



**JENKINTOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL
PUBLIC MEETING
July 22nd, 2020
7:00 P.M.
700 Summit Avenue, Jenkintown Pennsylvania
MINUTES**

1. **Call to Order:** President D. Pancoe called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance:** Due to live streaming the meeting, the Pledge of the Allegiance did not take place.
3. **Roll Call:**
 - **Council members present:** President D. Pancoe, Vice President J. Conners, Councilor A. MacHaffie, Councilor C. Soltysiak, Councilor D. Ballard, Councilor C. Sperger, Councilor M. Marlowe, Councilor J. Bruno, Councilor J. Lugar and Councilor A. Khalil.
 - **Council members absent:** Councilor K. McGlenn and Councilor K. Farrell.
 - **Others Present:** Manager G. Locke, Chief A. DiValentino, Solicitor S. Kilkenny, Engineer K. Hassan, Mayor A. Dobbs, and Director of Finance R. Ware.
4. **Approval of Minutes: May 27th, 2020:** On motion of President D. Pancoe, seconded by Councilor J. Bruno, the motion approving the May 27th, 2020 council minutes were approved unanimously.
5. **Approval of payrolls dated June 4th, and June 18th in the amount of \$186,332.40 and invoices totaling \$370,852.59.** On motion of Councilor D. Ballard, seconded by Councilor J. Lugar, the motion approving payrolls dated June 4th and June 18th in the amount of \$186,332.40 and invoices totaling \$336,080.58 approved unanimously.
6. **Public Comment:** Juliet Marsala, 274 Mather Road, reached out via email to discuss the signage at York Road and Greenwood Avenue. Ms. Marsala noted that there is a sign northbound on York Road indicating a left turn arrow on the Greenwood Avenue sign. Ms. Marsala indicated that the sign may confuse motorists and that portion of Greenwood Avenue is one way and there is "No Left Turn" signs at the intersection as well. Additionally, Ms. Marsala noted that the crosswalk lights should also be reviewed at that intersection. Borough Manager G. Locke noted that the Borough and Police Department have worked hard to alert motorists that Greenwood Avenue is a one way. The Borough contacted the Traffic Engineer who noted that the sign was installed incorrectly when the traffic lights were completed years prior. The Borough has spoken to PennDOT and will be replacing the sign so that the arrow is pointing to the east. Additionally, the Borough did have the crosswalks evaluated prior due to complaints. The Borough was notified that the button on the northeast corner of the intersection was not working, and had the lighting consortium purchase and install a new button. The wrong button was shipped and currently the Borough is waiting for the correct button to be shipped and once received will be installed.

Eric Phillips, 417 Florence Avenue, reached out via email to discuss the installation of speed humps on Florence Avenue from West Avenue to Runnymede Avenue. Borough Manager G. Locke will inform the resident about the process which includes the petition signed by neighbors which will then be brought before the Public Safety Committee. Additionally, Police Chief A. DiValentino noted they will put the speed radar there to complete a speed study.

Councilor D. Ballard noted that in speaking with resident Olivia Long she proposed the idea of closing off some streets to allow children to play safely during the summer. Councilor D. Ballard asked about the feasibility of closing some of the more residential streets. Councilor C. Sperger noted that she had saw the post on social

media and noted that people were discussing the idea to close the streets during the business day, from 9 am to 2 pm. Councilor A. Khalil noted that she believes that it is a great idea. Councilor C. Soltysiak thinks that it is an interesting idea however is curious how it would impact things such as emergency vehicles. President D. Pancoe noted that this item usually comes before the Public Safety Committee and asked that Chief A. DiValentino comment on the matter. Police Chief A. DiValentino noted that the Borough has received multiple requests regarding road closures while we were in the yellow phase. Police Chief A. DiValentino does not have any particular issues with the road closures. President D. Pancoe noted that there would need to be some consideration and planning regarding these closures and will be discussed further during the Public Safety meetings.

Anna Sperger, 604 Washington Lane, would like to know if the Police Department wears body cameras in Jenkintown. Police Chief A. DiValentino noted that the Police Department does not wear body cameras at this time but is exploring the possibility. Police Chief A. DiValentino noted that they explored the possibility of body cameras in the past, however due to funding they were unable to purchase them. Police Chief A. DiValentino noted that the Police Department want to have body cameras. Police Chief A. DiValentino noted that they will be providing a proposal to purchase the servers, data and body cameras to present to Council. Mayor A. Dobbs noted that Police Chief A. DiValentino has championed this initiative for the past few years and although the Police Department does not have body cameras, each car has a camera and there are policies in place that require that the camera be faced towards the Officer while interacting with the public. Councilor A. Khalil asked if there are grants available, whether State or Federal, for body cameras which Councilor J. Lugar noted that she is currently reviewing such.

7. Committee Reports

- **Administration and Finance:** Councilor D. Ballard noted that the committee meeting information can be found in the packets. Councilor D. Ballard noted that the Committee discussed the measures of sanitation and cleaning that all Borough Departments are completing. Additionally, all Borough Departments are functioning and wanted to inform the public that the Borough is taking the necessary precautions to allow the building to be reopened to the public. Councilor D. Ballard highlighted that there was the resumption of curb side bulk item pick up. Finally, Councilor D. Ballard noted that the Public Works Foreman K. Riggins installed the parking meters along the 100 block of West Avenue. President D. Pancoe also wanted to note that the Borough will begin the budget process earlier this year than years past due to the current COVID pandemic.
- **Building, Zoning and Revitalization:** Councilor K. Farrell noted that the committee meeting information can be found in the packets. Councilor K. Farrell highlighted about some sample resolution regarding outdoor dining and sidewalk sales and the importance of trying to be flexible and supportive of the businesses within Jenkintown. Councilor K. Farrell wanted to thank the volunteers who have completed the victory gardens around town both in Town Square and Borough Hall. Specifically, Councilor K. Farrell noted that she wanted to thank Councilor A. Khalil, the residents who have donated and the Jenkintown Police Department who assisted with the victory garden. Finally, Councilor K. Farrell noted that the banners are hung at the Southern Gateway signifying the closeout of the project. The vision for that is to continue the same theme and brand down to the Northern Gateway. President D. Pancoe noted that the Borough is working to hold an event with the Glanzmann Organization as they contributed towards the gateway project. President D. Pancoe wanted to thank the Glanzmann Organization.
- **Public Safety:** Councilor J. Lugar noted that the committee meeting information can be found in the packets. Councilor J. Lugar highlighted that the Borough had a peaceful demonstration in Town Square and wanted to thank and acknowledge everyone who organized and attended the event. Additionally, the Emergency Management Coordination team continues to meet weekly to discuss events, and other needs of the various agencies. Councilor J. Lugar noted that the County goes green on Friday June 26th and noted that it allows the return to the new normal. Mayor A. Dobbs asked if the meetings will continue to be virtual even though the County is going green. Councilor J. Lugar will inform the Mayor and the public as soon as a decision is made. President D. Pancoe noted that this will be discussed however it is her feeling to continue to be virtual until September. Councilor C. Sperger noted that it is important to acknowledge that there are a lot of people who do not feel safe returning to work however will be required to with opening back up.
- **Public Works:** Vice President J. Conners noted that the committee meeting information can be found in the packets. Vice President J. Conners highlighted that the Public Works Department is fully staffed and

continue to perform essential duties. Vice President J. Connors wanted to also thank Councilor A. Khalil and Maureen Lucak for their victory gardens. Also discussed was a maintenance plan for the victory gardens.

- **Jenkintown School District:** Councilor K. McGlenn noted that she has reached out to Dr. Takacs regarding the status of the school playground and when the playground may be open. Once Councilor K. McGlenn hears back, she will bring the information before the Public Safety / Public Works Committees. Additionally, the School District is in the process of planning for the Fall 2020 for the 2020-2021 School Year.
- **Jenkintown Community Alliance:** Councilor K. Farrell noted that Jenkintown Community Alliance has noted that the JCA is working to figure out how to fill the void now that there are no Summer Music Series events as well as the Annual Arts Festival has been canceled. One idea was to have a drive in movie, therefore JCA has reached out to discuss the cost of the screen, projector and so forth as well as cover the cost of such to possibly hold a drive in movie night in the parking lot of Immaculate Church. This project is still in the works, however JCA is looking to bring fun to town when there are a lot of things happening. Fire Marshal K. Lynch asked if there is an attendance plan being brought forth and will it go through the Public Safety meeting for further safety discussion. Councilor K. Farrell noted that the plan is in the preliminary stages and will be brought forth before the Public Safety meeting. Councilor M. Marlowe noted that the synagogue on York Road will be having a movie night on Saturday night in their parking lot.
- **Multi-Municipal Group:** No Report.

- 8. Engineers Report:** Engineer K. Hassan noted that there was a report with the monthly meeting materials. Engineer K. Hassan highlighted that the item on the agenda is in regards to the numerous meetings the Borough has had with the SEPTA Design team regarding the project. SEPTA has addressed all concerns raised by the Borough. Engineer K. Hassan noted that the Engineering Department does not believe this will negatively affect properties within the Borough. Engineer K. Hassan noted that the Engineering Department has been assisting the Borough with various sewer matters and are ready to assist the Borough with any questions regarding the bus shelter at 93 York Road.
- 9. Public Works Report:** Public Works Foreman. K. Riggins noted that there was a report with the monthly meeting materials. Public Works Foreman. K. Riggins wanted to thank Fire Marshal K. Lynch in assisting the removal of a large branch along Summit Avenue. Additionally, Public Works Foreman K. Riggins highlighted that Henkles & McCoy is finishing the work along Walnut Street and are almost to West Avenue. The Public Works Department is continuing with the Spring / Summer beautification project.
- 10. Solicitor's Report:** Solicitor S. Kilkenny noted that the Solicitors Office is working with the Borough regarding various projects such as the ongoing historic register update, zoning code updates. Additionally, Solicitor S. Kilkenny noted that they are working with the Borough on Act 537 and outdoor seating / dining resolutions and other legal questions such as conditional use, land development and design review board requirements.
- 11. Mayor's Report:** Mayor A. Dobbs highlighted that she wanted to remind the public to respond to the Census, as Jenkintown is not at 100% participation yet. Additionally, Mayor A. Dobbs highlighted that the Hiway has reached out to her regarding doing movies a la nature. Chris Collier will be reaching out to Borough Manager G. Locke and Councilor K. Farrell regarding such. Mayor A. Dobbs noted that the Hiway has applied for more grants to stay open, and just received a various grants from several organizations. Finally, Mayor A. Dobbs noted that the Police Chief A. DiValentino put a statement out regarding Black Lives Matter movement and the death of George Floyd and wanted to expand on Chief's statement stating the following; "There is no place in policing for brutality. Policing is a profession that is supported by the community to protect and serve and like any profession it must adhere to a code of conduct to be considered legitimate. The oath that all Jenkintown police officers take includes discharging their duties fairly and justly without regard to race, gender, ethnicity, religion, or sexual orientation. By definition, this is a total rejection of any white supremacy ideology. This oath validates the Black Lives Matter movement wherein a person's race should not determine if they are treated with dignity and respect especially when they are interacting with law enforcement. As the mayor, I am proud that the JPD is committed to the values of the oath they have all taken and the state accreditation they have earned continually for the past 15 years - from the most seasoned veteran to the newest part time officer. Civilian oversight of the police department is established to ensure that professional oaths are upheld, misconduct is always held accountable and never tolerated, and everyone is treated fairly under the law. It is a privilege to partner with this department to ensure

those principles.” Councilor A. Khalil noted that during September 11th her family experienced some harassment due to religious beliefs and Councilor A. Khalil noted that Police Chief A. DiValentino told Councilor A. Khalil that the Police Department would watch over her and her family and wanted to share that this was long before the movement that has just taken place. Councilor A. Khalil wanted to continue to thank Chief A. DiValentino for that day.

- 12. Police Chief’s Report:** Police Chief A. DiValentino noted that there was a report with the monthly meeting materials. Police Chief A. DiValentino noted that he wanted to note that there is a law enforcement reform that the Jenkintown Police Department is looking forward to such reforms. A few reforms will be that accreditation will be mandatory, which the Jenkintown Police Department is already accredited. Additionally, Police Chief A. DiValentino noted that another reforms states that if a Police Officer is terminated from another agency for misconduct that the Officer will be prohibited from gaining employment with another agency. Police Chief A. DiValentino assured both Council and the Public that the Police Department has never hired an employee that has been terminated or left another agency for any other reason than an honorable reason. Mayor A. Dobbs noted that the Borough has a very strong Civil Service Commission and has always worked very diligently to have the best applicants and possibly being the discussion of adopting a longer probationary period. Police Chief A. DiValentino is always inviting the public to visit the Police Station and see what the Police Department does. Mayor A. Dobbs noted that the accreditation policies detail the use of force policy, which the Police Department has adopted.
- 13. Manager’s Report:** Borough Manager G. Locke noted that there was a report with the monthly meeting materials. Borough Manager G. Locke highlighted that the community video has been completed and uploaded to the Borough’s website and highlights some of the Borough’s businesses. The Administration is also arranging a Design Review Board meeting for 93 York Roads redevelopment. Borough Manager G. Locke also noted that the Borough Administration is working with the business and property owners in transitioning into the green phase of reopening. Additionally, the Borough is looking to open to the public, should State and County offices open to the public. Finally, Borough Manager G. Locke noted that he was out for a few days last week in the hospital and wanted to thank everyone who has sent their best wishes.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

- 1. SEPTA Jenkintown Stream Restoration Project (CLOMR):** Councilor K. Farrell made a motion, seconded by Vice President J. Connors, to approve the Conditional Letter of Map Revision (CLMOR) which includes revisions to the Annotated Flood Insurance Rate Map in Jenkintown Borough, Montgomery County, PA. The map revisions are based on an updated hydraulic analysis for portions of Tacony Creek and Baeder Run.

Motion approved 12-0

- 2. Resolution #2020-18: Temporary Outdoor Sales of Food & Merchandise:** Councilor K. Farrell made a motion, seconded by Councilor C. Sperger, to adopt Resolution #2020-18, establishing guidelines and policy for outdoor sales of food and merchandise for a period not to exceed ninety days.

Councilor K. Farrell noted that a Zoning & Use permit must be applied for with a plan depicting the outdoor seating and adequate parking must be provided. Councilor C. Sperger asked what the fees were associated with the permit application. Borough Manager G. Locke noted that there is a \$50 fee, however requests that the associated fee is waived. Original motion was amended to include to waive the associated fees.

Motion approved 12-0

NEW BUSINESS AND DISCUSSION: President D. Pancoe noted that the Human Relations Commission has been largely inactive. President D. Pancoe noted that she would like to revitalize the Commission and call a meeting to order the Human Relation Commission to begin such discussion. Additionally, President D. Pancoe wanted to move forward with a presentation of the southern gateway which will take place during the second week of July.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: On motion of President D. Pancoe, seconded by Councilor J. Bruno, the motion to move into Executive Session for discussion of matters of personnel and litigation.

At the conclusion of Executive Session, President D. Pancoe announced that an Executive Session was held for the purpose of discussing matters of personnel and litigation. A motion made by Vice President J. Conners seconded by Councilor A. MacHaffie to go back into the public meeting passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT: On motion of Vice President J. Conners, seconded by Councilor J. Lugar, the motion adjourning the meeting passed unanimously.