

Hulmeville Borough Council

Meeting Minutes

October 7, 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
Nick Lodise
Jose Gonzalez

Staff in Attendance

Michael Luongo, Solicitor
Debbie Mahon, Mayor
Dorothy Omietanski, Secretary
Bill Wheeler, Borough Manager
John Baran, Chief of Police

Councilmembers Absent: Jim Pio, Judy Coleman and Dan Mandolesi

Councilmembers Late to Arrive: none

Staff Absent: Diane McKairnes, Treasurer

Guests in Attendance: Craig Unger, Kim Unger-Magaruh, Kristen Lucisano, John Cost, Sandy Carroll, Joe Hahn, Kevin Byers, Kim Vile, Amanda Gonzalez, Martin Bradley, Frank Lucisano, William Magaruh, Joe Williams, Sheri Wheeler, Trisha Boyle, Mary Johnson, Patricia Taggart, Dennis Mitchell and Doug Edge

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. Gonzales seconded by Ms. Krause to approve the minutes of September 9, 2024; Motion passed with all in favor 4-0-0.

Public Comment:

- Sandy Carroll – Ms. Carroll asked if the police could monitor the stop sign at Ford and Washington. Cars are constantly going through the stop sign. She also wanted to say that the ghost tour was fantastic.
- Kristen Lucisano – Ms. Lucisano asked if the borough could consider clearing Penna Ave paper street for emergency use. When the electric wires went down it cut off access to their neighborhood. If the paper street was open, they could have used it to access the community. Tom Wheeler explained that council is in the process of investigating the status of the paper street.
- Kim Unger – The light that came down during the accident needs to be reinstalled at the corner of Reetz and Lincoln, without the light, is very dark. Also, the community is having a lot of issues with the residents at 517 Harding Ave. They come down the road in motorcycles going very fast. They were approached and asked to slow down and it

caused a very big fight. Tom Wheeler explained that he has reached out to PECO to find out what happened to the street light. As soon as it is located, he will have it reinstalled. Unfortunately, the residents of 517 Harding live in Middletown Township. Chief Baran has spoken to the police chief of Middletown to give him heads up to the concerns. He also did issue a ticket to one of the residents and did confiscate the motorcycles. Ms. Unger also wanted to point out that there are cones with a heavy piece of wood blocking the paper street (Pennsylvania Ave) and she has also noticed a metal stake under the cone that could damage a car tire.

- Craig Unger – Mr. Unger has lived in this town a long time and has always used the paper road (Pennsylvania Ave) and now he cannot. There is a camper and boat blocking the area. Mr. Luongo explained the borough is investigating, but it appears that the owners whose properties border the paper road own the land making the paper road private property. The road is not borough property because it was never adopted by the borough. Mr. Luongo asked the community to minimize use of the road until the matter is resolved. Mr. Luongo is looking into the original subdivision to check who owned the property. Also placing utilities on the road does not make it property of the borough. The borough then only has an easement by necessity.
- Joe Williams – Mr. Williams knows an electrician who is interested in fixing the lights at Heritage Park. Mayor Mahon pointed out that the lights are working they are just very dim. Mr. Williams stated that the electrician is willing to work for free; the borough just needs to cover the cost of parts. Mr. Williams was asked to provide the name of the electrician to Bill Wheeler.
- William Magaruh – Mr. Magaruh asked if Neshaminy Street could be paved. Tom Wheeler explained that the road belongs to the state not the borough. Mr. Lodise offered to make a call to the state to complain about the potholes. Mr. Magaruh also asked if the trees on Main St at Zimmerman Lane could be trimmed. It is very hard to make a left turn on Zimmerman because the trees are blocking your vision of oncoming traffic. Tom Wheeler explained that the issue is a state matter as well and he will call them regarding the concerns.

Mayor:

- Upcoming Community Events – Ghost Tours 10/11-12, Halloween House Decorating Contest 10/17, Neshamony Methodist Church Trunk or Treat 10/19, Historical Society Fall Craft Fair 11/3 and 4 the four Borough’s Touched by Teal 5K Run 11/9.
- Four Borough Inter-Police Agreement – Mayor Mahon wanted to clear up some confusion regarding police assistance from the surrounding boroughs. The four boroughs have an agreement to assist each other at any time free of charge.
- Facebook Disclaimer and Policy – Mayor Mahon will forward the current Facebook Disclaimer and Policy to the IT committee.

Public Safety:

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

Incident reports	11	Summary citations	0
------------------	----	-------------------	---

Accident Reports	2	Traffic citations	32
Assists	1	Criminal arrests	0
EMS calls	1	Parking ordinance	3
Court – local	12	Court – Doylestown	0
Hours worked	234	Salary	\$7,447.44

- Drug Take Back Event - Chief Baran mentioned that the next drug take back event will be October 26, 10-2 and will be a drive thru again at William Penn Fire Co
- Ammunition Purchase – Mayor Mahon is asking for approval to purchase ammunition at a cost of \$835.

Motion made by Mr. Gonzalez and seconded by Ms. Krause to approve the purchase of ammunition at a cost of \$835; motion passed with all in favor 4-0-0.

Storm Water/Floodplain/MS4:

- Drainage Swale Issue on Main St - Ms. Krause received an update from Amanda Fuller from Gilmore regarding the swale issue on Main St. The project may not be approved by the DEP as an acceptable project. The DEP prefers projects to be parallel to the Neshaminy (streambank stabilization project) not perpendicular which is what this project is. Also, projects have never been approved in a flood plain, however Bristol Township is currently trying to get a project approved that is in a flood plain. The DEP does make the final decision on what projects are approved. Mayor Mahon stated from her experience projects in floodplain still seems hopeful.
- Newsletter – Ms. Krause announced the newsletter went out today.

Borough Property:

- New Cleaning Service – Mr. Gonzalez requested that council bid for a new cleaning service at Borough Hall. The cost is small enough that it does not need to be advertised. The service is required to have insurance. Bill Wheeler will contact a few cleaning services and ask them to submit a bid.

Motion made by Mr. Gonzalez seconded by Mr. Lodise to go out to bid for a new cleaning service; motion made with all in favor 4-0-0.

- Camera System – Bill Wheeler believes the camera system went down when the borough lost power from the accident on Reetz Ave. Three cameras are not working and the repairs are scheduled for Monday October 14th.

Finance:

- 2025 Budget – The committee did meet three times in September. Ms. Krause will forward the proposed 2025 budget to council by October 15th.

Motion made by Mr. Lodise and seconded by Mr. Gonzalez to cancel the work session for October; motion passed with all in favor 4-0-0.

IT:

- Facebook Revision – Ms. Krause stated that long term the IT committee is considering changing from Facebook friends to Facebook group, which is more appropriate for government entities. They will also revise the policy and disclaimer for Facebook for the Borough

Personnel Report:

- Job Descriptions – Mayor Mahon forwarded all the job descriptions she had to Ms. Coleman and Ms. Krause. Ms. Wheeler will forward them a job description for water meter reader.

Public Works:

- Trash Bids - Bill Wheeler said six companies requested the bid package but only two companies submitted bids Leck and J.P. Mascaro and Sons. Leck did have the best bid at \$178,615 per year for 5 years compared to J.P. Mascaro and Sons at \$292,416 per year for 5 years. The cost of trash collection has risen approximately 70%.

Motion made by Mr. Lodise and seconded by Ms. Krause to pass a resolution with Leck for a 5-year contract at a cost of \$178,615; motion passed with all in favor 4-0-0.

- Snow Bids – Mr. Wheeler said the snow removal contracts are out for bid. The bids will be opened on October 15th. Bill Wheeler will call our current snow removal company to see if they are going to submit a bid. To date the borough has not received any bids for snow removal.

Ordinances: No report

Borough Manager:

- RDA Grant Update – There were six ideas submitted and discussed last meeting and five were submitted to the RDA for their consideration. In order of importance the RDA grant requests are as follows: road repair at a cost of \$234,000, police office/municipal building upgrade including internet, camera/tv system, and emergency generator at a cost of \$44,106, William Penn Fire Co roof repair at a cost of \$58,475, Peace Valley Holistic Cafe at a cost of \$100,000 and a new police car at a cost of \$73,000. The cross-walk signs were taken off the list due to the engineering involved in installing them. The applications had to be, and were submitted by the last day of September and the results will be announced by mid-December. Once this round of road paving is completed all borough owned roads will have been repaved. Ms. Taggart inquired as to why we are sponsoring WPFC when they no longer seem to be supporting the community (i.e. Hulmeville Day). Tom Wheeler will make sure either the fire department or the Historical Society have the Hulmeville Day tables set up at the fire house next year.

Streets and Lights: no Report

Fire Marshal/EMC: no report

Zoning/ Code Enforcement:

- Address Changes – Bill Wheeler is having a difficult time getting the address changes in borough to be updated on various business systems. He believes we now have the process clarified.
- Code Enforcement – There have been several complaints of roosters in the neighborhood. Tom Wheeler stated that roosters and chickens are not permitted in residential area. He is going to ask the owners of the roosters to get rid of the roosters and council will allow the chickens to remain.

Water and Sewer:

- Meter Replacement Project – Ms. Wheeler updated council on the meter replacement project. There is only 15 meters left to replace. The residents of the meters will be receiving a letter and if they do not comply their water will be turned off until the new meter is installed.

Solicitor Report:

- Superior Holdings Update – Mr. Luongo told council that the initial briefs were received on 10/1 and the response briefs are due by 10/21. Both parties, the appellant and protestant, are still having ongoing discussions with each other.

Treasurer’s Report: Treasurer’s Report for October 7, 2024, was made available for inspection:

• General Fund Checking Balance as of September 1, 2024:	\$ 178,893.58
Expenses Totaled:	\$ -40,091.54
Income Totaled:	<u>\$ 40,297.50</u>
General Fund Checking Balance as September 30, 2024:	\$ 179,099.54
• Highway Aid PLGIT Balance as of September 1, 2024:	\$ 168,947.10
Interest Totaled:	\$ 686.60
Deposit Totaled:	\$ 0
Expense	<u>\$ - 19.09</u>
Highway Aid PLGIT Balance as of September 30, 2024:	\$ 169,614.61
• General Fund PLGIT Balance as of September 1, 2024:	\$ 1,481,683.30
Interest Totaled:	\$ 6,031.47
Deposit Totaled:	\$ 6,622.59
Expense Totaled:	<u>\$ -514.93</u>
General Fund PLGIT Balances as of September 30, 2024:	\$ 1,493,822.43

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

- **General Fund** beginning balance as of September 30, 2024: \$ 154,960.63
- **General Fund** ending balance as of September 28, 2024: \$ 102,525.59

Note: Chief Baran believes that check number 4544 should be for \$9,058 to be clarified with the treasurer.

A motion made by Mr. Lodise seconded by Mr. Gonzalez and carried unanimously to approve the bill list dated October 4, 2024; Motion carries 4-0-0.

Correspondence: none

New Business: none

- Meeting Schedule – Ms. Omietanski did make some edits to the proposed 2025 meeting schedule. She will email it to be voted on at the November meeting.
- What It's Worth – Ms. Johnson announced that the Hulmeville Historical Society is going to host What It's Worth again January 17, 2025.
- Welcome Wagon – Mayor Mahon distributed a pamphlet that will be used in the Welcome Wagon basket. She also requested it be posted on the website. Mayor Mahon is hoping to get some volunteers to assist her.

Unfinished Business: No report

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 pm; motion made by Mr. Gonzalez seconded by Mr. Lodise.

Respectfully Submitted

Dorothy Omietanski

Secretary