

**MINUTES**  
**BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**SEPTEMBER 22, 2021**

The Downingtown Borough Council met in regular session on September 22, 2021 at the S.T.E.M. Academy, 335 Manor Avenue, Downingtown, PA. Members present: President Gazzo, 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 called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Solicitor O'Keefe announced the purpose of this evening's Executive Session was to discuss potential real estate acquisition.

**Recognition/Awards-** None

**Approval of Expenditures for period ending July 31, 2021-** Vice President Rakoff made a motion to approve the expenditures for the period ending July 31, 2021, Councilor Howard seconded; motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of Expenditures for period ending August 31, 2021-** Vice President Rakoff made a motion to approve the expenditures for the period ending August 31, 2021, Councilor Van Dyk seconded; motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of Borough Council Minutes July 7, 2021-** Councilor Horstmann made a motion to approve the minutes of July 7, 2021, Vice President Rakoff seconded; motion carried unanimously. Ms. Feldman wants the petition from the McMichael's to be noted in the minutes.

**Citizens to be Heard**

Randall Scott, 234 Highland Ave., commented on the flooding within the Borough and effects of new Trestle View development.

John McMichael, 310 Mary St., commented on the past history of Downingtown flooding, the mill race and concerns regarding additional development.

Megan Stellfox, 323 Stuart Ave., commented on the flooding and Marsh Creek's role during the flood. She requested information on the Borough's flood insurance policy.

Dawn McMichael, 310 Mary St., commented regarding the flooding and need for assistance and asked where the Council members were?

Sarah Brown, East Brandywine Township, commented on the flooding, impact of Beaver Creek, Marsh Creek and Kardon Park lakes influence.

Lorraine Geiling, 34 West Lancaster Ave., commented on the flooding and that we need to get the businesses back.

Patricia Moffitt, 122 Brandywine Ave., commented on the flooding and asked when new Toters will be distributed. Mr. Sullins responded the Borough is doing their best and hope to have them out to residents as soon as possible.

Patrick Moffitt, 122 Brandywine Ave., commented that the USGS Geological survey flow gauge shows Marsh Creek added 3 feet to the flood. Councilor Van Dyk briefly explained the flow gauge.

Gina Curry, 365 Mary St., commented on the flooding, stated how wonderful her neighbors are but they need assistance. Councilor Feldman suggested Rep. Houlahan's website, Salvation Army, Red Cross, Habitat for Humanity and Good Works, Inc. as resources.. President Gazzo suggested the list of agencies posted on the Borough website.

Joann Widener, 32 West Lancaster Ave., commented on the flooding and asked about the berm that's behind the Police Department, it's like a retaining basin. Is there a way to open that up?

Pat Cox, 405 Prospect Avenue., commented on the flooding in Johnsontown, resources for residents and concerns with new developments; also access for emergency vehicles during flooding.

Rich Cardelli, 301 Church Street, commented on the USGS website and requested answers regarding the Borough's flood insurance policies and status of damaged vehicles and fire department equipment? He asked why the Borough complex has not open yet?

Jesse Delaney, 363 Mary Street, commented on the flooding, concern for her neighbors and resale value of her property.

Clay Chilson, Coatesville, commented on the flooding, he collected scrap metal recycled it and donated the money to the Lord's Pantry for Downingtown residents. He suggests residents utilize this as a resource.

Councilor Feldman, commented on the flooding in Kardon Park, flood control methods and diverting water. She suggested a grant from the Army Corps of Engineers or Growing Green to restore flood control measures.

**Deferred Business** - None

### **New Business**

#### **2021 Borough Paving Project (Bid Award)**

Mr. Sullins presented the two bids for asphalt materials 2021 paving project, DiRocco Brothers, Inc. submitted a bid of \$173,384.28 and Long's Asphalt, Inc. submitted a bid of \$215,270.00. Mr. Sullins recommended DiRocco Brothers, Inc. be awarded the bid (this does not include the Water Authority). President Rakoff made a motion to award the bid to DiRocco Brothers, Inc. for the 2021 Borough Paving Project for \$173,384.28; Councilor Horstmann seconded; motion carried unanimously.

#### **2022 Borough Pension MMO's**

Councilor Feldman made a motion to approve the 2022 Police Pension Plan contribution for \$389,897 and Non-Uniformed Defined Contributions for \$119,000; Councilor Horstmann seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 2021-04 Final Plan Approval (124 & 130 S. Lloyd Ave.) Vice President Rakoff made a motion to adopt Resolution 2021-04, Councilor Van Dyk seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Emergency Allocation (Flood Expense) - Councilor Feldman asked where the money is coming from..Mr. Sullins indicated it was from a municipal PLIGIT savings account. Vice President Rakoff made a motion to approve the Emergency Allocation from the municipal PLIGIT savings account for flood expenses (if necessary); Councilor Howard seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Flood Update - An audience member requested the Borough's flood insurance policy information. Solicitor O'Keefe responded.

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

Mayor Dague stated he will try to get answers about Marsh Creek and the timeline. He reminded everyone about the fundraisers going on to Coffee Cup Night Under the Stars, Down But Not Out at 5:00.

Councilor Feldman stated she is sympathetic to resident's concerns and the recovery period. She suggested resident's check with the attorney general to see if there is any liability. She thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Councilor Horstmann assisted Mary St. residents in getting rid of flood damaged items. He thanked surrounding municipalities who stepped up to assist and support the Borough with equipment and vehicles.

Vice President Rakoff stated we're doing the best we can in a once in a lifetime flood event.

Councilor Van Dyk commented regarding the flooding and how we're working together to figure this out.

Councilor Howard stated she shares the concerns of the audience members regarding FEMA and will investigate what happened and the best way to find answers.

President Gazzerro stated he has lost a lot in the flood too as has his family. He said he knows how everyone's feeling but we're doing our best, it just takes time. He's thankful for the Boy Scouts and private citizens who are giving of their time. He stated we'll come back and make it better.

### **Adjournment**

Vice President Rakoff made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m., President Gazzerro seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa H. Bailey  
Brandywine Reporting, Inc.