

MINUTES
BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
MAY 4, 2022

The Downingtown Borough Council met in regular session on May 4, 2022 at the Municipal Government Center, 4 W. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown, PA. Members present: President Rakoff, Vice President Plaughner, Councilors Horstmann, Ferris and Helm. Also attending were Mayor Dague, Solicitor O'Keefe and members of Borough staff. Councilor Howard did not attend.

Solicitor O'Keefe announced the purpose of the Executive Session this evening was to discuss real estate and police personnel.

Amend Agenda

Councilor Horstmann made a motion to amend the agenda to add Executive Session Action (Police Personnel), Councilor Ferris seconded; motion carried 4-0. Vice President Plaughner abstained.

Recognition/Awards - None

Approval of Expenditures for period ending April 30, 2022 - Vice President Plaughner made a motion to approve the expenditures for the period ending April 30, 2022, Councilor Horstmann seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Borough Council Minutes April 6, 2022 - Councilor Helm made a motion to approve the minutes of April 6, 2022, Councilor Ferris seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Citizens to be Heard

Dawn McMichael, 310 Mary St., commented on infrastructure, attending DMWA board meeting and questions posed to board which were not answered.

Ryan Kunley, 425 Sunset Dr., commented on the Borough Council and DASD board meetings being scheduled on the same evenings.

Deferred Business

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, Vice President Plaughner made a motion to proceed with purchasing two pieces of apparatus, at 0% down, 4% fixed interest rate and 15 year lease term, Councilor Helm seconded. Councilor Ferris made a secondary motion to purchase one piece of apparatus now and purchase the second in the future; motion failed. President Rakoff asked for a vote on the first motion; motion carried 4-1 (Councilor Ferris opposed).

New Business

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 asked several questions and announced the hearing and record were closed. Borough Council has 45 days to issue a decision on the application request.

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

2022 Bond Issue Borough Complex Relocation – Mr. Ed Murray, Boenning & Scattergood, reviewed the Capital Finance Plan for the Borough Complex Relocation and answered questions from Borough Council. Councilor Helm made a motion to authorize Mr. Murray to move forward preparing the required documents necessary for the bond issue, Councilor Ferris seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Downingtown Library (Update) – Deferred

FEMA Buyout Update (Matt Bush) – Mr. Bush reported, the completed applications for properties eligible for the buyout program have been submitted to the state for review. The expected decision timeline is June.

Resolution 2022-10 Woodbine Sidewalk & Trail Project – Vice President Plaughter made a motion to adopt Resolution 2022-10, Councilor Horstmann seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 2022-11 Execution of Documents for Sanitary Sewer Woodbine Road Apartments – Councilor Horstmann made a motion to adopt Resolution 2022-11, Councilor Ferris seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Executive Session (Police Personnel)

Councilor Ferris made a motion to take disciplinary action by authorizing the termination of Officer Joel Williams, Councilor Horstmann seconded; motion carried 4-0 (Vice President Plaughter abstained).

For the Good of the Order

The Shade Tree Commission hosted a home design for landscape event at the Downingtown Library which was a success.

The Downingtown-Thorndale Regional Chamber of Commerce held its annual awards dinner on April 28, Jack Law (Public Works Director) was voted as Citizen of the Year.

The Sustainability Advisory Committee will meet on the fourth Thursday of each month. Their organization meeting will be held on May 26.

The Memorial Day parade will be held on May 30th, additional information is available on the Borough's website <https://www.downingtown.org>.

Adjournment

Vice President Plaughter made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m., Councilor Horstmann seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Millie Byerly
Assistant Borough Secretary