



**JENKINTOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL
PUBLIC MEETING
January 26th, 2022
7:00 P.M.
700 Summit Avenue, Jenkintown Pennsylvania**

MINUTES

1. **Call to Order: President J. Connors called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.**
2. **Pledge of Allegiance: Mayor G. Lerman led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.**
3. **Roll Call:**
 - **Council members present:** President J. Connors, Vice President C. Soltysiak, Councilor D. Ballard, Councilor J. Bruno, Councilor A. MacHaffie, Councilor D. Pancoe, Councilor M. Marlowe, Councilor K. McGlonn (Zoom), Councilor A. Khalil (Zoom), and Councilor C. Sperger (Zoom)
 - **Council members absent:** Councilor A. Narva, Councilor J. Luger
 - **Others Present:** Manager G. Locke, Chief R. Smeal, Solicitor P. Hitchens, Engineer K. Hassan, Engineer and Mayor G. Lerman.
4. **Approval of Minutes: December 8th, 2021 and January 3rd, 2022:** On motion of President J. Connors, seconded by Vice President C. Soltysiak, the motion approving the December 8, 2021 and January 3, 2022 council minutes were approved unanimously.
5. **Approval of Payrolls dated December 13th, December 30th, and January 13th in the amount of \$293,020.78 and Invoices totaling \$715,206.59:** On motion made by Councilor D. Ballard, seconded by Vice President C. Soltysiak, the motion approving payrolls dated December 13th, December 30th, and January 13th in the amount of \$293,020.78 and invoices totaling \$715,206.59 were approved unanimously.
6. **Public Comment:** None at this time.
7. **Public Hearing – Zoning Text Amendment**
 - An Ordinance of the Borough of Jenkintown, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, amending Chapter 181, Articles XII (GC – Gateway Commercial District) and XXI (Signs) of the Borough of Jenkintown Zoning Ordinance to permit the erection of monument displays on properties located in the GC – Gateway Commercial District; to provide a new definition of the term “Monument Display”; and to provide regulations for monument displays.

The intent of the proposed ordinance is to amend the Borough’s existing Zoning Code to create a new conditional use for the GC- Gateway Commercial District to allow certain off-premises display signage called “Monument Display” signs. The proposed ordinance includes provisions that address the following: (1) amending Section 181-57.B to permit Monument Display signs as defined therein as a conditional use in the Gateway Commercial District in accordance with certain standards and criteria; (2) amending Section 181-143 to define the term “Monument Display;” and (3) adding a new section 181-141.1 to Article XXI titled “Signs” to create a new section setting forth the various criteria/ standards applicable to Monument Display signs including criteria relating to height, location, spacing, maximum surface area, minimum dwell time,

message and copy transition, operation restrictions, hours of operation, municipal and civic messaging, illumination, conditions, supporting structure criteria, architectural design, and landscaping

President J. Connors made a motion to close the hearing with a second by Councilor D. Pancoe.

8. Presentation: Borough Fire Chief Ken Lynch gave a presentation about Fire Safety in response to the increase in the number of fire fatalities.

- Discussed how to avoid fires and fire related injuries.
- Create awareness of fire deaths and injuries and their common causes
- Inform participants of their personal responsibility toward fire safety and injury prevention.
- 2019 Statistics were mentioned.
- Simple fire safety tips were mentioned
 - Functional fire alarms on each level of the dwelling and one in each sleeping area.
 - Sleep with bedroom doors closed.
 - Have an escape plan and a meeting place outside of the dwelling.
 - Once out, stay out. Never go back in for possessions or pets.
- Top Causes of Fires – Cooking (49%), Open Flame (10%), Heating (9%), Incendiary/Arson (8%), and Smoking (4%)

9. Committee Reports

- **Administration and Finance:** Councilor D. Ballard noted the Finance Director G. Andre is working to complete end of year closeouts. Councilor D. Ballard also noted there are two items that remain for PA L&I compliance: Roof Replacement and final inspection. Manager Locke attended a State Labor & Industry hearing on November 9, 2021 requesting an extension of time to perform the roof project (which was granted until February 15, 2022). Once these two items are completed the complaint will be closed.
- **Building, Zoning and Revitalization:** Councilor J. Bruno noted a few updates on some of the current development projects within the Borough including 93 York Road, 821 Homestead Road, 610 York Road – Taco Bell and Starbucks. 93 York Road - the applicant, Jenkintown Commons Limited Partnership #3 received approval with conditions on September 27, 2021 for the variances requested before the Zoning Hearing Board. The next steps include the submittal of the preliminary and final Land Development. The developer has submitted a request for an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance. 821 Homestead Road – On Hold. 610 York Road – Taco Bell – The Borough received a Zoning Hearing Board application as well as a Conditional Use application to construct a Taco Bell on the lower parking lot of 610 York Road. The owner of the property as well as the attorney for the project, Michael Yanoff, were informed that the application was incomplete at the time of submittal. 610 York Road – Starbucks – The Borough received a Zoning & Use application to construct a Starbucks on the lower parking lot of 610 York Road. The Borough is currently reviewing the project for Zoning compliance and will be reaching out to the owner of the property as well as the attorney for the project, Michael Yanoff, once the Zoning letter is complete. Councilor J. Bruno noted that the concrete inspection program of curb and sidewalk on road paving projects such as the 2022 Road Paving Project for Newbold Road (entire length) and Vernon Road (Clement to Rydal Road) that was on hold during the pandemic has resumed. Notices and deficient concrete will again be marked for repair or replacement prior to the roads being paved under this program. Deficiencies are marked in January of the year the roads are scheduled to be paved (approx. 8 months prior to paving taking place). Councilor J. Bruno noted the York Road Speed Reduction / Safety Plan has been submitted to PennDot for approval. Once approved, it will then be used to seek funding sources to implement the public safety measures.
- **Public Safety:** Vice President C. Soltysiak noted improvements with the two fire houses. Vice President C. Soltysiak also noted Public Safety Committee is working with the Police Work Group to hire a new Police Chief.
- **Public Works:** Councilor D. Sines Pancoe noted the completion of the Roof Replacement Project, the Paving Project for 2022 with include Newbold and Vernon (Clement to Rydal), and the Cedar Street Moretti Park Project is just about completed.
- **Jenkintown School District:** Councilor A. Khalil noted she has been unable to schedule a meeting with the School Board; therefore, has no updates.

- **Jenkintown Community Alliance:** Councilor C. Sperger noted there were no updates to report at this time.
- **Police Work Group:** Councilor K. McGlonn noted they met with Ron Smeal this week to discuss the interview process and timeline for appointing a new Police Chief.

10. Engineer's Report: Khal Hassan, Pennoni provided an update about the Red Light (Enforcement) Camera Plan. PennDot cannot entertain this due to Statute 75, Section 31-17 which states a municipality with less than 20,000 residents cannot be considered. The municipality would need a local rep to lobby in Harrisburg to change the law. Khal Hassan, Pennoni also noted that the finished plan for the Cedar Street Drainage Project will be submitted to Mgr. Locke.

11. Public Works' Department Report: Jim Riggins is not present – Manager George Locke noted that Jim has been working on the sewer reports, removing decorations and taking inventory. He is searching for another person to hire which would bring the total to four employees.

12. Solicitor's Report: Solicitor P. Hitchens noted his office will continue to provide services on an as needed or as requested basis for Development matters, Contract matters, Ordinance matters and Miscellaneous matters.

13. Mayor's Report: Mayor G. Lerman noted that he hosted the Governor's wife and members of the office of the Advocacy and Reform for an event titled Interracial Healing. It was well attended and a great event overall. Mayor Lerman also noted he too has been assisting with the search of a new police chief.

14. Police Chief's Report: Chief R. Smeal noted that he gave the Public Safety Committee the monthly report which includes December's activity. He mentioned his role in assisting with the hiring process for a new police chief. He went on to describe the tests that are either recommended, but not required and are required. He also briefly described the process of narrowing down to a select few number of candidates,

15. Manager's Report: Manager G. Locke noted that he worked with the Fire Marshal and Labor Attorney to update the Corona Virus Policy. He also noted that he worked with Rick Ware, the Financial Director, to close out 2021 and prepare for the upcoming audit. Mgr. Locke noted a few updates to the Fee Schedule; specifically, the Rental License and Fire Inspection Fees (for larger properties) – costs were adjusted to cover the costs of the inspections and administration of the licenses. Finally, Mgr. Locke mentioned how great the Interracial Healing event turned out.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

- 1. Emergency Management Coordinator Appointment:** Vice President C. Soltysiak made a motion, seconded by Councilor Khalil, to appoint Fire Marshal Kevin Lynch as the Borough's Emergency Management Coordinator.
Motion approved 10-0
- 2. COVID-19 Policy Update:** Vice President C. Soltysiak made a motion, seconded Councilor J. Bruno, to adopt the revised COVID-19 policy update.
Motion approved 10-0
- 3. Resolution #2022-3 Fire Commission Appointment:** Vice President C. Soltysiak made a motion, seconded by Councilor Pancoe, *to adopt Resolution #2022-3 appointing Nick Pettinati, Gary Bachman, Gerry West and Robert Zigmund on behalf of the Pioneer Fire Company and Kevin Lyons, Kenny Lynch, Bill Pross and Chris O'Neill on behalf of the Independent Fire Company to the Borough Fire Commission.*
Motion approved 10-0
- 4. Solid Waste / Recycling Collection Contract:** Councilor D. Ballard made a motion, seconded by Vice President Soltysiak, to advertise the Solid Waste / Recycling Collection Contract for public bid.
Motion approved 10-0

5. **Resolution #2022-1 2022 Borough Fee Schedule:** Councilor D. Ballard made a motion, seconded by Vice President Soltysiak, to adopt the 2022 Borough Fee Schedule as presented.
Motion approved 10-0

6. **Zoning Text Amendment - Gateway Commercial Monument Sign:** Councilor A. Khalil made a motion, seconded by D. Sines Pancoe, to approve the Zoning Text Amendment.
Motion denied 6-4

Vice President C. Soltysiak made a motion, seconded by Councilor J. Bruno, to table this amendment for one month

Motion approved 8-2

7. **Resolution #2022-4 Planning Commission Appointment:** President J. Connors made a motion, seconded by Councilor J. Bruno, to approve Resolution #2022-4, appointing Eric Horowitz to the Jenkintown Planning Commission for a term beginning January 26th, 2022.
Motion approved 8-2

NEW BUSINESS AND DISCUSSION: None at this time

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None at this time.

ADJOURNMENT: On motion of President J. Connors, seconded by Vice President C. Soltysiak, the motion adjourning the meeting passed unanimously,