

**MINUTES  
BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING  
OCTOBER 7, 2020**

The Downingtown Borough Council met in regular session on October 7, 2020 at the Municipal Government Center, 4 W. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown, PA. Members present: President Gazzerro, Vice President Rakoff, Councilors Grugan, Van Dyk, Horstmann and Feldman. Also attending were Mayor Dague, Solicitor O'Keefe and members of Borough staff.

President Gazzerro called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Recognition/Awards** – Mayor Dague read a proclamation honoring Downingtown resident and veteran Mr. Sam Graveno; he bravely served our country during WWII. Borough Council thanked Mr. Graveno for his service and contributions to our community.

**Approval of Expenditures for Period Ending September 30, 2020** – Vice President Rakoff made a motion to approve the expenditures for the period ending September 30, 2020, Councilor Grugan seconded; motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of Borough Council Minutes (September 2, 2020)** – Councilor Grugan made a motion to approve the minutes of September 2, 2020, Vice President Rakoff seconded; motion carried unanimously.

**Citizens to be Heard** – Randall Scott, [REDACTED], commented on offenders listed on the Downingtown Police Department's database.

**Deferred Business**

**Ordinance 2020-01 Zoning Amendment R-3 District (Public Hearing)** – Solicitor O'Keefe opened the public hearing and reviewed the proposed zoning amendment, he presented the Borough's exhibits too. There were no comments from the public. After discussion, Vice President Rakoff made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-01, President Gazzerro seconded. After additional discussion, Councilor Feldman made a secondary motion to table action on the ordinance until the Borough Planning Commission reviews the Chester County Planning Commission review letter, Councilor Horstmann seconded. President Gazzerro called for a vote of the motion on the floor to table action on Ordinance 2020-01; motion carried 4-2 (President Gazzerro and Vice President Rakoff opposed.) Solicitor O'Keefe announced the public hearing will be continued on November 4, 2020 at 7 p.m. Solicitor O'Keefe closed the public hearing.

After discussion, Vice President Rakoff made a motion to reopen the record and continue the public hearing, President Gazzerro seconded; motion carried 5-1 (Councilor Horstmann opposed).

Solicitor O'Keefe announced Borough Council voted to table action on the ordinance earlier this evening and send it back to the Planning Commission, the record was closed. After additional discussion, Solicitor O'Keefe announced Borough Council voted to reopen the record and further discuss Ordinance 2020-01.

Concluding additional discussion, Vice President Rakoff made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-01, Councilor Van Dyk seconded; motion carried 4-2 (Councilors Horstmann and Feldman opposed). The record was closed by Solicitor O'Keefe.

*Note: A transcript of the public hearing will be available for review at the Borough Administration office.*

### **New Business**

Ordinance 2020-02 C-1 District Auto Sales by Conditional Use – By consensus of Borough Council, action was tabled on the ordinance pending review and a recommendation from the Borough Planning Commission.

Ordinance 2020-03 Amending Chapter 274 Green Street Parking – Vice President Rakoff made a motion to advertise with the intent to adopt Ordinance 2020-03, Councilor Grugan seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Borough Auditor RFP Award – Councilor Feldman made a motion to appoint Barbacane Thornton & Company LLC as the Borough's auditor, Councilor Van Dyk seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Trick or Treating – Trick or Treating will proceed as scheduled on Saturday, October 31 from 6 to 8 pm. The Borough encourages families to consider lower risk activities as an alternative to traditional trick or treating. Guidance has been provided by the CDC and a link is posted on the Borough's website.

### **For the Good of the Order**

Councilor Feldman stated she wanted to convey that she supports our police officers and first responders 100% and wants the rumors stating otherwise to stop.

Councilor Van Dyke reported that Downingtown Main Street Association will restore and repair the rails at the Kerr Park gazebo this is scheduled to be completed soon. President Gazzerro stated, we are in the process of researching costs of installing cameras to provide additional security in all of the Borough's parks.

The DVRPC/Downingtown Area Transportation Study is gearing up to hold their first public meetings on Tuesday, October 13 at 2 pm and Wednesday, October 21 at 7 pm, anyone interested can register online.

*(Note: the link to the pre-recorded Zoom meetings are posted on the Borough website.)*

Councilor Feldman asked for an update on the parking lot at Kardon Park. Jack Law reported on the improvements that have been completed.

Chief Holland clarified to Borough Council the information stated by the resident during the Citizens to be Heard portion of the meeting pertaining to arrest information on the police database was not accurate. The Police Department's training and current policies in place for the department are ahead of the curve; compared to other municipalities.

President Gazzerro reported he has been asked by residents the status of displaying the Minquas cannon to the public. The cannon should be displayed so the public has an opportunity to see it. Mr. Sullins will reach out to the Historic Commission to make the necessary arrangements.

The Downingtown Library fundraiser Readers on the Run will be virtual this year, specific information is available on the library's website.

**Adjournment**

President Gazzoer adjourned the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Millie Byerly". The script is cursive and fluid.

Millie Byerly  
Assistant Secretary