

**MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 6, 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 December 6, 2022 at 7:00 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Those present were:

Dave Davis
Scott Martin
Stu Strauss
Mallory Perlin
Theresa Pammer
Mayor Matthew Wismer

Also present:

Solicitor Dave Onorato
Engineer Ryan Kern
Borough Manager Marcus Dolny
Treasurer John Klink

Absent: Tara Hiley, Julie Bechtel,

Visitors were present

ANNOUNCEMENT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION:

The Council would have an executive session to discuss personnel and litigation/contractual matters at the end of the meeting with action to follow.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

The members of Council reviewed the minutes of the November 1, 2022 regular meeting:

Motion to approve the minutes:

Moved: S. Strauss

Seconded: M. Perlin

Approved: 5/0

PUBLIC FORUM/AGENDA AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

Linda Rebstock, of Rittenhouse Square, spoke out regarding the ongoing issues regarding parking and work to vehicles on Williams Way. Noting the procedure former managers used and had success with, questioning the reasoning for a new ordinance to address the issues.

In response M. Dolny, stated that the same measures have been taken but unfortunately not with the same results. This is the reasoning for considering the new ordinance, which would give strict and timelier enforcement measures. Consideration and possible adoption of this provision is slated for the January meeting.

STAFF REPORTS:

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

S. Strauss asked for clarification on how the road boring process works.

Treasurer’s Report:

John Klink presented the Treasurer’s Report dated November 30, 2022 along with a bill list for two payrolls, and direct charges from Phoenixville Federal Credit and checks 1171, 1196-1227 for payment totaling \$192,006.71

Motion to pay the bills as listed, with notation that bills related to the Fire House paid from the general fund will be reimbursed at the end of the year from loan funding:

Moved: S. Strauss Secoded: M. Perlin Approved: 5/0

J. Klink presented the Treasurer Report dated November 30, 2022 for the Liquid Fuels Fund direct charges by PECO in the amount of \$2,236.39.

A motion was requested to pay bills as listed:

Moved: T. Pammer Secoded: M. Perlin Approved: 5/0

J. Klink presented the Treasurer’s Report dated October 28, 2022 for the Escrow Fund check number 1022 in the amount of \$4,424.25.

A motion was requested to the pay bill as listed:

Moved: S. Strauss Secoded: M. Perlin Approved: 5/0

Per the recommendation of S. Strauss, M. Perlin and staff will look at amending our investment plan in order to capitalize on current rates.

Mayor’s Report:

Mayor Wismer announced the annual tree lighting ceremony for December 7th, hosted by Trappe Historical Society, that he was looking forward to being there to officially light the tree.

It was also brought to the attention of the Mayor and the Council of two local scouts that would be achieving the rank of Eagle Scout. M. Dolny work with the Mayor to prepare recognition for the achievement.

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

Barry Isett Request for Signing Authority:

M. Dolny asked Council to grant representatives from Barry Isett to sign on behalf of the Borough in regards to the High Occupancy Permits needed for the Main Street Sidewalk Projects.

Motion to Approve:

Moved: S. Strauss Secoded: T. Pammer Approved: 5/0

M. Dolny asked council for authorization to close the office to the public December 27th -29th to close out the year and prepare for 2023.

Motion to Approve:

Moved: T. Pammer

Seconded: M. Perlin

Approved: 5/0

M. Dolny presented council with proposed calendar dates for 2023 including holidays, general meetings, and planning commission meeting dates.

Motion to add Veteran’s Day to Borough’s Recognized Holidays:

Moved: S. Strauss

Seconded: M. Perlin

Approved: 5/0

Motion to Approve proposed calendar dates as presented, noting that due to holidays and conflicts there will be times meeting do not fall on the first and third Tuesdays of the Month.

Moved: M. Perlin

Seconded: S. Strauss

Approved: 5/0

M. Dolny report to Council that after speaking with PECO they will not permit their electrical boxes to be painted, this was clarification to a previous request from a community member.

M. Dolny also revisited the discussion regarding permit parking on Williams Way. Noting that he has an announcement going out to the communities effected after the meeting.

A copy of the monthly permit report was distributed.

Borough Solicitor:

D. Onorato handled a matter previously listed under the Manager’s report. A request from Waste Management to start residential collection at 6:00AM due to safety concerns and traffic issues on main roads. It was found that the Borough could make this allowed if they wish to do so.

Motion was made to grant a provisional period of three months, allowing a 6:00AM start time for residential waste and recycling collection. The matter will be reconsidered at the April meeting for officially establishing the start time.

Moved: D. Davis

Seconded: S. Strauss

Approved: 5/0

At the November General Council Meeting the Council heard the application of GNN Holdings, LLC for land development at 24 East 1st Ave. D. Onorato presented council with RESOLUTION 2022-13 outlining the conditions and agreement of that approval:

Motion to Approve RESOLUTION 2022-13:

Moved: T. Pammer

Seconded: M. Perlin

Approved: 4/1

D. Davis voting in the negative. He feels the parking lot encumbers the property. It’s currently a residence, not yet an office and sees a potential impact on the neighbors and future resale. Presents a risk for sprawl and is displacing a longtime resident.

Motion to accept professional reports as presented:

Moved: S. Strauss

Seconded: M. Perlin

Approved: 5/0

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Traffic and Safety:

Reports from Trappe Fire Company and Freedom Valley Medical Rescue were presented to Council. J. Bolger gave an update on the operational partnership with Upper Providence. Switch over is just pending the county transfer at this time, should be early in the new year.

S. Strauss confirmed that at this time no monetary agreements or commitments exist. M. Dolny stated that he is correct, and he is coordinating with Upper Providence Management to start those initial discussion for potential future framework is needed. Also it was noted the next fire house building meeting would be the 15th of December.

Administrative Services:

M. Perlin discussed the consideration of changing the Borough's Office hours.

Motion to change the Borough Office hours beginning January 1, 2023 to Monday thru Friday 8:30AM to 4:00PM or by appointment as needed.

Moved: M. Perlin

Seconded: S. Strauss

Approved: 5/0

Payment in Lieu of Pension will be discussed in Executive Session before any action is taken.

Business, Property & Parks:

No Report.

Finance Committee:

M. Perlin presented the 2023 Proposed Budget and discussed the funding model for the new Fire House which would require a .25 mil increase in 2023 to the Emergency Services Tax as part of the 4 year consideration.

Motion to advertise the 2023 Proposed Budget for Consideration at the December 29, 2022 close out meeting:

Moved: S. Strauss

Seconded: M. Perlin

Approved: 5/0

Motion to prepare and advertise an ordinance setting the tax rates for 2023 with a .25 mil increase to the Emergency Services Tax:

Moved: M. Perlin

Seconded: T. Pammer

Approved: 5/0

M. Perlin discussed the 2022 contributions and donations.

Her recommendation was as follows:

Family Services of Montgomery County - \$500.00

Trappe Historical Society - \$3,000.00

Community Music School - \$500.00

Perkiomen Valley Library - \$1500.00

Pillars of Light & Love will be tabled pending meeting with the organization.

Motion to approve as listed:

Moved: M. Perlin

Seconded: S. Strauss

Approved: 5/0

Recreation: No Report

Public Affairs & Legislation: No Report

Street & Development:

Memorial Committee will be meeting later this month with expected recommendations in the new year.

Planning & Zoning:

The application of Gorski Engineering, Inc. on behalf of Trappe Fire Company seeking zoning relief at an upcoming zoning hearing was presented to Council for a motion of support.

Motion granting support to the application:

Moved: D. Davis

Seconded: M. Perlin

Approved: 5/0

Motion granting a waiver of potential conflict for the law firm of Hladik, Onorato, & Federman, LLP to represent the Borough and Fire Company at the Zoning Hearing:

Moved: S. Strauss

Seconded: M. Perlin

Approved: 5/0

Regional Planning: No Report

Public Works & CTMA:

Budget being considered for 2023, no rate increases for utilities at this time.

Regional Sewer: No Report

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Executive Session – Personnel and Contracts/Litigation, with action to follow.

M. Dolny announced that during this session the Borough Emergency Medical Services for 2023 would be discussed. With current uncertainty and requested contributions from Freedom Valley Medical Rescue he was instructed at the last meeting to explore other options and had met with the following services: Plymouth, Friendship, and Skippack.

Entered at 8:47PM

Exited at 9:25PM with the following action:

Motion was made for the following payments in lieu of pension for 2022:

Kim Godshall: \$2,584.61 (8%)

Marcus Dolny: \$8,000.03 (8%)

Ellen Goodman: \$1,844.02 (8%)

Moved: M. Perlin

Seconded: T. Pammer

Approved: 5/0

Motion to discontinue Freedom Valley Medical Rescue as designated first due as of January 1, 2023:

Moved: D. Davis

Seconded: M. Perlin

Approved: 5/0

Motion to adopt RESOLUTION 2022-12 Designating an Emergency Medical Service Provider as of January 1, 2023, awarding the first due designation to Skippack Emergency Medical Services.

Moved: S. Strauss

Seconded: M. Perlin

Approved: 5/0

Council adjourned the meeting at 9:32PM

Respectfully submitted,

Marcus V. Dolny