

MINUTES
BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 7, 2022
7:00 P.M.

The Downingtown Borough Council met in executive session prior to tonight's meeting to discuss personnel issues and real estate matters. Council met at the Municipal Government Center, 4 W. Lancaster Avenue, Downingtown, PA. Members present: President Rakoff, Vice-President Plaughter, Councilors Howard, Horstmann, Ferris and Helm. Also attending were Solicitor O'Keefe and members of Borough Staff.

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

Approval of Borough Council Minutes (August 3, 2022) - One change noted by Vice-President Plaughter is he was present via Zoom. Councilor Howard made a motion to approve the minutes of August 3, 2022, Councilor Ferris seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Citizens to be Heard

Ted Roerhig, Sr., commented on when the tree removal will begin in Kerr Park and if there would be areas taped off. How would the citizens be made aware of the schedule? Mr. Sullins reported that Council will decide on the tree removal company bid tonight and is expecting the tree company to remove many large trees, blocking off four to five areas of the park while cranes are in use. The website will note which areas but he is expecting the tree removal to take five days.

Deferred Business-

Yard Waste Collection- Mr. Sullins gave an overview of the current situation and suggested we continue as we are, though there is a lot of waste being added, possibly by outside sources. He will continue to monitor the situation and is expecting less usage as we head into the fall/winter.

New Business

Sustainability Advisory Committee (Update) - Presentation by Carolyn O'Connor. The SAC is looking for guidance from Council after the Sierra Club has generated an energy profile for the Borough and suggests to begin with using as the default a renewable energy provider with an opt out option for residents, changing or modifying the acorn light fixtures, researching conduit accessibility and applying for grants for an EV charging station.

Ordinance 2022-03- Planning Commission Amendment (Alternates) - Solicitor O'Keefe gave a brief overview of the operation of the planning commission, number of members and provisions, clarifying some of the general wording. Vice-President Plaughter made a motion to advertise with intent to adopt Ordinance 2022-03, Councilor Horstmann seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance 2022-04 Woodbine Road Speed Limit- Councilor Horstmann wasn't present at the last meeting when there was discussion regarding the ordinance but agrees with the change given the density and proximity to the high school. Councilor Howard made a motion to advertise with intent to adopt Ordinance 2022-04, Councilor Helm seconded; motion carried unanimously.

A.J. Blosenski Consent Agreement- The business has merged with another company but will continue on with the same contract, schedule, service contract, trucks and route until the contract expires -2023 and then we'll have to rebid. Mr. Sullins also reminded everyone Saturday, September 10, 2022 is the scheduled trash pickup due to the Labor Day holiday. Councilor Ferris made a motion to grant consent, Councilor Horstmann seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Kerr Park Tree Removal (Bid Award) - Two bids received, one from R & H or R & N Tree Service for \$72,000 and Harlan Tree Services for \$58,500 to remove 72 dead or diseased trees mostly Ash trees. Discussion followed. Councilor Helm made a motion to approve the bid award to Harlan Tree Services for \$58, 500, Vice-President Plaughter seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Retain Unruh Turner (Legal Services) – Councilor Ferris made a motion to retain Unruh Turner for legal services, Councilor Horstmann seconded; motion carried unanimously.

2023 Paving Schedule- Mr. Sullins set forth the projected 2023 paving schedule as follows: Whiteland Avenue from Washington to Acorn, 400 block of Washington behind Beaver Creek, 400 block of Jefferson, trail between Green Street to Norwood Road, trail through The Ponds or Kardon Park, Stuart Avenue, Pennsylvania to Lancaster and Prospect from Willow to Bradford (Note: Trestle View will do that paving per their condition use). Subject to change with finances.

Civil Service Commission- Recommendation to extend conditional offers of employment as positions of probationary officers to Connor Lawler and Harvel Brown. Councilor Howard made a motion to extend conditional employment offers as probationary officers to Connor Lawler and Harvel Brown, Council Helm seconded; motion carried unanimously.

MMO uniformed and nonuniformed pension contribution- Councilor Ferris made a motion to approve the police uniformed pension contribution of \$583,358, Vice-President Plaughter seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Councilor Horstman made a motion to approve the nonuniformed pension contribution of \$180,000, Vice-President Plaughner seconded; motion carried unanimously.

For the Good of the Order

Councilor Horstmann reminded everyone that school has started and to drive carefully being mindful of children and the crosswalks and hoping for crossing guards in the future.

Councilor Ferris reminded everyone that the Log House has a tour/open house 10/2 from 1:00 to 4:00. 30 people visited at the last open house.

President Rakoff reminded everyone of the FAC meeting at 7:00 Thursday, September 8, 2022. Also he met with Carolyn Comitta's assistant, Michael Hartman, who organized a meeting with PennDOT to discuss the train station. The virtual meeting is set for 9/15/22 at 4:00.

Adjournment-

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:51 p.m., seconded by Councilor Howard; motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa H. Bailey

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Substitute Secretary