

**Yardley Borough Council Meeting
July 7, 2020**

The meeting was held via Zoom with the following members present:

Caroline Thompson	David Bria	Ryan Berry
Kim Segal-Morris	John McCann	Uri Feiner
Matthew Ross		

Council member(s) not in attendance:

Also in attendance were Mayor Chris Harding, Chief Joseph Kelly, Engineers Tom Beach and Liz Colletti, Code Enforcement Officer Wes Foraker, Solicitor Ernest Closser, and Borough Manager Paula Johnson.

- I. CALL TO ORDER – David Bria, President
The meeting, held by video conference, was called to order at 7:31.
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- III. ROLL CALL
All council members and Mayor Harding present.
- IV. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS
 - Beer Fest and Harvest Day have been cancelled this year.
 - Racial Justice Reading group is forming coordinated by Ms. Siegal-Morris and Liz Young at Commonplace Reader. More information to follow.
 - Fundraising for the Mary Yardley Bridge project is getting underway.
- V. PUBLIC COMMENT
 - Dawn Perlmutter, 18 W. College asked several questions regarding the June 19th protest that happened in Yardley.
Mr. Bria and Chief Kelly responded that the Borough is looking into an ordinance regarding this type of event. Information following later in the meeting. Chief Kelly noted that no charges were filed, no permitting was required for the event and outside officers for crowd control did not cost the Borough anything.
 - David Applebaum, 39 Breece reported on the success of the Yardley, The Way We Were project. Well over 20,000 people have been reached via Experience Yardley’s Facebook page and hundreds of comments have been submitted and many of the comments were from folks outside of the area which raises Yardley’s profile further afield. The displays continue until 8/2/20.
- VI. CONSIDERATION OF CONSENT AGENDA DATED July 7, 2020
 - A. Approval of Minutes dated June 16, 2020
 - B. Bills List dated July 7, 2020

- C. Certificate of Appropriateness
 - 20-14-Sign-23 E. Afton Avenue
 - 20-15-Fence-197 South Canal Street
 - 20-16-Gutters and Downspouts-41 South Canal Street
 - 20-17-Ramp-49 South Main Street
 - 20-18-Siding-8 West College Avenue

Mr. Berry makes a motion to adopt the consent agenda dated July 7, 2020, with Certificates as approved by HARB, which is seconded by Ms. Thompson. A vote was held, and the motion passes 7-0.

VII. POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT

- A. Updates

Service Statistics for June 2020: There were 713 calls for service, issued 2 parking tickets, issued 57 traffic citations, issued 1 non-traffic citation, investigated 6 traffic accidents, and made 0 arrests.
- B. Auxiliary Police Ordinance

Mr. Ross motions to advertise the Auxiliary Police Ordinance, which was seconded by Ms. Thompson.
Dawn Perlmutter asked a few questions:
Will force be limited to YB residents? Limited to Yardley Borough and surrounding municipalities
Training – Force would not sworn and would not carry weapons or badges, but they would take an oath.
How large is the force? Capped at 12.
A vote was held, and motion passes 7-0.
- C. Special Events Discussion

The Chief proposes authorizing the Solicitor to investigate creating an ordinance regarding special events or modify existing ordinance to strengthen language around special events. A similar ordinance is on the books in New Hope so Chief suggests using that as a guide.

Ms. Siegel-Morris motions to authorize Solicitor to draft an ordinance regarding special events, which is seconded by Mr. Ross. A vote was held and passes 7-0.

VIII. ENGINEER'S REPORT

EAC grant – Information has been received for progress report and reimbursement, which has been sent in.

IX. PROJECT UPDATES

- A. Main & Afton Intersection - Expecting to receive mast arms by last of July. Investigating pedestrian signal phasing. Mr. Feiner will speak with the construction engineer to discuss this issue.

B. Mary Yardley Bridge - Engineer is working on preliminary design. Meeting for permitting is pending and fundraising meeting scheduled.

C. PECO Property –
Grant application documentation needs to be sent in. Ms. Thompson met with PECO last week and is waiting on an updated proposal.

D. North Main Street Phase 2
Survey is completed and Engineer is pushing forward to get construction estimates.

X. MANAGER'S REPORT

A. Updates

- Borough office opened 7/7. Masks are required and doors are locked to maintain one visitor at a time in the office. Visitors must sign-in for contact tracing.
- PennDot released 212k, should be in bank very shortly.

B. Zoning Hearing Board 7/27/2020-2 Floodzone Applications

4 applications have been received, 2 are for additions in the floodplain.

Manager requests decision to send solicitor to defend the Borough's ordinance at 7/27 meeting.

Ms. Thompson motions to have Solicitor represent Borough at the 7/27/20 Zoning Hearing Board meeting, which is seconded by Mr. Ross.

Mr. Berry will vote no because he thinks Council should not take a position on this matter.

A vote was held, and the motion passes 6-1.

XI. SOLICITOR'S REPORT

A. Updates

B. General Obligation Notice

A commitment letter from the bank has been received outlining the following terms: Line of credit max of \$500,000, fixed interest rate of 1.7% (a historically low rate,), one-year draw period. Payments begin in August of 2022 with a 10k principal payment then payments the following years on the remainder of the note drawn.

Ms. Thompson motions to authorize the Solicitor to advertise ordinance for general obligation note. A vote was held, and the motion passes 7-0.

Mr. Feiner – Asked about process of reporting to Council regarding outstanding loans and financial obligations.

XII. MAYOR'S REPORT

Thanks to Chief Kelly for appearing on today's radio show.

XIII. COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS

A. Ryan Berry – Environmental Advisory Commission, Reading Avenue Committee
Reading Ave Committee met and reviewed plans. Committee does not feel grant for PECO lot is worth pursuing for their project. They want to do more planning before applying for grants.

B. Matthew Ross – Public Works Committee, Planning Commission
Nothing to report.

C. Kim Segal-Morris – Public Safety Committee, Human Relations Committee, TTN
Airport Updates
Nothing to report.

D. David Bria – Sewer Authority
Injunction was granted regarding the sewer sale, so everything is currently stalled.

E. Caroline Thompson – General Government Committee, Parks & Recreation Board
Nothing to report

F. John McCann – Community & Economic Development Committee, Historic & Architectural Review Board

CED – Meeting tomorrow regarding fundraising for MY Bridge. Review of Floodplain Ordinance is underway as well.

G. Uri Feiner – Community Outreach Committee, Experience Yardley, Shade Tree Commission
Three candidates were interviewed for Community Outreach Committee.

XIV. DISCUSSION ITEMS

None

XV. OTHER BUSINESS

- Ms. Thompson motions to extend loosening of parking restrictions for one more month, which is seconded by Ms. Siegel-Morris. A vote was held, and the motion passes 7-0.
David Applebaum adds that restaurant week is still likely to still happen at the end of August and this easing is imperative to the event's success.
Ms. Thompson motion to extend reduced permit fees for another month, which is seconded by Mr. Ross. A vote was held, and the motion passes 7-0.

- Harvest Day 2021
Rich Wayne – The addition of new trees in the field have caused logistical problems for the setup of Harvest Day. He requests that the Shade Tree Commission move the two trees closest to Bell Avenue from 20 feet off the street to 10-12 feet off the street. The committee would help with labor to move the two trees. Rich will provide a diagram to lay out where the committee would like to see the trees placed.
Also at the 9/12 Farmer’s Market the Harvest Day Committee will be presenting the proceeds of their fundraising activities. The presentation will happen at the gazebo.
- Mr. McCann asks if Council can now safely meet in person with proper restrictions in place, perhaps in the community center which is bigger. There is no livestream at the community center. Also, many community members would not or should not attend in-person meetings so that excludes many in the community. For the time being the meetings will continue in the remote format.

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Segal-Morris motions to adjourn the meeting at 8:49, which is seconded by Mr. Ross. A vote was held, and the motion passes 7-0.

Submitted by,
Mary Ann McLean