

**MINUTES OF THE APRIL 5, 2022  
MEETING OF TRAPPE BOROUGH COUNCIL**

---

Council President Scott Martin called to order the regular meeting of Trappe Borough Council, held at the Borough Hall at 525 W. Main Street, on April 5, 2022 at 7:00 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council President Scott Martin asked for a Moment of Silence in honor and remembrance for fallen State Trooper and Trappe Fire Chief Branden Sisca.

**Those present were:**

Julie Bechtel  
Dave Davis  
Tara Hiley  
Scott Martin  
Mallory Perlin  
Stu Strauss  
Mayor Matthew Wismer

**Also present:**

Solicitor David Onorato  
Engineer Doug Brown  
Borough Manager Marcus Dolny

**Absent:** Theresa Pammer

Visitors: See Included Sign in Sheet

**EXECUTIVE SESSION ANNOUNCEMENT:**

**An executive session was held on March 24, 2022 to discuss contractual matters involving PennDOT.**

**The Council will hold an executive session this evening to discuss personnel matters.**

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:**

The members of Council reviewed the minutes of the March 1, 2022 regular meeting.

**Motion to approve the minutes with wording correction on the date:**

**Moved: S. Strauss**

**Seconded: J. Bechtel**

**Approved: 6/0**

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

Arnold (Bud) Bender presented his idea to Council regarding his interest to install a mini free library at Rambo Park. Council had no objections; action would take place under the managers' report.

**STAFF REPORTS:**

**Borough Engineer:** A copy of the written report is on file at the Borough Office, no action taken.

Borough Council was presented with plans and waiver requests for 803 W Main Street. D. Brown reaffirmed as in his review letter, dated 3/28/22 that the plans are substantially complete. The applicant is waiting on a few releases and reviews but the plan is substantially complete. Council addressed the following waivers:

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

**Motion to approve:**

**Moved: M. Perlin**

**Seconded: D. Davis**

**Approved: 6/0**

**Section 295-9.A** – The Applicant seeks a waiver to allow sidewalk along West Main Street to be located adjacent to the curb instead of providing a 4’ grass strip.

**Motion to approve:**

**Moved: S. Strauss**

**Seconded: T. Hiley**

**Approved: 6/0**

**Section 295-9.B** – The Applicant seeks a waiver to allow the height of the concrete curb reveal to be 6” within the site. Let it be noted that the curb reveal shall remain at 8” along Main Street.

**Motion to approve:**

**Moved: M. Perlin**

**Seconded: J. Bechtel**

**Approved: 6/0**

**Section 295-10.D** – The Applicant seeks a waiver to allow the driveway to be constructed at a maximum 7% slope, instead on the permitted maximum allowance of 5%.

**Motion to approve beginning at 34 feet from the edge of paving and not to exceed more than 120 feet in length:**

**Moved: T. Hiley**

**Seconded: M. Perlin**

**Approved: 6/0**

**Section 295-25.E** – The Applicant seeks a waiver from the requirement of providing replacement trees. Instead of the 44 trees required; the applicant proposed 10 trees and a fee in lieu of for the remaining 34.

**Motion to approve with a fee in lee in lieu of to be determined at the time of preliminary/final plan approval:**

**Moved: S. Strauss**

**Seconded: J. Bechtel**

**Approved: 6/0**

**Section 295-34.C & E** – The Applicant seeks a waiver from the requirement to show existing and proposed features within 400 feet of any land being subdivided, and an aerial plan be permitted in its place.

**Motion to approve:**

**Moved: S. Strauss**

**Seconded: M. Perlin**

**Approved: 6/0**

Applicant will work with professional staff to have all necessary agreements and Resolutions prepared and in place for plan approval at a future meeting.

The applicant spoke about grading options that were best for the relationship between his property and the Borough's adjacent property. M. Dolny said that can be discussed and handled outside of plan approval with a grading easement and permit. Council was amicable to the idea moving forward.

**Treasurer's Report:**

M. Dolny presented the Treasurer's Report dated March 31, 2022 along with a bill list for three payrolls, and direct charges from Phoenixville Federal Credit, and with checks 3619-3651 for payment totaling \$128,132.78. S. Strauss asked if that was our last bill for snow removal, to which M. Dolny said to the best of his knowledge it was.

**Motion to pay the bills as listed:**

**Moved: S. Strauss**

**Seconded: T. Hiley**

**Approved: 6/0**

M. Dolny presented the Treasurer Report dated March 31, 2022 for the Customers Bank Liquid Fuels Fund direct charges by PECO in the amount of \$1,921.75.

**A motion was requested to pay bills as listed:**

**Moved: M. Perlin**

**Seconded: D. Davis**

**Approved: 6/0**

M. Dolny presented the Treasurer's Report dated March 31, 2022 for the Victory Bank Escrow Fund check numbers 1001-1005 in the amount of \$14,160.14

**A motion was requested to the pay bill as listed:**

**Moved: S. Strauss**

**Seconded: J. Bechtel**

**Approved: 6/0**

M. Dolny said that they are looking at investment options as the transition from Banks is finalized.

**Mayor's Report:**

Noted that on March 26, 2022 Trappe held its first farm auction.

Mayor Wismer spoke in regards to multiple inquiries regarding the handling of Stormwater Management, due to these inquiries, in a joint effort with the Council and Borough Staff, he offered Proclamation 1-2022 Stormwater Effects of the Perkiomen Watershed in Berks, Bucks, Lehigh, and Montgomery Counties. Council unanimously agreed with the proclamation.

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

M. Dolny presented B. Bender's request to install a Free Mini Library in Rambo Park, construction would be at his cost and his responsibility to monitor and maintain. It was also noted that for any installation assistance that the applicant reaches out to one of the local Scout Troops.

**Motion to approve:**

**Moved: S. Strauss**

**Seconded: J. Bechtel**

**Approved: 6/0**

M. Dolny asked for Council to approve exercising an additional contracted year under the current Waste Hauling/Recycling contract provisions.

**Motion to extend:**

**Moved: S. Strauss**

**Seconded: J. Bechtel**

**Approved: 6/0**

M. Dolny gave updates on the FUGO Tract Development, Main Street Improvements, the upcoming Newsletters, and announced upcoming meetings for Recreation (4/21/22 at 6:00PM) and Business (4/21/22 at 7:30PM).

M. Dolny also spoke of his time at the PRPS conference in relation to knowledge obtained and benefits to our upcoming park renovation project. He noted that the DCNR grant had been submitted to accompany several others that are already in the works, and stated that he would be shifting his focus onto DCED for another grant opportunity of up to \$250,000.00 of the \$770,000 project. M. Dolny also spoke regarding the park's future name as it currently is generically known as the Borough Hall Tot Lot. With the extensive redevelopment of the area M. Dolny said that a more fitting and appropriate name would be needed. He noted that given the unfortunate passing of local resident and Fire Chief Branden Sisca he felt a fitting tribute would be as follows: Sisca Community Park and Garden – A Space for Family and Growth. M. Dolny highlighted the fact that Family and Growth were two of Chief Sisca's core values and he could not think of a better place for them to be embodied than a park and garden. Council felt it would be a fitting tribute and thus the Borough would move forward with the name.

The permit report for March was provided.

**Borough Solicitor:**

Solicitor Onorato reviewed the Lease agreement with T-Mobile. They are looking to place a generator on a site in the area already under agreement. Clarification was given regarding possible hazards.

**Motion to approve as presented:**

**Moved: S. Strauss**

**Seconded: J. Bechtel**

**Approved: 6/0**

**Motion to approve staff reports as presented:**

**Moved: M. Perlin**

**Seconded: T. Hiley**

**Approved: 6/0**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Traffic and Safety:**

Reports received: Trappe Fire Co. (March) & State Police (February)

Fire Company was brought back into service the morning of April 5, 2022 following the passing of Chief Sisca.

M. Dolny and S. Martin are meeting with Deputy Chief Bolger next week.

**Administrative Services:**

S. Martin stated that along with Borough Manager M. Dolny, J. Bechtel, and M. Perlin a search was conducted to fill the soon to be vacated Administrative Assistant position. M. Dolny noted that in a very competitive market the selection committee moved quickly in order to secure their selected candidate. M. Dolny said the committee has extended an offer letter to Kimberly Godshall which has been accepted and will be kept on file, pending board confirmation.

**Motion to approve the hire of Kimberly Godshall as presented:**

**Moved: T. Hiley**

**Seconded: S. Strauss**

**Approved: 6/0**

**Business, Property & Parks:**

S. Strauss stated that the Borough Manager attempted to gain quotes for services for seasonal grounds work to no avail. M. Dolny was pleased with Russo’s bid for 2023 and noted we have always had good work and response from the company.

**Motion to award to Russo Landscaping:**

**Moved: S. Strauss**

**Seconded: D. Davis**

**Approved: 6/0**

**Finance Committee:** No Report

**Recreation:**

The upcoming meeting was noted along with continued planning of Trappe Day.

**Public Affairs & Legislation:** No Report

**Street & Development:** No Report

**Planning & Zoning:** No Report

**Regional Planning:**

M. Dolny reported on behalf of T. Pammer that MCPC had a presentation regarding a Climate Vulnerability Analysis and that the Perkiomen Trail Amenities map is complete.

**Public Works & CTMA:**

Minutes and financial reports from the February 22, 2022 meetings were provided. D. Davis noted that they are seeing increased costs relating to the purchase of the new International Truck due to supply issues.

**Regional Sewer:**

S. Strauss reported that they are looking at about 80% completion of the interceptor project, and they have begun researching the acquisition of a generator for the Sewer facility that is expected to be in the 2-million-dollar range.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** None

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

**Borough Council entered into executive session to discuss personnel at 8:40PM.  
Borough Council reconvened the general meeting at 9:30PM.**

**Council adjourned the meeting at 9:31PM.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Marcus V. Dolny**