

MINUTES
BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 6, 2022

The Downingtown Borough Council met in regular session on April 6, 2022 at the Municipal Government Center, 4 W. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown, PA. Members present: President Rakoff, Vice President Plaughner, Councilors Howard, Horstmann, Ferris and Helm. Also attending were Mayor Dague, Solicitor O'Keefe and members of Borough staff.

Solicitor O'Keefe announced the purpose of the Executive Session this evening was to discuss potential real estate acquisition.

President Rakoff asked for a motion to amend the agenda to include the grant application submission for the Sustainability Advisory Committee. Councilor Howard made a motion to amend the agenda, Councilor Ferris seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Recognition/Awards - None

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

Approval of Borough Council Minutes March 2, 2022 - Councilor Helm made a motion to approve the minutes of March 2, 2022, Vice President Plaughner seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Citizens to be Heard

Dawn McMichael, 310 Mary St., commented on a letter received from Mayor Dague pertaining to the William St. parcels, President Rakoff responded the Borough does not own the parcels. She inquired about DMWA Board and meeting agendas. President Rakoff responded the public is welcome to attend the DMWA board meetings and questions related to DMWA should be addressed at their meetings. The Chester County Municipal Stormwater Summit is scheduled on April 11, 2022 beginning at 1:00 pm, residents are able to attend via Zoom and register online.

Ryan McCormick, 114 Brandywine Ave., asked if there was an update on the FEMA Buyout program. He also mentioned some residents have appliances, furniture and debris on their porches damaged by the flood.

Max Howard, 230 Brandywine Ave., commented on current parking situation and asked how it will be affected by the River Station development. Concerned with Chester Alley access for emergency vehicles.

Rich Cardelli, 301 Church St., commented on the Borough's pending purchase of the 126 Wallace Ave. property, he does not support the Borough Complex move. He also commented on the monthly costs being incurred by the Police Department during their relocation.

(Note Chief Holland stated the information stated by Mr. Cardelli was inaccurate, he provided the correct monthly relocation costs incurred by the Police Department.)

Steve O'Connor, 128 Brandywine Ave., thanked Borough Council for their assistance working with the residents on the FEMA Buyout Program.

Deferred Business

Ordinance 2022-01 Condemnation of Property (260 Norwood Rd.) - Vice President Plaughner made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2022-01, Councilor Helm seconded; motion carried unanimously.

New Business

Resolution 2022-07 Chester County Tax Collection Committee Delegates - Councilor Ferris made a motion to adopt Resolution 2022-07, Councilor Howard seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 2022-08 Purchase Agreement 126 Wallace Ave. – Vice President Plaughter made a motion to adopt Resolution 2022-08, Councilor Helm seconded; motion carried unanimously. President Rakoff stated received a recommendation from the Planning Commission supporting the relocation.

Resolution 2022-09 Reimbursement Expenditures – Councilor Howard made a motion to adopt Resolution 2022-09, Councilor Horstmann seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Planning Commission Appointment – Councilor Ferris made a motion to appoint Caroline O'Connor as a voting member on the Planning Commission, Councilor Horstmann seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Flood Advisory Committee Appointment – Vice President Plaughter made a motion to appoint Corrine Trice as a member of the Flood Advisory Committee, Councilor Howard seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Sustainability Advisory Committee – Councilor Ferris made a motion to appoint Caroline O'Connor, Valerie Connors and Susan McCreadie as members of the Sustainability Advisory Committee, Councilor Howard seconded; motion carried unanimously.

D-town Brew Down (October 29, 2022) – Councilor Helm made a motion to approve the D-town Brew Down application, Councilor Howard seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Fire Department Capital Equipment Purchases – Jack Law, Fire Chief, provided information to Council on costs to purchase two new pieces of apparatus, leasing costs and terms. He stated he received options for savings if both were purchased at the same time. After discussion, Borough Council decided to defer action until Chief Law provides additional information requested.

Sustainability Advisory Committee/Parks & Recreation Commission (Grant Application) – Valerie Connors and Ryan Handsforth requested Council's approval to submit a grant application. They are partnering together to submit a grant application for \$40,000 to be awarded for improvements on public spaces, they initially are looking at Johnstown Park. After discussion, Council Howard made a motion to support the grant application submission, if awarded, Council prefers the grant funds to be spread out among other areas as well, Councilor Ferris seconded; motion carried unanimously.

For the Good of the Order

The Shade Tree Commission planted trees and shrubs at the library.

Historic Commission – The floors at the Log House were restored by Belfor and the ballards and chains were completed on the cannon.

Mayor Dague reported the Sister City Agreement was signed.

The DMWA will be providing an update to Borough Council in the near future.

Adjournment

Councilor Howard made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m., Councilor Ferris seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Millie Byerly
Assistant Borough Secretary