

**MINUTES OF THE May 2, 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 May 2nd at 7:00 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Those present were:

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

Also present:

Solicitor Dave Onorato
Borough Manager Marcus Dolny
Engineer Ryan Kern

Absent: None

Also in Attendance:

PSP Lt. Webb, PSP Trooper Butler, Jerry Gorski, John Bolger, Richroeter, Ken Lynn, and Michelle Witman

ANNOUNCEMENT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION:

There would be an executive session held at the end of the meeting with no action to be taken regarding litigation.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

The members of Council reviewed the minutes of the April 4, 2023 regular meeting:

Motion to approve the minutes:

Moved: S. Strauss

Seconded: M. Perlin

Approved: 7/0

PUBLIC HEARING SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE:

D. Onorato opened the Public Hearing at 7:02PM and introduced Ordinance number 474 amending and restating the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance of the Borough of Trappe in its entirety, noting the ordinance was advertised as required.

Hearing No Comments or Questions the hearing was closed at 7:03PM

PUBLIC FORUM/AGENDA AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

State Police Officers, Lt. David Webb and Trooper William Butler were in attendance to discuss the community and surrounding areas. Trappe has been fortunate as they have no ongoing active issues at this point. Biggest area remains theft in the surrounding areas. However, it was noted

that in many of those cases proper measures were not taken for self-protection. The Troopers stressed to lock doors and keep valuables out of sight. They also presented help pointers in regards to scams and noted that Trooper Butler is being proactive speaking to groups about what to look out for.

STAFF REPORTS:

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

R. Kern gave updates on upcoming Borough Projects and statuses of our Grant Program.

R. Kern also presented Council with the Bid Summary Results for the 2023 Roadway Improvements. There was 5 bidders in total and R. Kern made the recommendation to award to the lowest vetted bidder: H&K Group, Inc. for the Base Bid: \$214,519.10, Alternate 1 (Borough Line Road) \$215,514.40, and Alternate 2 (Williams Way) \$39,862.10.

M. Dolny stated that the Council can so choose to award the base bid and both alternates at \$469,895.60 considerably under the proposed budget of the project of \$750,000.00.

Motion to award based on M. Dolny’s recommendation to H&K Group, Inc for the base bid and both alternatives:

Moved: S. Strauss

Seconded: J. Bechtel

Approved: 7/0

Treasurer’s Report:

M. Dolny presented the Treasurer’s Report dated April 28, 2023 along with a bill list for two payrolls, and direct charges from Phoenixville Federal Credit and checks 1353-1375 for payment totaling \$124,228.91

Motion to pay the bills as listed:

Moved: D. Davis

Seconded: M. Perlin

Approved: 7/0

M. Dolny presented the Treasurer Report dated April 28, 2023 for the Liquid Fuels Fund direct charges by PECO in the amount of \$2,349.29

A motion to approve bills as listed:

Moved: S. Strauss

Seconded: M. Perlin

Approved: 7/0

M. Dolny presented the Treasurer’s Report dated April 28, 2023 for the Escrow Fund checks number 1028 & 1029 in the amount of \$6,427.50.

A motion was requested to the pay bill as listed:

Moved: M. Perlin

Seconded: J. Bechtel

Approved: 7/0

M. Dolny presented the Council all reports for the month of April on behalf of J. Klink.

Mayor's Report:

M. Wismer informed Council earlier in the evening he had administered the oath of office new Fire Police Officer, Lincoln Martindale.

The Mayor also shared a bit of history as 245 years ago to the date of the meeting an Oneida tribe of Iroquois Native Americans moved into Trappe and set up camp for the evening during their travels.

Borough Manager's Report:

M. Dolny presented RESOLUTION 2023-5 authorizing execution of a PennDot special event permit for the closure of Main St. on May 29, 2023 for the Memorial Day Parade.

Motion to approve:

Moved: S. Strauss

Seconded: J. Bechtel

Approved: 7/0

M. Dolny presented RESOLUTION 2023-6 authorizing execution of a PennDot special event permit for the closure of Main St. on July 9, 2023 for the Annual Dinner on Main Event.

M. Perlin wanted clarification regarding who is handling costed related to the event, M. Dolny stated that they will work to meet with representatives from Historic Trappe to finalize.

Motion to approve:

Moved: T. Pammer

Seconded: S. Strauss

Approved: 7/0

M. Dolny informed Council that Jim Kelly has offered to look after the Frog Pond at Rambo Park if the Borough is willing to cover the cost of the Barley Straw, not to exceed \$150.00.

Motion to approve:

Moved: S. Strauss

Seconded: M. Perlin

Approved: 7/0

M. Dolny informed Council that he will have a student from the local high school shadowing him in the month of May.

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

Borough Solicitor:

D. Onorato presented Council with Ordinance 474 amending and restating the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance of the Borough of Trappe in its entirety, as early discussed in the public hearing for consideration for adoption.

Motion to approve ORDINANCE 474:

Moved: D. Davis

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:

J. Bolger gave reports and reviewed the events of the Rittenhouse Fire. Council commended the efforts and cooperation of everyone on scene. The limitation of damage and the number of responding volunteers was truly remarkable.

J. Bolger also let Council know of an opportunity to see training in action on May 15th at 7:15PM at Heritage Park Estates. Council is invited to attend.

A series of agreements relating to service provided by Trappe Volunteer Fire Company, the sale of the Property between the Fire Company and Borough, an understanding regarding the construction of a new Firehouse on the site, and a lease of the property were presented to council.

Council will review three of the four documents for later consideration but the Fire Services Agreement was reviewed for consideration. S. Strauss questioned the length of the agreement and the wording. He wanted to ensure that it gave flexibility to the Borough. There was also discussion regarding the level of training and proficiency of the service men and women. This is to be reviewed and determined by the Chief and his designees. S. Martin also noted that the equipment addressed in the agreement is for current equipment only. New equipment would be addressed separately.

Motion to approve the Fire Services Agreement:

Moved: M. Perlin

Seconded: T. Pammer

Approved: 7/0

Extensive discussion occurred regarding the construction contract with Blue Scope for the new Fire House occurred. D. Onorato will review the agreement. Currently the agreement is at a cost of 7.7 million dollars, but Council is concerned with the fact the price has already escalated and the contract includes provisions for price escalations for certain part and parameters of the agreement, most notably the cost of steel. Part of the additional cost is due to the need to use the Sourcewell program due to the fact this is entirely a Borough Project now.

S. Strauss expressed extreme concern over the growing cost, the escalators, and the fact the furnishings for the building are not included. M. Perlin was under the impression that once the agreement was signed the cost was locked in, but that was before we had to use the Sourcewell Program. J. Gorski said he would see if Blue Scope would had least be willing to place a cap on the escalation clauses.

The majority of the cost was related to the earth work as the site did not meet the compaction needed for the new building. M. Perlin stressed the importance to the Fire Company representation that there is a vital need for fundraising to help offset the costs. D. Davis asked about opportunities for further value engineering, but M. Dolny stated that they already have

explored all viable options and at this point would be cutting parts of the project that would still be needed at a later time at a greater cost.

The matter was then tabled for J. Gorski and M. Dolny to gather additional information and options, and for D. Onorato to review the contract.

M. Perlin noted that it was brought to her attention the lack of an AED in the Borough Office and feels it would be in the best interest to arrange for one to be purchased.

Motion to purchase an AED not to exceed \$2,500.00:

Moved: M. Perlin

Seconded: S. Strauss

Approved: 7/0

Administrative Services: No Report

Business, Property & Parks: No Report

Finance Committee: No Report

Recreation:

Reminders regarding the Memorial Day Parade and noting that another meeting for Trappe Day planning needs to be scheduled.

Public Affairs & Legislation: No Report

Street & Development: No Report

Planning & Zoning: No Report

Regional Planning:

T. Pammer noted that a survey should be distributed in relation to the MONTCO 2050 plan. M. Dolny stated that there is a rumor that the focus will be on high density housing and spoke against it, stating that it is dramatically changing the region, which will alter lifestyle and bring unwanted issues.

Public Works & CTMA:

Reports Provided from April Meeting, M. Perlin discussed the possibility of a Capital Improvements plan that could lead to purchasing water from another entity and discontinuing the use of the wells currently servicing Trappe. D. Onorato will reach out to representatives from Entech Engineering and Joe Hastings as Public Works for further clarifications.

Regional Sewer: No Report

Memorial Committee:

T. Hiley updated council on the progress of Memorials and their installation, report to be kept onfile.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

K. Lynn discuss the Silverleaf Curb and Sidewalk repairs and replacement projects. He felt since he did his repairs early he was placed at a financial disadvantage. He is requesting that his permit cost be refunded.

Motion to honor request for refund:

Moved: S. Strauss

Seconded: M. Perlin

Approved: 7/0

Executive Session –Possible Litigation

Entered at 9:20PM

Exited at 10:00PM, with no action

Council adjourned the meeting at 10:01PM

Respectfully submitted,

Marcus V. Dolny