

AUGUST 7, 2023
FIRST MONTHLY MEETING
HONEY BROOK BOROUGH COUNCIL

The first monthly meeting of Honey Brook Council was held at Honey Brook Borough Hall and all members answered Roll Call except Ms. Jenzano and Ms. Matlock. Also participating by audio was Solicitor Kim Venzie.

President Ford noted that Borough Council was held an Executive Session at 6:30 p.m. relative to personnel.

Citizens Comments on Agenda Items

None

Approval of Previous Minutes

Mr. Florio made a motion, seconded by Ms. Wadlinger, to approve the minutes from the July 17, 2023, meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Payment of Bills

Mr. Ott made a motion, seconded by Mr. Florio, to approve the bills presented for payment. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Presentations

Matthew Welch, EMS Chief of Elverson-Honey Brook EMS, was present to answer any questions that Council. There were questions regarding the proposed agreement between Penn Medicine and Tower Health for the former Brandywine Hospital building. Chief Welch stated that it was his understanding they will be subletting a portion of the building to the VA Hospital and providing outpatient services. It is believed that they may have the minimum of inpatient and ICU beds to operate an emergency room, but the likelihood would be that patients would be transferred to another hospital if inpatient care is required.

Pat Zwiebel, 146 Waynebrook Drive – Ms. Zwiebel stated that she believes her item is under “New Business”. Council noted that they would move up the agenda item of “loose and vicious dogs.” Ms. Zwiebel noted that she has had two incidents with a vicious dog and currently has vet bills for \$450 as her dog was attacked. Her son was also scratched by the other dog as well. The first incident was reported to the Honey Brook Borough Police Department and she has been unable to get a police report. The second incident was handled by the PA State Police, and again, she has not been successful to get the police report. These reports are necessary to file a civil action. Mr. Ott suggested she continue to contact the state police and request the report and if possible leave a message for the officer that handled the report. Mayor Halvorsen stated he would look into the Borough’s police report. Ms. Venzie stated she would look at the Borough’s ordinances and draft a letter to the owner of the other dog.

Joanne Hopkins - Ms. Hopkins stated she is waiting to hear when the building permit will be issued for 310 Maple Street.

Engineer's Report

The monthly Engineering Report was distributed to Borough Council for review.

Solicitor's Report

Ms. Venzie stated she would be advertising the stormwater management ordinance amendments for consideration at the first meeting in September.

Old Business

Consideration to accept Jessica Florio's resignation from Borough Council – Mr. Florio made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ott, to accept Jessica Florio's resignation from Borough Council. The motion passed unanimously.

Status report on pickle ball courts – Mr. Halvorsen reported that a pre-construction meeting was held and, weather permitting, construction shall begin on August 14. Safety fencing will be put up and the park will be posted as being closed during the mill and overlay work.

Secretary/Treasurer's Report & Communications

None

President's Report

Mr. Ford noted that the salt that was ordered from the 2022/23 CoStars contract was delivered. Crosswalk and line painting is ongoing.

Mayor's Report

None

unanimously.

Committee Reports

Finance – Second quarter/mid-year review meeting was held.

Park & Recreation – The recent concert was well attended; the make up concert that was rained out last month has been rescheduled.

Public Works – No report.

Code/Ordinance – There was discussion regarding the proposed “chicken ordinance.” Mr. Ford stated that enacting this ordinance could open the door as he believes there are already chickens in the Borough which no complaints have been filed. Mr. Florio noted that there could be complaints regarding the smell from the coops. After discussion to include enforcement of such an ordinance, Mr. Florio made a motion, seconded by Ms. Wadlinger, to not move forward with an ordinance for allowing chickens in the Borough. The motion passed unanimously (Mr. Ott originally noted he

was abstaining but changed his vote to “aye”). Mr. Florio stated that the Code/Ordinance committee would be looking at the “dog ordinance” based on discussions earlier in the meeting.

MS4 – No report

Personnel – No report

Police – No report.

COG – No report.

Historical – No report.

Trash – It was noted that the trash/recycle collection bid documents had been reviewed and updated. After discussion, Mr. Ott made a motion, seconded by Ms. Wadlinger, to proceed to issue a request for bids for the collection of trash and recycling that would be due on September 13, 2023 at noon at which time the bids would be open and then presented at the September 18, 2023 public meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business

At this time, Mr. Florio made a motion, seconded by Ms. Wadlinger, to add to the agenda to sign a contract with Sianna relative to an internal investigation for a personnel matter. It was noted that this was not on the posted agenda as this matter was the result of this evening’s executive session. The motion passed unanimously. There was no public comment to the agenda modification.

Sianna Law Agreement – Mr. Florio made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ott, to sign an agreement with Siana law relative to services for an internal investigation for a personnel matter. The motion passed unanimously.

Consideration to close Street Escrow Account at S&T Bank – Ms. Rambo noted that several years ago the Borough’s grant for the James Street project had a \$70,000 match. As the project was extended into a following year, the Borough opened an escrow account with the allocated match money into this fund to be used the following year. When the project was bid the next year, the project came in much lower than estimated and only required about \$30,000 or \$35,000 of matching funds so it was utilized from the budgeted street improvement budget line item. To date, these funds have not been utilized and it was recommended to close the account and move the funds to an investment account with other infrastructure capital reserves. Mr. Ott made a motion, seconded by Mr. Florio, to authorize the closing of the two DESA Accounts for the James Street Escrow fund with an approximate combined balance of \$70,380.00 and transfer the funds into the General Fund checking account. The motion passed unanimously.

Consideration for investment of funds at PLGIT – Council reviewed the rates offered by PLGIT. Mr. Florio made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ott, to add PLGIT as a Borough Depository and to authorize Janis Rambo (Treasurer); William Ford (Council President); and Jeanne Jenzano (Council Vice President) as authorized signers on the account and to invest \$1,000,000 in three TERM

investments by closing the two accounts recently opened at M&T (approximately \$600,000) and \$400,000 from the S&T general fund checking account. The motion passed unanimously.

Jim Rock resignation; replacement – It was reported that Mr. Rock will be moving from the Borough and will be resigning following the fall clean up. Mr. Ford stated that we should advertise on the website for the position.

Veteran's Day Program – Mr. Florio stated that there was a meeting of a Veterans' Day Committee for the November 5 program to be held at Tel Hai at 2:00 p.m. The Township, Borough, and Tel Hai will each be honoring two veterans. The Borough's honorees are Winfield "Bumpsy" Hess and Jack Martin.

Public Presentations

None

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was properly adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

Janis A. Rambo, Borough Secretary