

Hulmeville Borough Council

Meeting Minutes

September 9, 2024

The regular monthly meeting of the Hulmeville Borough Council was held on the above date at the Borough Hall, 321 Main Street.

Councilmembers Present

Thomas Wheeler, President
Rebecca Krause, Vice President
Dan Mandolesi
Jose Gonzalez
Nick Lodise
Judy Coleman
Jim Pio

Staff in Attendance

Michael Luongo, Solicitor
Debbie Mahon, Mayor
Diane McKairnes, Treasurer
Bill Wheeler, Borough Manager
John Baran, Chief of Police

Councilmembers Absent: None

Councilmembers Late to Arrive: none

Staff Absent: Dorothy Omietanski, Secretary

Guests in Attendance: Joe McKairnes, Sabrina Foster, Irene Foster, Doug Edge, Dennis Mitchell, Mary Johnson, Sandy Carroll, John Buczek, Joe Williams, Craig Unger, and Sherri Wheeler

Call to Order: Tom Wheeler called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm; all those present joined the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes:

Motion made by Mr. Mandolesi seconded by Mr. Lodise to approve the minutes of August 5, 2024; Motion passed with all in favor 7-0-0.

Planning Commission Report: No report

Public Comment:

- Water on Ford Ave - Ms. Carroll mentioned a video that was sent to the council of the water coming down Ford Ave. on August 6th or 7th.
- Guest Speaker - Ms. Johnson mentioned the Historical Society is having a guest speaker, Jeff Marshall, on September 11th at Borough Hall. He will be speaking about the difference between a historic home and an old home. She also mentioned the owner of 329 Main St, Mr. Seedes has not put the trim up. Mr. Bill Wheeler said Mr. Seedes is getting it done.
- Code Issue - Ms. Foster has a historic tower in her backyard and the neighbor built a pond right next to the tower. She is unable to do any maintenance on the tower with the

pond so close. Ms. Johnson is concerned with how close the pond is to the foundation of the tower. Ms. Foster distributed pictures and noted she had conducted a survey done of her property. Tom Wheeler said the information will be given to the code officer. Bill Wheeler said if the neighbor, Mr. Seedes is in violation, he will have an amount of time to fix it. Ms. Coleman asked if the code enforcer would call the borough.

- Truck Use of Lincoln Ave - Mr. Williams asked if Lincoln Ave. is marked “no trucks allowed”, and if not, he suggested they should be post as sign. His truck was hit on Ford Ave. by a truck using Lincoln Ave to Ford Ave to get to Main St. He asked if any other cars were damaged on Ford or Lincoln Aves. There have been other issues with tractor trailers trying to turn the corners on Lincoln, Reetz, and Ford Aves. Mr. Lodise asked if we can put sign restrictions, such as the length of truck or no trucks at all. John Baran said he would talk to the new car business in the Lincoln Center.

Mayor:

- Borough Facebook Page - Mayor Mahon said that Facebook is only for information to the residents She would like to post “Comments and opinions posted by users on this page are their own and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Borough of Hulmeville. The Borough reserves the right to remove or moderate comments that are inappropriate, offensive, or otherwise not in accordance with our community guidelines.” Mr. Lodise suggested we have a policy for violence or profanity on Facebook. Mayor Mahon said Steffany who takes care of the social media sources, was able to make them a government type, but we need to make a disclaimer about negative comments. Mr. Pio asked if the person was blocked and was told no they were not. Mr. Luongo said to keep the comment off. He also suggested writing up a policy to cover all these items. Mr. Mandolesi suggested we make a policy of no comments allowed.
- Junior Council Program – The Junior Council Program is in need of a new volunteer.
- Tree Maintenance – The tree maintenance for borough parks should include the recreation field as well.
- Hulmeville Falls – The county officials continue to work on the property around Hulmeville Falls. There are now signs from the PA Fish & Boat Commission that bring notice to the area: Danger Dam NO Boating NO Swimming NO Wading
- Community Events – The upcoming community events are as follows:
 September 28th Hulmeville Flea Market
 Ghost Tours October 4, 5, 11, & 12
 Halloween House Decorating Contest October 17
 Medication Take-back Day October 26
 Touched by Teal 5k run November 9

Public Safety:

- Police Report – Mayor Mahon read the report for the month of August 2024:

Incident reports	16	Summary citations	0
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Accident Reports	4		Traffic citations	29
Assists	4		Criminal arrests	1
EMS calls	3		Parking ordinance	1
Court – local	8		Court – Doylestown	0
Hours worked	216		Salary	\$6,943.86

- Drug Take Back Event - Chief Baron mentioned that the next drug take back event will be October 26, 10-2 and will be a drive through again.
- State Audit – An audit from the state will be conducted on September 26, 2024.
- Grant Funds – The Department of Justice Grant County money for \$1,685.48 has not been received yet.
- Grant from Frank Farry’s Office - Frank Farry gave a grant in the amount of \$50,000.00 to be shared between the Boroughs of Langhorne, Langhorne Manor, Penndel and Hulmeville. The Hulmeville Borough Police Department received about \$10,000.00 for the purchase of a rifle and a drone. Langhorne bought an ATV which will be shared with the other Police Departments. Chief Baran and Officer Gaffney are registered, authorized users of the drone.

Storm Water/Floodplain/MS4:

- Drainage Swale Issue on Main St - Mr. Pio explained to council that the Stormwater Committee is waiting for a project for Bristol Borough to get passed to better understand the DEP requirements, and then they can consider proceeding with Mr. Williams drainage situation. Ms. Krause said, they sent pictures to Gilmore and Associates of the drainage swale for Mr. Williams property. Gilmore wants to rewrite the MS4 project proposal. Mayor Mahon would like to be involved with this project and the Stormwater Committee has not reached out to her. Mr. Luongo told the Stormwater Committee to compare needs of all the projects before Mr. Williams’ project is to be considered. Ms. Coleman wanted to know if the council can look at the meeting minutes and Mr. Pio said the pipe is in the plans. Bill Wheeler said the pipe is on the neighbor’s property next to Mr. Williams and is on the 1988 plans. Tom Wheeler mentioned the minutes should be checked, who maintenances it and who owns it.

Borough Property:

- Memorial Park Tree- Mr. Mandolesi will call Ted from PECO to come out and look at the ash tree and tend to them. Ms. Coleman asked if PECO would take down the trees. Mr. Mandolesi will ask. Mayor Mahon asked if we have a tree person and if we can put a budget line item for the care of the trees on all borough properties. Mr. Mandolesi mentioned Young’s Tree service has been taking care of our trees in the past and has done an excellent job and were out to care for the trees when asked.

- Parking Signs Borough - Council needs to put up signs for the apartment residents to label their parking spaces.
- Rental Inspections - Mr. Pio said the council needs to move ahead with the rental inspection policies.
- Trash Bids - Mr. Bill Wheeler said the bids for waste collection will be opened at the work session in September. Six companies have requested the bid package. Mr. McKairnes asked if the council could consider our current waste collection company, they are doing a great job.
- Snow Removal Bids - Mr. Bill Wheeler said the snow removal contracts are out for bid. The contracts extend from November 1st to October 31st. The specification calls for a 1-year price with an option to extend to 2 years. The bids will be opened on October 15th.

Motion made by Mr. Mandolesi seconded by Mr. Lodise to advertise for snowplow contracts: Motion passed with all in favor 7-0-0

Finance:

- 2025 Budget - Ms. Krause has sent out budget suggestions and is asking for requests.

IT: No report

Personnel Report:

- Ms. Coleman said we are developing a job description and getting together with Mr. Bill Wheeler.

Public Works: No report

Ordinances: No report

Borough Manager:

- RDA Requests - Bill Wheeler handed out an RDA grant request list. It was mentioned that the Peace Valley Holistic Center project was started, and the County said they would see it through until it was finished but did not provide the necessary funds. This program is to benefit all school districts. Mr. Pio thinks the RDA monies should be used for our Borough. Tom Wheeler said we were the only town to help with this project. Mr. Mandolesi said to put it on the list but not a priority. Tom Wheeler mentioned it would be too soon to ask for a new police vehicle. Mayor Mahon said we are scheduled for a new car every 3 years. Chief Barons said our old vehicle is worth somewhere between \$15,000.00 to \$18000.00. Bill Wheeler suggested we combine LAN upgrade and AV system for council room and asked to add a generator to be added to LAN and AV system. Ms. Krause asked for 6 crossing signs for Bellevue, Fairview and Main and Reetz at a cost of approximately \$20,000.00. Ms. Krause will verify the cost and get approval from PennDOT. The council was reminded there is no need to prioritize the projects. The council agreed to ask RDA for grant money for the following:
 - 1. Roads
 - 2. LAN, AV System, Generator
 - 3. Signs
 - Reroofing for WPFC Hulmeville Station

- Peace Valley Holistic Center, Apprenticeship Café
- New Police Vehicle

Mayor Mahon mentioned Hulmeville Borough is the only ones who have co-sponsored for RDA money, so chances we will get what we need.

Motion made by Mr. Pio seconded by Mr. Gonzalez to the applying of the 4-6 RDA grant requests; Motion passed all in favor 7-0-0

Streets and Lights: No Report

Fire Marshal/EMC: no report

Zoning/ Code Enforcement: No report

Water and Sewer:

- Meter Replacement Project - Ms. Wheeler said the rest of the meters will be changed September 17-19. If the residents do not get them changed by then they will receive a notice³ that their water may be shut off. The resident is responsible for the cost of installation for the new meter.
- Water and Sewer 2025 Budget - Bill Wheeler stated there is no rate increase for the water and sewer budget this coming year which is \$395,440.
- Letter of Resignation - Mayor Mahon read a letter of resignation from Mr. Wolfe from the Water and Sewer Authority. Ms. Johnson would volunteer if she is needed. Dennis Mitchell said he will also volunteer.

Motion made by Mr. Mandolesi seconded by Mr. Lodise to appoint Dennis Mitchell to be a member of the Water and Sewer Authority; Motion passed with all in favor 7-0-0

Solicitor’s Report:

- Superior Holdings Update - Mr. Luongo mentioned Superior Holdings hearing has been extended through November.
- Removal of Dam on Neshaminy - American Rivers is investigating the removal of several dams in Pennsylvania and throughout the USA (approx. 30,000). One of the dams to be considered is the Neshaminy Creek Dam.

Treasurer’s Report: Treasurer’s Report for August 1, 2024, was made available for inspection:

- **General Fund Checking** Balance as of August 1, 2024: \$ 156,641.13
 Expenses Totaled: \$ -41,482.51
 Income Totaled: \$ 63,734.96
 General Fund Checking Balance as August 31, 2024: **\$ 180,893.58**
- **Highway Aid PLGIT** Balance as of August 1, 2024: \$ 167,983.51
 Interest Totaled: \$ 725.22
 Deposit Totaled: \$ 257.31
 Expense \$ -18.94
 Highway Aid PLGIT Balance as of August 31, 2024: **\$ 168,947.10**

- **General Fund PLGIT Balance as of August 1, 2024:** **\$ 1,394,927.82**
- Interest Totalled: \$ 6,056.30
- Deposit Totalled: \$ 81,302.92
- Expense Totalled: \$ -603.76
- General Fund PLGIT Balances as of August 31, 2024:** **\$ 1,481,683.30**

Bills: A copy of the bill list dated September 4, 2024, was provided to the council and offered for review by the public.

- **General Fund** beginning balance as of August 30, 2024: \$ 154,452.42
- General Fund** ending balance as of September 27, 2024: \$ 130,482.39
- Highway Aid beginning balance as of September 9, 2024 \$ 167,498.10

A motion made by Mr. Pio seconded by Ms. Krause and carried unanimously to approve the bill list dated September 4, 2024; Motion carries 7-0-0.

Correspondence:

- Penndel Historical Society Event – A note announcing a change of event for Penndel Historical Society from October 18th to the 19th.

New Business: No report

Unfinished Business: No report

The meeting was adjourned at 9:56 pm; the motion made by Mr. Pio seconded by Mr. Lodise.

Respectfully Submitted

Diane McKairnes