

HATFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL  
WORKSHOP MEETING  
October 3, 2018

MINUTES

Executive session was held at 7:00PM the Hatfield Vol. Fire Company, 75 N. Market Street, prior to the October 3, 2018 Council Meeting.

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL:

- (X) John H. Weierman, President
- (X) Kenneth V. Farrall
- (X) Jason Ferguson
- (X) John Kroesser
- (X) Lawrence G. Stevens
  
- ( ) Mayor, Robert L. Kaler III

The record shows that five members of Council were present at roll call, as well as, Solicitor Catherine M. Harper; Timoney Knox LLP, Borough Manager Michael J. DeFinis, and Assistant Manager Jaime E. Snyder.

1. APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA:

Motion: A motion was made by Councilmember Farrall to Approve the Workshop Meeting Agenda of October 3, 2018 with additions. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Ferguson and was unanimously approved with a vote of 5-0.

2. PUBLIC INPUT: President Weierman asked if there was any Public Input.  
No Public Input.

Media: Channel Six Action News Present, Philadelphia Inquirer Present

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS: Manager DeFinis made the following announcements:

- Next Council Meeting October 17, Regular Meeting @ 7:30PM at the HVFC
- Hatfield Township Rocktoberfest October 6<sup>th</sup> 11:00AM – 3:00PM
- The Borough Offices will be closed Monday October 8<sup>th</sup> in Observance of the Columbus Day Holiday
- Public Power Week & Fire Prevention Week October 7<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> HVFC Open House on October 10<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00PM

- Hatfield Chamber of Commerce Luncheon October 22<sup>nd</sup> @ Noon
- HERC is scheduled to meet Wednesday, October 24<sup>th</sup> @ 8:00AM at the HVFC
- HMHS Meeting November 20<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00PM HVFC
- Chamber Tree Lighting & Caroling December 1<sup>st</sup> @ 6:30PM
- MCBA Holiday Dinner Meeting December 13<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00PM

#### 4. Edinburgh Square Subdivision Revised Plan

Manager DeFinis informed Council that the Code Enforcement Officer was told to draft a letter to the Developer and his Engineer stating the emailed submission that was received will not be considered as a formal submission of plans. Manager DeFinis added that he has not heard anything from the developer.

#### 5. REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES AND MAYOR:

A. Electric Credit Drawling – the following participants were chosen:

Andy Urbach: \$150.00  
Lisa Tompkins \$100.00  
Chris Kelly \$50.00

#### 6. MUNICIPAL COMPLEX UPDATE:

A. Clerk of the Works Report

President Weierman reviewed the Clerk of the Works Report with Council. Manager DeFinis gave an update on the building progress.

#### 7. MANAGERS REPORT: General Report and Project Updates. Manager DeFinis reviewed the Reports and made the following announcements:

##### 1. Land Use & Development Updates:

- A. St. Mary St. Kyrillos Coptic Church / Sewer Escrow Under Review
- B. GLC (Grace Lutheran Church) / Construction Complete
- C. Gambone/Snyder Townhomes / Project Near Completion
- D. Hatfield Auto Museum / Nothing New
- E. Crystal Rose Catering / Nothing New
- F. Hattricks / Waiver of LD Request Granted / Bar enclosure installed under a building permit / Flea Market Under Review
- G. 122 ½ Towamencin Ave. / Access to Property / Nothing New
- H. PIRHL-Biblical Seminary Project / Zoning-time extension approved
- I. Salter's / Woodburners Improvements
- J. Edinburgh Square Subdivision / Caracausa Development

## K. Maple Avenue Proposed Development

### 2. Utility Billing Update:

A. Staff continues to monitor past due Electric & Sewer accounts. Electric disconnects are scheduled for October 17<sup>th</sup>. No sewer disconnects at this time.

B. Email Billing available for Electric & Sewer Accounts. I encourage all account holders to take advantage of the cost-effective billing delivery opportunity.

C. Borough staff is working through minor glitches with the MuniPAY system.

D. The Utility Billing Coordinator has experienced several issues with the system. AMI vendor interviews have been completed. Staff and Utility Engineers are finalizing system preferences.

### 3. 2018 Project Updates:

#### Bid Items for 2018:

A. The East School Street CDBG Grant Application has been awarded. Work was to begin the week of September and project start date is September 17<sup>th</sup>. Waiting for contractor update.

C. Towamencin Avenue Reconstruction Phase II is about 95% complete with minor repairs required and final line striping yet to be performed.

#### 4. Items of Interest:

A. NextERA Energy Public Power Summit Save the Date

B. DVIT Dividend Checks

C. Assessment Appeal

D. PSAB Legislative Update

E. 2019 Liquid Fuels Estimate

F. North Main Street Sewer Replacement Rejection Letter

G. Montco / Norristown Public Library Thank You

H. Hatfield Township Music Feast Thank You

### 8. NEW BUSINESS / DISCUSSION ITEMS:

#### A. Municipal Complex Payment Request No. 6

President Weierman informed Council that this payment will be on for consideration at the Regular Meeting.

#### B. Committee Schedule Update

Manager DeFinis stated that all Committee Meetings that were scheduled have been held.

#### C. Pool Advisory Board Candidate

Manager DeFinis stated that we are still looking for volunteers to fill the two of the three spots as one has recently been filled.

#### D. EOP Draft Review

Manager DeFinis stated that the Assistant Manager has gathered all this information in conjunction with the Fire Marshal, Zoning Officer and Code Official and compiled this EOP plan which was last updated in 2015. If you have any additions or corrections please send them to her.

#### E. PMEA Strategic Plan, Bylaws, Resolution

Manager DeFinis informed Council that Hatfield Borough is a member of the Pennsylvania Municipal Electric Association and over the last few years it has been talked about hiring a full-time director to run the organization. This organization does many things on the educational side and lobbying side in Harrisburg on behalf of its members. In your packets is the strategic plan, bylaws and suggested Resolution which would move this organization forward and allow it to have a full-time director. Manager DeFinis highlighted some additional information outlined in the strategic plan, bylaws and resolution process.

### 9. OLD BUSINESS:

#### A. REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE:

Manager DeFinis and President Weierman updated and answered questions regarding the Reports and Correspondence.

- Monthly Investment Report
- Monthly EIT / LST Report
- Police Department Report
- Fire Department Report
- Public Works Department Report
- Engineering Report
- Zoning Officer, Building Code, Property Maintenance Report
- Fire Marshal / Fire Safety Inspection Report

#### B. Ordinance No. 533 Regarding Beekeeping in the Borough of Hatfield

President Weierman stated that in the Council packets was a red lined copy and revised copy showing the changes made to this Ordinance. The public will have an opportunity to speak on this issue.

Solicitor Harper reviewed the changes that were made to this Ordinance after receiving comments during the last meeting and after. Solicitor Harper stated:

- + Definition of “Best Management Practices” has been eliminated.
- + Best Management Certification was eliminated but left a beekeeper must notify the Borough if their registration is revoked by the State.
- + Permit was changed to Permit Registration which would let the Borough be informed if someone wanted to keep bees on their property.
- + Max number of hives is two hives per 2,000 sq. feet and for every additional 2,000 sq. feet the beekeeper would be allowed two more hives.
- + Hive orientation “to the extent possible” was added.
- + Best Management Practices was completely eliminated.
- + Added as long as bees are located on the property debris must be disposed.
- + Removed most of the expansive language and left it is “may inspect the property.”
- +Nuisance took out the Borough’s ability to seize or destroy hives.
- +Added aggressive or Africanized honeybees may not be kept.

Solicitor Harper stated that Borough Council take comments from the public.

President Weierman stated that anyone who would like to address Council at this time please rise and state your name and address.

Gwendolyn Snyder, 62 East School Street, asked Council about item number 10 and would like a clarification on what the Borough is allowed to do.

Solicitor Harper stated that the Borough would not have any reason to open the hives just count the number of hives per property and the Borough would have the right to appoint an expert do this rather than the Code Enforcement Officer.

Keith Snyder, 62 East School Street, stated that the last time this was spoken about it was to be determined what is actually considered to be a hive.

Solicitor Harper stated that the definition of a hive is stated in the Ordinance it has not been changed. This also addressed the nucleus hives or “non-permanent hives.” Solicitor Harper discussed this definition further.

Mr. Snyder stated that he is just concerned that this number would constantly change depending on the swarms he caught even if they were considered temporary.

A discussion ensued amongst Borough Council and Mr. Snyder addressing how the Ordinance defines hives and the registration fee. Mr. Snyder mentioned that he does not want to add any more hives to his property but he has neighbors and other people approach him about wanting to learn more about beekeeping.

President Weierman thanked Mr. Snyder for his education and experience with beekeeping and sharing that with Borough Council.

Owen Wilcox, 32 East School Street addressed Council and asked if Council was aware of the number of properties in the Borough that currently have beehives? Does Hatfield Township have an Ordinance against beekeeping?

President Weierman stated that we believe it to be one. Solicitor Harper stated that this Ordinance is addressing beekeeping on small Borough lots.

Mr. Wilcox stated that he knows that Council's job is to protect the residents but he lives on that street and has no issues and added that he believes this is wasted time spent on a non-issue.

Dan Ruch, 84 West Vine Street and owner of Didden's Greenhouse addressed Council and stated that Mr. Snyder has shared his honey with him and he enjoys it. Mr. Ruch read a letter that was submitted from his mother, Elanor Ruch, which addressed her concerns on limiting the number of beehives as they play an essential role to all of us.

Dave Ardelean, 57 East School Street, addressed Council as thanked Council for taking the time to consider this Ordinance. Mr. Ardelean just wanted to reinstate the importance of controlling the number of bees per property.

Jim Marcowski, Diamond Street, Hatfield Township addressed Council and spoke about the pride that Keith Snyder has in his work with bees and added that he believes there is no need for this Ordinance as Mr. Snyder knows he is at his max and doesn't want any more hives.

President Weierman stated that Council agrees that Mr. Snyder is an expert in his field but that Borough Council was elected to protect the health, safety and welfare of its residents and that is why we are listening to all information about this topic.

Solicitor Harper discussed the annual permit date with Council which is outlined in the Ordinance.

#### 10. ACTION ITEMS:

A. Motion to Consider Ordinance No. 533 Regarding Beekeeping in the Borough of Hatfield Amending Chapter 2 (Animals) of the Code of Ordinances.

After discussion amongst Council and the Public during this meeting a motion was made to:

Motion: A motion was made by Councilmember Stevens to TABLE Ordinance No. 533 Regarding Beekeeping till the October 17, 2018 Regular Meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Kroesser.

President Weierman asked if there were any comments or questions. There were no comments or questions.

The motion was approved unanimously with a vote of 5-0.

11. ADJOURNMENT:

Motion: A motion was made by Councilmember Kroesser to adjourn the Workshop Meeting of October 3, 2018. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Farrall and unanimously approved with a vote of 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:50PM.

*Executive Session Personnel, Litigation and Real Estate*

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jaime E. Snyder  
Assistant Manager