

HATFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
December 15, 2021

MINUTES

THIS MEETING WAS HELD IN-PERSON
BOROUGH HALL 401 S. MAIN STREET, HATFIELD
THIS MEETING WAS RECORDED

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL:

- (X) John H. Weierman, President
- (X) John Kroesser, Vice President
- (X) Jason Ferguson
- (X) Lawrence G. Stevens

- (X) Mayor, Robert L. Kaler III

The record shows that four members of the Council were present at roll call, as well as, Mayor, Robert L Kaler III, Solicitor Catherine M. “Kate” Harper; Timoney Knox LLP, Borough Manager Michael J. DeFinis, Assistant Manager Jaime E. Snyder and Assistant to the Manager; Kathryn Vlahos.

1. APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA:

Motion: A motion was made by Councilmember Kroesser to Approve the Regular Meeting Agenda of December 15, 2021. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Ferguson and unanimously approved with a vote of 4-0.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

Motion to Approve the Minutes of the November 3, 2021, Workshop and November 17, 2021 Regular Meeting.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilmember Kroesser to Approve the Minutes of November 3, 2021, Workshop Meeting and November 17, 2021 Regular Meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Ferguson and unanimously approved with a vote of 4-0.

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

Owen Wilcox, 32 School Lane, addressed The Council and started out thanking the current Council and Manager for their service. Mr. Wilcox complimented and thanked President Weierman for always being courteous and responsive. President Weierman thanked Mr. Wilcox for his comments and thanked him for attending the meetings.

Mr. Wilcox had a few questions that he wanted to ask The Council he asked what accounting software the Borough uses. He asked what procurement code guidelines the Borough uses. Solicitor Harper responded that there is a code that applies to local governments for procurement code. Assistant Manager added that anything over \$11,500 would need three quotes and anything over \$21,000 has to go out for public bid. Under TD bank bill list, it does not always say the vendor, there is approximately \$3,000 for a Christmas Party and he is was not sure if that was a staff event or community event. Mr. Wilcox stated that if it was a staff party, he does not feel that was good use for the resident's tax dollars and he asked they could be more mindful when it comes to spending. President Weierman replied that the annual holiday party is a list of over 60 people which are vendors, customers, borough businesses, anyone who has served in the community etc.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS: Manager DeFinis made the following announcements:

- Borough Council, Mayor & Tax Collector Recognition December 17th
- Planning Commission is Scheduled to Meet December 20, 2021 @ 7:00PM in Council Chambers (January Meeting)
- Borough Office Closed from Noon until 1:30PM December 21st for Staff Holiday Luncheon
- Borough Office Closed December 23rd & 24th in Observance of the Christmas Holiday
- Borough Office Closed December 30th & 31st in Observance of the New Year Holiday
- Next Council Meetings Reorganization/Workshop January 3, 2022 @ 6:00PM and January 19th Regular Meeting @ 7:30PM in Council Chambers

5. 4. Public Hearing Regarding Ordinance No. 542 Fixing the 2022 Real Estate Tax Rate for the Year of 2022

Ordinance 542
PROCEEDINGS

PRESIDENT JOHN WEIERMAN: We will now have a Public Hearing for Ordinance No. 542 for the Real Estate Tax Rate for 2022. This hearing was duly advertised.

SOLICITOR HARPER: Would like to mark this Exhibit B1 the notice that appeared in the newspaper. Exhibit B2 would be the Ordinance itself fixing the tax rate for general purposes for 3 mills and fire protection to .25 mills making the total tax rate for Borough purposes 3.25 mills. I will hand them to Assistant Manager Snyder to be attached to the minutes.

PRESIDENT WEIERMAN: We are going to officially open the hearing with the 1 mill increase and the average real estate assessment it will represent an increase of approximately \$12 a month or \$144 annually. At this time, we will open up for any questions from Borough Council. Hearing none would like to open up for public comment or questions at this time.

PRESIDENT WEIERMAN: If there are no questions on this Ordinance, I would like to call the hearing to a close.

This Public hearing is closed. (At 7:46 the hearing was closed)

6. Final 2022 Budget Presentation

President Weierman went over the budget and outlined any minor changes that were made. President Weierman stated that the budget is on for consideration this evening. Solicitor Harper noted for the minutes that the budget was advertised prior to ten days before the meeting as required.

7. NEW BUSINESS/ DISCUSSION ITEMS:

A. Resolution 2021-36 Appropriating Specific Funds for 2022

President Wierman explained that this is on for action tonight.

B. Resolution 2021-37 Authorizing 2022 Employee Compensation

President Wierman explained that this is on for action tonight.

C. Resolution 2021-38 Recognizing John H. Weierman Years of Service

President Wierman explained that this Resolution is on for action tonight recognizing the years of service.

D. Resolution 2021-39 Recognizing Robert L. Kaler, III Years of Service

President Wierman explained that this Resolution is on for action tonight recognizing the years of service.

E. Resolution 2021-40 Recognizing John Kroesser Years of Service

President Wierman explained that this Resolution is on for action tonight recognizing the years of service.

F. Resolution 2021-41 Recognizing Nancy DeFinis Years of Service

President Wierman explained that this Resolution is on for action tonight recognizing the years of service.

G. Resolution 2021-42 Recognizing Salvatore DiLisio Jr. Years of Service

President Wierman explained that this Resolution is on for action tonight recognizing the years of service.

H. Resolution 2021-43 Recognizing Michael J. DeFinis Years of Service

President Wierman explained that this Resolution is on for action tonight recognizing the years of service.

I. Resolution 2021-44 Appointing Jaime E. Snyder, Interim Borough Manager

President Weierman stated that Jaime E. Snyder came to the Borough in 2012 and has been Assistant Borough Manager since 2014. With the retirement of Manager DeFinis, there needs to be an Interim Borough Manager and this is on for action tonight.

J. Resolution 2021-45 Police Protection Agreement

President Weierman stated that the Police Protection Agreement expires at the end of the year and if adopted tonight there will be a five-year agreement.

K. Resolution 2021-46 Citizen of the Year 2021

President Wierman explained that this Resolution is on for action tonight recognizing citizen of the year.

L. Lincoln Avenue Bridge Replacement Payment Application No. 5 in the Amount of \$162,638.09

President Wierman explained that this Payment Application is on for action tonight.

M. Resolution 2021-47 Transfer of Funds for the E. Lincoln Avenue Bridge Project

President Wierman explained that this Resolution is on for action tonight for the transfer of funds for the project.

N. Borough Council Vacancy

President Weierman stated that they have received two applications for the vacancy which could possibly be on for action tonight.

O. Planning Commission Terms

There are some expiring Planning Commission terms and they are on for action tonight.

P. Zoning Hearing Board Terms

There are some expiring Zoning Hearing Board terms and they are on for action tonight.

Q. Street Light Update

President Weierman explained that there is a scheduled of all of the lights in the Borough and the type of light they are.

8. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Updated Animal Ordinance

After Council reviewed and disused the draft Feral Cat Ordinance and it was decided that another draft needs to be completed and will look for approval in 2022.

9. ACTION ITEMS:

A. Motion to Consider Ordinance No. 542 Authorizing a Change to the 2022 Real Estate Tax Rate

Motion: A motion was made by Councilmember Kroesser to Approve Ordinance No. 542 Authorizing a Change to the 2022 Real Estate Tax Rate. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Stevens.

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 4-0.

B. Motion to Consider Resolution 2021-36 Appropriating Specific Funds for 2022.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilmember Kroesser to Approve Resolution 2021-36 Appropriating Specific Funds for 2022. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Ferguson.

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 4-0.

C. Motion to Consider Resolution 2021-37 Authorizing 2022 Employee Compensation.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilmember Kroesser to Approve Resolution 2021-37 Authorizing 2022 Employee Compensation. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Ferguson.

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 4-0.

D. Motion to Consider Resolution 2021-38 Recognizing John H. Weierman Years of Service.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilmember Stevens to Approve Resolution 2021-38 Recognizing John H. Weierman Years of Service. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Ferguson.

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 4-0.

E. Motion to Consider Resolution 2021-39 Recognizing Robert Kaler, III Years of Service

Motion: A motion was made by Councilmember Stevens to Approve Resolution 2021-39 Recognizing Robert Kaler, III Years of Service. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Ferguson.

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 4-0.

F. Motion to Consider Resolution 2021-40 Recognizing John Kroesser Years of Service

Motion: A motion was made by Councilmember Stevens to Approve Resolution 2021-40 Recognizing John Kroesser

Years of Service. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Ferguson.

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 4-0.

G. Motion to Consider Resolution 2021-41 Recognizing Nancy DeFinis Years of Service

Motion: A motion was made by Councilmember Stevens to Approve Resolution 2021-40 Recognizing Nancy DeFinis Years of Service. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Ferguson.

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 4-0.

H. Motion to Consider Resolution 2021-42 Recognizing Sal DiLisio Jr. Years of Service

Motion: A motion was made by Councilmember Stevens to Approve Resolution 2021-42 Recognizing Sal DiLisio Jr. Years of Service. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Ferguson.

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 4-0.

I. Motion to Consider Resolution 2021-43 Recognizing Michael J. DeFinis Years of Service

Motion: A motion was made by Councilmember Stevens to Approve Resolution 2021-43 Recognizing Michael J. DeFinis Years of Service. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Ferguson.

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 4-0.

J. Motion to Consider Resolution 2021-44 Appointing Jaime E. Snyder, Interim Borough Manager

Motion: A motion was made by Councilmember Kroesser to Approve Resolution 2021-44 Appointing Jaime E. Snyder, Interim Borough Manager. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Ferguson.

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 4-0.

K. Motion to Consider Resolution 2021-45 Approving the Forth Amendment to the Police Protection Agreement

Motion: A motion was made by Councilmember Kroesser to Approve Resolution 2021-45 Approving the Fourth Amendment to the Police Protection Agreement. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Ferguson.

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 4-0.

L. Motion to Consider Resolution 2021-46 Naming the Hatfield Museum and History Society at the 2021 Citizen of the Year

Motion: A motion was made by Councilmember Kroesser to Approve Resolution 2021-46 Approving Resolution 2021-46 Naming Hatfield Museum and History Society as the 2021 Citizen of the Year. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Ferguson.

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 4-0.

M. Motion to Consider the E. Lincoln Avenue Bridge Replacement Payment Application No. 5 in the Amount of \$162,638.09 (one hundred sixty-two thousand six hundred thirty-eight dollars and nine cents) to AJ Jurich, Inc.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilmember Kroesser to Approve the E. Lincoln Avenue Bridge Replacement Payment Application No. 5 in the Amount of \$162,638.09 (one hundred sixty-two thousand six hundred thirty-eight dollars and nine cents) to AJ Jurich, Inc. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Stevens.

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 4-0.

N. Motion to Consider Resolution 2021-47 Transfer of Funds for the E. Lincoln Avenue Bridge Project in the Amount of \$162,638.09 (one hundred sixty-two thousand six hundred thirty-eight dollars and nine cents) to AJ Jurich, Inc.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilmember Kroesser to Approve Resolution 2021-47 Transfer of Funds for the E. Lincoln Avenue Bridge Project in the Amount of \$162,638.09 (one hundred sixty-two thousand six hundred thirty-eight dollars and nine cents) to AJ Jurich, Inc. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Stevens.

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 4-0.

O. Motion to Consider Appointing John Kroesser to a Four-Year Planning Commission Term Expiring December 31, 2025

Motion: A motion was made by Councilmember Ferguson to Appoint John Kroesser to a Four-Year Planning Commission Term Expiring December 31, 2025. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Stevens.

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

The motion was approved with a vote of 3-0-1.
Councilmember Kroesser abstained from vote.

P. Motion to Consider Paul Mullin (current alternate) to the Zoning Hearing Board as a member of the Board for Term Expiring December 31, 2025

Motion: A motion was made by Councilmember Kroesser to Appoint Paul Mullin (current alternate) to the Zoning Hearing Board as a member of the Board for Term Expiring December 31, 2025. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Ferguson.

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 4-0.

Q. Motion to Consider Appointing Dan Ruch (prior ZHB Member) to the Zoning Hearing Board, Alternate Position, to fill the Vacancy Created by Paul Mullins Appointment for the Term Expiring December 31, 2022

Motion: A motion was made by Councilmember Kroesser to Appoint Dan Ruch (prior ZHB Member) to the Zoning Hearing Board, Alternate Position, to fill the Vacancy Created by Paul Mullins Appointment for the Term Expiring December 31, 2022. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Stevens.

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 4-0.

R. Motion to Consider Appointing John Pedrazzani to the Zoning Hearing Board for the Term Expiring December 31, 2025.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilmember Kroesser to Appoint John Pedrazzani to the Zoning Hearing Board for the Term Expiring December 31, 2025. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Stevens.

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 4-0.

S. Motion to Consider Appointing _____ to the Borough Council Vacancy.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilmember Kroesser to Appoint Michelle Kroesser to the Borough Council Vacancy. Which was then seconded by Councilmember Stevens.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilmember Ferguson to Appoint Larry Burns to the Borough Council Vacancy. There was no second on the motion.

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

The motion to appoint Michelle Kroesser to Borough Council Vacancy was approved unanimously with a vote 4-0.

10. Swearing in of New Councilmember

SWEARING IN OF COUNCIL MEMBER
MICHELLE KROESSER
JAIME E. SNYDER, PRESIDING

9. MOTION TO APPROVE PAYMENT OF THE BILLS:

President Weierman and Manager DeFinis reviewed and answered questions regarding the bill list.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilmember Stevens to Approve payment of the bills. 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.

12. MOTION TO ADJOURN:

Motion: A motion was made by Councilmember Kroesser to adjourn the Regular Meeting of December 15, 2021. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Ferguson and unanimously approved with a vote of 5-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:59 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathryn Vlahos
Assistant to the Manager