

**MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 7, 2023
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 February 7th at 7:00 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Those present were:

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

Also present:

Solicitor Dave Onorato
Engineer Paul Schmoll
Borough Manager Marcus Dolny
Treasurer John Klink

Absent: None

Visitors were present

ANNOUNCEMENT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION:

The Council would have an executive session to discuss personnel and possible litigation

PUBLIC HEARING – ORDINANCE 473 STORMWATER

D. Onorato called the public hearing to order at 7:01 PM.

D. Onorato reviewed the proposed changes as prepared by C. Mildner of Barry Isett and Associates. Council Members discussed the vulnerability and asked for clarification regarding the requests for waivers to these requirements. S. Martin stated that this does allow for council to make these decisions, but M. Dolny stated that the hardship can not be one of financial hardship. It must be physically impossible to meet. As P. Schmoll reiterated that almost all the time the requirements can be met at a cost. S. Strauss also asked for clarification to testing requirements, and M. Dolny stated these are already being performed and outlined as required by our MS4 permitting, P. Schmoll confirmed. D. Davis commented his concern regarding basins being dedicated to individual property owners. M. Dolny agreed and stated a focus to prompt that basins are managed by companies or HOAs. M. Dolny stated that the changes are being made to come into compliance with current MS4 standards, L. Diprete commended the board and staff for being on top of the MS4 program.

D. Onorato asked to close the public meeting at 7:17 PM and reconvened the regularly scheduled borough council meeting.

Motion to close:

Moved: D. Davis

Seconded: M. Perlin

Approved: 7/0

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

The members of Council reviewed the minutes of the January 3, 2023 regular meeting:

Motion to approve the minutes:

Moved: S. Strauss

Seconded: T. Hiley

Approved: 7/0

PUBLIC FORUM/AGENDA AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

L. Rebstock spoke of issues regarding speed on Williams Way and the need for Trappe to explore getting its own Police Force. M. Dolny did speak about some of the obstacles to this with the largest being a significant financial burden. L. Rebstock noted the growth in the community, and that we were partnered with Colledgeville in the past. There is more staffing in local forces than with State Police. S. Martin noted that it is reviewed annually and we are fortunate that we don't see major crime at this point. M. Dolny spoke about options, but noted that there has not been any formal requests for proposals due to the fact it hasn't been an openness to explore from our neighboring communities.

M. Stomel, a former council member gave a brief history of his experience with Trappe and Colledgeville in regard to Police Service. Felt it was looked at strictly as cost saving measures and felt the boards were always reactive instead of being proactive. Gave an example of accidents having to occur before traffic lights are put in. M. Dolny agreed but stated that in order for those measures, traffic signals, stop signs to legally be installed traffic studies must be conducted and incidents must support the installation. Can't be installed simply because we want too, right or wrong.

M. Stomel asked about the decision to proceed with Skippack Ambulance and was concerned regarding the possible response times. Felt we are compromising safety to save money. S. Martin addressed stating that this measure was not at all about saving money, that we had budgeted the money requested by Freedom Valley Ambulance. Stated that the problem was the organization was not staffing our station and Skippack was already responding to a number of our calls. To compound those concerns there was major communication issues and other problems that lead the Council to go in a different direction. S. Martin said that we were very supportive of Freedom Valley and wanted to see them succeed, we still do and wish them the best. It was a very difficult decision and one that was not reached easily. However, the decision that was made was what the Council ultimately felt was in the best interests of the community. M. Dolny stated that we are monitoring all calls for their response times and results are meeting our expectations.

L. Diprete asked when the lack of results started to tail off from our predecessor. S. Martin stated that there was staffing issues and funding issues that were not uncommon to the industry that started to present challenges. We were working with them pretty closely and based on the plan we were shown there just wasn't a lot of confidence moving forward.

L. Diprete asked if they were asking for more money. S. Martin said that they did, but were had budgeted for it and that wasn't a deciding factor.

M. Coyne asked if Freedom Valley would remain housed at 5th Ave. M. Dolny stated that they are currently transitioning to a rumored location in Collegeville. M. Coyne asked if Skippack would than be housing an ambulance at that location. M. Dolny stated that the intention is to have that happen as the calls and response would warrant, but currently they are responding from Skippack and staging during high traffic and weather occurrences. M. Dolny is monitoring reports every morning and the average response time is right around ten minutes. Our proposed new fire house does have separate accommodations to house EMS services, and we expect to break ground in spring or early summer. Noting that Mr. Gorski was here at tonight's meeting to discuss the land development.

STAFF REPORTS:

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

Silverleaf letters will be going out to the community for the 2023 road project, with possible alternates additions of Williams Way and Borough Line Road.

M. Dolny also noted that no action would be taken on the 7th avenue development, issuing permits or releases until E&S measures have been corrected.

Proposed Land Development – Trappe Fire Station – Jerry Gorski

M. Dolny stated that Council had a review letter dated October 14, 2023 from Barry Isett Reviewing the plan, draft minutes from the October Planning Commission Meeting, and Montgomery County Planning Commission review letter dated February 7, 2023. M. Dolny reviewed the recommended waiver approvals from the planning commission, and the variances granted by the Zoning hearing board. He noted the primary recommendation of the Montgomery County Planning Commission was for additional side walk connecting the building to the public sidewalk.

J. Gorski Reviewed the plan, time line and intentions of the project. New building to be in compliance with all comments in the engineer's letter and with the addition of the noted sidewalk by the County. New building will be constructed before the old one is removed and the final paving takes place.

Council is in agreement of the proposal and the requested waivers.

Motion to authorize the preparation of a resolution for adoption with granted waivers:

Moved: S. Strauss

Seconded: M. Perlin

Approved: 7/0

Treasurer's Report:

Motion to ratify January's Bills Check Numbers 1253 -1261 totaling \$5,692.26 and Reports:

Moved: S. Strauss

Seconded: M. Perlin

Approved: 7/0

John Klink presented the Treasurer's Report dated January 31, 2023 along with a bill list for two payrolls, and direct charges from Phoenixville Federal Credit and checks 1262-1295 for payment totaling \$111,076.56

Motion to pay the bills as listed:

Moved: S. Strauss

Seconded: M. Perlin

Approved: 7/0

J. Klink presented the Treasurer Report dated January 31, 2023 for the Liquid Fuels Fund direct charges by PECO in the amount of \$2,316.62.

A motion to approve bills as listed:

Moved: T. Pammer

Seconded: J. Bechtel

Approved: 7/0

J. Klink presented the Treasurer's Report dated January 31, 2023 for the Escrow Fund check number 1024 in the amount of \$2,423.13.

A motion was requested to the pay bill as listed:

Moved: S. Strauss

Seconded: M. Perlin

Approved: 7/0

J. Klink presented the Council all reports for the month of January and M. Dolny stated they would be looking at moving an additional \$500,000 into Plgit Term per the investment.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Wismer stated that S. Martin presented Proclamations 1-2023 and 2-2023 on his behalf to two local Boy Scouts for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

Mayor Wismer also participated in an inter-faith service held in honor of Martin Luther King, focusing his remarks around the following quote "People fail to get along because they fear each other; they fear each other because they don't know each other; they don't know each other because they have not communicated with each other."

The Mayor reminded those in attendance and Council that he would be offering a Piano Concert to be held at the Community Music School this Saturday February 11, 2023, reception starting at 6:30PM.

Borough Manager's Report:

M. Dolny presented Council with Authorization of Service for Barry Isset to assist in the third phase of the RACP Grant Process projected at \$4,500.00

Motion to approve:

Moved: S. Strauss

Seconded: M. Perlin

Approved: 7/0

M. Spillane spoke to Council as M. Dolny brought his request for use of auxiliary police for assistance in a community scavenger hunt presented by Escape Trappe. Clarification was given regards to liability, and per D. Onorato there would be no increase to liability.

Motion to approve use if there is coverage available:

Moved: T. Pammer

Seconded: M. Perlin

Approved: 7/0

M. Dolny informed Council that the Borough was awarded another Grant for the Sisca Community Park and Garden from DCNR in the amount of \$450,700 towards phase two of the project. Bringing the total to just under one million dollars with one application still outstanding.

M. Dolny asked for approval for of the letter dated December 12, 2022 requesting a reduction of the escrow for the Bringhurst Subdivision and Land Development Project by \$55,370.70 from P. Schmoll. S. Strauss wanted to clarify that proper buffering has been put in place as noted in regard to an agreed landscaping plan.

Motion to approve:

Moved: D. Davis

Seconded: J. Bechtel

Approved: 7/0

M. Dolny asked for approval to issue a letter allowing Penndot to release the Escrow held for the HOP at the Castle Cove Project on 7th Ave.

Motion to approve:

Moved: S. Strauss

Seconded: M. Perlin

Approved: 7/0

M. Dolny noted that the office is ready to move forward regarding the proposed revisions to the Borough's Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance which will be presented to the Planning Commission, Members of Council, and the Public on February on February 21, 2023 at 7:00PM.

The Borough will also be hosting a Blood Drive on April 11th and encouraged those in attendance and Council Members to sign up to donate and spread the word.

M. Dolny also presented for the record a summary of the 2022 activities the Board accomplished.

M. Dolny received a quote from the Gutter Guys for the replacement of gutters, down spouts, and installation of gutter guards totaling \$7,515.00 for Borough Hall.

Motion to approve with clarification regarding the viability of the gutter guards:

Moved: M. Perlin

Seconded: D. Davis

Approved: 7/0

M. Dolny received the 2023 service agreement from Russo Landscaping for Borough Hall, Peck/MacIlwain Trail, and Rambo Park.

Motion to approve contract date January 31, 2023 as presented:

Moved: S. Strauss

Seconded: J. Bechtel

Approved: 7/0

M. Dolny gave Council a copy of the Permit Report.

Borough Solicitor:

D. Onorato presented Ordinance 473 for consideration.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 473 outlining STORMWATER MANAGEMENT.

Moved: S. Strauss

Seconded: M. Perlin

Approved: 7/0

Motion to accept professional reports as presented:

Moved: S. Strauss

Seconded: M. Perlin

Approved: 7/0

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Traffic and Safety:

S. Martin asked for Council to consider a Letter of Intent to seek assistance from the Department of Community and Economic Development in regards to Fire & Emergency Services Merger and/or the creation of a COG to address shared services moving forward with our neighbors.

Motion to approve:

Moved: T. Pammer

Seconded: D. Davis

Approved: 7/0

J. Bolger announced to Council as part of the operational consolidation with Upper Providence Trappe Fire Company had official retired Station Number 77 and would now be identified as 68-2.

Reports were reviewed and S. Martin noted that there should be a public meeting to discuss the intentions for the new Fire Station. A date was set for Wednesday March 1, 2023 at 7:00PM

Motion to advertise the meeting:

Moved: T. Pammer

Seconded: J. Bechtel

Approved: 7/0

S. Martin stated that the Fire Company is requesting Payment for the services of Gorski Engineering in the month of January totaling \$10,250.00.

Motion to approve:

Moved: S. Strauss

Seconded: J. Bechtel

Approved: 7/0

S. Martin spoke about an unpaid invoice from Freedom Valley, Formerly Trappe Ambulance, that was over two years old in regard to services rendered from Skippack Emergency Medical Services for ALS in the amount of \$4,675.00. It was his believe that we should in an act of good faith make good on the invoice and try and recover the money.

Motion to approve payment:

Moved: T. Pammer

Seconded: M. Perlin

Approved: 7/0

Administrative Services:

S. Martin recommended the following appointments and reappointments:

- Sandy Hershey – Vacancy Board (1 Year Term)
- Stu Strauss – CTMA (5 Year Term)
- Mallory Perlin – Skippack EMS Board (1 Year Term)
- Ron Rahmer – Planning Commission (4 Year Term)
- Paul Stevens – Zoning Hearing Board (3 Year Term)
- John Kochel – Zoning Hearing Board Alternate (1 Year Term)

Motion to approve:

Moved: D. Davis

Seconded: S. Strauss

Approved: 7/0

S. Martin noted two vacancies, both one year terms for alternates on the Zoning Hearing Board and Planning Commission respectfully. M. Dolny will advertise for letters of interest.

Business, Property & Parks: No Report

Finance Committee: No Report

Recreation:

M. Perlin just noted we held our first meeting for 2023 Trappe Day as we're getting a jump on the planning

Public Affairs & Legislation: No Report

Street & Development:

T. Hiley will look into a request for a street light at Williams Way and Bentley

Planning & Zoning: No Report

Regional Planning:

Currently Preparing for Montco 2050

Public Works & CTMA:

Board made a recommendation for a 5% raise for Joe Hasting for the 2023 calendar year.

Motion to approve:

Moved: D. Davis

Seconded: M. Perlin

Approved: 7/0

Regional Sewer: No Report

Memorial Committee:

T. Hiley stated that Sue Kelly is looking to dedicate an existing bench accepting the cost of an approved plaque to be placed on the bench of choice.

Motion to approve:

Moved: T. Hiley

Seconded: M. Perlin

Approved: 7/0

Old Business:

None

New Business:

M. Dolny stated that there may be the possibility of property coming available adjacent to Rambo Park and will monitor.

Executive Session – Personnel and Possible Litigation

Entered at 9:18PM

Exited at 9:50PM, with no action

Council adjourned the meeting at 9:51PM

Respectfully submitted,

Marcus V. Dolny