

MINUTES
BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

MARCH 1, 2023

The Downingtown Borough Council met in regular session on February 1, 2023 at the Municipal Government Center, 4 West Lancaster Avenue, Downingtown, PA. Members present: President Rakoff, Vice-President Plaugher, Councilors Howard, Horstmann, Ferris and Helm. Also attending were Mayor Dague, Solicitor O'Keefe and members of Borough Staff.

Executive Session

Max announced that Borough Council met in executive Session on February 1, 2023 to discuss personnel and real estate matters.

Recognition/Awards:

Promotion of three Police Sergeants

Chief Holland gave a brief introduction and congratulations to the Sergeants. The Oath of Office was conducted by Judge Ann Feldman for the promotion of three Police Sergeants; Geoffrey Burkhart, Christopher Scavicchio and Brandon Seibert. Family, colleagues, Mayor Dague, Borough Staff, friends and residents were in attendance. Mayor Dague offered his congratulations and appreciation to the new Sergeants as well.

Approval of Expenditures (Period Ending February 28, 2023):

Councilor Ferris made a motion to approve the expenditures for the period ending February 28, 2023, Councilor Horstmann seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Borough Council Minutes (February 1, 2023):

Councilor Helm made a motion to approve the minutes of February 1, 2023, Councilor Ferris seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Borough Council Work Session Minutes (February 15, 2023):

Councilor Horstmann made a motion to approve the Work Session minutes from 2-15-23, seconded by Councilor Ferris. Councilor Ferris requested a correction to amend the wording of the name in Item #8 of the Work Session minutes. Motion was made by Councilor Ferris and seconded by Councilor Howard to approve with amendments. President Rakoff recused himself.

Citizens to be Heard:

Michael Hepner, 167 Hunters Run Rd, Honey Brook, PA - Gave information on the Lions Club which is an organization that offers help to others in the surrounding communities. They would welcome Downingtown to be a part of their efforts to help the people in the communities. Anyone interested can contact him at mhepner@yahoo.com for more information.

Rich Cardelli, 301 Church Street, commented after Council feedback on information he received previously pertaining to EMS, Borough contributions, expenses and lack of ambulances in the Borough. He will be

submitting a RTK request for more detailed information and send an electronic version of the first request that was submitted.

Deferred Business:

None.

Addendum:

Add Item e) to New Business for 2023-01 Act 167 Stormwater Ordinance. Amended agenda must be posted 3-2-23 on the website.

New Business:

- a) **Motion to hire and appoint Jeff Smith to the position of Borough Manager, effective March 20, 2023.** Vice-President Plaughner made a motion to approve, Councilor Horstmann seconded; motion carried unanimously.
- b) **Promotion of three Police Sergeant's (see above under Recognitions/Awards)**
- c) **Architectural bid out for 126 Wallace Avenue (Steve Krug)** – Six bids were received but the Consensus from Council was to defer a decision (up to 90 days) on the bids due to the exploration of possible expansion and future growth to the new building at 126 Wallace Ave.
- d) **32 Downing Ave – SD 2022-002**
Adam Brower (EB Walsh Associates) discussed the conveyance of land of 32 Downing Ave to their neighbors to even out the lots (no improvements planned). Planning Commission gave a recommendation to Council for approval of this plan. Councilor Howard made a motion, seconded by Councilor Helm to approve the application of 32 Downing Ave with waivers; motion carried unanimously.
- e) **Ordinance 2023-01 Act 167 Stormwater-** Max stated that the Ordinance was advertised with the intent to adopt. If Council intends to act on this ordinance then the agenda will have to be amended. A motion was made to amend and seconded by Councilor Ferris; motion carried unanimously. Amended agenda will have to be posted on the Borough website 3-2-23. Max gave a brief description of the ordinance along with Engineer Matt Bush. Councilor Horstmann made a motion to approve Ordinance 2023-01, seconded by Councilor Ferris; motion carried unanimously.
- f) **Resolution 2023-07: Acquisition and Disposition of Chester Alley property from and to PennDOT**
Councilor Helm made a motion to adopt Resolution 2023-07, seconded by Vice-President Plaughner; motion carried unanimously.

For the Good of the Order:

- President Rakoff, Vice-President Plaughner, Councilors Howard, Horstmann, Ferris and Helm wanted to say thank you to Chief Holland for all of his years of dedication and service to the Citizens of the Borough of Downingtown (he will be retiring March 31, 2023). They also wanted to thank Jack Law for filling in as Interim Manager during the transition process of hiring a new manager and his dedication to the Borough.
- Councilor Ferris stated that he has photos of historic items that were salvaged from flood Ida for anyone interested in viewing them.
- Vice-President Plaughner recommended that a press release be submitted for the announcement of the hiring of the new Borough Manager.
- An April 19th work session is scheduled.

- Mayor Dague: Historical event taking place at Ashbridge House (next to Chick-Fil-A) on 3-4-23 at 2PM.

Informational Update

Jack Law – PECO (new municipal rep and gas leak near Stuart Ave and will be doing work, Sign for East ward school at the playground, East Ward will be installing an outdoor classroom. Thank you letter from Downingtown Library for donation.

Adjournment:

Councilor Horstmann made a motion to adjourn, Vice-President Plaugher; motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Lammey, BCO

Borough of Downingtown