

**MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 16, 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 November 16th at 7:00 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Those present were:

Scott Martin
Dave Davis
Stu Strauss
Mallory Perlin
Julie Bechtel
Theresa Pammer
Erin Wismer (Late Arrival 7:04PM)

Also present:

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

Absent: Mayor Matthew Wismer

Also in Attendance:

Matthew Galasso, John Bolger

EXECUTIVE SESSION – PERSONNEL

S. Martin informed the audience that there would be a brief executive session following the meeting, with possible action.

M. Dolny presented notification that the Borough Council held a workshop for the purpose of introducing the 2024 proposed budget as advertised with no action taken on November 9, 2023 which was open to the public, although none were present.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

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

Motion to approve the minutes:

Moved: S. Strauss

Seconded: T. Pammer

Approved: 6/0

PUBLIC FORUM/AGENDA AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

None

STAFF REPORTS:

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

P. Schmoll presented Hidden Hollows Escrow Reduction Request #10 in the amount of \$26,196.38.

Motion to approve:

Moved: J. Bechtel

Seconded: M. Perlin

Approved: 7/0

It was also discussed if the Board would be open to releasing the rest of the Escrow with a signed contractual agreement for the remaining landscaping work to be completed. D. Onorato advised against this and the Council agreed.

M. Dolny stated that the Borough has come in significantly under budget for the first two phases of the Main Street Sidewalk Project. In order to maximize the return of grant funding, the Project will now cover all costs in phase one and two and the remaining funds will be used to start development of a possible entry way to Main Street Park from College Avenue.

Treasurer's Report:

J. Klink presented the Treasurer's Report dated October 31, 2023 along with a bill list for two payrolls, and direct charges from Phoenixville Federal Credit and checks 1523-1557 for payment totaling \$406,922.55.

Motion to pay the bills as listed:

Moved: S. Strauss

Seconded: D. Davis

Approved: 7/0

J. Klink presented three additional checks 1558-1560 for payment totaling \$7,552.93.

Motion to pay the bills as listed:

Moved: S. Strauss

Seconded: J. Bechtel

Approved: 7/0

J. Klink presented the Treasurer's Report dated October 31, 2023 for the Liquid Fuels Fund direct charges by PECO in the amount of \$2,139.54

A motion to approve bills as listed:

Moved: J. Bechtel

Seconded: M. Perlin

Approved: 7/0

J. Klink presented the Treasurer's Report dated October 31, 2023 for the Escrow Fund checks number 1038-1039 in the amount of \$6,297.50.

A motion was requested to the pay bill as listed:

Moved: J. Bechtel

Seconded: S. Strauss

Approved: 7/0

J. Klink presented the Council all reports for the month of October, stating that the Customers Bank Accounts need to be closed and that we will need to transfer money from our Money Market to General Checking to cover expenditures, Council agreed.

It was also noted about considering the ability for the manager to have authority to make needed banking transactions in the future.

Mayor's Report: NO REPORT

Borough Manager's Report:

Consideration of Payment in lieu of pension for current staff would be tabled until later in the meeting.

M. Dolny presented the Council with proposals for 2023 Donation consideration.

The following was decided:

Perkiomen Community Library - \$1,500

Community Music School - \$750.00

Family Services of Montgomery County - \$500.00

Keystone Grange - \$750.00

Perkiomen Post Prom - \$500.00

Brandon Sisca Foundation - \$1,000.00

Trappe Historical Society - \$3,000.00 and cost related to the tree lighting.

Motion to approve:

Moved: M. Perlin

Seconded: S. Strauss

Approved: 7/0

It was also discussed that it be conveyed to the Historical Society that moving forward they would need to cover the cost for auxiliary police and other incidental costs for fundraisers and events that have a cost of admission fee.

M. Dolny presented council with a request from Matt Galasso on behalf of 306 W. Main Street for the placement of three Games of Skill Machines. It was a condition of the Zoning Hearing Board decision that the applicant provide placement drawings, sample policy, and signage, and approval from council. It was discussed the nature of signage, and it was stated that any additional signage would need to be permitted and they currently have reached their capacity. M. Dolny and D. Onorato stated that games of skill are currently not regulated by the state and that this was a comprise with the applicant so that the Borough would be able to have a say in the limit and placement.

Motion to approve:

Moved: M. Perlin

President S. Martin passed the Gavel and Seconded.

Approved: 5/2

S. Strauss and J. Bechtel voting in the negative

The Council did have reluctance to passing the previous measure, concerned that it would be setting a precedence. It was decided that with the help of the Borough Solicitor there would be a committee to look into and research the restriction and/or permitting of games of skill machines moving forward.

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

Borough Solicitor: No Report

Motion to accept professional reports as presented:

Moved: D. Davis

Seconded: J. Bechtel

Approved: 7/0

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Traffic and Safety:

Fire and EMS reports were given to Council for review. J. Bolger and S. Martin spoke in regards to efforts regarding possible options involving partnered services or consolidation with Upper Providence. M. Dolny stated that the county held its EMS review kick off meeting but that at this point it is just the inclusion of a consulting firm to review the EMS system as a whole county wide, and not addressing the problems and issues facing us currently effecting service.

J. Bolger also noted that the Fire Company would be doing a Santa Run on December 16th.

Administrative Services: No Report pending discussion in executive session

Business, Property & Parks: No Report

Finance Committee:

Consideration of the 2024 Municipal Budget tabled until after executive session.

Recreation: No Report

Public Affairs & Legislation: No Report

Street & Development: No Report

Planning & Zoning:

M. Dolny stated that he would like to work with D. Onorato and B. Korp of Barry Isett to create an overlay district in Trappe for Institutional Government.

Motion to approve:

Moved: D. Davis

Seconded: S. Strauss

Approved: 7/0

Regional Planning: No Report

Public Works & CTMA:

Some Colledgeville representatives were not happy with the position and letter sent regarding the connection to North Penn water, as approved at the October Meeting.

More frequent testing will begin starting the first quarter of 2024, and due to these matters and possible costs to correct them there is consideration for a water rate increase in 2024, proposed budget was presented.

Regional Sewer:

No Increase in 2024 and strong financial position for future years as well.

Memorial Committee: No Report

Old Business:

None

New Business:

S. Strauss noted the passing of Bob Brant the Zoning Hearing Board attorney and noted that his memorial would be held on November 17, 2023.

Council Entered into Executive Session at 8:32PM until 8:47PM regarding personnel: the following action was taken:

Motion to authorize an 8% payment in lieu of pension for the 2023 calendar year and to advertise the 2024 Proposed Budget as directed for review and adoption at the December meeting:

Moved: S. Strauss

Seconded: D. Davis

Approved: 7/0

Council adjourned the meeting at 8:49PM

Respectfully submitted,

Marcus V. Dolny