

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

The Downingtown Borough Council met at the Municipal Government Center, 4 West Lancaster Avenue, Downingtown, PA. Members present: President Rakoff, Vice-President Plaughner, Councilors Horstmann and Ferris. Also attending were Solicitor O'Keefe and members of Borough Staff.

President Rakoff opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Solicitor O'Keefe stated an executive session was held prior to this evening's Council meeting to discuss real estate matters.

President Rakoff asked for a moment of silence and then a salute to the flag.

**Approval of Expenditures (period ending November 30, 2022)**- Councilor Ferris made a motion to approve the expenditures for the period ending November 30, 2022. Councilor Horstmann seconded; motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of Borough Council Minutes (November 2, 2022)**- Councilor Horstmann made a motion to approve the minutes of November 2, 2022. Vice-President Plaughner seconded; motion carried unanimously.

**Citizens to be Heard-**

**Kimberly Venzie, Esq., Representing Residents of Rock Raymond Road & Highland Avenue-**

Ms. Venzie reminded Council at the last meeting she gave a presentation of the residents' concerns with regard to the Social Restaurant and the addition of the covered patio and asked for an investigation to be held. Ms. Venzie questioned the validity of the zoning approval regarding the increased building structure and insufficient parking and is looking for follow up from Council. Parking and noise concerns were some of the main issues for the residents. Ms. Venzie is requesting the noise ordinance be addressed with regard to this property regarding the outdoor speakers and possibly some buffering. The current noise ordinance states no outdoor speakers. Ms. Venzie will put everything in writing and is asking Council to follow up with the Social.

President Rakoff responded that the Borough was in communications with the Social.

Joann Steiger, 444 Highland Avenue, commented regarding the Social. 1, it's an outdoor structure in violation of the zoning. 2, There's outdoor speakers and 3, it's a permanent structure. What's in place to protect the residents? If you allow this to stay with this owner or a new owner, please have something in place to protect the neighbors, our property values and our way of life.

**Rick Cardelli, 301 Church Street-** Stated concerns regarding the preliminary budget under Fire Department Fuel and Oil with regard to the Borough paying for fuel for the ambulance (\$16,975) and the contribution fund (\$28,412). Ambulances are basically their own business and bill for their services

and mileage. The Borough is paying for the insurance for the ambulances because they are registered under municipal tags. Why is the Borough paying for the insurance? It's not like the fire companies where it's volunteers. It's a strain since Brandywine Hospital has closed and the service models have changed. You guys are the body that dictates who the primary fire and EMS service are for the Borough. The ambulance has relocated to Thorndale Fire Co.. There is increased response time to the Borough. There is supposed to be an increase in staffing levels. There is an ambulance sitting in Caln Twp. 24 hours a day and you're paying the insurance and the fuel and it's not helping the citizens of Downingtown - something to think about.

#### **Deferred Business-**

a) 2023 Borough Operating Budget- Vice-President Plaughter made a motion to approve the 2023 Borough Operating Budget. Councilor Horstmann seconded; motion carried unanimously.

#### **New Business-**

- a) Resolution 2022-16, 313 Keene Lane Lot Consolidation- Matt Bush addressed the issue of the lot consolidation plan. They own two lots and are consolidating them to build an addition. Councilor Ferris made a motion to approve Resolution 2022-16. Councilor Horstmann seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.
- b) Downingtown Police Association Collective Bargaining Agreement 2023-2025- Vice-President Plaughter made a motion to approve the Downingtown Police Association Collective Bargaining Agreement 2023-2025. Council Horstmann seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.
- c) Zoning Hearing Board (Appointment)-Tara Giordano reappointment for a three-year term. Councilor Ferris made a motion to reappoint Tara Giordano to the Zoning Hearing Board for a three-year term. Councilor Horstmann seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.
- d) 2023 Borough Public Meetings Schedule- Vice-President Plaughter made a motion to advertise the public meetings schedule. Councilor Horstmann seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously. Vice-President Plaughter requested another workshop meeting to be held every other month starting in February of 2023, the third Wednesday of the month- to be held in Town Hall, open to the public, approved unanimously.
- e) Mayor Dague (Grant Funding Opportunity) – DEFERRED TO NEXT MEETING

#### **For the Good of the order-**

Councilor Ferris reported 500 people walked through the log house at the tree lighting ceremony, thankful for all who came.

President Rakoff thanked everyone who came out for the tree lighting ceremony and reminded everyone that the Christmas parade is scheduled for Saturday 12/10. President Rakoff also thanked Steve Sullins for his 20+ years of service to the Borough and management skills.

Mayor Dague thanked Steve Sullins for his service to the Borough and friendship.

**Adjournment-**

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 p.m., Councilor Horstmann seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Bailey  
Brandywine Reporting, Inc.