

HATFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL  
WORKSHOP MEETING  
October 7, 2020

MINUTES

THIS MEETING WAS HELD ON ZOOM WITH THE PUBLIC  
AVAILABLE BY ZOOM AUDIO

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL:

- (X) John H. Weierman, President
  - (X) John Kroesser, Vice President
  - (X) Salvatore DiLisio Jr.
  - (X) Jason Ferguson
  - (X) Lawrence G. Stevens
- (X) Mayor, Robert L. Kaler III

The record shows that five members of Council were present at roll call, as well as, Mayor Robert L. Kaler, III, 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 DiLisio to Approve the Workshop Meeting Agenda of October 7, 2020. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Kroesser and was unanimously approved with a vote of 5-0.

2. PUBLIC INPUT: President Weierman asked if there was any Public Input. The Public was allowed to comment from Zoom audio during this time.

No Registration

No Public Comment during this period

No Media Present

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Borough Offices will be closed Monday October 12<sup>th</sup> in Observance of the Columbus Day Holiday
- Next Council Meeting October 21<sup>st</sup> Regular Meeting @ 7:30PM via ZOOM
- Hatfield Chamber of Commerce will hold a ZOOM Meeting Program Monday October 26<sup>th</sup> at Noon

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- HERC is Scheduled to meet Wednesday, October 28<sup>th</sup> @ 8:00AM via ZOOM
- Planning Commission is Scheduled to Meet Monday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> @ 7:00PM via ZOOM
- Borough Office is closed on Thursday October 8, 2020

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

Councilmember Ferguson asked questions regarding police and the election polling places. Lt. Robertson stated that police do not get involved unless called and a discussion ensued regarding safety on election day.

Councilmember DiLisio asked Assistant Manager Jaime Snyder to highlight any information she could as a poll worker.

Assistant Manager Jaime Snyder gave a brief update of information she had been provided by Montgomery County Voter Services as a poll worker.

President Weierman highlighted the EIT and LST Reports and stated they are not too bad through September but would imagine the last quarter will show some impact.

#### 5. 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. Hatfield Auto Museum / Nothing New
- C. 122 ½ Towamencin Ave. / Access to Property / Under Review
- D. Salter's – Bought Old Firehouse – Plans to Renovate
- E. Edinburgh Square Subdivision – Final Plan Under Review
- F. 369 Edgewood Drive - Fence Permit Issued
- G. SEPTA Property / Two Interested Parties
- H. Howard Heckler Subdivision – Approved
- I. Bennett's Court – Still Planning to Submit Plans

##### 2. Utility Billing Update:

- A. Staff continues to monitor past due Electric & Sewer accounts. Residents are being sent reminders for PAST DUE ACCOUNTS.
- B. I encourage all account holders to take advantage of the cost-effective billing delivery opportunity.
- C. Electric Customer Portal now available.

##### 3. 2020 Project Updates:

- A. East Lincoln Avenue Bridge

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- B. Curb Ramp Bids – COVID-19 Early 2021
- C. Paving - COVID-19 Early 2021

- 4. AMP R.I.C.E. BTM Peaking Project - Electric work in progress
- 5. PMEA Update - Website - Next Board Meeting November
- 6. AMI UPDATE – 1156 Meters installed / in-house prep for billing
- 7. HTMA Interceptor
- 8. HERC Update:

- 9. Items of Interest
  - A. Monto Flu Vaccine Clinics
  - B. Municipal Pension State Aid
  - C. Fire Relief Payment
  - D. DVIT Dividend
  - E. DVWT Dividend
  - F. PEC 50
  - G. NPWA Annual Banquet
  - H. Curb and Sidewalk Replacement Letter
  - I. Hatfield Chamber of Commerce Newsletter

Councilmember DiLisio asked about the HTMA Interceptor and measuring the flow from the Borough to the Sewer Authority. Manager DeFinis stated that metering pit is what measures the flow and that the interceptor is the large main that several connections attach to.

Manager DeFinis requested the meeting be paused to address legal issues with the Solicitor. This discussion took place from 8:07PM till approximately 8:10PM. The meeting was then resumed and public comment was addressed at this time.

Solicitor Harper asked the person or persons who were just admitted to the Council Meeting to identify themselves.

The admitted party stated: Owen Wilcox

Solicitor Harper stated that the reason Borough Council requires registration for the meetings is that they are trying to eliminate any “Zoom Bombing” as other municipalities have has issues with their meetings and the Borough is trying to limit the number of people who have the log on information to legitimate citizens or others who have to address concerns with Borough Council and thus registration is required. Solicitor Harper added that a notice does go out requiring registration and since you did not register, that is why you were not automatically admitted this evening at 7:30PM. Solicitor Harper stated that if you could please register in the future this would eliminate any issues.

Owen Wilcox, 32 E. School Street, expressed that he understood but wanted to make a public comment this evening expressing the impracticality of the registration process as no one is required to register for in person meetings and there are many avenues that

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other agencies such as DVRPC and the School Board are using to ensure safety of the meetings and registration is allowed right up till the start time even into the meetings. Mr. Wilcox added that to potentially not allow a member of the public to attend a public meeting is disturbing as stated in an email he sent.

Solicitor Harper stated that she appreciates Mr. Wilcox's comments but notes that the Borough of Hatfield is much smaller than those mentioned agencies with the number of employees and the number of people who can be checking to let people in so the Borough would really appreciate if you would comply with the registration procedures so you are able to be noticed correctly and let into the meeting. Solicitor Harper added that no one is trying to exclude you, the Borough just wants to make sure the meeting does not get "Zoom Bombed" as this has happened with other agencies.

#### 6. 2021 PRELIMINARY BUDGET REVIEW:

President Weierman stated that Council needs to focus on Capital projects and be made aware of the goal of completing these projects in 2021 & 2022.

Manager DeFinis went over the Capital Projects and the grant award amounts. Manager DeFinis highlighted a borrowing aspect for these projects with DVRFA as a way to finance the projects which he stated he would continue to have conversations about.

President Weierman added that there will be no recommendations this evening and that everyone needs to take a look at the budget and prepare any questions for BF&L.

Councilmember Ferguson added that as we go forward Committee Chairs need to look at projects and look what we can live without and what can be cut out. Councilmember Ferguson stated we need to see how we present this to the public as we do not want a negative perception on projects with shortfalls in the budget.

President Weierman highlighted the borrowing aspect due to low rates but added this needs to be looked into further but it is nice to know it is an option.

A discussion ensued amongst Council regarding the budget and what decisions Council will be looking at in the future.

#### 7. NEW BUSINESS / DISCUSSION ITEMS:

A. Halloween Movie Night - October 29, 2020

B. 43 Roosevelt Avenue Subdivision

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Manager DeFinis stated that this property was purchased and is intended to be a knock down of a single-family house and replacing with a few twin units. Manager DeFinis added that it is intended to be on the next Planning Commission Meeting.

Solicitor Harper stated that she believes she knows the developer and added that she ran into Mr. D'Angelo and he suggested that the Borough will see a set of new plans in the near future.

C. ZHB Notice 308 W. Broad Street – Thursday, October 29<sup>th</sup>.

#### 8. OLD BUSINESS:

##### A. REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE:

Manager DeFinis and President Weierman updated and answered questions regarding the Reports and Correspondence. Lieutenant Robertson answered questions regarding the Police Report.

- 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
- Pool Advisory Board Report

Councilmember Ferguson asked about the final cleanup items for the municipal complex.

Manager DeFinis highlighted the items including the stream clean up, paving, and the sign.

Councilmember Kroesser spoke about the water run off of Chestnut Street and how it runs down the driveway and freezes and suggested salting it more this winter.

President Weierman mentioned and inlet or pushing water off to the railroad side could be a solution but that the Public Works will salt the road just as they salt all roads in the Borough.

#### 9. ACTION ITEMS: (public was taken of mute for any comments)

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10. ADJOURNMENT:

Motion: A motion was made by Councilmember Kroesser to adjourn the Workshop Meeting of October 7, 2020. The motion was seconded by Councilmember DiLisio and unanimously approved with a vote of 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:38PM

*Executive Session Personnel, Litigation and Real Estate*

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jaime E. Snyder  
Assistant Manager