

**MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 3, 2019  
MEETING OF TRAPPE BOROUGH COUNCIL**

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President Phil Ronca called to order the regularly scheduled meeting of Trappe Borough Council, September 3, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. at Trappe Borough Hall, 525 West Main Street, Trappe, Pennsylvania.

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Council President Ronca announced there will not be an executive session this evening unless the need would arise during the meeting.

**Those Present Were:**

President Phil Ronca  
Scott Martin  
Stu Strauss  
Pat Webster  
Brett Yeagley  
Mayor Matthew Wismer

**Also Present:**

Manager Tamara Twardowski  
Solicitor David Onorato  
Treasurer John Klink  
Engineer Paul Schmoll

**Arriving Late:**

Tammy Liberi (8:20)

**Absent:**

Cathy Johnson

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:**

The members of Council reviewed the minutes of the August 6, 2019 regular meeting of Borough Council.

**Motion to approve the minutes:**

**Moved: S. Strauss**

**Seconded: B. Yeagley**

**Approved: 5-0**

**AXILIARY POLICE SWEARING IN**

Mayor Wismer performed the swearing in of Stephen Mihoch, resident of Franklin Court, as an auxiliary police officer.

**PUBLIC HEARING ON VERIZON FRANCHISE RENEWAL**

President Ronca read the following: This is a public hearing of the Trappe Borough Council regarding cable franchise renewal for Trappe Borough. This public hearing is held pursuant to Section 626 of the federal Cable Act, which sets forth the process for franchise renewal. The Borough's current franchise with Verizon will expire soon, and the Borough is in the process of renewing the franchise.

This public hearing is part of the preliminary portion of franchise renewal in which the Borough reviews the cable operator's past performance and identifies the Borough's future cable-related community needs. As such, as part of this public hearing, we invite comments from any citizens who wish to speak regarding either or both of the aforementioned subjects.

Franchise renewal is the best opportunity for municipalities to assert their rights with respect to their cable operators and to obtain important benefits in return for granting the cable operators the right to use their public rights-of-way. These benefits include:

1. A State-of-the-Art Cable System now and in the future;
2. Strong Customer Service Standards;
3. Free Services to Community Facilities;
4. Better Reporting Requirements from the Cable Operator;
5. Maximized Franchise Fees;
6. An Educational and Governmental (EG) Channel;
7. Capital Support for active EG Channels;
8. Legal Protections of the Rights-of-Way; and
9. Better Mechanisms to Enforce the Franchise Agreement.

These are just some of the potential benefits available through franchise renewal. Citizens may address these items or any other cable-related items that are important to them. We will now open the hearing up to citizen comments.

There were no questions or comments from the public.

**PUBLIC FORUM/AGENDA AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS:**

Aileen Johnson was present representing the Perkiomen Valley Library. She said that the summer reading programs were very successful. The Storytime at Rambo Park was attended by 26 children. The local branch (Schwenksville) will be undergoing major renovations over the next few months.

S. Mancuso – 156 Harvard Drive - reported that there is a light pole that is broken and lying on the ground in Trappe Village Apartments and there are wires exposed. He is concerned that this is a public safety hazard.

Dave Douglass – 157 Harvard Drive - inquired about what was going on with the Exxon Station, while it has been cleaned up there are still junk cars that are there. T. Twardowski will look into this.

Helen McCarthy – 328 Apian Way - asked what is going on with the Getty Station at 306 W. Main.

Eileen Guss – 310 Apian Way - complained about the sidewalks along Main Street and that it was dangerous to walk on them. She believes that property owners should be made to repair or replace and not just when the property is sold.

Fred Schutz – W. Third Avenue - said that multimodal grants may be available through DCED and PennDOT to help defray the cost along Main Street.

Richard Ladson – 333 Apian Way - thinks that it is confusing to enter the Borough Hall driveway because it appears to be one way, although the sign is for the neighboring property.

P. Ronca asked if there was any more public comment not related to the West Seventh Avenue Project. There was none.

## **STAFF REPORTS:**

### **W. Seventh Avenue Tract – Trappe Village Apartments LLC**

P. Ronca explained to the public that the Borough received a land development plan proposing 96 apartments for a tract of land on W. Seventh Avenue that is zoned Limited Industrial. The Borough's Zoning Officer denied the use as an allowed use and the applicant appealed the decision to the Zoning Hearing Board. A hearing is scheduled for September 30, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. While Borough Council supports the Zoning Officer's decision and has authorized the Borough Solicitor to attend and defend the Zoning Officer's decisions, the Borough must still review the land development and proceed with the application process.

Susan Rice, P.E. was present on behalf of the applicant and gave an overview of the proposed plan and discussed briefly the Borough Engineer's review letter. While she is unable to address the zoning issue of whether or not the use is allowed, she did state the applicant will comply with the comments in the Borough Engineer's letter. The applicant is working on updating the Traffic Impact Study and address the comments on the plan. The applicant would like some input from the Borough on some of the open space comments in the review letter. Council asked if the applicant would be requesting any waivers and the response was that there would be one waiver involving stormwater to allow flat bottom basins.

Council asked about parking space and if that meets the requirement. The parking provided meets the stand-alone parking ordinance of 2 per dwelling units. Another question was raised about open space. S. Rice explained that the applicant will be offering the fee in lieu of providing the open space. Council expressed a concern about open space and felt strongly that they would like to see as much open space as possible and would prefer to have open space as opposed to the fee as often as possible.

#### Public Comment/Questions

Scott Lay – 98 Holley Drive - said that he believes that there are environmental issues with the W. Seventh Avenue Tract and that he can't believe that it passed testing. Does not feel the property is big enough for 4 buildings. Also outlined traffic concerns with the people using Holly and Cherry as a cut through.

Sarah Calvin – 97 W. Seventh Avenue - mentioned concerns about traffic, and wondered what the burden to the school district would be.

Staci Hiergesell – 106 W. Seventh Avenue - is there going to be a traffic light? Improvements will be made as required by PennDOT.

David Perlin – 116 Joan Drive - expressed public safety concerns with the amount of people/dwelling units on the site. T. Twardowski - the fire marshal and fire chief have seen the plans and will review the future submissions. They apartments will need to have sprinklers.

Robert Azadian - 82 Holly Drive - currently 500 units are being added in Upper Providence Township near the Wegmans and another 200 near Pfizer – is there that much of a demand for housing?

Sam Mancuso – 156 Harvard Drive - asked who was Trappe Village Apartments, LLC and recommended that the applicant consider changing the name from Trappe Village Apartments as there currently is a development with that name in Trappe.

Fred Schuetz – 72 W Third Avenue - asked if there was a rental price point established.

Richard Ladson – Carriage Ridge - is there a predisposition from Council as to how this development will go? D. Onorato stated that Council has taken a formal position to oppose the appeal to the zoning determination. As far as the plan submission, Council will keep an open mind and review the plan in good faith.

**Eye Design – plan revision**

T. Twardowski reported that the Planning Commission reviewed the plan revision and recommended approval. P. Schmoll reviewed the stormwater calculations and reported that according to the information submitted there was sufficient capacity in the designed stormwater improvements to handle the additional 1500 SF of impervious surface

**A motion to approve the minor plan revision to Eye Design Land Development to shift the parking closer to the building and add 1500 SF of additional impervious as per the plan dated 6/21/19:**

**Moved: P. Webster**

**Seconded: S. Martin**

**Approved: 4-1  
S. Strauss voted no**

**Engineer’s Report:** The written Engineer’s Report from Paul Schmoll, representing Barry Isett Associates (BIA) was presented to all to review. A copy of the report is available at Borough Hall.

P. Schmoll reviewed the updated schedule for the proposed salt shed. Public Works has decided to bid the project now so that they have a budget number prior to the end of the year

USG will be in the Borough televising storm sewers on September 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>.

The First Avenue storm sewer project is currently out to bid.

T. Twardowski reported to Council that Sugar Hill Circle was milled and paved this summer. In preparation for that one of the inlets on the road was replaced as the structure was deteriorated. After the milling and paving, it was noticed that there is water ponding on the roadway and it is not getting into the inlet. These two maintenance items were not done as one project but rather by two independent providers. P. Schmoll explained that the contractor was asked to come back and try to mill a little more to help with the water flow but it is apparent that there is still some ponding. The Engineer’s recommendation is that the storm inlet be reset and lowered a little bit and then the water should flow into it. The asphalt will be regraded and repaired when that work is done. The road project for 2020 is to mill and pave W. First Avenue so that work can be incorporated into that contract. Council asked if something was done incorrectly. P. Schmoll stated that there were too many variables to pinpoint a fault, as it was not all done by as one project. We understand that this may cause some inconvenience to the residents on the roadway, but it seems most cost effective to incorporate the work with next year’s contract rather than bid a project now.



**Borough Manager's Report:** The written Borough Manager's report by Tamara Twardowski was presented to all for review. A copy of the report is available at Borough Hall.

T. Twardowski provided a proposal from Advanced Innovations and Solutions, Inc., our IT consultant for upgrades budgeted for 2019 including Windows 10 upgrades and a new Network Switch.

**Motion to move forward with proposal from AIS, Inc. in the amount of \$1,417.00:**

**Moved: B. Yeagley**

**Seconded: S. Martin**

**Approved: 6 – 0**

T. Twardowski requested authorization to advertise for bids for the 2019-2020 plowing contract.

**Motion to authorize advertisement for bids for 2019-2020 plowing contract:**

**Moved: S. Strauss**

**Seconded: P. Webster**

**Approved: 6 – 0**

T. Twardowski presented two alternate exhibits from the design of the intersection at Third Avenue and Main Street. The first one shows an improved radius for turning onto East Third Avenue coming from Collegeville and the second is the intersection as it is now. To improve the radii of the intersection there would be a greater impact on property for an easement. Borough Council requested that T. Twardowski meet with the property owner and see what their concerns and thoughts were.

T. Twardowski shared a handout on how pet waste affects stormwater and that it is best for the environment to pick up your pet's waste rather than leave it on the ground.

**Solicitor's Report:** no report

**Motion to accept the staff reports:**

**Moved: S. Martin**

**Seconded: T. Liberi**

**Approved: 6-0**

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Administrative Services:** C. Johnson had provided a copy of a purchasing policy for distribution with your monthly packet. P. Ronca requested that if any Council member had comments or concerns to please get them to her within the next week.

### **Parks, Recreation, and Open Space:**

S. Strauss reported that the trees are supposed to be removed at Rambo Park within the next few weeks. It is anticipated that the 2020 will have an increased budget request for park/tree maintenance.

S. Strauss also gave an update on the Regional Authority; they have refinanced some of their old debt and were able to get a rate under 1.91%.

S. Strauss reported that the next Business Committee meeting will be in October, that a date is currently being discussed amongst committee members. He also brought up the possibility of a concert or movie in the park to be held in Trappe Borough next year. He suggested that we could consider something at Water Works and possibility do it in conjunction with Collegeville Borough as it is a joint park. T. Twardowski will reach out to Collegeville and see what they are currently doing and if they may have any interest in doing something jointly.

**Planning, Zoning, Ordinances:** The Trappe Planning Commission met August 20<sup>th</sup> and reviewed the Eye Design minor revision and also the W Seventh Ave proposal. T. Twardowski said that she did speak with Connie Peck and she would be willing to fill the remainder of Matt Caffrey's term.

**Motion to appoint Connie Peck to the remainder of Matt Caffrey's term (ends 2019):**

**Moved: S. Strauss**

**Seconded: P. Webster**

**Approved: 6-0**

**Public Works & CTMA:** The minutes of the August 27, 2019 meeting of CTJPW and the CTMA were presented. A copy is available for inspection at Borough Hall.

**Traffic & Safety:** The August 2019 State Police and Trappe Company report and the July 2019 Trappe Fire Company Ambulance report were presented. The Fire Task Force will be meeting on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. T. Twardowski will reach out to our new Community Liaison for the State Police and see if we can get a meeting scheduled.

**Motion to accept the committee reports:**

**Moved: T. Liberi**

**Seconded: P. Webster**

**Approved: 6-0**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Trappe Community Day:**

P. Ronca discussed tasks that need volunteers. One of the main needs is for someone to help direct where vendors should set up and also help with an "information desk" type task. P. Ronca and C. Peck will be reaching out to the Borough Businesses to ask for support.

**Motion to adjourn at 9:30 p.m.:**

**Moved: P. Webster**

**Seconded: S. Strauss**

**Approved: 6-0**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Tamara D. Twardowski  
Borough Secretary**