

BOROUGH OF BRIDGEVILLE
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Monday, July 11, 2022
7:00 PM

The meeting was held within Council Chambers at the Bridgeville Borough Building, 425 Bower Hill Road and virtually on the website www.Zoom.us. Council Vice President Nino Petrocelli led a moment of silence for the recently departed members of our community and those serving in the military.

ROLL CALL – Roll was called at 7:00 PM with the following present:

Council Vice President, Nino Petrocelli, Sr.
Council President Pro Tem, Joseph Colosimo
Councilman, Joseph Verduci
Councilman Nicholas Ciesielski
Councilwoman, Justine Cimarolli

Mayor Betty Copeland, Solicitor Thomas McDermott, Borough Engineer Kevin Brett, Chief of Police Chad King, Firefighter Jim Altvater Sr., EMS Director Dan Miller, and Borough Manager Joseph Kauer.

Absent: Council President William Henderson and Councilman Bruce Ghelarducci

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR –

Mr. Mario DeBlasio, 415 Station Street, thanked Council and Mayor for their service. He then spoke on the issue of the on-street parking on Station Street hill being temporarily removed. Mr. DeBlasio stated that to his knowledge no traffic study has been completed to remove these parking spaces. He claimed that the removal of this parking has had an adverse effect on his property and its tenants. Mr. DeBlasio stated that they now must walk their groceries and supplies to their homes a distance over 600 feet and that two tenants have already given notice to him that they will be moving if the parking isn't restored. He also commented that these Station Street on-street parking spaces did not cause traffic and asked that they be reinstated at the end of the 90-day period. Lastly, he read a letter from his neighbor at 407 Station Street also asking for the parking to be restored.

Mr. Petrocelli stated that the Public Safety Committee studied this parking issue and recommended this temporary restriction. He stated that it will continue to be studied and hopes that traffic ends in our community so parking there can be restored.

Solicitor McDermott stated that parking restrictions does not require a formal traffic or engineering study. Right now, this restriction is a 90-day evaluation, and its results will be reviewed and studied. It is being observed routinely by the Police Department.

Chief King stated that parking there does create backups and referenced times when it is backed up from Washington Avenue to Bank Street.

Mr. Dennis Orient, 1031 Bank Street, commented that the Fire Department's Gun Bash is insensitive in reference to the multiple mass shootings that have happened in our country recently.

He suggested that another type of fundraiser should have been considered.

Fire Department President Jim Altvater acknowledged the sensitivity concern and stated that anyone who wins a firearm at the event must pass a background check and winners also could choose to take the cash option versus receiving a gun. He added that the Fire Department is expensive to operate, and the sole purpose of this event is to raise funds to keep it functioning and serving the community. Mr. Orient stated that he would rather pay a fire tax versus seeing these types of fundraising.

Mr. Bob Fryer, 508 Hunters Path, South Fayette Township, stated that at last month's meeting a Councilmember stated that Bridgeville is unable to be expanded. Mr. Fryer stated that Bridgeville is in the center of four other communities around us that have a wealthy citizenry that our community could capitalize from. He also stated that the two-way couple concept for Washington Avenue has been a recommendation of six planning firms since the 1980s. Lastly, he remarked that the people of Bridgeville are owed improved transportation and parking infrastructure from the County and State.

Mr. Petrocelli informed Mr. Fryer that all his comments are on record and that Council is fighting for what is best for Bridgeville.

Ms. Svetlana Oplanic, 413 Station Street, she stated that she is the owner of European Massage on Station Street and that her business has been affected by the loss of on-street parking on Station Street. She said she has an older client base that cannot walk far and that she is losing business as result of this loss of parking.

Mr. Jeffrey Shannah, 413 Station Street, stated that Bridgeville has an unsolvable traffic problem and that removing the seven parking spaces on Station Street is not the answer. As the parking was removed on Station Street hill, he recommended that the Borough purchase these properties at an inflated price.

Mr. Petrocelli stated that he sympathizes for the affected businesses and understands as he routinely must take his wife in a wheelchair to a doctor in downtown Mt. Lebanon in a similar manner.

BUSINESS

1. A motion to approve the June 13, 2022, Regular Meeting Minutes as submitted was made by Mr. Ciesielski, seconded by Mr. Colosimo; motion carried unanimously.
2. A motion to approve the July 2022 Bill List was made by Mr. Verduci, seconded by Ms. Cimarolli; motion carried unanimously.
3. A motion to approve the July 15, 22, 29, and August 5, 2022, payrolls was made by Mr. Colosimo, seconded by Mr. Ciesielski; motion carried unanimously.
4. A motion to adopt Resolution No. 2022-10, a Resolution of the Borough of Bridgeville, seeking a Banner Permit from PENNDOT to hang a banner over Washington Avenue for the "Bridgeville Lions Club Pasta Dinner, October 6th" was made by Ms. Cimarolli, seconded by Mr. Verduci; motion carried unanimously.
5. A motion to accept the lowest responsible bid received from Westmoreland Electric Services,

LLC, in the amount of \$114,019.00 for the Chartiers Park Lighting Improvements Project subject to the contractor obtaining the required insurance certificates, performance bond, payment bond, and review and approval of same by the Borough Solicitor prior to execution of the Agreement by the Borough was made by Mr. Verduci, seconded by Mr. Ciesielski; motion carried unanimously.

6. A motion to ratify the execution of Change Order No. 2 for the Baldwin & Margaret Streets Demolition Project, increasing the contract by \$26,000 to reinstate the demolition of the property at 404 Margaret Street was made by Ms. Cimarolli, seconded by Mr. Verduci; motion carried unanimously.
7. A motion to authorize the disbursement of \$19,818.00 from the Capital Project Fund to Stash Contracting for Partial Payment No. 1 of the Baldwin & Margaret Streets Demolition Project was made by Mr. Verduci, seconded by Mr. Ciesielski; motion carried unanimously.
8. A motion to enter into agreement with Cargill, Inc. for the supply and delivery of Rock Salt a cost of \$88.96 per ton / delivered as bid through the SHACOG Purchasing Alliance, effective July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023, with two additional option years was made by Mr. Verduci, seconded by Ms. Cimarolli; motion carried unanimously.
9. A motion to authorize the disbursement of \$77,061.96 from the Sewer Fund to Osiris Enterprises for Partial Payment No. 1 of the Backwater Valve Contract Phase 5 was made by Mr. Ciesielski, seconded by Mr. Verduci; motion carried unanimously.
10. A motion to accept and pay any commission due – June 2022 Real Estate Tax Collector Report was made by Mr. Verduci, seconded by Ms. Cimarolli; motion carried unanimously.
11. A motion to acknowledge receipt of the June 2022 Treasurer’s Report was made by Mr. Verduci, seconded by Ms. Cimarolli; motion carried unanimously.
12. A motion to accept the June 2022 Police Report was made by Mr. Ciesielski, seconded by Ms. Cimarolli; motion carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ADMINISTRATION, NICHOLAS CIESIELSKI – no report.

FINANCE, JOE VERDUCI – Mr. Verduci reported that the Borough has received the grant reimbursement from the Active Allegheny Program, closing out the Active Transportation Project. He also reported that the Borough has received a grant to replace the sidewalks within Triangle Park. Lastly, Mr. Verduci reported that all the Borough’s operating funds are performing as forecasted at the close of the second quarter.

PARKS & RECREATION, JOE COLOSIMO – Mr. Colosimo reported that Bridgeville Day on the Avenue went very well and did not know of any complaints. He stated that donations paid for the entire event and thanked the volunteers and donors who made it possible. Mr. Colosimo recognized Ms. Sheryl Valentino for her efforts to lead the event’s coordination.

Mr. Colosimo reported that the new lights within Chartiers Park has been approved and that paving within the park is currently underway. He also reported that the security cameras in Cook School Park have been installed and that the Movies in the Park held there are going well. Next movie is scheduled for July 29th.

PUBLIC WORKS/BUILDINGS, NINO PETROCELLI, SR. – Mr. Colosimo reported that the new backhoe has been received and that the crew has been trained on it. He reported that the Department has cleared sediment from the Commercial Street culverts and Bower Hill Road Bridge. Lastly, he said in addition to ongoing work and projects, the crew is now staining the gazebo in Triangle Park.

PUBLIC SAFETY, BRUCE GHELARDUCCI – no report.

MAYOR, BETTY COPELAND – Mayor Copeland reported that the Borough has been awarded the President’s Award from the Char-west Council of Governments for our employee’s efforts to sustain municipal operations during the pandemic.

The mayor also reported that the Corpis Christi Knights of Columbus will have the annual 9/11 ceremony on Sunday, September 11th, 1PM at their church.

POLICE CHIEF, CHAD KING – no report.

SOLICITOR, THOMAS MCDERMOTT – Solicitor McDermott reported that he submitted his monthly report in writing and could answer any questions if there was any.

The Solicitor also reported that the Borough’s special legal counsel in partnership with South Fayette and Collier Townships were victorious in blocking the efforts of PENNDOT to toll the I-79 bridge at the Bridgeville Interchange. He added that this was a sweeping victory and that we need to see if an appeal will be made.

BOROUGH ENGINEER, KEVIN BRETT – Engineer Brett reported that he submitted his monthly report in writing and could answer any questions if there was any.

FIRE CHIEF, RAY COSTAIN – Firefighter Altvater reported that the Department responded to 43 calls in the month of June, two were working building fires and eleven were EMS assistance calls. He stated that the Fire Department received one new member this month who is already a certified firefighter. Lastly, he informed everyone that tickets for the new truck raffle are available from any firefighter.

SOUTHBRIDGE EMS, DAN MILLER – Director Miller reported that COVID cases are on the rise in the community. He states that this current surge is not as deadly as the first surge of COVID. He encouraged the citizens to get booster shots and consider masking if comprised. Lastly, Director Miller reported that Hospital Emergency Departments are experiencing delays with COVID patients.

BRIDGEVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, MARY WEISE – Mayor Copeland reported that there are no meetings during July and August. She encouraged everyone to visit the History Center.

BRIDGEVILLE LIBRARY REPRESENTATIVE – Mr. Hornfeck reviewed the library’s summer

programs including an upcoming event where the artist who created the Bedtime Stories sculpture will discuss it on Wednesday, July 13th. He also reported on other programs include adult craft nights, nature event at Settlers Cabin Park, a beekeeping class and Christmas in July is being celebrated.

BRIDGEVILLE PARKING AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVE – Chairman Mike Connolly stated at their next meeting the Authority will be discussing the possibility of changing parking enforcement hours and rates. Mr. Verduci thanked the Authority for working to implementing a budget.

BRIDGEVILLE PLANNING COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVE – Ms. Cimarolli reported that the Planning Commission did not meet last month, however the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee did meet to review census data. She also reported that surveying the community is now being promoted where we want to hear citizen’s feedback. Ms. Cimarolli asked the Manager to provide paper copies of the online survey for those without computers to fill out.

BOROUGH MANAGER, JOSEPH KAUER – Manager Kauer reported that he submitted his monthly report in writing and could answer any questions if there was any. He also stated that construction of the 2022 Road Program is now underway, demolitions on Baldwin Street are almost completed and that installation of backflow preventors on McLaughlin Run Road is progressing.

NEW BUSINESS: Mr. Petrocelli commented that he remembers when there was metered parking on Washington Avenue and that many of the buildings on Station Street affected by the parking loss do have off-street parking in the rear of their buildings. He added that Council does not want to see anyone put out of business.

Mr. Ciesielski reported that the Railyard Restaurant and Beer Warehouse will have a block party on July 30th on Railroad Street and within Triangle Park with live music, a pig roast and beer tasting. Event is from 11A to 11P and encouraged the community to attend this free event.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Colosimo, seconded by Ms. Cimarolli, and carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:20PM. All in favor, motion passed 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Kauer
Borough Manager / Secretary