

MARCH 1, 2021
FIRST MONTHLY MEETING
HONEY BROOK BOROUGH COUNCIL

The first monthly meeting of Honey Brook Council was held via *Zoom* and all members answered Roll Call. Also participating in the meeting were Christopher Falencki, Borough Engineer; Joe Boulanger, Building/Code/Zoning Officer; Bill Ford Public Works Superintendent; and Tricia Swinty, Borough Clerk. Chief Calvin Wilson joined the meeting during Public Presentations.

Approval of Previous Minutes

Mr. Halvorsen made a motion, seconded by Ms. Matlock, to approve the minutes from the February 15, 2021, meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Payment of Bills

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

Public Presentations

Ted Ford, 541 Maple Street – Mr. Ford expressed concern regarding rental inspections being done during COVID and potential exposure. Ms. Jenzano stated that they had consulted with Kraft Code and they advised that they are performing the inspections in other municipalities with the owner and tenant approval. Mr. Boulanger noted that the inspector wears a mask and gloves and is very respectful while on property. They try and get in, inspect what is required, and leave. He further reviewed that is inspected. Mr. Ford brought up the concerns regarding if peeling paint is found. Mr. Boulanger noted that if peeling paint is not wide spread, it would need to be corrected within the two years. Mr. Ford further expressed that he has never been in favor of the property maintenance code. Question arose who many property owners had requested to not have the inspection: Ms. Swinty stated there have been 2 refusals due to COVID concerns, 1 unit that was noted to be empty/vacant, and one unit that is for sale.

The consensus of Council was that the Borough will move forward with the guidelines that was previously set.

Bill Ford inquired if the property maintenance code is enforced on all properties. Mr. Boulanger stated it was based on a complaint basis that they do not go out looking for issues.

Engineer's Report

MS4 – Mr. Falencki reported that MS4 is moving along, awaiting DEP comments.

914 Spruce Street – Mr. Falencki reported that he has inspected the stormwater. The property owner has requested a Temporary U&O. Mr. Falencki noted that the grading is not complete; however, it would be difficult to complete the grading at this time due to weather.

934 Chestnut Street - No update.

At this time, Mr. Falencki and Mr. Boulanger departed the meeting.

Solicitor's Report

Ms. Venzie was not in attendance.

Communications/Secretary's Report

None

President's Report

Ms. Curtis named the Committee to look into parking during an Emergency Declaration: Chris Ott, Rich Florio, Chief Wilson, Bill Ford, Jessica Curtis, and Sandy Cooper.

Mayor's Report

None

Committee Reports

Finance – First quarterly review meeting will be in April.

Park & Recreation – Ms. Jenzano reported she is on the “Name the Brook” committee. Kick off will coincide with “Earth Day”.

Public Works – Mr. Ford noted that the salt order for 2021/22 through CoStars was submitted.

Code/Ordinance – No report

MS4 – No report

Personnel – No report.

Police – No report.

Banner – Mr. Florio reported that he had dropped off 4x6 promotion cards around town and information is in the upcoming Newsletter.

COG – Ms. Matlock distributed her notes from the February COG meeting. She advised that the Animal Task Force will hold their first meeting on March 24 at 6:30 p.m. prior to regular COG meeting.

Old/Pending Business

Comcast Franchise Agreement – Mr. Halvorsen made a motion, seconded by Ms. Matlock, to authorize the Borough Solicitor to work on a franchise agreement with Comcast. The motion passed unanimously.

Zoning Hearing Application – Council discussed the application submitted by Garman Properties for 4650 Horseshoe Pike to be held on March 23, 2021.

Recommended Audio Equipment for Meeting Room – Ms. Matlock and Ms. Wunch are looking into equipment options.

Tax Waiver Request – Ms. Rambo requested Council to consider its annual waiver of real estate tax payment for the two Borough-owned properties: the post office and water tower antenna. Mr. Florio made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ott, to waive the Borough real estate tax payment for the post office property and the water tower property. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business

Clearances for all Public Works/Parks Employees – Ms. Curtis requested that all public works and parks employees ensure their clearances are obtained and copies turned in to the Secretary's Office by March 15, 2021.

Newsletter – Ms. Swinty reported that the Newsletter will be going to print.

Shed at the Water Tank – It was reported that the Borough Authority will be replacing the current shed at the Water Tank with a new structure. Mr. Ott made a motion, second by Mr. Halvorsen, to waive permit fees for the Honey Brook Borough Authority relative to a new structure at the water tank. The motion passed unanimously. It was noted that Kraft does not charge for permits/inspections for municipal entities.

Public Presentations

Christopher Ott – Mr. Ott inquired if the HOA can paint parking lines on Anthony Lane at their cost. Chief Wilson noted that they must go through Borough Council for authorization for parking lines.

There being no further business, the meeting was properly adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Janis A. Rambo, Borough Secretary