

**MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 5, 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 December 5th at 7:00 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Those present were:

Scott Martin
Dave Davis
Stu Strauss
Erin Wismer
Julie Bechtel
Theresa Pammer
Mayor Matthew Wismer

Also present:

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

Absent: Mallory Perlin

Also in Attendance:

John Bolger, Dan Greco, Jeff Rutt (Keystone Custom Homes), and Visitors

EXECUTIVE SESSION

S. Martin announced there would be no need for an executive session.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

The members of Council reviewed the minutes of the November 16, 2023 regular meeting:

Motion to approve the minutes:

Moved: S. Strauss

Seconded: J. Bechtel

Approved: 6/0

PUBLIC HEARING – 2024 Proposed Budget & Ordinance #476- Setting 2024 Tax Rate

Public Hearing was opened at 7:03PM. S. Strauss offered the comment that the reason for the tax increase was to facilitate the new fire house construction. Hearing no other comments from the Council or public.

Motion to close the public hearing at 7:04PM:

Moved: J. Bechtel

Seconded: D. Davis

Approved: 6/0

PUBLIC FORUM/AGENDA AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

Jeff Rutt from Keystone Custom Homes appeared before Council to ask for a text amendment to the Recorded Subdivision and Land Development Plans for Castle Cove, just off of West 7th Avenue, lot #18. In summary, he is looking for a reduction to the side yard setbacks in total of 10 feet. This would allow for a 40-foot-wide building envelope instead of the current 30 foot one that was recorded. S. Strauss stated that a number of concessions were made for this project

and if this was asked for during the process it may have been considered but he is concerned with setting a precedent. J. Bechtel asked about the size and price differences. Roughly more than a thousand square feet and roughly 100-to-150-thousand-dollar difference in price. After general discussion concluded the sentiment of Council is although there does not seem to be any opposition to the request, it still should go through the proper procedure and ask for relief through the Zoning Hearing Board. Once an official application is submitted, Council can take action to support or oppose the request.

STAFF REPORTS:

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

R. Kern asked to bid the next Two-year Concrete Contract. S. Strauss asked about how ADA ramps are handled on steep roads and hills. R. Kern said if a ramp can't be designed that is compliant than you file a T.I.F.

Motion to authorize bidding the next contract:

Moved: S. Strauss Seconded: T. Pammer Approved: 6/0

R. Kern presented Hidden Hollows Escrow Reduction Request #11 in the amount of \$25,135.21 bringing the balance to \$0.

Motion to approve:

Moved: S. Strauss Seconded: J. Bechtel Approved: 6/0

Treasurer's Report:

J. Klink presented the Treasurer's Report dated November 30, 2023 along with a bill list for two payrolls, and direct charges from Phoenixville Federal Credit and checks 1561-1589 for payment totaling \$641,488.66.

Motion to pay the bills as listed:

Moved: S. Strauss Seconded: J. Bechtel Approved: 6/0

J. Klink presented the Treasurer's Report dated November 30, 2023 for the Liquid Fuels Fund direct charges by PECO in the amount of \$2,141.73

A motion to approve bills as listed:

Moved: T. Pammer Seconded: J. Bechtel Approved: 6/0

J. Klink presented the Treasurer's Report dated November 30, 2023 for the Escrow Fund checks number 1040-1041 in the amount of \$4,536.00.

A motion was requested to the pay bill as listed:

Moved: D. Davis Seconded: J. Bechtel Approved: 6/0

Mayor's Report:

It was noted that the Historic Trappe Tree Lighting would be December 6, 2023 and the Mayor invited everyone to attend.

Borough Manager's Report:

M. Dolny received approval to close the Borough Office for the Christmas Holiday on December 25th and December 26th. The Office will be open December 22nd, the Friday before the Holiday. Additionally, the office will be closed to the public on December 27th and 28th in order to facilitate the end of year and changeover to 2024.

M. Dolny presented council with the 2024 holidays and meeting dates for approval, included.

Motion to approve:

Moved: T. Pammer Seconded: S. Strauss Approved: 6/0

Council discussed the need for a close out meeting since the budget was expected to be adopted later in the meeting. It was decided that one would not be necessary.

Motion to grant the Borough Manager, M. Dolny, and Treasurer, J. Klink, permission to close the year out as needed and report said transactions at the January 2024 meeting.

Motion to approve:

Moved: J. Bechtel Seconded: E. Wismer Approved: 6/0

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

Borough Solicitor: No Report

Motion to accept professional reports as presented:

Moved: S. Strauss Seconded: J. Bechtel Approved: 6/0

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Traffic and Safety:

Fire and EMS reports were given to Council for review.

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

Administrative Services:

S. Martin will start looking at 2024 appointments.

Business, Property & Parks: No Report

Finance Committee:

M. Dolny presented on behalf of M. Perlin to Council the 2024 Municipal Budget

Salaries established as following:

M. Dolny: \$119,900.00

K. Godshall: \$54,590.00

J. Klink: \$1,275.00 per month

Motion to approve RESOLUTION 2023-14, the adoption of the 2024 Budget for the Borough of Trappe:

Moved: S. Strauss Seconded: J. Bechtel Approved: 6/0

Motion to adopt ORDINANCE 476, Setting the 2024 Tax Rate at 1.47 Mills. General Purposes remaining at .47 and Fire Services increasing .25 for a total of 1.00:

Moved: T. Pammer Seconded: S. Strauss Approved: 6/0

Motion to approve RESOLUTION 2023-15, appropriating funds to meet expenditures which exceed budget amounts:

Moved: S. Strauss Seconded: T. Pammer Approved: 6/0

Recreation:

S. Martin met with Cathy Kernen and expressed that they are looking for more assistance in regards to Memorial Day Parade planning and event itself.

Public Affairs & Legislation: No Report

Street & Development: No Report

Planning & Zoning: No Report

Regional Planning:

At November meeting they continued discussion of the next regional plan, focused on Community Facilities and the effects on residents.

Public Works & CTMA:

S. Martin stated that Collegeville is encouraging the board to at least go tour North Penn Water and see the facility. However, he stressed in his meeting with Collegeville that we all have a commitment to clean water first and foremost.

Regional Sewer: No Report

Memorial Committee: No Report

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Council adjourned the meeting at 8:49PM

Respectfully submitted,

Marcus V. Dolny