

**MINUTES REVISED -8/2/23 per Council**

**BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING**

**July 5, 2023**

The Downingtown Borough Council met in regular session on July 5, 2023, at the Municipal Government Center, 4 West Lancaster Avenue, Downingtown, PA. Members present: President Rakoff, Vice-President Plaughner, Councilors Howard, Ferris and Helm. Also attending were Mayor Dague, Solicitor O'Keefe and members of Borough Staff.

**Approval of Expenditures (Period Ending June 30, 2023):**

Councilor Ferris made a motion to approve the expenditures for the period ending June 30, 2023, Councilor Helm seconded; motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of Borough Council Work Session Minutes (June 21, 2023):**

Councilor Howard made a motion to approve the work session minutes of June 21, 2023, Councilor Ferris seconded; motion carried unanimously.

**Recognition/Awards:** None.

**Citizens to be Heard:** Steve O'Connor, 128 Brandywine Avenue, any update on the housing buy-out program? Seems to be no sense of urgency and no information regarding expectations, timelines, issues with getting information from FEMA regarding the buy-out program. There seems to be no sense of urgency. He's asking for any input from Council or if Council has any information. He's now in historical review.

Matt Bush responded that, unfortunately, he didn't have any additional information either regarding the buy-out program.

**Deferred Business:**

- a) Ordinance 2023-02 Amending Ordinance 2004-01 Updating UCC Provisions. Vice-President Plaughner made a motion to approve the Ordinance 2023-02 Amending Ordinance 2004-001 Updating UCC Provisions, Council Howard seconded; motion carried unanimously.

**New Business:**

- a) 2022 Borough Audit Review (Barbacane Thornton & Co.) . Clean audit. Because of Federal funding, there will be an additional audit, which is normal. Mayor Dague thanked Kerry and the administration for their work. Councilor Ferris made a motion to accept the 2022 Borough Audit Review, Councilor Helm seconded; motion carried unanimously.
- b) Zoning Hearing Board Application (520 East Lancaster Associates, LLC). Discussion had regarding sending Solicitor O'Keefe to the zoning hearing. Vice-President Plaughner made a motion to send Solicitor O'Keefe to the zoning hearing board to have Council's position in favor of the application, Councilor Helm seconded; motion failed 3-2. Vice-President Plaughner and Councilor Helm in favor of the motion. President Rakoff, Councilors Howard and Ferris against the motion.

Councilor Howard made a secondary motion to send Solicitor O’Keefe to attend the Zoning Hearing Board meeting as a neutral presence, President Rakoff seconded; motion carried 3/1- Vice-President Plaugher abstained.

- c) Mass Gathering Application (Downingtown Fall Fest- September 24, 2023). Vice-President Plaugher made a motion to approve the Mass Gathering Application (Downingtown Fall Fest – September 24, 2023), Council Ferris seconded; motion carried unanimously.
- d) Mass Gathering Application (D-Town Brew Down – October 28, 2023). Vice-President Plaugher made a motion to approve the Mass Gathering Application (D-Town Brew Down- October 28, 2023), Councilor Helm seconded; motion carried unanimously.

**For the Good of the Order:**

Councilor Howard thanked Jack Law and crew for their help in getting the All-Abilities Park up and open.

Councilor Ferris reported that the Good Neighbor Day duck race tickets ran out an hour before start of the race, lot of people, great turn out!

Mayor Dague thanked everyone for coming to Good Neighbor Day- Almost 1,000 runners. People voiced disappointment with the Borough not having fireworks and that will be discussed with the Borough and Good Neighbor Day, Inc. in the future.

**Adjournment:**

Councilor Howard made a motion to adjourn; motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Bailey

Brandywine Reporting, Inc.