

**BOROUGH OF BRIDGEVILLE
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Monday, September 12, 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 President William Henderson 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 President William Henderson
Council Vice President, Nino Petrocelli, Sr.
Council President Pro Tem, Joseph Colosimo
Councilman, Bruce Ghelarducci
Councilman, Joseph Verduci
Councilman Nicholas Ciesielski
Councilwoman, Justine Cimarolli

Mayor Betty Copeland, Solicitor Thomas McDermott, Borough Engineer Kevin Brett, Chief of Police Chad King, Fire Chief Ray Costain, EMS Director Dan Miller, and Borough Manager Joseph Kauer.

Absent: None.

PRESENTATIONS:

- Officer Joe Risher, Allegheny County Police Department and Mayor Betty Copeland: recognition of Evan Schaub upon earning Class Speaker Award from the 2022 Allegheny County Police Camp Cadet program. Mayor Copeland presented Mr. Schaub with a Certificate of Achievement and Mr. Schaub read his speech that he gave to his Camp Cadet class summarizing his experience.
1. A motion to promote Patrolman Matthew Haley to the rank of Sergeant within the Bridgeville Police Department per the Borough's Civil Service regulations.

President Henderson asked if there was any public comment on the motion to promote Officer Haley. There being none, a motion to promote Patrolman Haley to Sergeant was made by Mr. Ghelarducci, seconded by Mr. Petrocelli; motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Copeland then administered the Oath of Office to Sergeant Haley, and Sergeant Haley's wife pinned his badge onto his uniform.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR –

1. **Mr. Mario DeBlasio, 415 Station Street**, thanked the members of Council and Mayor for their public service and for promoting Sergeant Haley this evening. He stated that long-tenured officers are important in a small town. Mr. DeBlasio expressed his dissatisfaction on the proposed parking regulations for Station Street citing the lack of a traffic study. He

commented that the affected property owners are willing to complete their own study, but it is difficult to do such right now with all the construction going on in our area. Mr. DeBlasio stated that the Borough's findings to remove the five on-street parking spaces on Station Street is subjective and asked the Councilmembers to walk a block and a half with their groceries before they take action. He stated that no other businesses in town are now in a position such as the Station Street businesses that lack the ability to drive up to their front doors. He then read similar letters of concern from other Station Street property owners including from Link 2 Hospitality and Mr. Nick Brenlove.

Mr. Henderson stated that he appreciates and respects the input given and commented that this is not Bill Henderson's ordinance. He stated that others on Council have the same opinion of the need for this parking restriction, there are just now more cars in town than before.

2. **Ms. Svetlana Opalenek, 413 Station Street**, stated that she agrees with Mr. DeBlasio's report and states that she has lost business as result of the recent change in parking in front of her building. She asked for Council to consider allowing parking some time of the day to allow the businesses to operate.

Mr. Henderson stated that he recently saw a moving truck at 415 Station Street parked on the street with their flashers on, no one bothered them, and the driver coordinated with the Police Department in advance. Chief King stated that this is not selective enforcement but rather officer discretion. He stated that we see this similar loading on Washington Avenue and there isn't a problem. Solicitor McDermott stated that the State Vehicle Code clearly defines the difference between parking, stopping and loading.

Mr. Petrocelli stated that it would be easy to make a sign that allows for 30-minute loading while the construction is going on. He stated that traffic will go away once construction is over. Mr. Petrocelli stated that the Borough has done many studies in the past and there ended up being no traffic such as on Pesavento Drive. He asked Council to reconsider this proposed Ordinance once all the construction is over.

Ms. Cimarolli questioned when all the spots are occupied where do patients and business patrons park on Station Street? Ms. Opalenek reported that there is always at least one spot open. Mr. DeBlasio concurred.

Mr. Colosimo questioned Mr. DeBlasio asking if his tenants could park in the rear lot at Northwest Bank? Mr. DeBlasio stated that he has tried that option and that they are not interested in allowing his tenants to park there and are enforcing such.

Mr. Ciesielski stated that he carries his groceries and bags daily and that he is very sympathetic for those affected. He stated there are many other businesses in town that you have to walk over a block to get to. Mr. Ciesielski stated we are talking about five parking spaces and if each business had one owner parking, one employee and one guest, there would be a need for at least fifteen parking spaces; commenting that the need does not add up. He also referenced traffic accidents at the Station Street intersection and that removing these five parking spaces help everyone in town. Lastly, Mr. Ciesielski added that Council can address

this issue in the future, remarking that those affected have been heard and understood.

Mr. Ghelarducci stated that he is sympathetic to Mr. DeBlasio and questioned what would be involved to add one loading zone spot at the bottom of the hill that would have a 15-minute limit assigned to it? He also stated that he has seen times when cars parked in this turning lane have Station Street backed up to Dewey Avenue.

BUSINESS

2. A motion to approve the August 8, 2022, Regular Meeting Minutes as submitted was made by Mr. Ghelarducci, seconded by Mr. Petrocelli; motion carried unanimously.
3. A motion to approve the September 2022 Bill List was made by Mr. Ghelarducci, seconded by Mr. Ciesielski; motion carried unanimously.
4. A motion to approve the, September 16, 23, 30, and October 7, 2022, payrolls was made by Mr. Verduci, seconded by Mr. Petrocelli; motion carried unanimously.
5. A motion to adopt Ordinance No. 1025, an Ordinance amending the Borough's Code of Ordinances, Chapter 15, Motor Vehicles & Traffic, Part 4, General Parking Regulations, 15-402, Parking Prohibited at all Times in Certain Locations, to prohibit parking at all times on both sides of Station Street between the Station Street- Washington Avenue intersection and the Station Street – Dewey Avenue intersection.

Motion by Mr. Petrocelli, seconded by Mr. Ghelarducci to amend the proposed Ordinance to allow for a 30-minute loading zone in all spots on Station Street; a roll call vote was taken:

Petrocelli – Yes, Ghelarducci – Yes, Colosimo – No, Verduci- No, Ciesielski – No, Cimarolli – No, Henderson – No; motion was defeated 2-5.

Moton to adopt Ordinance No. 1025, an Ordinance amending the Borough's Code of Ordinances, Chapter 15, Motor Vehicles & Traffic, Part 4, General Parking Regulations, 15-402, Parking Prohibited at all Times in Certain Locations, to prohibit parking at all times on both sides of Station Street between the Station Street- Washington Avenue intersection and the Station Street – Dewey Avenue intersection was made by Mr. Verduci, seconded by Mr. Ciesielski; a roll call vote was taken:

Petrocelli – No, Ghelarducci – No, Colosimo – Yes, Verduci- Yes, Ciesielski – Yes, Cimarolli – Yes, Henderson – Yes; motion carried, 5-2.

6. A motion to adopt Ordinance No. 1026, an Ordinance amending the Borough's Code of Ordinances, Chapter 15, Motor Vehicles & Traffic, Part 2, Traffic Regulations, 15-211.1, Stop Intersections Established, specifically to create a two-way stop intersection for vehicles traveling in a southerly and northerly direction along an Unnamed Alley where said Unnamed Alley intersections Oak Way was made by Mr. Ghelarducci, seconded by Mr. Petrocelli; motion carried unanimously.
7. A motion to adopt Resolution No. 2022-15, authorizing the submission of a grant application

to the Allegheny County GEDFT Program for the Greenwood Steps Replacement Project was made by Mr. Ciesielski, seconded by Ms. Cimarolli; motion carried unanimously.

8. A motion to enter into Agreement with the County of Allegheny to perform snow and ice clearance and winter maintenance on county-roadway Bower Hill Road starting at McLaughlin Run Road and ending at the Borough / Township border for winter seasons 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25 was made by Mr. Petrocelli, seconded by Ms. Cimarolli; motion carried unanimously.
9. A motion to ratify the purchase of a 2022 Ford Police Interceptor SUV from Laurel Auto Group at State Costars pricing with emergency equipment upgrading completed by East Coast Emergency Lighting at a cost not to exceed \$45,235.90 was made by Mr. Ghelarducci, seconded by Mr. Ciesielski; Mr. Ghelarducci questioned if the car would be received this year or next. The Manager reported that possibly late this year, but it will be paid for from the 2023 budget; motion carried unanimously.
10. A motion to accept the lowest responsible bid received from A. Merente Contracting in the amount of \$1,202,877.20 for the Werner Street Slope Stabilization & Retaining Wall 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. *(Note: Bid opening was held on Friday, September 9th and includes landslide remediation on both Werner Street and Union Street.)* Motion was made by Mr. Ghelarducci, seconded by Mr. Verduci. Mr. Petrocelli questioned if anything could be done to redesign the project to reduce the costs? Engineer Brett stated that no, everything has been already explored. Borough Manager Kauer stated that the Borough has received a \$500,000 grant for this project and the Borough's federal recovery funds in the amount of \$514,000 is being used towards these two landslides.
11. A motion to authorize the disbursement of \$576,199.56 to Mele, Mele & Sons for Partial Payment No. 1 of the 2022 Road Project was made by Mr. Petrocelli, seconded by Ms. Cimarolli; motion carried unanimously.
12. A motion to accept the 2023 Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) to the Non-Uniform Pension Plan in the amount of \$88,085 as prepared by the Borough Manager was made by Mr. Ciesielski, seconded by Mr. Petrocelli; motion carried unanimously.
13. A motion to accept the 2023 Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) to the Police Pension Plan in the amount of \$43,971 as prepared by the Borough Manager was made by Mr. Ghelarducci, seconded by Ms. Cimarolli; motion carried unanimously.
14. A motion to authorize the Solicitor to prepare an Ordinance that would prohibit left-turns from Washington Avenue onto Chartiers Street, daily during the hours of 7AM and 7PM, as recommended by the Public Safety Committee and PENNDOT Traffic Unit was made by Mr. Verduci, seconded by Mr. Colosimo; Mr. Ghelarducci reported that the Police Department has cited the increased need for this turning prohibition as during recent times directing traffic at this intersection during the bridge construction work that if one car wanted to turn onto Chartiers Street it backed up the entire roadway. Motion carried unanimously.

15. A motion to authorize disbursement of a Real Estate Tax Refund due to a change in assessment to the following:

- Shane P. Coyne, Parcel: 255-E-319, Years 2020 and 2021, total: \$257.34

Motion was made by Mr. Ghelarducci, seconded by Mr. Petrocelli; motion carried unanimously.

16. A motion to accept and pay any commission due – August 2022 Real Estate Tax Collector Report was made by Mr. Verduci, seconded by Mr. Ciesielski; motion carried unanimously.

17. A motion to acknowledge receipt of the August 2022 Treasurer’s Report was made by Mr. Verduci, seconded by Mr. Colosimo; motion carried unanimously.

18. A motion to accept the August 2022 Police Report was made by Mr. Ghelarducci, seconded by Mr. Ciesielski; motion carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ADMINISTRATION, NICHOLAS CIESIELSKI – no report.

FINANCE, JOE VERDUCI – Mr. Verduci reported that the Borough has received a \$272,000 grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to upgrade playground equipment at Cook School and McLaughlin Run Parks. He also reported that we also were awarded a \$1,000 grant from the Pennsylvania Attorney Generals office to help purchase handouts for the Halloween Parade, and an additional \$12,000 for Police Body-worn Cameras from the County.

Mr. Verduci stated that the Borough’s finances are performing well and that real estate taxes are now due. Lastly, he stated that the Borough Manager is working on the 2023 budget.

PARKS & RECREATION, JOE COLOSIMO – Mr. Colosimo reported that the Committee will be meeting soon to start planning out the new playground improvements. He also stated that we will be applying for another park grant to resurface the basketball court at Cook School Park and also the floor in Shelter 1 at Chartiers Park.

Mr. Colosimo reported that the Public Works crew recently constructed five additional paved parking spaces at Cook School Park. He stated that the lighting improvements at Chartiers Park will be completed next spring. Lastly, he stated that two Eagle Scouts recently made improvements to the parks. Shash Narayanan repainted the picnic shelter, picnic tables, all the benches and swing sets in Cook School Park. At McLaughlin Run Park, Ty Chojnicki built a Little Free Library and two swivel benches. One is near the water fall and the other is between the volleyball court and skate park

PUBLIC WORKS/BUILDINGS, NINO PETROCELLI, SR. – Mr. Petrocelli reported that the Public Works crews have been busy cutting grass and sewer maintenance. He also reported that contractors are complete with both the 2022 Road Program and the Phase 5 Backflow Device Project; both are now working on punch list items. Lastly, Mr. Petrocelli reported that street sweeping will be

completed the third week of this month.

PUBLIC SAFETY, BRUCE GHELARDUCCI – no report.

MAYOR, BETTY COPELAND – Mayor Copeland reported that she welcomed a Bhutanese congregation who is now holding weekly services in the Methodist Church. She also reported that she attended the 9/11 Ceremony at Holy Child Church.

POLICE CHIEF, CHAD KING – Chief King reported that he submitted his written report and could answer any questions.

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

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 – Chief Costain reported that the Department responded to 23 calls for service this past month and that they are hosting the Trunk or Treat event on October 23rd from 3PM to 6PM.

SOUTHBRIDGE EMS, DAN MILLER – Director Miller had no report.

BRIDGEVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, MARY WEISE – Mayor Copeland reported that the monthly speaker’s program will be held on September 27th and the topic is “Operation Mincemeat”.

BRIDGEVILLE LIBRARY REPRESENTATIVE – Director Hornfeck reported that the library’s fall programming starts this week including a new adult book club. He also stated that September is Love Your Library Month and that they are hosting a 60th anniversary gala on September 17th.

BRIDGEVILLE PARKING AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVE – No report. Mr. Henderson stated that the Authority cancelled its September meeting. Mrs. Deb Colosimo reported that the budget recommendation letter has been received by the Authority Board and no one has asked her for her input even though the chairman is reporting its being taken under advisement.

BRIDGEVILLE PLANNING COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVE – Mr. Tolmer reported that they will be hosting a community planning event on Thursday, October 20th, 5PM to 8PM in the Fleet Depot Lot. There will be food trucks, live music and a touch a truck activity.

He also reported that the Commission is studying a possible change to the Zoning Ordinance regarding the location of residential parking pads. Lastly, Mr. Tolmer stated that they are also discussing reuses of the Baldwin Street Flood Lots.

BOROUGH MANAGER, JOSEPH KAUER – Manager Kauer reported demolition work funded by the awarded State Blight Grant and County Demo Grant is planned to be completed this week. Work is on Baldwin St., Bower Hill Road and Prestley Road.

He also reported that regarding the Bank Street Bump-outs for a couple of intersections have been identified within the Active Transportation Plan, a request was made to PENNDOT to incorporate bump-out design into 2024 ADA ramp replacements on Bank Street. PENNDOT said that if the Borough pays for the bump-out, it can be included in their project. We'll be meeting with them soon to determine what would be involved in this, and he will be reporting back to Council to make a decision.

Regarding the Chartiers Street Widening Project, the Manager reported he recently met with PENNDOT, originally, they were planning on having 2-3 weekend closures with one full week closure, now they are planning to have a 3-full week closure of Chartiers Street October 21 – November 10. This is needed to finish all the work on the sections of roadway that are currently being used adjacent to the lower / widened section. Currently work is behind schedule due to continued utility conflicts. They are hoping this one-time full 3-week closure of Chartiers Street will allow the project to be substantially completed this year.

Lastly regarding grants, the Borough Manager summarized that this year alone we have been awarded \$1,003,715 in grants for multiple projects.

NEW BUSINESS: Mr. Verduci stated that the Rotary Club's Chili Cookoff will be held on October 9th and that they will also show the Steeler's game during the event.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Ghelarducci, seconded by Mr. Ciesielski, and carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:42PM. All in favor, motion passed 7-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Kauer
Borough Manager / Secretary