

MINUTES
BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
OCTOBER 6, 2021

The Downingtown Borough Council met in regular session on October 6, 2021 at the S.T.E.M. Academy, 335 Manor Avenue, Downingtown, PA. Members present: Vice President Rakoff, Councilors Howard, Van Dyk, Horstmann and Feldman. Also attending were Mayor Dague, Solicitor O'Keefe and members of Borough staff. President Gazzo did not attend.

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

Recognition/Awards- None

Approval of Expenditures for period ending September 30, 2021- Councilor Feldman made a motion to approve the expenditures for the period ending September 30, 2021, Councilor Van Dyk seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Borough Council Minutes September 22, 2021- Councilor Horstmann made a motion to approve the minutes of September 22, 2021, Councilor Howard seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Citizens to be Heard

Dawn McMichael, 310 Mary St., commented on the citizens to be heard format, the time which she received the notification to evacuate her home and damage caused by flooding as a result of Hurricane Ida.

Gina Curry, 365 Mary St., commented on resources and assistance needed by flood victims for FEMA claims, denials and appeals.

John McMichael, 310 Mary St., commented on the flooding on Mary St., due to Hurricane Ida and questioned the impact from the Marsh Creek Dam.

Mike Ranalli, 11 Manor Ave., commented on the flooding due to Hurricane Ida and suggested dredging the Brandywine and looking for other solutions to minimize flooding.

Rich Cardelli, 301 Church St., commented on the Sunshine Act and resident's right to speak during a public meeting also whether there was a release of water from the Marsh Creek Dam resulting in the excessive flooding in the Borough.

Kellyn Handsforth, 309 Bradford Ave., commented on the FEMA claim process and inquired about support, amendments to zoning and stormwater management improvements being required by developers.

Gabriel Fabian, 123 Bradford Ave., commented on the Borough working together with surrounding municipalities toward preventative measures to reduce flooding within the Borough.

Josh Maxwell, County Commissioner, informed residents there are services available through the County for residents who need assistance such as transportation to Disaster Relief Centers to file FEMA claims, etc. visit the following site: <https://www.chesco.org/4996/Ida>.

Deferred Business

Light Pollution - Deferred

New Business

Scott Nelson (Rep. Chrissy Houlahan's office), provided a brief summary of constituent services available through their office.

Conditional Use Hearing (Mission Community Church) – Vice President Rakoff announced the opening of the conditional use hearing. Solicitor O’Keefe provided an overview of the hearing process, reviewed the conditional use application and presented the Borough’s exhibits into the record. The applicant presented their exhibits, testimony and witnesses.

Solicitor O’Keefe asked if there were any additional comments from Borough Council, residents who requested party status or meeting attendees. There were no additional comments; Solicitor O’Keefe announced the hearing and record were closed.

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

Resolution 2021-05 Authorizing Emergency Purchase of Vehicles – Councilor Howard made a motion to adopt Resolution 2021-05, Councilor Van Dyk seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Parks & Rec Commission Appointments – Councilor Howard made a motion to reappoint Ashley Orr to a 3 yr. term and appoint Kevin Scalfaro to a 3 yr. term (pending receipt of child abuse background check), Councilor Horstmann seconded; motion carried unanimously.

For the Good of the Order

Vice President Rakoff suggested the Borough form a Flood Action Committee to serve as an advisory group to research and provide viable flood mitigation alternatives.

Councilor Van Dyk reported the Planning Commission will be discussing storm water management for the Comp Plan update.

Mayor Dague stated the Downingtown Library event D-Town Brew Down will be held at Minquas on Saturday, October 30.

Councilor Feldman stated the Borough should reconsider purchasing the PECO properties.

Borough Trick or Treating will be held on Sunday, October 31 from 6-8 p.m.

Adjournment

Vice President Rakoff asked for a motion to adjourn into Executive Session. Councilor Horstmann made a motion to adjourn into Executive Session at 9:50 p.m., Councilor Howard seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Millie Byerly
Assistant Borough Secretary