

**BOROUGH OF BRIDGEVILLE
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Monday, July 10, 2023
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. (participated virtually)
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 John Hyle, Fire Chief Ray Costain, Police Chief Chad King, EMS Director Dan Miller, and Borough Manager Joseph Kauer.

Absent: None.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR:

1. Mr. John McCans, May Avenue, gave a report on the Bridgeville Day on the Avenue Car Cruise, stating that 128 cars participated and encouraged Council to keep the event the same day next year, the Saturday before Father's Day. He also stated that the issue at Dr. Greer's lot has been addressed with the individual who caused the problem. Mr. Henderson thanked Mr. McCan for addressing the matter.
2. Mr. John Duncan, 120 Werner Avenue, asked for an update on the Werner Landslide Project and questioned if the residents will have access to their homes during construction. Engineer Hyle stated that there is a meeting planned for tomorrow with West Penn Power to coordinate the remaining utility relocation work. He reported that the contractor is ready to go and can start as soon as the power work is completed. Engineer Hyle stated that residents will have access during the evenings and weekends, however during the day access will be limited. Work is anticipated to last four weeks.

BUSINESS

1. A motion to approve the June 12, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes as submitted was made by Mr. Ghelarducci, seconded by Mr. Ciesielski; motion carried unanimously.
2. A motion to approve the July 2023 Bill List was made by Mr. Verduci, seconded by Ms. Cimarolli; motion carried unanimously.

3. A motion to approve the July 14, 21, 28, August 4 and 11 payrolls was made by Mr. Ghelarducci, seconded by Mr. Ciesielski; motion carried unanimously.
4. A motion to adopt Resolution No. 2023-7, requesting a Banner Permit from PENNDOT to display a banner over Washington Avenue for the Rotary Club Chili Cook-off was made by Mr. Ciesielski, seconded by Mr. Ghelarducci; Mr. Ciesielski questioned when the event will be held? Mr. Verduci stated that it will be held on September 17th at Fairview Park. Motion carried unanimously.
5. A motion to adopt Resolution No. 2023-8, a Resolution of the Borough of Bridgeville requesting a Multimodal Transportation Fund Grant of \$248,780 from the Commonwealth Financing Authority of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for the Gregg Avenue Stairway & Bicycle Runnel Project was made by Mr. Ciesielski, seconded by Mr. Colosimo; Mr. Henderson stated that this project is a recommendation from the Active Transportation Plan. Motion carried unanimously.
6. A motion to approve the First United Methodist Church of Bridgeville Plan, Subdivision of 244 and 310 Station Street (Parcels 255-J 264 and 268) as recommended by the Bridgeville Planning Commission and Borough Engineer, subject to the approval of the Allegheny County Department of Economic Development was made by Mr. Ghelarducci, seconded by Mr. Colosimo; Mr. Henderson stated that the plan is to consolidate and re-subdivide the two properties owned by the church, so that the single-family residence can be on its own lot and the church to be on its own lot. Motion carried unanimously.
7. A motion to authorize the amendment to the DCNR grant contract to upgrade the Cook School and McLaughlin Run Park Playgrounds to include the rehabilitation of the Cook School Park Basketball Court area using the remaining project grant funding was made by Mr. Colosimo, seconded by Mr. Ciesielski; Mr. Henderson stated that the project would resurface the court, replace the fencing, add a fenced in pickleball court and include the necessary line painting and equipment. Motion carried unanimously.
8. A motion to authorize the Borough Engineer to prepare project specifications, bid documents and to publicly bid the Cook School Park Basketball Court Improvement Project, once approval is received from the Pennsylvania DCNR, was made by Mr. Ghelarducci, seconded by Mr. Colosimo; motion carried unanimously.
9. A motion to authorize the purchase of the remaining street name signs and hardware to complete the sign upgrade project this year was made by Mr. Verduci, seconded by Mr. Ghelarducci, Mr. Henderson stated that funding for this project to be paid from the 2022 General Fund surplus. Motion carried unanimously. Ms. Cimarolli questioned what will be done with the old signs? Manager Kauer reported that the Historical Society has accepted the old signs and will be selling them later this year as a fundraiser.
10. A motion to accept and pay any commission due – June 2023 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 2023 Treasurer’s Report was made by Mr. Verduci, seconded by Mr. Ciesielski; motion carried unanimously.

12. A motion to accept all submitted June 2023 official reports was made by Mr. Ghelarducci, seconded by Ms. Cimarolli; motion carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ADMINISTRATION, NICHOLAS CIESIELSKI – Mr. Ciesielski had no report.

FINANCE, JOE VERDUCI – Mr. Verduci reported that at the end of the second quarter, the 2023 Budget is on schedule. He also stated that as part of the 2023 Audit, it was recommended to implement Positive Pay on our bank accounts and to implement an Investment Policy on the Pension Funds. Mr. Verduci reported that Positive Pay has been implemented and commended Cheryl Glowark for her efforts to see this completed, and reported that we do have an Investment Policy in effect from 2010.

PARKS & RECREATION, JOE COLOSIMO – Mr. Colosimo reported that compliments of Sun Smart Pittsburgh, there is a complimentary sunscreen dispenser at Chartiers Park, mounted on the front of the concession stand. He also thanked County Hauling for a recent donation of \$2,500 that is pledged for improvements to the Chartiers Park Fitness Trail. Mr. Colosimo stated that cornhole courts have been installed at both McLaughlin Run and Cook School Parks and made suggestion of hosting a cornhole tournament as a charity fundraiser this year.

Mr. Colosimo stated that this year’s Day on the Avenue was a tremendous success and didn’t cost the taxpayers any money with the event being covered entirely by donations and fees paid. He commended Sheryl Valentino and everyone who volunteered in making the event a success. Lastly, he stated that the Story Walk at Chartiers Park was highlighted on KDKA’s Pittsburgh Today Live talk show this morning. He added that the Story Walk will bring folks to Bridgeville to see it.

PUBLIC WORKS/BUILDINGS, NINO PETROCELLI, SR. – Mr. Colosimo reported that the crew took care of setting up and cleaning up the Bridgeville Day on the Avenue event. He also stated that they completed line painting throughout town and are now working to repaint the rear façade of the Borough Building. Lastly, he reported that street sweeping will be performed the third week of the month.

PUBLIC SAFETY, BRUCE GHELARDUCCI – Mr. Ghelarducci had no report.

MAYOR, BETTY COPELAND – Mayor Copeland reported on July 15th she will be presenting a proclamation to Conomos Painting Co. who is celebrating their 125th anniversary of doing business with 50 of them here in Bridgeville. She also reported that the Knights of Columbus will be holding their annual 9/11 ceremony on September 11th, 7PM at Holy Child Church.

POLICE CHIEF, CHAD KING – Chief King had 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.

BOROUGH ENGINEER, KEVIN BRETT – Engineer Hyle reported that he submitted his monthly report in writing and could answer any questions if there were any. He also stated that he is currently preparing the necessary easement documents for the construction of the levee in the phase 1 limits of the McLaughlin Run Flood Control Project. Mr. Hyle stated that the easements need to be in place before the DEP can issue permits for the project.

FIRE CHIEF, RAY COSTAIN – Chief Costain reported that the Department responded to 27 calls for service in June.

SOUTHBRIDGE EMS, DAN MILLER – no report.

BRIDGEVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, MARY WEISE – Mayor Copeland reported that two new board members have been appointed. She also stated that the Society is looking for someone to video the monthly speaker’s programs and that they have new shirts for sale.

BRIDGEVILLE LIBRARY REPRESENTATIVE – Director Ben Hornfeck reported that a new program is starting next week highlighting all libraries in Allegheny County and offering prizes for anyone who can visit each library in the next month. He also reported that Public Art Bridgeville will be hosting an indoor art exhibition at the Library from July 21 to August 19th. Lastly, Director Hornfeck reported that the Story Walk will be changed every other week and the next event there is scheduled for July 24th.

BRIDGEVILLE PARKING AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVE – Mrs. Colosimo reported that the next Authority meeting will be held on July 17th, and they are seeking a part-time meter enforcement employee. She reported that a budget is now in effect and that the Authority is operating efficiently in the “black”. Mrs. Colosimo stated that they are still accepting donations for the Troop Banner Program and that the Authority is now moving in the right direction.

BRIDGEVILLE PLANNING COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVE – Ms. Cimarolli reported that the next Public Meeting for the Comprehensive Plan is scheduled for August 16th, 6PM at the BVFD Chartiers Room. She stated that the preliminary draft plan recommendations will be presented at this meeting.

BOROUGH MANAGER, JOSEPH KAUER – Manager Kauer reported that the Borough has received first place recognition from the Pennsylvania State Borough’s Association for our annual guide publication. He also reported that the bid documents for the 2024 Trash Contract have been prepared and provided to the Solicitor for final review.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Ciesielski stated that he is asking Planning Commission, landlords and tenants in the Borough if there is anything that can be done to initiate a rental inspection program.

Mr. Verduci stated that he agrees that there is a need to reach out to property owners for their input to see what is working and what can be facilitated to create a program that is not difficult. He stated that this program should be discussed with input from the property owners as this can help protect our community and provide a public service.

Mr. Colosimo stated that this discussion came up about 10 years ago and is asking that the Fire Department be included in the discussions. Mr. Ciesielski stated that community involvement is necessary for this program to be successful.

Solicitor McDermott suggested that the Planning Commission or Council hold a special public hearing on the creation of a rental inspection program to hear additional comments on this matter.

Mr. Livingston, on behalf of the Planning Commission, stated that it is important to have public conversations hearing all sides before any decisions are made.

Mr. Verduci stated that the last US Census shows that 39% of the properties in Bridgeville are renter occupied.

Mr. Pat DeBlasio questioned if the Council is looking to solve a problem here, what are you looking to safeguard? What about the 61% of the other housing in the community? He said the issues are all homes, not just rentals. He said landlords are doing a good job already keeping our homes safe. Mr. Ciesielski stated this is a good opportunity to discuss how to make our community better.

Mr. Bob Kohlmyer stated that this topic was not on the agenda for this meeting, and it should have been to bring more landlords to the table. Mr. Ciesielski stated that he brought this up tonight to send this matter back to the Planning Commission to discuss. Mr. Henderson stated that he feels all landlords should be at the table discussing this.

Ms. Cimarolli stated the Planning Commission recently spent months discussing a zoning recommendation for residential parking pads only for the Council to table it. She stated that the Commission is asking for the Council's direction on rental inspections versus spinning their wheels. She is asking for Council's agreement to getting a solution and is encouraged to addressing everyone's needs.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Ghelarducci, seconded by Mr. Ciesielski, and carried to adjourn the meeting at 7:50PM. All in favor, motion passed 7-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Kauer
Borough Manager / Secretary