

**MINUTES**  
**BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**FEBRUARY 2, 2022**

The Downingtown Borough Council met in regular session on February 2, 2022 at the Municipal Government Center, 4 W. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown, PA. Members present: President Rakoff, Vice President Plaugher, Councilors Howard, Van Dyk, Ferris and Helm. Also attending were Mayor Dague, Solicitor O'Keefe and members of Borough staff.

**Recognition/Awards**- None

**Approval of Expenditures for period ending January 31, 2022** - Councilor Van Dyk made a motion to approve the expenditures for the period ending January 31, 2022, Councilor Ferris seconded; motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of Borough Council Minutes January 3, 2022** - Vice President Plaugher made a motion to approve the minutes of January 3, 2022, Councilor Van Dyk seconded; motion carried unanimously.

**Citizens to be Heard**

Barry Cassidy, 211 Cherry St., commented on the PEMA/FEMA buyout and stated he is independently establishing a committee to address flooding and alternative processes.

Diane Pirie, 348 Mary St., commented that she submitted a buyout application and her address was not on the list. Matt Bush (JMR Engineering) confirmed, her application had been submitted.

Dawn McMichael, 310 Mary St., commented on the PEMA/FEMA buyout, flooding and wants to see Borough Council members personally interacting with residents in the community.

John West, 1043 Glenside, commented on the new developments occurring in the Borough and suggested a freeze on future development.

Kate McNamara, 126 Brandywine Ave., commented on the lack of follow-up and correct information pertaining to the PEMA/FEMA buyout process, she suggested additional forms of communication be utilized to provide residents with timely, accurate information; not everyone has internet access.

Ryan McCormick, 114 Brandywine Ave., commented on his concerns with the flooding and misinformation on the PEMA/FEMA buyout.

Steve O'Connor, 128 Brandywine Ave., commented on the PEMA/FEMA buyout and application process.

**Deferred Business**

**PEMA/FEMA Buyout** - Matt Bush, JMR Engineering, reported 31 properties were on the list of applications submitted for the buyout. There is a second round for additional applications to be submitted with a deadline of February 25, 2022. Additional information will be provided to residents who are interested in application submissions for round 2.

**New Business**

**River Station Update** - Neal Fisher, Hankin Group, presented an update on the River Station project and provided background information from the start of the project, progress to date and showed conceptual plans of how the development will look when completed. He answered questions from Council and the public pertaining to the project.

Sustainable Energy Advisory Committee – Caroline O'Connor and Susan McCrady, Sustainable Downingtown, informed Borough Council they are a volunteer organization dedicated to improving sustainability in Downingtown initially and to surrounding municipalities in the future. She provided their mission statement and proposed energy transition plan.

PEMA/FEMA Approval of Buyout Appraisals – After discussion, Councilor Howard made a motion authorizing approval to move forward with the appraisals, Councilor Van Dyk seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 2022-02 Chester County Hazard Mitigation Plan – Councilor Howard made a motion to adopt Resolution 2022-02, Councilor Van Dyk seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 2022-03 Hazard Mitigation Planning Grant Designation of Agent – Vice President Plaughter made a motion to adopt Resolution 2022-03, Councilor Howard seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Sister City Agreement – Mayor Dague read a Sister City Agreement between the Borough of Downingtown and Bradninch, Devon, United Kingdom the two homes of Thomas Downing, II.

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

Downingtown Main Street Association event #IHeartDTown Happy Hour will be held at Victory Brewing Company on Thursday, February 24 from 5-8 p.m., ticket cost is \$25.

Councilor Van Dyk submitted her letter of resignation from Borough Council effective February 2, 2022, she thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve on Borough Council.

Councilor Ferris reported there is a vacant term on the Shade Tree Commission, additional information is posted on the Borough's website.

Downingtown Library Readers on the Run will be a virtual event this year and will be held on April 22-24, 2022.

President Rakoff announced that Dave Bush, DMWA, has resigned.

President Rakoff and Borough Council members thanked Councilor Van Dyk for her service on Borough Council.

### **Adjournment**

Councilor Howard made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:53 p.m., Councilor Van Dyk seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Millie Byerly  
Assistant Borough Secretary