

HULMEVILLE BOROUGH COUNCIL
Meeting Minutes
December 7, 2020

The regular monthly meeting of the Hulmeville Borough Council was held on the above date via Zoom. This meeting was advertised in the Courier Times, notice was posted at the Borough Hall and on the Borough website.

Roll call was taken by Mr. Wheeler

Councilmembers Present

Thomas Wheeler, President
Dan Mandolesi, Vice President
Mayor Debbie Mahon
Doug Harris
Nicholas Toth
Doug Edge
Judy Coleman

Staff in Attendance

Robert DeBias, Solicitor
John Baran, Chief
Kurt Ludwig, Water & Sewer President
Amanda Fuller, Borough Engineer
Diane McKairnes, Treasurer
William Wheeler, Fire Marshall

Councilmembers Absent: none

Councilmembers Late to Arrive: Nick Lodise

Staff Absent: Secretary Dorothy Omietanski

Guests in Attendance: Marce Heald, Sherri Wheeler, and John Ricco

Call to Order: Mr. Wheeler called the meeting to order at 7:34 pm; all those present joined in the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence for Pearl Harbor.

Mr. Wheeler Stated:

We are holding this meeting by zoom pursuant to Senate Bill SB814, passed as Act 15 of 2020 as a result of the Emergency Declaration issued by Governor Wolf and the stay at home and shelter in place orders that have been issued by Governor Wolf. This meeting was advertised in the Courier Times and notice was posted at the Borough Hall and on the Borough Website. This meeting is being recorded and will be placed on the Borough Website. A draft of the minutes will promptly be placed on the website as well.

Minutes:

Motion made by Mr. Mandolesi seconded by Mr. Harris to approve the minutes of November 7 and 17, 2020; Motion passed with all in favor 6-0-0.

Mayors Statement:

I thank everyone who has done their part in helping to keep Hulmeville Borough safe and within CDC Guidelines during this Pandemic Year 2020. Unfortunately, positive confirmed diagnosed numbers throughout Bucks County and within Pennsylvania continue to grow and Governor Tom Wolf has mentioned that additional steps will be decided on within the next few days.

With the holidays in full swing, I continue to encourage everyone to make the tough decisions that will keep your family and friends safe and secure. I wish everyone a safe and Happy Hanukkah and a Merry Christmas!

Public Comment:

- Dog on Dog Attacks - Mr. John Ricco, Pat Ricco's nephew, stated there have been 6 or more dog attacks this year in the Borough. It appears all attacks have been from one dog and the dog owner has only paid one fine. Mr. Ricco said this concerns him because there are many people who walk their dogs and this dog owner does not have control of his dog. He wants people in the neighborhood to know about this dog, because he would not like an attack to happen to someone else. Chief Baran said there were 7 incidents with this particular dog, but only 3 were reported, two to Hulmeville Borough Police and one to State Police. Chief Baran said he handled the investigation and it is now in the court system. Mr. Wheeler said this problem has not been ignored and is being handled. Ms. Coleman asked if this was just one dog and the answer was yes. Mr. Ricco said he was glad it was in the court system and feels the public should be made aware of the dog attacks. He thanked council for their time.

Police Report:

- The police report was submitted for the month of November 2020: 19 incident reports, 3 accident reports, 5 assist, 0 EMS call, 4 summary citations, 32 traffic citations, 0 criminal arrests, 1 parking, 0 hours district court and 18-hour county court or total hours worked: 230, Total Salary \$5,786.01.
- T-shirt sales – Mayor Mahon suggested the Borough make a separate line item in Quick Books for police fundraising for community events and would like the line items placed under the police department. Mr. Harris said we need a line item for each event, and informed council that there is \$3,000.00 in the budget for community events. Mr. Harris said we should put sub titles under community events. Ms. Mahon said that the National Night Out was an example of an event the Police spend money on. Mr. Wheeler said that the cost for National Night Out should have come out of community events. Ms. Coleman asked if the Borough should be fundraising. Mr. DeBias said we should not be in the business of fundraising. He said the Police Athletic League is a nonprofit and is not affiliated with a police department. Ms. McKairnes was asked to call the auditors and ask about how to handle fundraisers in quick books. The sum of \$1560.00 for the t-shirts has been secured in the Borough treasurer's desk for deposit.
- Borough Credit Card - Mr. Harris said the credit cards are on their way.

- Bicycle – Mr. DeBias said we need a letter from Ed to get the approval for the police bike purchase from the RDA. He said we need to spend the money by the end of March or the money goes back to the RDA.
- Crosswalk Signs- Middletown Township will make the Borough a metal sign at the cost of \$500.00.
- Ammunition- Due to the national low supply of ammunition heading into 2021, the Mayor approved the purchase of ammunition for the police department. There is a bill for \$3526.56, \$268.30 is the Borough's responsibility and \$3258.17 is purchased directly through the officers. Each officer qualifies two times a year for Borough issued guns. The money from the officers has been secured in the Borough Treasurers' desk for deposit/payment.

Mayors Report:

- Playground Signs – Mayor Mahon reminded council that COVID-19 related signs are still needed for the playground
- Playground Cleanup – Mayor Mahon recommended that council schedule clean-ups of the playground through 2021. Volunteers are needed to take this task on.
- 150th Celebration Plans – Official meetings for the 150th celebration are going to be held on the first Wednesday of the month at 7:30. Mayor would like to set up the January 6th meeting via Zoom, and asked Mr. Toth to set this up for her. The patronage letters asking for donation are finalized and 1,000 letters have been printed.
- Youth Recognition - Due to lack of notice on the Mayor's behalf the youth recognitions will take place at the December 15th work session.
- Langhorne Community Memorial Assoc - A letter from the Langhorne Community Memorial Association was received and they are asking for a representative from Hulmeville to join this group. The current representative for Hulmeville, Mrs. Harris, has resigned. Joe Coleman will be asked to join.
- Life Insurance for Police – Mayor requested the life insurance stipend be issued to the officers. The officers receive the following: John Baran, \$227.74, Kevin Carragher \$205.24 and Sean DiMeo \$192.24, for a total of \$625.22. The Mayor confirmed this is an annual cost.

Motion made by Mr. Mandolesi and seconded by Mr. Lodise to pay the officers for their life insurance stipend for a total of \$ 625.22; Motion passed with all in favor 7-0-0.

- Community Events - Mr. Harris asked if council should increase the budget for community events to provide some money for the 150 Anniversary Events. The Mayor said the Borough can sponsor an event if they choose. Mr. DeBias said if any money raised by the 150th Committee now is left over from the 150th Celebration it has to be donated to a non-profit organization for similar purpose in order to qualify for the 501 C 3 status.

Emergency Management Coordinator:

- COVID-19 – COVID-19 cases are on the rise in the community, hospitals are overwhelmed and Ambulance Services have been very busy. The Bucks County Department of Health has revised the quarantine standards in that if sick you need to stay quarantined for 14 days, however if no symptoms and a negative test you only need to quarantine for 10 days. If you leave the state you must have a negative COVID-19 test within 72 hours prior to entering the state, or quarantine for 10 days or until you obtain a negative COVID-19 test.

Fire Marshal:

- Open Burn Ordinance – Fire Marshal Wheeler distributed through email the modifications to the Open Burn Ordinance. Ms. Mahon suggested moving forward with the burn ordinance. Ms Coleman said she did not see a specific fee for permit stated and was told it does not need to be in the ordinance.

Motion made by Mr. Mandolesi and seconded by Mr. Lodise to advertise the new burn ordinance; Motion passed with all in favor 7-0-0.

Authority:

- 307 Main St Subdivision - Mr. Ludwig requested more information.
- Water Issue - A video was sent to some council members showing water coming down Pennsylvania Ave onto Main St. after the heavy rain on Monday. Mr. Ludwig said the storm drains are filled with leaves. The water is backing up on Main St and there are concerns that this water could cause damage to the new work that has been done on Main St.
- Mayor Mahon provided information about the Neshaminy water shed treatment plant storage tank levels.
- Sewer Line Replacement - Mr. Wheeler stated Penndel is in the process of collecting bids for a sewer line replacement and the replacement will impact some resident's properties.
- 6 Michelle Court - Mr. Ludwig and Ms. Wheeler confirmed that a water meter at 6 Michelle Ct. was installed by BCWSA. Mr. Ludwig said the Authority received a bill for the meter installation; however Mr. Mandolesi confirmed the owner paid to have the meter installed.

Borough Property

- Filter Replacement - Mr. Mandolesi changed the air filter in the secretary office and Police Department.
- Smoke Odor – One of the renters reported she smelled an odor she thought the ventilation system, Mr. Wheeler did investigate, nothing was found.
- Leaf Collection – All leaves have been picked up on Borough properties.
- New playground signs are installed.
- Playground Repairs - Ms. McKairnes confirmed that the playground has been repaired

Trash:

- Yard Waste – The Mayor stated the yard waste in the Borough is not as much as other municipalities and she has noticed leaves are being blown in to the street. Council needs to figure out a way to keep neighbors from blowing leaves into the street.

Lights: no report

Streets:

- Potholes – Mr. Lodise has contacted T Shaffer for pothole repair.
- Lights – The light out at Fairview and Walnut St. appears to have been damaged by a tree that must have fallen and taken out the wire. The damage is in the process of being repaired. Mr. Toth mentioned a light on Fairview Ave is on in the morning. Also the light on Estell Alley has been reported to always be on. Mr. Wheeler said residents are responsible for any damaged caused by fallen trees on their properties. Mr. Mandolesi also pointed out that if the light is not LED it is not the Borough's light. Mr. Mandolesi will confirm if the light at Reetz and McKinley Ave is Borough property.

Personnel:

- Zoning Enforcement Officer - Rosaura Torres is ready to start.

Finance:

- Budget 2021 – Mr. DeBias asked if the public in attendance has any questions on the budget and no one responded.

**Motion made by Mr. Harris and seconded by Mr. Lodise to approve the budget for 2021;
Motion passed with all in favor 7-0-0.**

- Credit Cards – The credit cards are in the mail

Planning: no report

Storm Water Committee Meeting:

- Storm Drain Cleaning - Amanda continues to work on the inlet cleaning project. She reported the low bidder for the storm water drains would be cleaning out 49 storm drains, use the water from a hydrant at the firehouse, and have traffic control at a cost of \$9900.00. However, the company does not have the ability to dump the waste. They would pile the waste at a designated location and the Borough would have to dispose of it. The Mayor wants to confirm that the waste is not toxic. Mr. Wheeler suggested checking if Middletown Public Work could dispose of the waste for the Borough. Mr. Wheeler also pointed out that some of the drains are not included on the bid.

Motion made by Mr. Harris and seconded by Ms. Coleman to hire Mobile Dredging at a cost of \$15450.00 to clean storm drains; Motion passed with all in favor 7-0-0.

- Storm Water Manager – Amanda from Gilmore will be the Storm Water Manager for the Borough, however, Samantha Brinker is currently covering for Amanda Fuller while she is on maternity leave.

MS4:

- News Letter – The winter 2020 newsletter is being finalized, and the Mayor is asking for any updated information from the committees.
- Tree Planting - A thank you letter was received from Lori Clark (Reetz) for the trees that were planted in memory of her parents.

TMDL / BMP's: Permit years 2018-2022 – DEP will be doing its permit inspections. Samantha Brinker from Gilmore and Associates will keep us informed of that inspection. Due to Covid-19, this has been postponed.

Floodplain: No Report

Zoning: no report

Solicitor:

Motion made by Mr. Lodise and seconded by Mr. Mandolesi for a resolution to request payment for \$ 5749.00 for Peace Valley from the RDA; Motion passed with all in favor 7-0-0.

Motion made by Ms. Coleman and seconded by Mr. Lodise for resolution to request payment for \$ 2260.00 for shed and \$135.00 for stone from the RDA; Motion passed with all in favor 7-0-0.

Motion made by Mr. Mandolesi and seconded by Mr. Lodise for a resolution for an extension for Peace Valleys 2020 RDA grant; Motion passed with all in favor 7-0-0.

Motion made by Mr. Lodise and seconded by Mr. Harris for a resolution for an extension for Police equipment (bicycle) 2020 RDA grant; Motion passed with all in favor 7-0-0.

- The Mayor said FirstNet has her scheduled for auto pay.
- Zoom Meeting January - Mr. DeBias asked to advertise January meetings to be on zoom

Motion made by Ms. Coleman and seconded by Mr. Toth to advertise the January 4, and January 19, meetings via Zoom; Motion passed with all in favor 7-0-0.

- State of Emergency - Mr. DeBias stated the Governor has extended the state of emergency into January.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer's Report for December 7, 2020 was made available for inspection:

• General Fund Checking Balance as of November 1, 2020:	\$ 394,524.97
Expenses Totaled:	\$ -238,647.85
Income Totaled:	\$ 42,973.07
General Fund Checking Balance as November 30, 2020:	\$ 198,850.19
• Sewer Fund Checking Balance as of November 1, 2020:	\$ 52,709.90
Expenses Totaled:	\$ -27,361.86
Income Toted:	\$ 26,360.01
Sewer Fund Checking Balance as of November 30, 2020:	\$ 51,708.05
• Sewer Fund PLGIT Balance as of October 1, 2020:	\$ 227,745.88
Interest	\$ 4.24
Deposit	\$ 0
Expense	\$ 0
Sewer Fund PLGIT Balance as of November 30, 2020:	\$ 227,750.12
• Highway Aid PLGIT Balance as of October 1, 2020:	\$ 51,934.73
Interest	\$.96
Deposit	\$ 0
Expenses	\$ -14.94
Highway Aid PLGIT Balance as of November 30, 2020:	\$ 51,920.75
• General Fund PLGIT Balance as of October 1, 2020:	\$ 264,831.73
Interest	\$ 6.20
Deposits	\$ 200,000.00
Expenses Total:	\$ -4,709.00
General Fund PLGIT Balance as of September 30, 2020:	\$ 460,128.93

Bills: A copy of the bill list dated October 31, 2020 was provided to Council and offered for review by the public. Four bills were added: Judy Buchoffer wages for 8 hr for October and 2 hr for November totaling 10 hours, Elite Structures \$2260.00, Platinum Paving \$4,709.00 and Debbie Mahon \$499.99.

• General Fund beginning balance as of November 30, 2020:	\$ 200,732.87
ending balance as of December 28, 2020:	\$ 167,653.66
• Sewer & Water beginning balance as of November 30, 2020:	\$ 52,278.54
ending balance as of December 18, 2020:	\$ 27,762.16

A motion made by Mr. Harris seconded by Mr. Toth and carried unanimously to approve the bill list dated December 7, 2020; Motion carries 7-0-0.

New Business;

- Transfer of Funds - Ms. Coleman inquired about the transfer of \$200,000.00 to PLGIT. Ms McKairnes stated the borough receives a higher interest rate with PLGIT and there is still enough money in the general account to pay bills.
- Holiday Decorations - Ms. Coleman thanked the Mayor for the decorations and signs for the holiday season.
- Abandoned House Main Street – Ms. Coleman inquired about an abandoned house on Main St. Mr. Wheeler stated that Rosaura Torres first project will be to address the matter.

Old Business:

- Traisr - Mr. Toth said everything is moving along with regards to the Traisr project.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 pm; motion made by Mr. Lodise seconded by Mr. Toth; carried 7-0-0.

Respectfully Submitted

Diane McKairnes
Acting Secretary Hulmeville Borough