



JENKINTOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL

PUBLIC MEETING

March 23rd, 2022

7:00 P.M. Borough Hall - 700 Summit Avenue, Jenkintown Pennsylvania

(Also - Live Streamed ZOOM to Borough Facebook Page)

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, President D. Pancoe, Councilor A. Narva, Councilor A. Bartlett, Councilor A. Khalil, and Councilor C. Sperger
- **Council members absent:** Councilor M. Marlowe and Councilor K. McGlonn,
- **Others Present:** Manager G. Locke, Chief M. Bentzel, Solicitor P. Hitchens, Engineer K. Hassan, Engineer M. Bickerton and Mayor G. Lerman.

4. **Borough Council Appointment Ward 4 Appointment**

5. **Approval of Minutes:** On motion of President D. Pancoe, seconded by Councilor C. Soltysiak, the motion approving the February 23rd, 2022 Council Meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

6. **Approval of Payrolls dated February 24th and March 10th in the amount of \$156,982.31 and Invoices totaling \$289,513.43.** On motion of Councilor D. Ballard, seconded by Councilor J. Bruno, the motion approving payrolls dated February 24th and March 10th in the amount of \$156,982.31 and Invoices totaling \$289,513.43 were approved unanimously.

7. **Public Comment:** None at this time. (President J. Connors noted at this time the update from PennDot - Traffic Calming Plan was approved for PA 611. He also made a motion to approve the amended Police Chief Contract with Chief Thomas Scott, seconded by Vice President C. Soltysiak. Motion approved 9-1.

8. **Presentation:** Engineer M. Bickerton gave a presentation about the PA-611 updates.

- Painted ripple strips and the North and South entrances.
- Advanced pedestrian warning signs at signalized intersections
- Pavement markings for the 25-mph speed limit

9. **Public Hearings –**

- **Conditional Use: 610 York Road Monopole Off Site Advertisement Display** - The conditional use application of 610 (L) Jenkintown Land Holdings, LLC of 3400 West Chester Pike, Suite 100, Newtown Square, PA 19073 (the "Applicant") for property located at 610 York Road, Jenkintown, Pennsylvania 19046, tax map parcel 10-00-05364-008 located in the G Gateway Commercial District (the "Property"). Applicant seeks conditional use approval under Section 181-57(B)(3) of the Borough Zoning Ordinance to construct and install a double sided off-premises advertising sign at the Property.
 - The Applicant and Mr. Larkin were not present. Several emails read by Solicitor P. Hitchens were added as exhibits for the hearing. All objectors present objected to the continuance. President J. Connors made a motion to deny the application, seconded by Vice President C. Soltysiak. Motion

approved 10-0 and as a result the Applicant's case in chief was closed. A special meeting for the hearing will be scheduled for Wednesday, March 30th at 7 PM in Borough Hall.

10. Committee Reports

- **Administration and Finance:** Councilor D. Ballard noted that the Audit has been completed. The Borough will be informed when the report is complete and the Auditor will be invited to Council to provide report.
- **Building, Zoning and Revitalization:** Councilor J. Bruno noted The Planning Commission monthly meeting was held last evening. Councilor J. Bruno also mentioned current development project updates were provided for 93 York Rd., 821 Homestead, and Cedar St Moretti Park was nearly completed; no action items. If the York Road Speed Reduction/Safety Plan gets approved, they will seek funding. There are no updates on the SEPTA proposed access improvements at the Jenkintown Train Station. Councilor J. Bruno also noted there are no updates on the Noble Train Bridge Construction besides it being scheduled to be bid in the late spring / early summer of 2023. Councilor J. Bruno noted from a report from Fire Marshal Kevin Lynch regarding a total of 19 vacant commercial properties; 11 are either under contract, under lease agreement or discovery, 6 are fully occupied, and 2 are vacant.
- **Public Safety:** Vice President C. Soltysiak noted the Fire Commission meeting was held prior to this meeting. The next Fire Commission meeting will be held on April 13th. These meetings will start being live over Facebook. Vice President C. Soltysiak acknowledged the Police Work Groups efforts in identifying the new Police Chief and hoping to make an offer. Vice President C. Soltysiak noted an update with Covid 19 Policy is simply that which follows the CDC guidelines and the proper measures taken if one is exposed. Vice President C. Soltysiak noted the Fire Department is working toward cohesion having two houses in town. Finally, Vice President C. Soltysiak noted the Borough Administration and Engineer have submitted for the MONTCO 2040 Implementation Grant to fund the construction of the School Zone Extension – Walnut Street Project. The grant would leave a balance of \$12K for the approximate \$60K project.
- **Public Works:** Councilor D. Sines Pancoe noted the Solid Waste / Recycling Curbside Collection and Hauling Contract is under review. Councilor D. Sines Pancoe noted some updates on the Linden Street – AQUA Pennsylvania Watermain Replacement Project; it officially started on Monday February 7th with an expected final paving restoration date in May. In addition, the water main replacement has been completed. The individual water services and line testing has now commenced. Councilor D. Sines Pancoe noted some updates to Borough Hall; the Manager has received and is processing the payment request to the Contractor in the amount of \$52,800.00 and all areas of concern have been remediated including passing the air quality tests. Councilor D. Sines Pancoe noted the concrete inspection program of curb and sidewalk on road paving projects (Newbold and Vernon Roads), was on hold during the pandemic and has resumed. Inspections began late February and notices to residents are forthcoming. Councilor D. Sines Pancoe noted the funding from the 2022 Community Development Block Grant, if awarded, would fund the installation of the ADA Accessible ramps on the recently paved roads of Newbold Road, Vernon Road, Clement Road, and Homestead.
- **Jenkintown School District:** President J. Connors asked to speak specifically about the incident that occurred last Friday. Fire Marshal Kevin Lynch explained calls were coming into the station and Borough Hall asking why the school was being evacuated. Initial reports said there was a gas leak or odor. Emergency Personnel did not have immediately knowledge about this incident until about 10 minutes after the odor dissipated. As a result of this incident, protocols and proper communication channels will be reviewed.
- **Jenkintown Community Alliance:** Councilor C. Sperger noted there will be new holiday décor for York Rd. and West Ave. Spring flowers will replace the Art Hearts. They will be partnering with the Elementary School Library and local businesses for Poem in Your Pocket. A \$3,000 scholarship will be awarded to a Senior student who is also a resident and has been involved in the Arts in any way. This will go towards higher education. Planning for the upcoming Arts Festival and Night Market/Summer Concert Series are underway.
- **Police Work Group:** Councilor J. Bruno noted the last meeting was held on Monday, February 28th. The developed additional questions given to Chief R. Smeal to be incorporated in the interview process for the new chief candidates.

11. Engineer's Report: Engineer Khal Hassan reported the completion of the Land Development, Traffic and

Sewer Review for 93 York Road – Grocery Store. Resubmission in the next few days anticipate making board meetings starting next month. Engineer Khal Hassan noted the Cedar Street Park landscaping approval. The Borough installed a retaining wall while a contractor installed the top portion of the fence.

12. Public Works' Department Report: Jim Riggins is not present – Manager George Locke noted the Bulk and Yard Waste pickup on Wednesdays has been extensive. They were able to relist the sewer pump on the public auction website.

13. 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.

14. Mayor's Report: Mayor G. Lerman recognized efforts and fundraising in and around the Borough for Humanitarian Effort for Ukraine: West Avenue Grille, the school and the local churches. Mayor G. Lerman noted Community Properties and Development: new brewery and new business at 115 York Rd. Mayor G. Lerman thanked Chiefs Ron Smeal Mark Bentzel for their assistance with the hiring of a new chief.

15. Police Chief's Report: Chief M. Bentzel read statistics about reportable versus non-reportable crashes, phone calls and crimes. From January 1 through March 10, there were 35 (only 11 were reportable). Out of a total of 449 calls, 161 were administrative. There were three Part 1 crimes (Major) and 22 Part 2 crimes (Minor). Chief M. Bentzel commended the work of Officer Tuffy and Detective Sangree on the morning of Thursday, February 24 at 10:16 AM. They responded to medical assistance call at the Drake Tavern about an elderly man who had stopped breathing. They administered CPR and then he was transported to the hospital. Chief M. Bentzel noted the case about the church vandalism has been resolved. Someone present thanked the officers for patrolling the light at West and York and were able to pull over a person who had run the red light.

16. Manager's Report: Manager G. Locke noted he worked administratively with the Council and the Mayor to appoint a new Chief of Police. Manager G. Locke is working to close out the Cedar St. Moretti Park grants and submitted the grant for ADA ramps on newly paved roads. Manager G. Locke also is helping with the school zone extension on Walnut St. and other new business development. Manager G. Locke also noted an increase in resident building permits. Councilor A. Khalil asked about the status of the Station and Borough Hall. Manager G. Locke noted a list of items that have been completed and he is awaiting estimates from painters.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

- 1. Borough Council Appointment, Ward 4:** President J. Connors made a motion, seconded by Vice President C. Soltysiak to approve Resolution #2022-12, appointing Alex Bartlett to Borough Council, as a representative of ward 4, to the seat vacated by the resignation of Jennifer Lugar.
Motion approved 10-0
- 2. Jenkintown Police Chief Conditional Offer of Employment:** President J. Connors made a motion, seconded by to make a conditional offer of employment as well as approve the draft or proposed contract with Thomas Scott to serve as the Jenkintown Borough Police Chief.
- 3. 610 York Road Conditional Use - Monopole Off Site Advertisement Display**
- 4. Resolution #2022-13 Civil Service Commission:** President J. Connors made a motion, seconded by Vice President C. Soltysiak to approve Resolution #2022-13, re-appointing Maxine Marlowe and appointing Jennifer Lugar to the Jenkintown Borough Civil Service Commission.
Motion approved 10-0
- 5. Resolution #2022-14 Civil Service Commission Alternate:** President J. Connors made a motion, seconded by Councilor A. MacHaffie to approve Resolution #2022-14, appointing Kieran Farrell to the Jenkintown Borough Civil Service Commission as an alternate.
Motion approved 10-0
- 6. Resolution #2022-15 Jenkintown Zoning Hearing Board:** President J. Connors made a motion, seconded by Councilor A. MacHaffie to approve Resolution #2022-15, re-appointing Anne Brennan and appointing Scott Crumley to the Jenkintown Borough Zoning Hearing Board.

Motion approved 10-0

- 7. Resolution #2022-16 Appointment to Non-union & Union Pension Committees:** President J. Connors made a motion, seconded by Councilor J. Bruno to approve Resolution #2022-16, appointing Christian Soltysiak to the Non-union & Union Pension Committees.
Motion approved 9-0. Vice President C. Soltysiak abstained.
- 8. Extension of Workers' Compensation Coverage:** President J. Connors made a motion, seconded by Vice President C. Soltysiak to approve the extension of workers' compensation coverage to the Jenkintown Fire Police for covering the special events on June 7th 'Sunset Run' and September 18th 'Art's Fest', as required by the Fire Department section of the Borough Code §19-10
Motion approved 10-0
- 9. Curative Amendment Petitions for 111 York Rd and 103 York Rd – Challenging off-site Advertisement Display Ordinance Provisions:** President J. Connors made a motion, seconded by Councilor J. Bruno to appoint the law firm Rudolph-Clarke to serve as independent counsel to defend the challenged Borough ordinance provisions in accordance with the Municipalities Planning Code.
Motion approved 10-0
- 10. COVID-19 Policy Update:** Vice President C. Soltysiak made a motion, seconded by Councilor A. Khalil to adopt the revised COVID-19 policy update for all union and non-union Borough personnel.
Motion approved 10-0
- 11. Solid Waste Collection and Disposal Award:** Councilor D. Ballard made a motion, seconded by Councilor J. Bruno to issue a notice of intent to award the solid waste contract to Republic Services of Pennsylvania, LLC in the amount of \$2,380,216.00 for once per week curbside collection and disposal of municipal waste and recycling for a period of 2022-2025 with a two-year optional period.
Motion approved 9-0
- 12. Vista Road Pollinator Garden:** Councilor D. Ballard made a motion, seconded by Vice President C. Soltysiak to allow the EAC to move forward with the Vista Road Pollinator Garden project.
Motion approved 9-0

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,