

**MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 2, 2021
MEETING OF TRAPPE BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Council President Cathy Johnson called to order the regular meeting of Trappe Borough Council, held virtually, on February 2, 2021 at 7:04 p.m. and led the pledge of allegiance.

Those Present Were:

President Cathy Johnson
Vice President Scott Martin
Dave Davis
Tom Lauterio
Mallory Perlin
Stu Strauss
Pat Webster

Also Present:

Manager Marcus Dolny
Solicitor David Onorato
Treasurer John Klink
Engineer Ryan Kern

Absent: Mayor Matthew Wismer

C. Johnson announced that an executive session was held prior to the meeting to discuss possible land acquisition and possible litigation.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

The members of Council reviewed the minutes of the January 5, 2021 regular meeting.

Motion to approve the minutes:

Moved: S. Strauss

Seconded: S. Martin

Approved: 7/0

PUBLIC HEARING – ORDINANCE #461

D. Onorato opened the public hearing for Ordinance #461 at 7:09 PM which was advertised in The Pottstown Mercury on January 26, 2021. The Ordinance amends Chapter 90 of the Code of the Borough of Trappe pertaining to Article I – Compensation and Article II Certification of Taxes to Provide for the Compensation for the Tax Collector for the Borough of Trappe. After an overview of the Ordinance was given, the hearing was open for Council or public comment. No Comment was made.

Cathy Johnson closed the public hearing for Ordinance #461 at 7:11 PM.

PUBLIC FORUM/AGENDA AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

Andrew J. Besold and Matthew Popeck, representatives from the Montgomery County Planning Commission spoke before Council in regards to consideration for bike lanes to be installed along Main Street connecting Upper Providence and Collegeville.

With Main Street scheduled to be repaved in 2021, this request fits the parameters outlined in the Bike Montco Plan. The request would have to come from the Municipality for PennDOT to review the feasibility of installing 5-foot bike lanes in both directions. PennDOT would cover the

cost of the study, design, and ultimately installation. The Municipality would be responsible for maintaining signage in relation to the lanes, which is generally a minimal cost. S. Martin said he may be in the minority but was all for it. F. Schuetz, a member of the audience, echoed S. Martin stating it's important for the safety of the cyclists. S. Strauss questioned legality and regulation issues, especially in regards to a vehicle entering the bike lane. B. Greenwood, Fire Chief, raised concern of emergency vehicles being able to get by and the effects it could have in that respect. C. Johnson then stated that she felt it be in the best interest for Council to review further and tabled the matter until next meeting.

David Beard, College Wood HOA, asked about the status and an update in regards to the basin and the related BMP. It was noted an update was coming in the engineer's report.

STAFF REPORTS:

Borough Engineer: A copy of the written report is on file at the Borough Office.

P. Schmoll submitted paperwork for Hidden Hollow Escrow Release #8.

Motion to accept the Certification of Completion for Escrow Reduction #8 in the amount of \$7,650.00:

Moved: S. Martin

Seconded: P. Webster

Approved: 7-0

A proposal for plan development and project review was presented in regards to the Borough Hall's ADA Ramp totaling \$15,700.00. Council questioned the reasoning for using concrete. R. Kern stated he did not recommend other options and they would not be explored under this scope of work. Concrete has the best combination of value and longevity. Although design has not taken place at this time, he would assume the intention will be for walls with gravel. Project cost could range from 40K to 70K.

Motion to accept the proposal as presented:

Moved: P. Webster

Seconded: S. Martin

Approved: 7-0

Colonel's Place parking restrictions were further discussed, with a proposed limited parking model. This application would designate parking spaces on the public road with needed markings to delineate. This was done after a practical application test was done with residents, Barry Isett engineer P. Scholl, Council Member S. Martin, Fire Chief B. Greenwood, and Borough Manager M. Dolny. The test revealed that even with some restricted maneuverability the ladder truck was able to navigate the cul-de-sac with cars parked on along the outside. There was however issues with placement of rigors, and the ability to freely move around the truck during an emergency. Still leaving in question safety measures. T. Lauterio felt the plan was a fair compromise.

Residents *in attendance* remain in disagreement; D. Sharkey disagrees with the Fire Chief's placement of the ladder truck stating there are other ways. Residents *in attendance* feel they are being singled out and feel there are other area's in the Borough with the same issues. Council reiterated that the main focus was addressing safety concerns and nothing else. D. Onorato did not recommend leaving it up to the HOA, as the Fire Chief has made the Borough aware of safety concerns and thus the Council has a duty to act. Liability is on them if they don't regardless of any agreements or understandings.

S. Martin stated this is about doing what is right for public safety. J. Diemer and K. Hillegas asked if the Borough would be doing this for all streets. K. Sharkey said they, the Colonel's Place Community, appreciate our efforts and the fact that the Council has been working with them. K. Sharkey and J. Hillegas stated that they hope the residents will be consulted on the design if this plan is instituted. S. Martin suggested that the current proposal be shared with the HOA and the matter be tabled for decision until next meeting.

Treasurer's Report:

John Klink presented the Treasurer's Report dated January 31, 2021 along with a bill list from the close out meeting, two payrolls, and direct charges from Phoenixville Federal Credit, and with checks 3217-3246 for payment totaling \$70,467.50.

A motion to pay bills as listed:

Moved: S. Strauss

Seconded: P. Webster

Approved: 7/0

John Klink presented the Treasurer Report dated January 31, 2021 for the Customers Bank Liquid Fuels Fund direct charges by PECO in the amount of \$1,946.43.

A motion was requested to pay bills as listed:

Moved: T. Lauterio

Seconded: D. Davis

Approved: 7/0

John Klink presented the Treasurer's Report dated January 31, 2021 for the Customers Bank Escrow Fund check numbers 1199-1200 in the amount of \$7,887.75.

A motion was requested to the pay bills as listed:

Moved: P. Webster

Seconded: T. Lauterio

Approved: 7/0

Borough Manager's Report: A written copy of the report is on file at the Borough Office.

M. Dolny reminded Council to return the Ethics Form to office that was included in their meeting packs.

M. Dolny brought before Council a sign permit application for 595 West Main Street, Catagnus Funeral Home in the VC Zoning District for approval.

Motion to approve the plan as presented for 595 W. Main Street:

Moved: P. Webster

Seconded: S. Strauss

Approved: 7/0

M. Dolny brought before Council a proposal for a comprehensive review of the Borough's Zoning Ordinance from Barry Isett. Research and Update of the ordinance at \$24,500.00 with a cost of \$650.00 per meeting. M. Dolny feels the current version is out of date and in need of a revision. S. Strauss and S. Martin echoed the same sentiments. The initial phase will be a review and focus group, followed by presentation to planning and professional staff, public meetings, and Council's approval.

Motion to approve the proposal as presented:

Moved: S. Strauss

Seconded: P. Webster

Approved: 7/0

A flyer outlining key actions to prevent highway pollution was distributed as part of the on-going MS4 education.

M. Dolny also submitted the permit report for the month.

Solicitor's Report:

D. Onorato presented Council with the Conditional Use Decision for 421 West Main Street. J. Salkowski appeared before Council in December of 2020. S. Strauss asked about curb and sidewalk which has already been taken care of.

Motion to approve the Decision as presented:

Moved: P. Webster

Seconded: S. Strauss

Approved: 7/0

Ordinance #461 amending Chapter 90 of the Code of the Borough of Trappe pertaining to Article I – Compensation and Article II Certification of Taxes to Provide for the Compensation for the Tax Collector for the Borough of Trappe.

Motion to approve the ordinance #461:

Moved: P. Webster

Seconded: D. Davis

Approved: 7-0

395 E 7th Avenue: John Campion, applicant for Sub-division and Land Development. The project is dividing a tract of property along the Trappe and Perkiomen Township boarder. B. Greenwood clarified the addresses for the two parcels of land. S. Strauss asked for further clarification of waivers, particularly Shade and Street Trees. D. Onorato stated the waivers are requested in part due to the fact no new construction or development with take place on the parcel of land in Trappe Borough. D. Onorato brought before Council Resolution 2021-02 approving the submitted plan. It was also noted that this is contingent on all approvals from Perkiomen Township.

Motion to approve waivers as part of Resolution 2021-02 395 E. 7th Avenue:

Moved: P. Webster

Seconded: T. Lauterio

Approved: 7-0

Motion to approve Resolution 2021-02 Preliminary/ Final Plan approval 395 E. 7th Avenue:

Moved: S. Martin

Seconded: S. Strauss

Approved: 7-0

W. Seventh Tract: Susan Rice, STA Engineering, appeared for the applicant in the matter of a 22 single family home proposal for Sub-division and Land Development. D. Onorato reviewed Montgomery County Planning Commission letter and the Borough Planning Commission remarks, and then went over the requested waivers. P. Webster stated that she was still troubled by the name, Trappe Village LLC. S. Rice clarified that the name was the entity not the project. S. Strauss stated he is against the flag lot, and feels there should be sidewalk around the entire development on both sides to be a true walkable Community. He is also concerned with the school bus picking up on 7th Avenue and congestion related to it. Parking will be an issue during that time, and there may be parking issues as they are seeing in other areas of Trappe. Asked S. Rice about possible solutions. S. Strauss proposed the flag lot be considered as overflow parking and a spot to place the mail kiosk. S. Rice showed Council the site of the proposed mail kiosk behind lot one and a proposed overview of available parking in the project. P. Webster stated parking is going to be a nightmare. S. Rice was asked if these types of proposed alternatives had been discussed with the applicants, which at this time they had not.

Sidewalks were brought up again, with C. Johnson and S. Strauss revisiting sidewalks on both sides of all roads. S. Rice stated that they felt this was creating a walkable Community. Sidewalk was not included on the inside of the loop due to the extensive frontage and it being a burden to the home owners. C. Johnson felt that was a meaningless argument. S. Rice also stated that the reasoning for limiting sidewalk on one side for the road coming in was to prevent children from crossing at 7th Avenue instead of at the cross walk at the development. D. Davis strongly suggested that the sidewalk at least be continued from lot 16 to lot 17. S. Strauss did thank S. Rice and the applicant for their willingness to connect the Community to Rambo Park with an extension of the trail.

D. Onorato reviewed the requirements for permitting a flag lot, before consideration of the waivers. Waivers included in Resolution 2021-03 were taking individually as follow:

Section 295-8.B(2) – The Applicant is requesting a waiver to allow a horizontal curve of 110 ft. A vehicle turn path plan is provided to demonstrate that fire and emergency vehicles can maneuver through the site given the reduced radius and parking on one side of the street.

Motion to approve:

Moved: T. Lauterio

Seconded: P. Webster

Approved: 7/0

Section 295-8.B(5) – The Applicant requests a waiver to allow a cul-de-sac street with a length of 668 ft. from the centerline intersection with Seventh Avenue to the easternmost limit of the cul-de-sac right-of-way. The property has limited frontage and is shaped such that a cul-de-sac street is needed to gain access to the rear of the property.

Motion to approve:

Moved: D. Davis

Seconded: P. Webster

Approved: 7/0

Section 295-9.A(3) – The Applicant is requesting a waiver to allow sidewalk along one side of the street. Sidewalk is provided along the outside of the cul-de-sac where most of the homes are located and where the lot widths are smaller. The proposed sidewalk also provides a pedestrian path to Seventh Avenue along one side of the entrance drive. Sidewalk along the interior of the cul-de-sac would place an unnecessary burden for homeowner maintenance.

Motion to approve with the condition that if the flag lot is approved sidewalk will be extended from Lot 16 to Lot 17:

S. Strauss stated he would be voting in the negative because he believes in a fully walkable Community.

Moved: P. Webster

Seconded: T. Lauterio

Approved: 4/3

S. Strauss, C. Johnson, and M. Perlin voting in the negative.

Section 295-12.H – The Applicant seeks a waiver to allow Lot 17 to be a flag lot because rear lotting is the only practical method of subdivision in this location of the property.

Motion to approve:

S. Strauss reminded Council that the Planning Commission unanimously voted against this.

Moved: P. Webster

Seconded: T. Lauterio

Approved: 4/3

S. Strauss, S. Martin, and M. Perlin voting in the negative.

Sections 295-15.I(2) and (3) – The Applicant seeks a waiver to allow the detention basin bottoms to be flat bottoms to promote infiltration and meet current PA DEP BMP Manual design standards.

Motion to approve:

Moved: S. Martin

Seconded: P. Webster

Approved: 7/0

Sections 295-15.I(4) and (5) – The Applicant seeks a waiver to allow 3:1 basin slopes in order to maximize the footprint and storage volume for the basin so that Borough and State design requirements can be met. An HOA will be established for basin maintenance.

Motion to approve:

Moved: S. Martin

Seconded: S. Strauss

Approved: 7/0

Section 295-15.I(7) – The Applicant seeks a waiver to not provide the required access ramps. The basins are infiltration facilities and vehicles are to be prohibited from being in the bottom of the basin.

Motion to approve:

Moved: S. Martin

Seconded: P. Webster

Approved: 7/0

Section 295-25.E – The Applicant seeks a waiver for tree replacement which will be met through on-site plantings and a contribution of \$1,000.00 per lot at the time of each building permit.

Motion to approve:

S. Strauss asked about street trees and landscaping package, S. Rice showed the proposed plan.

Moved: S. Martin

Seconded: T. Lauterio

Approved: 7/0

Section 295-27.A – The Applicant seeks a waiver to not provide the dog walk area, but to provide a trail connection to the existing Borough trail in Rambo Park. Given the lot configuration, a practical location for a meaningful dog walk area does not exist. A better planning alternative is to provide an off site trail connection to the existing trail in Rambo Park.

Motion to approve:

Moved: S. Strauss

Seconded: M. Perlin

Approved: 7/0

Section 295-33 – The Applicant seeks a waiver to allow a concurrent preliminary and final plan submission.

Motion to approve:

Moved: D. Davis

Seconded: T. Lauterio

Approved: 7/0

Sections 295-34.C(1) and E(1) – The Applicant seeks a waiver to provide an aerial plan to supplement the survey data shown on the plans.

Parks, Recreation, & Open Space:

Working on getting bids for summer maintenance.

Public Works & CTMA:

Minutes from 12/16/2020 meetings were presented. Reorganization update and C. Johnson has investment information if anyone is interested. Also starting to look at compensation for next round of negotiations regarding the labor contract.

Regional Planning:

D. Davis gave updates on reorganization, progress on the regional trail map, awarded grants, and Perkiomen School District.

New Business:

M. Dolny spoke to Council in regards to possible grants to target in 2021. Conclusion was to see through the outcome of current submission before committing further at this time.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: PERSONNEL

Council entered into executive session at 11:12 PM and returned to the regular open meeting at 11:24PM.

Motion to approve a merit increase to Ellen Goodman of \$1,000.00 to her annual compensation based on outstanding review of her contribution to the office and the Borough of Trappe to be granted beginning March 1, 2021:

Moved: P. Webster

Seconded: M Perlin

Approved: 7/0

Council adjourned the meeting at 11:25 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Marcus V. Dolny