

## Hulmeville Borough Council

### Meeting Minutes

December 2, 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  
Jim Pio  
Dan Mandolesi  
Judy Coleman

#### **Staff in Attendance**

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

**Councilmembers Absent:** none

**Councilmembers Late to Arrive:** none

**Staff Absent:** none

**Guests in Attendance:** Jay Ferraro, Joe McKairnes, Andrew Schifferli, Dennis Mitchell, Nancy Mitchell, Sandy Carroll, Mary Johnson, Sherri Wheeler, Mike Wasson, Patricia Taggart and Joe Williams.

**Call to Order:** Tom Wheeler called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm; all those present joined the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **Minutes:**

**Motion made by Mr. Mandolesi seconded by Ms. Krause to approve the minutes of November 4, 2024; Motion passed with all in favor 7-0-0.**

#### **Public Comment:**

- Jay Ferraro – Mr. Ferraro wanted to thank the residents of Hulmeville and all of council for going above and beyond to support the Run for Teal 5K.
- Mary Johnson – Ms. Johnson thanked everyone who helped with the tree lighting. This year was the largest turnout ever for the event. Ms. Johnson announced that the pastor of Neshamony Methodist Church is hosting caroling on 12/22 starting at 11:30 am. Everyone is welcome to join in the singing.
- Andrew Schifferli – Mr. Schifferli wanted to introduce himself. He is the new Director of Operations for Penn-del-Middletown Emergency Squad. He plans to attend council meetings in all the surrounding municipalities.
- Dennis Mitchell – Mr. Mitchell asked for any updates on the Pennsylvania Ave paper street issue. Mr. Luongo told him it is on the agenda.

**Mayor:**

- Facebook Disclaimer Follow Up – Mayor Mahon wanted to follow up to see if any progress was made to address the Facebook concerns.
- Youth Volunteers for 2024 – The Mayor will be recognizing 4 youth at the work session meeting. If anyone has any youth they would like to add to the Mayor’s list, please let her know as soon as possible.
- Mayor Quarterly Report – Mayor Mahon read her quarterly report to council and submitted a copy to Dorothy Omietanski.
- Community Events – What It’s Worth will be hosted by the Hulmeville Historical Society January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025 from 6-8pm. Ms. Johnson added that they are looking for 30 items to appraise.
- 150<sup>th</sup> Committee – Mayor Mahon would like to have a meeting with Bill Wheeler, Tom Wheeler and Dorothy Omietanski in January to discuss next years events. Anyone is welcome to attend the meeting.

**Public Safety:**

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

Incident reports	16		Summary citations	0
Accident Reports	2		Traffic citations	42
Assists	8		Criminal arrests	0
EMS calls	1		Parking ordinance	2
Court – local	10		Court – Doylestown	0
Hours worked	227		Salary	\$7,234.92

- Drone Policy – Mayor Mahon presented the Unmanned Aircraft System Drone Policy for consideration of adoption.

**Motion made by Mr. Pio and seconded by Mr. Gonzalez to adopt the police department Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) Drone Policy dated December 2, 2024; motion passed with all in favor 7/0/0.**

- New Tires – The police department needs new tires for the 2016 SUV.

**Motion made by Mr. Lodise and seconded by Mr. Mandolesi to purchase 4 new tires, including mounting, balancing, and 1 new tire pressure sensor, for the 2016 SUV from Tire City at a cost of approximately \$980; motion passed with all in favor 7/0/0.**

- Run For Teal 5K – The Run for Teal 5K was held on 11/9/24. It was well attended and all runners were kept safe with the thanks of Chief Baran’s organization of all neighboring departments.
- Tree Lighting – The annual tree lighting was held on 11/29/24. It was a great success thanks to the Hulmeville Historical Society. A special thanks to councilmen Jose Gonzalez who organized the park clean up and decorating of the tree. Mr. Gonzalez thanked Sandy Carroll and HCC for donating the lights for the tree this year.

- Yearly Uniform Allowance/Life Insurance – Mayor Mahon wanted to confirm that checks were cut for the officers for their yearly uniform allowance/life insurance. Ms. McKairnes confirmed they were in the bills that are to be approved tonight.

#### **Storm Water/Floodplain/MS4:**

- Drexel University Grant – The stormwater committee met last week to discuss the grant opportunity with Drexel University. The grant amounts range from \$2,500 to \$10,000 to be used to reduce sediment. The grant requires 20% matching funds. The committee distributed a list of best management practice ideas they came up with and are open to suggestions. Their list included planting vegetation along the area of 348 Main St to prevent erosion, a storm drain marking program and watershed clean up. If anyone has any other ideas Ms. Krause requested, they be sent to her by Friday due to the deadline of the application. The deadline for the application is 1/15/25. Mayor Mahon pointed out that the boy scouts a while back did mark all the storm drains but they may need some attention.
- Follow Up with Gilmore – Ms. Krause did reach out to Gilmore for an update on projects for the DEP in floodplain. There is no new information to date, however Gilmore did tell her that the DEP is allowing municipalities to work together to complete a project.
- Newsletter – Ms. Krause is putting together the winter newsletter. If anyone has information, they would like to include please forward it to her.
- Grant Assistance – Mr. Ferraro is very familiar with securing grants and would be more than happy to assist the committee with finding grant opportunities. He mentioned that there are even grants to help with grants that require a certain amount of spending from the Borough.
- Stormwater Webinar – Bill Wheeler will be attending a PSAB webinar on stormwater issues. The webinar will be shown at Borough Hall 12/4/24 at 12 noon.

#### **Borough Property:**

- Cleaning Bids – Bill Wheeler received 4 bids for cleaning at Borough Hall. The lowest bid was \$395 for two cleanings per month. The current cleaning company cleans once a month for \$120. Mr. Mandolesi thinks that the council should keep searching for a cheaper rate and council agreed.

#### **Finance:**

- 2025 Budget – Ms. Krause presented the 2025 budget for adoption.

**Motion made by Ms. Krause and seconded by Mr. Pio to adopt the 2025 budget for \$1,275,113 and authorize a resolution with the general fund tax of 14.5 mills, a fire tax of 1.5 mills, a per capita tax of \$5.00, an earned income tax of 1%, based on an assessed property value of \$8,967,130 and the value of 1 mill at \$8,967; motion passed with all in favor 7/0/0.**

**Motion made by Ms. Krause and seconded by Mr. Lodise to pass a resolution establishing the fee for refuse collection, for the years 2025-2029 at \$470 per dwelling unit; motion passed with all in favor 7/0/0.**

**IT:** no report

**Personnel Report:**

- Meeting – Ms. Coleman will set up a meeting with the committee to review committee appointments and work on job descriptions.
- Parks and Recreation Open Positions – Bill Wheeler received three bios for the open positions on Parks and Recreation. Mr. Mandolesi suggested recognizing Brit Bartlet, Marce Heald and Joe Heald for all their years of service. Mayor Mahon suggested recognizing them at the work session. Mr. Mandolesi will reach out to the three exiting members to invite them to attend the work session.

**Motion made by Mr. Pio and seconded by Mr. Mandolesi to approve the appointment of Jake Krause to the Parks and Recreation Board term ending 2028; motion passed with all in favor 7/0/0.**

**Motion made by Mr. Pio and seconded by Mr. Mandolesi to approve the appointment of Ryan Cloak to the Parks and Recreation Board term ending 2025; motion passed with all in favor 7/0/0.**

**Motion made by Mr. Pio and seconded by Mr. Mandolesi to approve the appointment of Sandy Carroll to the Parks and Recreation Board term ending 2027; motion passed with all in favor 7/0/0.**

**Public Works:**

- Signs – Mr. Lodise picked up 10 signs.

**Ordinances:** no report

**Borough Manager:**

- Email Reminder – Bill Wheeler will continue to send follow up emails to council reminding them of items discussed in council meetings that need to be completed.

**Streets and Lights:**

- Lincoln Reetz Street Light – The streetlight at the corner of Lincoln and Reetz has been replaced. Bill Wheeler is still waiting for an invoice to submit for insurance.

**Fire Marshal/EMC:** no report

**Zoning/ Code Enforcement:** no report

**Water and Sewer:**

- Meter Replacement Project – There are 14 meters left to replace. There are two accounts that have leaking meters. Ms. Wheeler is working on getting the leaks fixed.
- Delinquent Accounts – The Authority is focused on getting delinquent accounts to good standing.

- ARPA Funds – Mr. Wheeler reminded council that the remaining balance of ARPA funds need to be obligated by the end of the year. So far, the funds have been used for the meter replacement project, training for the new meter software and a new meter reader device. The funds given to start were approximately \$104,000 and \$78,000 was set aside for the meter replacement program leaving approximately \$26,000 left. Last month council discussed using the money for playground refurbishment and a master plan for the recreation field. The Authority is also requesting funds to support the sewer cap replacement program. The caps will cost the Authority an estimated \$5,000. Carroll Engineering said they could mark the location of all caps, but they cannot install new caps. Bill Wheeler will work on getting a price for the sewer cap replacement program. Mr. Mandolesi asked if there was ever any consideration to locate all water shut-off valves and dig them out if need be. Just recently the Borough had two situations were water shut off valves could not be located when needed.

**Solicitor’s Report:**

- Pennsylvania Ave Paper Street – Mr. Luongo and Mr. Panzer reviewed a plan dated 8/12/1932 of the property in question. The road only went half way and never reached the Mitchell property. The plan showed that there was no plan to ever have a road there and the Borough never adopted a road. In conclusion the area is private property even with the presence of public utilities on the property in question.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Treasurer’s Report for December 2, 2024, was made available for inspection:

• <b>General Fund Checking</b> Balance as of November 1, 2024:	\$ 139,279.50
Expenses Totaled:	\$ -39,352.72
Income Totaled:	<u>\$ 74,337.56</u>
General Fund Checking Balance as November 30, 2024:	<b>\$ 173,264.34</b>
• <b>Highway Aid PLGIT</b> Balance as of November 1, 2024:	\$ 170,275.41
Interest Totaled:	\$ 1,317.55
Deposit Totaled:	\$ 0
Expense	<u>\$ 0</u>
Highway Aid PLIGT Balance as of November 30, 2024:	<b>\$ 171,592.96</b>
• <b>General Fund PLGIT</b> Balance as of November 1, 2024:	<b>\$ 1,499,368.60</b>
Interest Totaled:	\$ 11,597.09
Deposit Totaled:	\$ 0
Expense Totaled:	<u>\$ -449.56</u>
General Fund PLGIT Balances as of November 30, 2024:	<b>\$ 1,510,965.69</b>

**Bills:** A copy of the bill list dated November 29, 2024, was provided to the council and offered for review by the public.

- **General Fund** beginning balance as of November 27, 2024: \$ 140,755.08

**General Fund** ending balance as of December 2, 2024:           \$ 109,902.91

**A motion made by Mr. Lodise seconded by Mr. Mandolesi and carried unanimously to approve the bill list dated November 29, 2024; Motion carries 7-0-0.**

**Correspondence:**

- Magazine Renewal – Ms. Omietanski confirmed the number of Borough Magazines to be renewed for the year.

**New Business:**

- Grants for Playgrounds – It was brought to councils’ attention that there are grants available for playgrounds. Ms. Krause will investigate.
- Storm Drain Lincoln Ave – Ms. Coleman informed council that there are plants growing out of the storm drain at Lincoln Ave. The storm drain has been determined a while back to go nowhere. BCWSA can be contacted to clean the storm drains throughout the Borough. Mr. Mandolesi suggested since that storm drain does not go anywhere maybe the Borough should just close it off.
- Thank You – Mr. Gonzalez wanted to thank everyone who assisted him decorating the park for the tree lighting.
- Check Reader – Mr. Mandolesi said the manager at First National Bank offered the Borough a machine that would scan checks at Borough Hall for deposit. The machine is free of charge and would save Ms. McKairnes time. Ms. McKairnes is interested in trying it so Mr. Mandolesi will pick it up for her.
- Discounts for Volunteers – Mayor Mahon will forward information to council regarding a program that will provide property tax or EIT discounts for fire and emergency services volunteers. Each municipality must adopt a policy to make it available to their residents.
- Police Vehicle Repairs – Mr. Pio asked if there is any official precedent to choosing a mechanic. Chief Baran explained that Preston’s garage is usually the most efficient choice and sometimes they do work free of charge.
- Bucks County Boroughs Association – Bill Wheeler has not received any information regarding events hosted by BCBA so he reached out to the organization to see if they were still in existence. They are and for some reason the Borough stopped receiving information, so he updated emails.

**Unfinished Business:**

**The meeting was adjourned at 8:39 pm; the motion made by Mr. Pio seconded by Mr. Lodise.**

Respectfully Submitted

Dorothy Omietanski

Secretary