

HATFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL
WORKSHOP MEETING
April 7, 2021

MINUTES

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

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL:

- (X) John H. Weierman, President
 - (X) John Kroesser, Vice President
 - (X) Salvatore DiLisio Jr.
 - () Jason Ferguson - arrived at 7:34PM
 - (X) Lawrence G. Stevens
- (X) Mayor, Robert L. Kaler III

The record shows that four members of Council were present at roll call, as well as, Mayor, Robert L Kaler III, Borough Manager Michael J. DeFinis, and Assistant Manager Jaime E. Snyder. Councilmember Jason Ferguson arrived at 7:34PM.

1. APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA:

Motion: A motion was made by Councilmember Kroesser to Approve the Workshop Meeting Agenda of April 7, 2021. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Stevens and was unanimously approved with a vote of 4-0.

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

Owen Wilcox, 32 East School Street, Thanked Council for placing a presentation on the Agenda from HTMA regarding the proposed sewer lateral ordinance.

Mr. Wilcox added that while reviewing the meeting packet he noticed a reference to filling alley pot-holes and requested if the alley behind his home on E. School Street could receive the same attention. Mr. Wilcox also requested for the possibility of crosswalk signage to be placed on N. Main Street where the children walking to Hatfield Elementary School would cross the road.

Manager DeFinis stated that he would get with Public Works Director Stephen Fickert to address both of those concerns.

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Next Council Meeting April 21, 2021 Regular Meeting @ 7:30PM VIA ZOOM
Registration Required
- HERC is scheduled to Meet Wednesday, April 28th @ 8:00AM
VIA ZOOM Registration Required
- Next Planning Commission Meeting is Scheduled for May 3, 2021 @ 7:00PM VIA
ZOOM or In Person Registration Required

4. REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES AND MAYOR:

Public Works Committee: Councilmember Ferguson updated Council regarding the meeting with Brooks Instrument and their current driveway access issue. Councilmember Ferguson stated that Brooks was informed that they needed to remove the portion of their driveway that encroached into the Borough ROW and at their own expense. Councilmember Ferguson added that the Borough was willing to let Brooks take extended time to complete the repair due to COVID and possible budget restraints but needed Brooks to actively work on a solution.

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 / Use Under Review
- B. Hatfield Auto Museum - Nothing New
- C. 122 ½ Towamencin Ave - Demo Permit Pending Recording
- D. Salter's – Bought Old Firehouse – 90% Renovation Completed
- E. Edinburgh Square Subdivision – Grading Permit / Utility Installation
- F. SEPTA Property / License Agreement Executed
- G. 43 Roosevelt Avenue – Plan Under Review
- H. Bennett's Court – Preliminary Plan Under Review
- I. 127 Penn Avenue - Preliminary Plan Under Review. Staff Meeting Scheduled.

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.
- D. NPWA Meter Replacement Program

3. 2021 Projects:

- A. East Lincoln Avenue Bridge - NTP Issued
- B. ADA Curb Ramp - NTP Issued
- C. Roadway Resurfacing - Award in May
- D. Stormwater Projects

4. AMP R.I.C.E. BTM Peaking Project - Electric work completed / Site Visit

5. PMEA Update - Website

6. AMI UPDATE – 1539 Meters installed / in-house prep for billing

7. HERC Update: Highlighted the request to move the 5,000 budgeted for HERC into their account.

8. Items of Interest

- A. Hatfield Borough Project Borrowing Deposited
- B. MCBA Virtual Dinner Invitation
- C. PSAB Virtual Conference

Councilmember DiLisio questioned the stop - work - order that was placed on the Edinburgh Square project site. Manager DeFinis explained the order and detailed how the Borough Engineer was waiting for plans to address the field changes.

Councilmember DiLiso asked about the SEPTA property license agreement. Manager DeFinis stated that the Borough has talked for several years about leasing the SEPTA property and seeing if they can find a tenant as SEPTA wants to get out of the landlord business and have municipalities take over control.

6. ASSISTANT MANAGERS REPORT: Assistant Manager Jaime Snyder reviewed the following items:

- 1. American Rescue Plan Act (attached)
- 2. COVID-19 Vaccine Partnership with Skippack Pharmacy
- 3. Sidewalk Letters
- 4. Town Hall Meeting - Wednesday, May 12th, 7:00PM via ZOOM
- 5. PA Connector Route Map & Information
- 6. Public Information Coordinator Update (attached)

7. Presentation from Hatfield Township Municipal Authority / Sewer Lateral Repair Ordinance

Paul Mullin HTMA Solicitor and Pete Dorney the Executive Director of HTMA addressed Council with the following presentation:

Paul Mullin, HTMA Solicitor addressed Council and stated that the Lateral Inspection Ordinance inspects private laterals that discharge into the Borough then flow onto the Hatfield Township Municipal Authority (HTMA) plant. Mr. Mullin added that this Ordinance is looking at the I&I groundwater that gets into the sewer lines from faulty private sewer laterals. Mr. Mullin added that DEP is driving the ship on this one and it is something that is always referenced in Chapter 94 Reports. He added that DEP is watching the flows discharged from each municipality and DEP has the authority issue an order for every parcel in a municipality to inspect and replace private sewer laterals if necessary. Mr. Mullin stated that the proposed Ordinance would be triggered on the sale of property and the lateral must get televised for leaks and cracks and determined if it is defective and if so, then replaced or patched if prior to the sale of the home. He added if an agreement is made between the seller and the buyer the monies could be held in escrow for the sale. Mr. Mullin added that Pete will go over the flows from the Borough but that 50% of all discharged waters into the system are from private laterals.

Councilmember Ferguson asked if we have anything from DEP stating if we implement this Ordinance, they will not require the lateral inspection mandate? Mr. Mullin explained that he does not think DEP would put that in writing but in other municipalities in the County who have implemented similar Ordinances, DEP has not placed any mandate on them and was satisfied in the Chapter 94 Reports.

Pete Dorney, Executive Director of HTMA addressed Council and detailed the work that the Borough has done in the past, including the interceptor line and the work that HTMA has done to create more space at the plant and keep the flows down. Mr. Dorney stated that both the Borough and HTMA have done work but DEP still would like to see the flows decreased and which leads to this discussion of a Sewer Lateral Ordinance addressing private laterals.

Councilmember Ferguson asked if any specific area can be targeted in the Borough or if this is an overall issue. Mr. Mullin stated that HTMA only sees the total flow into the plant and he is not sure if individual portions of the Borough are metered or just one meter into the system.

Mr. Dorney went over the flow charts and addressed questions about flows to the HTMA Plant from the Borough.

Mr. Mullin discussed the rough draft of the Ordinance and the adopted Hatfield Township Ordinance in detail but stated that this was a long process with many discussions to get the final product that he believes it works both for residents and DEP. A discussion about the Ordinance including time frames ensued amongst Council.

Councilmember Ferguson asked about time periods for the sale of the house and Mr. Mullin described the process based around the sale of the house and the provision that it would not need to be done within five years of another sale but he has seen as low as three years and as much as seven for the time period required for inspection if that property would go for sale again.

President Weierman asked if there has been any negative feedback from relators or the title company holding up any sales? Mr. Mullin stated that he has not heard of any to date.

Councilmember DiLisio spoke about this personal experience in Plymouth Township with a similar Ordinance and the sale of a property.

President Weierman stated that this would go to the Utilities Committee for further discussion and review and that the Committee would then come back to Council with recommendations.

Councilmember Ferguson added that he would like to see commercial properties added as currently our draft only addresses residential. Mr. Mullin stated that the Township added commercial properties and that he and Mr. Dorney are available to assist in the process at any time if needed.

President Weierman thanked Mr. Mullin and Mr. Dorney for their time this evening.

8. NEW BUSINESS / DISCUSSION ITEMS:

A. Resolution 2021-07 Honoring Fred Leister Years of Service

Assistant Manager Jaime Snyder reviewed the proposed Resolution.

B. Resolution 2021-08 Honoring Safe Digging Month

President Weierman reviewed the proposed Resolution.

C. ZHB 461 S. Main Street

Manager DeFinis stated that the Zoning Hearing Board Meeting on 461 S. Main Street has been continued till April 29, 2021 via Zoom.

D. Hatfield Legion Post 933 Memorial Day Ceremony

Manager DeFinis stated that the Hatfield Legion has decided not to have a parade in 2021 but rather hold a Memorial Day Ceremony at Memorial Park.

9. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Feral Cat Ordinance / Chapter 2

Manager DeFinis stated this item is back on the Agenda for discussion but the plan is to move this item to the Planning, Building, and Zoning Committee for further review and recommendation.

James Fox 107 W. Lincoln Avenue addressed Council and asked if this Ordinance was really necessary and if we really had a feral cat problem in the Borough and referenced his letter he submitted to Council. Mr. Fox detailed his experience with the cats in the area including his experience with the Trap, Neuter, Release (TNR) Program. Mr. Fox added that several locations in the Borough were also feeding cats, not just at his residence.

President Weierman stated that Mr. Fox's letter raised a number of good points and thanked him for the funds he has put into the TNR program and asked Mr. Fox what direction can Council go or look to for help on this issue?

Councilmember Kroesser added that he agrees with a lot of the items listed in Mr. Fox's letter and appreciates all of the financial help Mr. Fox has provided to the TNR program. Councilmember Kroesser added that his concern is he is not sure how we can control the cats within this proposed Ordinance.

Councilmember Ferguson added that he believes this Ordinance isn't saying that someone cannot feed or take care of the cats but if they would choose to do so, they then are choosing to take some responsibility for them.

President Weierman stated that we will see how the PB&Z Committee make out with their review and the information they can gather from other municipalities and the Consortium. President Weierman added that we will keep this on the Agenda for future discussion.

Mr. Fox stated that he would willing to help in anyway. Council thanked him.

10. 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

11. ACTION ITEMS: (public was taken off mute for any comments)

12. ADJOURNMENT:

Motion: A motion was made by Councilmember Kroesser to adjourn the Workshop Meeting of April 7, 2021. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Stevens and unanimously approved with a vote of 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:26PM

Executive Session Personnel, Litigation and Real Estate

Respectfully Submitted,
Jaime E. Snyder
Assistant Manager