing Board will hold a public meeting on April 19, 2023, 7 p.m., to hear the following applications: a continued application for 201-205 Doyle Street, which was amended to not include a massive building addition. The relief sought now is to permit conversion of one of the commercial spaces into a dwelling unit; 13 Easthill Drive, requesting dimensional relief to build a covered front porch; and, 101 North Hamilton Street, for dimensional relief for a garage with occupied space above and also to permit an air conditioning unit closer to the rear and side property lines than is permitted.

Ms. Jarret said that Council previously authorized the Borough Solicitor to represent the Borough's interests with respect to the 201-205 Doyle Street application. Due to the change in scope, the Zoning & Planning Committee recommends that the hearing proceed without representation. She said that if Council wished to follow the Committee's recommendation, it could do so by motion. (Jarret-Livrone)

Mr. Livrone asked if there is an update to the 101 North Hamilton proposal. Ms. Hyland said there has not; the applicant did request that it be continued to the May hearing date. She said it will be voted on at Wednesday night's meeting, but she expected that it would be continued.

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

3. **Historic & Architectural Review Board (HARB) Recommendations.** Ms. Jarret said that at its regular monthly meeting, the HARB recommended the following building applications: 131 Cottage Street, Rita Stachel, approval as presented; 238 West Court Street, David Roman and Allison McGarvey, approval of the application as presented, noting any opening in the building may have a soldier course above it; and, 238 East State Street, Robert and Cindy LoCasale, approval as presented, with the condition that a base trim board running along the water table of the addition be added.

Ms. Jarret said that the Zoning & Planning Committee recommends that Council approve the applications in accordance with HARB's recommendation, and if Council wished to follow that recommendation, it could do so by motion. (Jarret-Livrone) With no comments from Council, Staff, or the public, the vote was called. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

4. **Code Enforcement Monthly Activity Report** and 5. **Building Inspection Monthly Report.** Ms. Jarrett 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 wished everyone a happy Earth month.

1. **Request to Incorporate Bicycle Facilities in PennDOT Resurfacing Project - East State Street.** Ms. Margolis said there was a letter provided in Council's packet requesting that PennDOT incorporate bike lanes into the resurfacing of East State Street between East Street and East Oakland Avenue when it occurs. Currently, East State Street is scheduled for resurfacing in 2026. She said that the proposed bike lanes will link the Bike/Hike Path System at Poole's Corner and the adjacent neighborhoods with Chapman Park, Fanny Chapman Pool, Our Lady of Mount Carmel School, and Burpee Park. No parking will be displaced.

Ms. Margolis said that the Borough Staff, Park and Recreation Board, and the Environmental and Recreation Committee are all recommending approval of the request. She said that if Council wished to follow the recommendation, it could do so by motion. (Margolis-Jarret) With no comments from Council, Staff, or the public, the vote was called. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Margolis then asked everyone to join us on April 22 for the Farmers' Market for the EAC and Earth Day.

WATER UTILITY - Mr. Livrone

1. **Consideration of Resolution No. 2023-6, Joining a Municipal Water and Sewer Consortium of Municipalities.** Mr. Livrone said that this resolution will join Doylestown Borough with a consortium of municipalities to deal jointly with issues of water and sewer privatization and other related matters. The need for such a consortium became evident as municipalities attempted to respond to the proposed sale of the sewer assets of the Bucks County Water and Sewer Authority to Aqua PA. He said that four municipalities have already joined the consortium with more expected to follow shortly.

Mr. Livrone said that the Committee is recommending the adoption of Resolution 2023-6, and if Council wished to adopt the resolution, it could do so by motion. (Livrone-Browne) With no comments from Council, Staff, or the public, the vote was called. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

2. **Engineering Service Agreement: Water Distribution and Storage System Hydraulic Model.** Mr. Livrone said this agreement from our Water Engineers, CKS, provides for engineering services to design a hydraulic model of the Borough's water distribution and storage system at a cost of \$23,600. The cost would be funded by the Water Capital Reserve. He said that the proposed modeling project is a result of CKS' recently completed PFAS treatment alternatives analysis. The hydraulic model, once developed, will allow us to evaluate various treatment, outside water purchase, and well enhancement scenarios, and to conduct a cost benefit analysis as we develop an overall plan to address PFAS in our water system.

Mr. Livrone said that the Water Utility Committee and Staff are recommending approval of the proposal, and if Council wished to follow the recommendation, it could do so by motion. (Livrone-Margolis)

Mr. O'Brien noted that Pat DiGangi from CKS Engineers who is working on this project was present in the audience.

Public comment was received from resident Dick Forte, who inquired about the water budget and water usage and demand.

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. Popkin

1. **Banking Services Proposals.** Ms. Popkin said that In February, Borough Council issued a Request for Proposal for Banking Services. Eight RFP's were sent out, five proposals were submitted, and two banks were interviewed, both of which offered professional and impressive services to the Borough.

Ms. Popkin stated that after discussion and review by the Finance & Pension Committee at their April 4, 2023 meeting, and an evaluation of our current services with C&N Bank, the Committee is recommending that the Borough stay with the current bank. She said that if Council is in agreement with the Committee's recommendation, no further action is needed to continue our banking relationship with C&N Bank.

2. Ms. Popkin called upon Ms. Brinker for the Finance Report. Ms. Brinker reported that Council was provided with a list of prepaid bills and a list of bills to be paid this evening. She said the total of all funds expended was \$878,605.24. A motion was made to approve the report (Popkin-Cowgill) 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 Advertise Historic and Architectural Review Board (HARB) Vacancy.** Mr. O'Brien reported that HARB member Anthony R.C. Hita has resigned and will be vacating his board seat following the April 27, 2023 HARB meeting. Mr. Hita's resignation creates a vacancy which needs to be filled. The term will expired December 31, 2023.

Mr. O'Brien said that if Council wished to authorize the advertisement of the HARB vacancy, it may do so by motion. (O'Brien-Margolis) 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 said the report was provided. The monthly activity report showed there were 1068 incidents in the Borough in March 2023, and year-to-date, the Department spent \$1,322,444.92, and were at 19.37% of their yearly budget.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT: None.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Browne noted that it is National Volunteer Week and sent out a thank you to all our volunteers, including the Fire Department which is close to him. He also commented that Ellen and David Green are leaving the Borough for San Francisco in two weeks. Ellen was a major player behind the Book Fest and David is very involved in the rights of all people through his work at Salem United, so they will both be missed. They were wished the best.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

Vonna DeArmond inquired about the minute approval process and what a resolution is. She encouraged everyone to attend the upcoming meeting regarding Linden asked why no one responded to her email of last month about having a Student Resource Officer at West. Mr. O’Brien said they were responding now.

Dick Forte inquired about what the process is for broken sidewalks and trees being over the sidewalks. Mr. Davis explained.

Tabitha Delangelo commented that the demographic study presentation relating to Linden is on April 27, 6 pm, in the auditorium of CB. Mr. O’Brien said the Central Bucks Regional Police Commission meets that evening at 7 p.m., so some Council members won’t be able to attend the Linden meeting. Mr. Davis said we have been promoting that meeting heavily on our social media.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:20 p.m., President O’Brien entertained a motion to adjourn (Browne-Margolis). The vote was called and the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

John H. Davis
Borough Manager

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