

October 17, 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, Council Members Ben Bell, Tim Brennan, Larry Browne, Joe Frederick, Jennifer Jarret, Dennis Livrone, and Junior Councilperson Brooke Wassman. 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. Councilperson Amy Popkin was absent.

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

### **SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

1. **A Proclamation in Honor of National Epilepsy Awareness Month and in Memory of Doylestown Resident Jacob Sholtz.** Mayor West stated that November is National Epilepsy Awareness Month, which is an annual opportunity to learn more about epilepsy's causes and symptoms. She said that Jacob Sholtz was a member of the Doylestown community and lost his 19 year battle with epilepsy and uncontrolled seizures on November 14, 2017. She noted that an increased understanding of epilepsy will lead to both empathy and action. The Mayor said it is our desire to celebrate Jacob Sholtz' life and fight epilepsy in our community as we build a healthier, more knowledgeable, and stronger community, while supporting the National Epilepsy Awareness initiative.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. O'Brien called for a motion to approve the **September 19, 2022 Council Meeting Minutes.** (Margolis-Browne) The vote was called and the minutes were unanimously approved.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:** No report.

### **PUBLIC SAFETY - Mr. Frederick**

1. **Consideration of Ordinance No. 2022-8, Creating a Handicapped Parking Space at 63 West Ashland Street.** Mr. Frederick stated that this ordinance creates a handicapped parking spot at 63 West Ashland Street, pursuant to a request by a resident and with the support of neighbors. He said the ordinance was properly advertised pursuant to Council's authorization to do so given at its September 19, 2022 meeting.

Mr. Frederick said that the Public Safety Committee did not have a quorum at its October 6, 2022 meeting, but the members present are recommending that Council adopt Ordinance No. 2022-8. He said that 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. **Authorization to Advertise Ordinance Creating a No-Parking Zone on East Street at Linden Avenue.** Mr. Frederick said that this creates a no-parking zone on the east side of East Street north of Linden Avenue, which is in response to parked vehicles creating a traffic bottleneck for school buses and other vehicles accessing Linden Elementary. He said that a copy of a complaint and photographs of the area were provided in the packet. Mr. Frederick noted that Linden Elementary School is supportive of the ordinance.

Mr. Frederick said that the Public Safety Committee did not have a quorum at its October 6, 2022 meeting, but the members present are requesting the advertisement of the ordinance. He said that if Council wished to follow the recommendation, it could do so by motion. (Frederick-Margolis)

Mr. Frederick asked what the distance will be for that on East Street. Mr. Davis replied that it go from the north curb of Linden Avenue to the first residential driveway.

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

3. **Request for Open Alcohol Containers at Public Event for the St. Paul's Lutheran Church Fall Fest.** Mr. Frederick said that this item is a Special Events Permit Application for the St. Paul's Lutheran Church Fall Fest, which includes the closure and use of Spruce Street between North Main and North Streets. He said that the application, which has otherwise been approved by the Central Bucks Regional Police Department, includes a request to have open alcohol containers on Spruce Street. Mr. Frederick said that Council's recently adopted amendment to its open container ordinance does allow open containers on a public street as part of a public event but only with the express approval of Borough Council.

The Public Safety Committee did not have a quorum, but the members present are recommending approval of this request. If Council wishes to follow the recommendation, it can 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.

4. **Doylestown Fire Company Monthly Report.** Mr. Frederick said the 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 not meet. He said the monthly **Public Works Department Report** was provided and then asked Mr. Ehlinger for any comments he had. Mr. Ehlinger said that the annual leaf collection began this week in section one and it will continue through the Borough wards. He said in addition, the department has been doing some road patching and has also been doing some tree work using the new boom truck.

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

Mr. Bell reported that the Committee did not meet and there was no report.

## **ZONING AND PLANNING - Mr. Brennan**

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 at 7:00 p.m. on October 19, 2022, to hear the following applications: 19 West Court Street, which is a special exception and variance for four off-street parking spaces; and, 50 North Main Street, which to allow a restaurant in the office zoning district.

2. **Historic & Architectural Review Board (HARB) Recommendations.** Mr. Brennan said that at its regular monthly meeting held on September 22, 2022, the HARB recommended the following: approval of the following **Sign Applications** as submitted: 46 East State Street; and, **Building Applications:** 289-291 West Court Street, for windows - recommended approval with conditions, 180 Green Street, for a roof, 227 West Court Street, for a garage, and 110 South West Street, for building demolition and new construction. The HARB recommended approval of the demolition application as presented for the demolition; proposed improvements shall be resubmitted for review and approval.

Mr. Brennan said that the Zoning and 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 recommendation, it could so by motion. (Brennan-Margolis)

Mr. Frederick asked if it was known when the demolition would begin at 110 South West Street. Ms. Hyland responded no, as no application had been submitted yet.

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** 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 reported that the Committee did not meet and there were no items to bring to Council. She did report, however, that the Environmental Advisory Council held a well-attended public meeting regarding the plastic bag ban and tomorrow evening they will be considering the ordinance. She said following that, she hoped to have the ordinance for presentation to the Environment and Recreation Committee and then onto Council for consideration.

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

Ms. Jarret reported that the Committee did not meet and there was no report.

## **FINANCE/PENSION - Ms. Popkin**

1. **Finance Report.** As Ms. Popkin was absent, Ms. Brinker reported that Council had been 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 \$1,078,448.91. A motion was made to approve the report. (O'Brien-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** - Mr. Closser: No report.

**Central Bucks Regional Police Department (CBRPD) Activities Report.** Chief Knott said he had no report. The CBRPD monthly activity report showed there were 1090 incidents in the Borough in September 2022, and year-to-date, the Department spent \$4,239,935.88 and were at 64.72% of their yearly budget.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** None.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS:** None.

## **OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Judith Stratton, East Ashland Street, and Diana Resek, 286 West Oakland Street, on behalf of the Community Garden No. 1 at the bottom of Church Street. Ms. Stratton stated that they have been negligent in thanking the Borough for everything that has been done for them for the past 30 years, but now there's a serious problem with "varmints". She said it's mostly the back property line with the County where there needs to be some type of fencing or implement to prevent them from coming in.

Ms. Resek said she actually saw a giant-sized groundhog scale the side of a well-built fence to get to the Borough residents' greens and vegetables. She added that it's more than the groundhogs, as there are rabbits running through the garden too. Ms. Resek said the residents have spent their own money on fencing and have tried their best to take care of this, but it hasn't helped. She said they are looking for help and advice because people get discouraged because of this and want to drop out.

Mr. Davis said the Public Works Department can take a look and see if they can come up with something. Ms. Stratton replied they would appreciate the assistance.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 7:21 p.m., President O'Brien entertained a motion to adjourn (Margolis-Browne). The vote was called and the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

John H. Davis  
Borough Manager

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