

MINUTES
BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
DECEMBER 6, 2023

The Downingtown Borough Council met in regular session on December 6, 2023, at the Municipal Government Center, 4 West Lancaster Avenue, Downingtown, PA. Members present: President Rakoff, Vice-President Plaughner, Councilors Howard, Horstmann, Ferris and Helm. Also attending were Mayor Dague, Solicitor O'Keefe, and members of Borough Staff.

Executive Session:

Solicitor O'Keefe- Council met in Executive Session this evening at 6:00 p.m. to discuss real estate.

Approval of Expenditures (Period Ending November 30, 2023)

Councilor Howard made a motion to approve the expenditures for the period ending November 30, 2023, Vice-President Plaughner seconded; motion carried unanimously.

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

Councilor Ferris made a motion to approve the minutes of November 1, 2023, pending one change under Good of the Order. It's not Restore Our Roots but the Shade Tree Commission that was the sponsoring group. Councilor Helm seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Recognition/Awards: none.

Citizens to be Heard: none.

Deferred Business:

- a) 2024 Borough Operating/Capital Budgets
Councilor Ferris made a motion to approve the 2024 Borough Operating/Capital Budgets as advertised, Councilor Horstmann seconded; motion carried unanimously.

New Business:

- a) Resolution 2023-14 2024 Real Estate Tax Millage
Vice-President Plaughner made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-14 2024 Real Estate Tax Millage with no changes, Councilor Helm seconded; motion carried unanimously.
- b) 46 W. Lancaster Avenue (Land Development waiver request) – Messiah Lutheran Church. Matt Bush presented information regarding an educational wing expansion, elevating to a level above Ida flood levels, addition of ADA ramps- no additional parking, no stormwater management or impervious coverage issues. The Planning Commission met 12/4/23 and reviewed the request and supports the waiver.

Councilor Howard made a motion to approve the request for land development waiver for 46 W. Lancaster Avenue, Councilor Ferris seconded; motion carried unanimously.

c) 2024 Borough Public Meetings Schedule

Councilor Ferris made a motion to approve the 2024 Borough Public Meetings Schedule, Councilor Horstmann asked if there would be continued work sessions. Mr. Smith responded that the work sessions will continue as planned just like in 2023. Councilor Horstmann seconded; motion carried unanimously.

d) Brandywine Valley SPCA Animal Control Services Contract-renewal

Councilor Howard made a motion to approve the Brandywine Valley SPCA Animal Control Services Contract, Councilor Helm seconded; motion carried unanimously.

e) Award Municibid Auction Items

Vice-President Plaugher made a motion to approve the Award Municibid Auction Items, Councilor Horstmann seconded; motion carried unanimously.

For the Good of the Order:

Councilor Howard reminded everyone of the Christmas Parade on Saturday, 12/9/23.

Councilor Horstmann wished everyone a great holiday and New Year.

Councilor Helm reminded everyone that DARC has some great bus trips planned.

Councilor Ferris spoke about the successful Log Cabin Santa Day even with a printer issue, 130+ items were purchased and 200+ people came through.

Vice-President Plaugher spoke about the Tree Lighting Ceremony and how it was our best year yet and thanked Mayor Dague for scheduling Santa to appear. The Christmas Parade starts at 3:00, the weather looks good!

Mayor Dague spoke about the Tree Lighting Ceremony with some discussion of the number of people possibly totaling 1,800, great turnout. There's a meeting in the Annex on 12/12 5:30-7:30 regarding the Chester Valley Trail, an overview of the countywide trails either in person or virtual, but you must register.

President Rakoff updated Council on the Water Authority meeting on 12/4 and there will be a .50 increase per 1,000 gallons, \$9.00 to \$9.50 starting in 2024. Flood Advisory Committee meeting is at 7:00 on 12/14. There's a Brandywine Valley Conservancy meeting on 12/14 at 6:00, overall watershed study.

The Council wished everyone happy holidays and a safe new year.

Adjournment:

Councilor Helm made a motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Bailey

Brandywine Reporting, Inc.