



**JENKINTOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL
PUBLIC MEETING
October 28th, 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 D. Ballard, Councilor J. Bruno, Councilor C. Soltysiak, Councilor J. Lugar, Councilor C. Sperger, Councilor A. MacHaffie, Councilor M. Marlowe, Councilor K. Farrell, and Councilor A. Khalil.
 - **Council members absent:** Councilor K. McGlenn appeared late.
 - **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: September 23rd, 2020 and October 7th, 2020:** On motion of Councilor J. Bruno, seconded by Councilor A. MacHaffie, the motion approving the September 23rd, 2020 and October 7th, 2020 council minutes were approved unanimously.
5. **Approval of payrolls September 24th, October 8th and October 22nd in the amount of \$264,722.93 and invoices totaling \$318,188.72.** On motion of Councilor D. Ballard, seconded by Councilor J. Bruno, the motion approving payrolls dated September 24th, October 8th and October 22nd in the amount of \$264,722.93 and invoices totaling \$318,188.72 were approved unanimously.
6. **Public Comment:** None at this time.
7. **Public Hearing**
 - **Linda Bennett, Stork Pin:** Councilor C. Soltysak presented Linda Bennett with a stork pin, on behalf of Montgomery County Public Safety. Mrs. Bennett delivered a baby a beautiful, healthy baby girl while on her crossing one morning at West Avenue and Walnut Street. Borough Council and Police Chief A. DiValentino wanted to congratulate Linda for her job well done.

Committee Reports

- **Administration and Finance:** Councilor D. Ballard noted that the monthly meeting materials were provided. Councilor D. Ballard noted that the Borough staff is continuing to work during these difficult times and wanted to thank them for such. Councilor D. Ballard also noted that the budget process for 2021 and a memo has been placed with the monthly meeting materials regarding the public budget workshop schedule.
- **Building, Zoning and Revitalization:** Councilor K. Farrell noted that the monthly meeting materials were provided. Councilor K. Farrell highlighted that 610 Summit Avenue is continuing to move along and possibly looking for Temporary Certificate of Occupancies. Councilor K. Farrell wanted to also second Councilor D. Ballard's appreciation regarding thanking the Borough staff.

- **Public Safety:** The monthly meeting materials were provided. Mayor A. Dobbs noted that the Committee discussed the request made from the School District regarding the assistance of the Police Department in residential address verification. Councilor K. McGlonn noted that she along with Councilor J. Lugar met with Dr. Takacs regarding the request and Councilor K. McGlonn noted that she would bring the request back to the body and discuss it. Dr. Takacs was invited to tonight's meeting. This item will be moved back to the committee and Dr. Takacs will be invited to discuss.
 - **Public Works:** Vice President J. Conners noted that monthly meeting materials were provided. Vice President J. Conners highlighted that there will be paving taking place on Vernon and Homestead Roads and Hillside Avenue. AQUA and PECO will be paying for 50% of the cost of paving. Vice President J. Conners highlighted that the Noble Train Bridge construction will be taking place in Spring 2021. Councilor A. Khalil asked the either Vice President J. Conners or Borough Manager G. Locke discuss the smell coming from the sewer lining along the 100 block of Cedar Street and how they intend to prevent it in the future. Borough Manager G. Locke noted that the scheduled is sent out daily and the smell that was encountered was not harmful as per the Engineers reports of the chemical.
 - **Jenkintown School District:** Councilor K. McGlonn noted that the Jenkintown School District meeting was discussed during the public safety portion of the meeting.
 - **Jenkintown Community Alliance:** Councilor K. Farrell noted that the JCA has hosted drive in movie nights and has received positive feedback from residents regarding these movie nights. Councilor K. Farrell wanted to thank the Borough Staff for all of their assistance before, during and after these events. Councilor K. Farrell noted that the JCA is very interested in working with the Jenkintown Education Fund.
 - **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 Pennoni continues to assist the Borough with the Cedar Street Moretti Park plans. Additionally, Engineer K. Hassan noted that the paving project is out to bid.
 9. **Public Works Report:** Borough Manager G. Locke noted that there was a report with the monthly meeting materials. Borough Manager G. Locke noted that PECO's subcontractor, Miller Brothers, has raised 22 of the access boxes in the sidewalks along York Road and West Avenue that were tripping hazards. Borough Manager G. Locke noted that Public Works Foreman K. Riggins is continuing the coordination with PECO's subcontractor, Henkles & McCoy, regarding the gas infrastructure project and paving will take place after the work is completed. Borough Manager G. Locke along with Finance Director R. Ware are working with Public Works Foreman K. Riggins regarding the Public Works Department's 2021 budget.
 10. **Solicitor's Report:** Solicitor P. Hitchens 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 P. Hitchens noted that they are working with the Borough on right to know submittals and other legal questions such as conditional use and land development requirements.
 11. **Mayor's Report:** Mayor A. Dobbs highlighted that there are other ways to additionally support local businesses. Pulley & Buttonhole Theatre Company are doing plays via ZOOM. Additionally, the Hiway Theatre is still open and / or receiving donations. The Jenkintown Food Cupboard is also looking for additional volunteers. Mayor A. Dobbs noted that she, along with the Fire Marshal and Emergency Management group, discussing guidelines and recommendations regarding the Halloween festivities.
 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 the Police Department is scheduling their mandatory in service trainings. Additionally, the Police Department is working to collect non-perishable food for the donation drive for the Office of Children and Youth for the Thanksgiving holiday.
 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 Borough has submitted the minor subdivision plans to the County Planning Commission for review. This application will come before Council in December. TruMark Financial Credit Union is looking to lease 600 York Road and are looking to appear before Design Review Board, Planning Commission and Zoning Hearing Board to request a height variance for signage. Finally, Borough Manager G.

Locke noted that he along with the Borough Engineer has met with SEPTA and Engineering team regarding their ada project which includes changing the crosswalk and island.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. **Certificate of Payment #4: National Water Main Cleaning Company (PA Small Water Grant):** Vice President J. Conners made a motion, seconded by Councilor D. Ballard, to approve the payment National Water Main Cleaning Company in the amount of \$94,700.66 as per the Pennoni Associates Inc. recommendation. To date, the Borough has paid \$240,058.73 and will have a balance of \$94,700.66 remaining after this payment.
Motion approved 11-0
2. **352 / 354 Walnut Street Subdivision / Land Development:** This item has been tabled until the December 9th Council meeting. This project must appear before the Jenkintown Borough Zoning Hearing Board.
3. **Bench Dedication: Tom Danilak:** Councilor K. Farrell made a motion, seconded by Councilor A. Khalil, to allow the dedication of a bench in Town Square in memory of past Councilor Tom Danilak.
Motion approved 11-0
4. **Bench Dedication: Alfred J Lizzio:** Councilor K. Farrell made a motion, seconded by Councilor A. Khalil, to allow the dedication of a bench in Town Square in memory of Alfred J Lizzio.
Motion approved 11-0
5. **Local Historic Registry Update: Landmark Designation:** Councilor K. Farrell made a motion, seconded by Councilor J. Lugar, to update the Local Historic Registry to include the following landmark designations; 400 York Road Pedestal Clock, Hiway Marquee, GE Sign, and 215 York Road.

Mr. & Mrs. Miller the owners of 220 York Road, owners of the GE Sign, appeared before Council to discuss the hardships that placing the GE Sign on the local historic registry. Mr. & Mrs. Miller noted that they have been looking to sell the building, and although are looking to sell to an appliance store and love the sign, they do not want to be bound by the sign.

After much discussion, Councilor K. Farrell amended her motion, seconded by Councilor A. Khalil, to update the Local Historic Registry to include the following landmark designations; 400 York Road Pedestal Clock, Hiway Marquee and 215 York Road
Motion approved 11-0

6. **Local Historic Registry Update: Historic Designation:** Councilor K. Farrell made a motion, seconded by Councilor J. Lugar, to update the Local Historic Registry to include the following historic designations; 821 Homestead Road, 604 West Avenue, 444 York Road, 109 Summit Avenue and the Jenkintown Sign located at the intersection of Summit Avenue, West Avenue and Township Line Road.
Motion approved 11-0

Councilor K. McGlenn is in attendance.

7. **240 Highland Avenue: Assessment Appeal Settlement:** Councilor D. Ballard made a motion, seconded by Councilor J. Bruno, to approve the assessment appeal settlement for the property located at 240 Highland Avenue.
Motion approved 12-0
8. **Police Budget:** President D. Pancoe made a motion, seconded by Councilor A. Khalil, to (1) direct the Police Chief to retire the canine unit by December 31st 2020; (2) direct the Finance Director and Police Chief to prepare the 2021 budget without the canine unit; and (3) direct the solicitor to begin preparing an appropriate agreement or document to provide for the care and maintenance of the two dogs for the remainder of their natural lives.

Mayor A. Dobbs noted that this is a budgetary concern and not regarding performance of the Canines or their handlers. President D. Pancoe noted that the Borough has been having public budget workshops to prepare the 2021 budget and the Borough is looking at over a \$200,000 deficit moving into 2021 due to the pandemic. President D. Pancoe also noted that in 2008, when the Unit was incepted, Council was reassured that there

would be no cost to the Borough. Then in 2017, General Orders were put in place creating a monetary impact, which were not approved by Borough Council. Councilor D. Ballard went through a slideshow depicting the financial implications regarding the compensation and training hours of the Canine Department that is spent outside of the Borough as well as the vehicles.

President D. Pancoe read the comments via Facebook and responded accordingly. Additionally, Borough Manager G. Locke read a public comment on behalf of Joy Kostrow, from Beaver Hill. Mayor A. Dobbs corrected Councilor D. Ballard and stated that the Borough is looking at \$400,000 deficit in 2021 and the Borough is looking at mass cuts / reduction. Councilor J. Lugar noted that the Borough reviewed both municipalities of like sizes as well as larger municipalities. President D. Pancoe noted that the Police Department noted that the Police Department is 40% of the Borough's 01 General Fund operating budget. President D. Pancoe made note that in addition, the Borough will be reviewing all department budgets, including the Police Department, and begin the discussion of making additional cuts. After much discussion, a vote took place.

Motion approved 12-0

NEW BUSINESS AND DISCUSSION: No new business.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: President D. Pancoe noted that earlier in the evening, Council held an executive session for discussion of matters of personnel.

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

At the conclusion of Executive Session, President D. Pancoe announced that an Executive Session was held for the purpose of discussing matters of real estate 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.