

COMMITTEE WORKSHOP Wednesday September 20th, 2023 7:00 p.m. 700 Summit Avenue, Jenkintown, Pennsylvania MINUTES

Call to Order: President J. Connors called the meeting to order at 7:13 PM.

Council Members Present: Councilor A. Khalil (ZOOM), Councilor A. MacHaffie, Councilor A. Bartlett, Councilor D. Ballard, President J. Connors, Vice President C. Soltysiak, Councilor D. Pancoe, Councilor J. Bruno, Councilor M. Marlowe

Council Members Absent: Councilor C. Sperger, Councilor K. McGlonn

Others Present: Mgr. G. Locke, Chief T. Scott, Forman J. Riggins, Mayor G. Lerman, Engineer M. Bickerton (ZOOM), Fire Chief K. Lynch

Public Comment: Maureen Lucak asked about the crosswalks in front of Abington Friends – is it Abington or Jenkintown? She suggested they be repainted as they are faint and hard to see.

Presentation

Reports

- **Public Works Department**: Forman J. Riggins gave the following updates:
 - Report on file
 - 17 trash cans received; 3 were returned due to damage.
 - Paving Project on Vernon & Newbold is completed.
 - Mgr. G. Locke commended Mr. Riggins for all his help on this project.
 - Councilor A. Khalil commended Mr. Riggins and his team for their work with the Arts Festival.
 - \circ The tree from the Glanzman property was moved to Cedar Street Park without any issues.
- Engineer Report: Engineer M. Bickerton gave the following updates:
 - Report on file
 - \circ He will provide updates on items as they are discussed under order of business.
- **Police Department**: Chief T. Scott gave the following updates:
 - We have a total of ten crossing guards this school year.
 - Towing applications have been received. We are submitting Flourtown Sunoco and Lindley Towing for Borough Council approval as the primary and secondary tow companies for the Borough. They will alternate responses when called by our officers.
 - The Summer Safety Program was a success. Thank you to Detective Sangree and Officer Jaworski for their development and support.

- We still have an allotment of steering wheel locks for Hyundai and Kia vehicles owned by Borough residents.
- We are working on installing equipment boxes in all patrol vehicles to organize and protect the equipment stored in the rear of the patrol vehicles.
- Our two large new Speed Radar Message Sign Boards have been placed on the north and south sides of the 400 Block of York Road. They were helpful to alert motorists of the Arts Festival and are providing viable information about our speed issues on York Road.
- We are also placing the other signs on streets where we have received traffic complaints of speeding: Runnymede, Township Line Road, and the 100 Block of York Road.
- School safety training was conducted on August 29th with all the school staff. The staff visited their evacuation rally points as part of the training.
- Operation Nighthawk in September was postponed until December. The training will be conducted at Citizens Bank Park by the PA State Police and two of our officers will be participating.
- All of the Axon Fleet 3 cameras were installed in all patrol vehicles. We are working on enabling the ALPR function of the cameras to be used for investigations and enforcement activities.
- Jenkintown Arts Festival was a successful event and well attended despite the rain. We provided security and assisted with traffic control.
- With school back in session, the officers will be increasing enforcement efforts around the school district property for arrival and dismissal.
- The Department will be conducting Virtual Reality training and control tactics training in the fall months.
- The Chief is working with the Borough to assist in contract negotiations and provide support to the process.
- A concern was brought up regarding the intersection at Cloverly and Rodman site line obstruction. The recommendation is to install four-way stop signs.
- Accreditation Update: We submitted our removal from re-accreditation this year. Our policies and compliance will need to be updated. (00:17:16) A discussion between Council members and the Chief took place.
- Jenkintown Fire Department: Chief K. Lynch gave the following updates:
 - Report on file
 - He attended a training in Springfield Township.
 - $\circ~$ Another member completed the Firefighter 1 Program, bringing the total members in enrolled to five.
- Second Alarmers: Asst. Chief Richard Garrett gave the following updates:
 - Report on file
 - Statistics for June: 27 calls; 17 transported to the hospital.
 - Statistics for July: 44 calls; 20 transported to the hospital.
 - Fund Drive in July: \$675 received; \$35 in donations.
 - Fund Drive in August: \$230 received; \$25 in donations.
 - EMT class will be held starting Nov 1, 2023, through March 24, 2024

New Business/Items for Discussion

1. Administration & Finance

a. Borough Monthly Reporting

Ms. Smith and the Borough Accountant have completed the July and August reconciliations and those financial reports are available in the Borough Council packet.

b. Environmental Advisory Committee – Events

August 8 – JEAC will be staffing a table at the Tuesday Night Markets on the second Tuesday of the month to promote events and collect small item recyclables.

October 1 – JEAC will hold its annual Monarch Butterfly Release in Jenkintown Square. The time has changed to 11:30 - 1:30.

Councilor D. Ballard added single use batteries can be dropped off at Staples for recycling.

c. ACT 511 Business Tax – Status Update

A summary review will be provided by category YTD. **(01:38:00)** Councilor D. Ballard gave updates on the revenues. BPT is up \$103,000.

d. 2024 Budget Process

The 2023 Budget revenues and expenses are being monitored. Internal department meetings began in August. The 2024 Budget schedule is available in the Borough Council packet. This should be moved to full Council for advertisement.

Councilor D. Ballard made a motion, seconded by Councilor J. Bruno to move to full Council the advertisement of the 2024 Budget Schedule of Public Meetings. Motion Approved 8 – 0

e. Past Due Sewer Bills – Update

Unpaid and non-responsive 2022 sewer bill property owners have been sent to Legal for the lien process.

f. General Liability Insurance – Renewal

The renewal took place in August. Additional quotes were sought through DVHT and another company. DVHT provided feedback on improvements needed before consideration could be made to provide coverage to the Borough. **(01:40:46)** Mgr. G. Locke expanded upon what was recommended by DVHT.

g. Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) Borough Contribution

The finance manager has received the information from the State and worked with the Pension Actuary and Borough Accountant to prepare and provide the amount of the Borough's 2024 Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) Contributions for the Police and Non-Uniform pension funds. These figures must be presented/approved by the Borough Council at the September Council meeting.

Councilor D. Ballard made a motion, seconded by Councilor J. Bruno to move to full Council the approval of the 2024 Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) Contributions for Police and Non-Uniform Pensions. Motion Approved 8-0

h. Valley Forge Tourism Presentation at Borough Council

The VFTA will be offering a Presentation next Wednesday at full Council on September 27th Council Meeting at 7 PM.

Mgr. G. Locke gave the update this will be rescheduled for another date.

i. Past Due Solid Waste Bills

Liens were placed on accounts that have remained non-responsive. Intent to lien letters were sent to properties that either did not pay past due amount in full or the amount owed had to be re-calculated allowing 30 and 60 days respectively to satisfy the account balance prior to a lien being placed on the property.

2. Building Zoning & Revitalization

a. Planning Commission

Met on Tuesday September 19th at 6:30 PM. The Design Review Board meets before the PC on the same evening on an as needed basis. There were no projects on the DRB September agenda.

b. Current Development Update

i. 501 Washington Lane – Apartment building

Interior demolition plan has been issued and Land Development has been approved and the Plans have been Recorded with the County. PaDep has approved the EDU allocation/release. The UCC permit applications that have been submitted are under review. The Building Plans have been reviewed, the Plumbing and Mechanical Plans were submitted Monday 9/18 and the Electric, Sprinkler and Fire Alarm Plans have not been submitted at this time.

ii. 821 Homestead Road – Proposed apartment building

Stormwater work in PennDOT right of way is complete, sidewalk detour on York Road in place. The PaDep has approved the EDU allocation/release. Final building plans for UCC construction permits have reviewed and approved. The developer has not submitted the Sprinkler plans at this time, they are the only approval outstanding on this project.

iii. 415/425 Johnson Street- 419 York Road – Commercial / 17 Apartments

No updates - Approvals remaining – 1) PaDep / Aqua - EDU releases, 2) Preliminary and final land development 3) Design review 4) UCC building permits.

iv. 93 York Road – Jenkintown Commons Limited Partnership #3 and BAP Jenkintown, LLC – Grocery Store

Received Final land development approval. Received Highway Occupancy Permit from PennDOT traffic. The PaDep has approved the EDU allocation/release. Demolition began on September 11th as scheduled.

v. 459/471 York Road - Retail / Apartments

Plans and application are on the website. Conditional Use hearing continued indefinitely. The ZHB denied all variances requested on August 24th.

vi. 610 York Road – 'Coffee Shop' and 'Dessert Shop'

Conditional Use Hearing postponed until the October Council meeting. SALDO application received, time clock continued indefinitely while other processes take place. Traffic Study received and under review by Borough Engineer. ZHB application received, requested scheduling by ZHB for Thursday, October 26th.

vii. 610 York Road – Zoning and Use 'Tiny Town'

No updates - Zoning & Use permit approved and PaDep EDU and UCC building applications can be filed.

viii. 604 West Avenue Immaculate Church – Land Development

Land Development approved, plans need to be recorded and EDU release is being filed w/ PaDEP.

3. Public Safety

a. Fire Department - Updates

Notice received that Fire relief funds will be deposited in September. Fire Commission met tonight prior to the Committee meeting discussed consolidation of operations, ongoing internal Leadership meetings, training, vehicle repairs to 96 pumper and the FEMA Grant that pays for recruitment & retention of firefighters. Estimates for frontaces (helmet number plates), numbering on Trucks for Station #99 (the new station number). Relief fund and expenditures. **(00:22:44)** Vice President C. Soltysiak gave a briefing on the Fire Commission Meeting that met just prior to this meeting.

b. Left Turn Lane on York Road at Wyncote Road

Chief Scott, Foreman Riggins and the Borough Traffic Engineer worked with Abington and PennDOT to be able to place traffic barrels closing the left turn lane to traffic temporarily until the official traffic detour plan is approved by PennDOT and the Contractor can place the required traffic control; devices and signage that are shown on the approved plan. This was in response to a Facebook comment that discussed having a safety concern with the lane being open and that allowing traffic to have the impression they could enter the one-way road of Wyncote Road.

c. Borough Towing Ordinance – Appointment of Towing Companies

Ordinance has been adopted. Two towing companies have applied and have been vetted to be appointed as official towing companies for the Borough. Needs to be moved to full Council for adoption.

(00:28:11) Vice President C. Soltysiak made a motion, seconded by Councilor D. Pancoe to move the appointment of Flourtown Sunoco & Lindley Towing be moved to full Council. **Motion Approved 9 – 0**

d. Washington Lane 6 Ton Weight Limit Borough Ordinance

Ordinance was advertised and can now be moved to full Council for vote on adoption.

The Police Department was advised that to enforce the 6 Ton weight limit on Washington Lane there needs to be a Borough Ordinance since the road is Borough owned. The ownership of the road appears to have been transferred back in 1984. Abington Township will be proposing an ordinance for their portion of the road. We will be developing an ordinance for Council to consider in the coming months. Abington has approved an ordinance for their portion of the roadway. We will be presenting a similar ordinance for our portion of the roadway next month.

(00:28:49) Vice President C. Soltysiak made a motion, seconded by Councilor D. Pancoe to move to full Council Ordinance #2023-7 limiting vehicles to 6Ton limit on Washington Lane. **Motion Approved 9 – 0**

e. Borough Code Chapter 105, Noise - Enforcement Procedure Discussion

The Noise Ordinance has historically been enforced only by PD and there are some Noise concerns that fall more appropriately into the Code Department realm of enforcement such as air conditioning units and heaters for example. The thought is Administering the Code with the appropriate Department will streamline the process in obtaining a resolution. (The industry standard A/C unit Dba and our Noise Ordinance Dba)

(00:30:22) Councilor A. Khalil asked who would be responsible for enforcement. Chief T. Scott confirmed Code Enforcement and the Police Department depending on the issue. She asked additionally to clarify a barking dog or people yelling. Chief T. Scott confirmed this is under a different category, not noise ordinance. Mgr. G. Locke further clarified this is just regarding Chapter 105, Noise Ordinance.

f. Police Interceptor – 2023 Hybrid Explorer (proposed #3301) Ordered in 2022

2023 Hybrid Explorer Police Vehicle was ordered in 2022 to replace the PD Cruiser 33H1. PD Cruiser #3302 was paid off in April/23 as part of this planned purchase. Vehicle has not been built as of this date; Ford advises it will be built but that it may not be built until early 2024. A regular gas model is available now, but we have opted out of that option in favor of waiting for the hybrid vehicle to be built and delivered.

g. Police, Public Safety & Emergency Management Multi Use Vehicle - 2023 F250 (proposed #33C)

A funding request has been submitted to State Representative Nelson's office for this purchase. PD Cruiser #3304 will be paid off in November/23 as part of this proposed purchase. PD Cruiser #3302 (2018 w/ 64K miles) currently used by the Chief will be returned to fleet use as part of this proposal.

The 2023/24 F250 (proposed #33C) will be a multi-use vehicle operated by the Chief, outfitted as a PD Cruiser, Public Safety Vehicle with Emergency Management capabilities. Vehicle has been spec'd w/ a tow and plow package to assist PW during snow emergencies assisting with plowing of the narrow streets and parking lots.

h. Speed Signs were placed on York Road and Enforcement lines repainted.

New Larger Solar Powered Speed signs provided through County 2040 Grant were relocated on York Road. We have received valuable information regarding speed and possible enforcement priorities moving forward.

4. Public Works

a. Stormwater Management - Ordinance 2023-6

Councilor D. Pancoe made a motion, seconded by Councilor J. Bruno to move to full Council the approval of the Stormwater Management Ordinance 2023-6. **Motion Approved 9 – 0**

b. 2023 Road Paving Project Completed

The paving project has been completed and went well. Foreman Riggins performed all inspections and met PennDOT requirements on documentation. There was minimal damage done to a couple curbs and the Contractor is addressing those areas. There were several residents that voiced satisfaction with the communication and organization of the Borough and Contractor. Road striping will now be restored. Project paperwork will now be closed out.

c. Future Paving Projects (2024)

The 2024 Paving Project is proposed to include Walnut Street from Washington Lane to Summit Avenue and may be extended to Greenwood Avenue if funding allows. The remainder of the Borough roads are being evaluated and prioritized so the complete Borough Road paving project can be finalized.

d. Borough Hall Entrance Aprons

The concrete aprons at Borough Hall were removed and replaced.

e. ADA Ramps Highland / Summit Avenues

The quotes were received and least expensive received by Detri Concrete. The West side of this intersection will have the four ADA accessible ramps replaced in October.

f. Thermoplastic Line Striping throughout Borough (phase one)

A quote has been received from Guidemark and the work is being scheduled by the Contractor. The list of areas to be striped is in the meeting packets.

g. Proposed Line Striping (Phase two)

The list of areas proposed to be striped is in the meeting packets for discussion. (00:48:05) Councilor D. Pancoe asked what needs to be discussed. Manager G. Locke said the areas that need to be discussed are Vista/Vernon. Engineer M. Bickerton shared a picture of the area with recommendations and added more details. Additional comments were made by Councilors D. Pancoe and D. Ballard. This will be considered as a project for 2024. (01:00:53) Councilor D Pancoe brought up the discussion about Leedom/West from the Planning Commission Meeting last night. The crosswalks need to be redone; decorative versus piano keys. This will depend on PennDOT's paving project in 2024 and where West Avenue falls on the schedule.

h. PW Dump Truck F600 in 2024 Budget – Quotes Being Received

Replacement of #23 GMC 2007 Dump Truck proposed to be decommissioned and sold on Muncibid to highest bidder to offset purchase of replacement vehicle.

i. 2021 PaDep 902 Grant (Cycle 60 Application) – Leaf Collection Trailer

Borough issued purchase order to reserve leaf trailer purchase and avoid price increase, expect to receive trailer in 3/24 and pay, wait 60/90 days for reimbursement from PaDEP. Paperwork in meeting packet.

j. Grant Extension for CDBG ADA Curb Ramps Submitted

County notified Borough that grant expires 9/23 and an extension would be granted for one year, request for extension until 9/24 was submitted.

k. Greenwood and Washington Lane – Traffic Pole Location Conflict

3' foundation for traffic pole was approved by PennDOT and laid out for installation in 4' sidewalk. This would reduce the pedestrian path to 1' at pole and require a curb bump out into Greenwood Avenue to maintain the required 2' ADA clearance at the pole. The Engineer may have found a solution by placing the pole across Greenwood Avenue in Right of Way. Working on details. **(01:11:40)** Mgr. Locke went into greater detail about the issues presented. Engineer M. Bickerton

Ongoing Business

5. Administration & Finance

a. Interceptor 'A' Construction Project Billing Closeout w/Cheltenham

31K Payment made to Cheltenham Township as fair payment of JB monies owed while bill is finalized. Abington and Borough have issued an offer to Cheltenham Township Solicitor for disputed work billed from the Interceptor A construction project. Cheltenham is in receipt of the offer, and has made a counter offer to Abington and Jenkintown that is under discussion by our Solicitors. No update.

b. Borough Liquid Fuel Audits Completed

Audits have been completed and Provided to the Borough as well as posted Online by Auditor General. There were NO findings.

c. Borough IT Services

The Borough has completed the ransfer of all email and implemented the new Email system. The transition from DropBox to Sharepoint has begun and there will be a training session set up prior to a Council meeting to cover the use of Sharepoint as the Borough begings to transition away from DropBox. This transition will be at a savings of approximately \$4,000 annually.

d. Sanitary Sewer Rate Study – Keystone Alliance Consulting

No Updates - Needs to be completed with Keystone using latest Construction estimates from Aqua Pennsylvania. Once completed a fair and sustainable sewer rate can be established.

e. **Website – Upgrades Continue** Pages being updated. Website solutions are being investigated as we enter budget season.

f. Collection Efforts of Past Due Solid Waste Accounts

Efforts are ongoing and the collection program is returning positive results for the solid waste fund balance. This is mentioned under New Business as liens have been placed in this process.

g. Large Commercial Property Reassessment Case

Judge's decision issued. Payment plan being requested by JSD. Payment plan being negotiated with property owner. Legal bill received and payment processed.

6. Building Zoning & Revitalization

a. Vacant Property Registry/Tracking

A list of all vacant properties has been created and shared between Code Enforcement and the JPD. The list includes ownership, contact, condition(s) and tracks progress of any ongoing issues. The list will provide up to date information that can be used by the various Departments that become involved with properties that are left vacant or unattended. The list has been developed and is an ongoing process to assure compliance of property maintenance by the property owners.

a. Short Term Rental of Property Ordinance

Still under discussion at the Planning Commission. Air BnB type rentals being discussed at PC and information provided by County Planner for discussion.

7. Public Safety (00:36:14)

a. School Safety Zone Project

Project was delayed due to Verizon utility conflict. Borough Engineer came up with a resolution using "C Pole" design and that was approved by PennDOT. Pole is being powder coated in black for installation. This will allow wires to be run in the air and road will not have to be excavated. "C pole" details are in meeting packet.

b. Borough - MONTCO 2040 Implementation Grant – York Road (RT 611) Safety Plan

Bid Opening was scheduled for 9/14, there were NO bidders, Engineer issued an addendum extending bid period to 9/25. Grant was awarded to the Borough. Working with Borough Engineer to advertise bid for the contract and it will be placed on PennBId - This Engineered plan was designed and approved by PennDOT. It was originally submitted to the County under the Transportation Gant program but was not approved. The plan was put together working with Business owners, residents, Borough Council and the Borough Traffic Engineer. It incorporates many different safety features including larger signage, pavement markings, non-static programmable electronic speed limit signage, pavement markings and rumple striping at crosswalks. The Borough has been successful at being awarded funding under this specific grant program for three other projects within the Borough and having a pre-approved PennDOT plan and a shovel ready project should look favorable on this project funding application as well.

c. PennDOT / Multi-Municipal Coordination Meeting

Did not take place this month, No updates. A second coordination meeting set up by Napoleon Nelson's office with PennDOT and Municipal Managers and staff to discuss issues that have developed or are ongoing that the Borough could benefit by speaking with PennDOT, County and adjacent municipalities directly. The meeting was held and PennDOT has conducted a survey and analysis of Walnut Street and Hillside, as well as Walnut/Rodman. York Road traffic calming plan was discussed and an alternative 48x48 (larger) reduced Speed Zone Ahead signs were approved at each end of the Borough limits entering the Borough and the 25 MPH speed zone.

d. Traffic Light Upgrade Runnymede and Walnut Street

Grant was Awarded - Green Light Go Fund applied for with PennDOT to begin upgrades to this traffic-controlled intersection. The system is over 50 years old. This upgrade will improve the safety and was designed to be within the Borough's limited budget. The application was reviewed by PennDOT, revised and resubmitted.

(00:38:46) Fire Chief K. Lynch asked for clarification on the process of approving the renumbering of the trucks and equipment. There was a discussion between Chief K. Lynch and Vice President C. Soltysiak and Councilor A. MacHaffie. Mgr. G. Locke explained there is funding available in an equipment fund. This will be added to the agenda for the Full Council meeting next week.

8. Public Works

a. Lindy Properties Parking Lot Agreement

Carolyn Hirsh Lindy has proposed entering into a lease w/ the Borough similar to the lease the Borough and Lindy have for the 'Pump House' Leedom Street parking lot that would cover the Greenwood Avenue and Cedar Street Parking Lot. It would allow public parking during certain hours that would be negotiated. The Borough would maintain the lot including signage & stripping and would be for a nominal fee. The Borough would enforce the parking regulations that were in place. Still working out details of the agreement. Parking lot repairs and signage in \$6K range. (01:22:14) Mgr. G. Locke spoke in detail about the property.

b. Cedar Street Moretti Park Use Permit

Requests are being made by residents concerning a permit to hold special events at Cedar Street Moretti Park, like the permit that is issued to reserve Town Square. If Borough Council desires a permit can be designed, and a calendar made to mirror the Town Square event permit/calendar schedule. Need to discuss the details of permit process and limitations and protection of the plants and property for the permits. Preliminary permit developed by staff based on discussions of Council.

c. SEPTA - Flood Mitigation, Stream Restoration Project (Update)

The work for the creek restoration and flood mitigation work had been on hold and has been restsrtaed. SEPTA's contractor is still planning to start the 24-hour jack-and-bore operation but gave notice of a delay in the start date by notifications to adjacent property owners. This round-the-clock work is expected to take approximately 24 days to complete.

Any notices will take place by SEPTA to affected neighbors as well as to the public in general through the Borough email blast and social media postings.

d. Newbold / Vernon Roads – Proposed Bike Share Lanes and Signage

Abington received the grant and will be working with the Borough to install signage and pavement markings for the involved roads - Abington Township has submitted a MONTCO Grant application for share / bike lanes with pavement markings and signage. The plans connect Washington Lane to Rydal Road through Newbold Road and Vernon Roads as part of the larger MONTCO/Township coordinated effort on Bike paths.

e. #23 GMC 2007 Dump Truck – Temporarily out of service – (Last year of service)

Still out of service. Hydraulic brake lines have been received but not installed. All efforts are being made to utilize the truck safely through 2023 with minimal repair costs.

f. Streetlights – Deficiency Survey Completed

No Updates. Streetlights were checked for operation and damage. Those that could be repaired were or had parts ordered. \$10,000 in light poles ordered from manufacturer. Legal is working through insurance cases on knock downs going through insurance claim process. June 13th court date w/ York Road case. Project ongoing.

g. Phase 2 of the Jenkintown/Abington Connections Project

No Update. Work was set to begin but has not begun at this time. Intersection and traffic light at Greenwood/Washington Lane, Storm Water Washington Lane Borough will owe \$117K grant match to Abington once substantially complete. Project phasing out of order due to grant funding delays.

h. 2018 DCED Grant Cedar to Walnut Street Storm Water Grant

No Update. Extension was granted for an additional year. Project must be bid. Discussions with 501 Washington Lane and 93 York Road have taken place. There is a 15% match with this grant. Borough must pay periodic Construction payments and file for re-imbursements from County grant authority approximately \$100K.

i. Noble Bridge Replacement PennDOT – Septa Project

No Update. Project will now be bid at the end of 2023 and will tentatively take place in the Spring of 2024.

(01:31:50) Councilor D. Ballard asked whether stick-in signs are allowed in Cedar Street Park. Mgr. G. Locke stated we can't do much with public spaces. We are only allowed to manage advertising. Public Works will remove those that were not approved and/or dates lapsed.

Other Business

(01:51:33) Councilor M. Marlowe mentioned 1.5 million students took the National Merit Scholarship. Of these, 7,140 scholarships were awarded. There are two Jenkintown High School students who are semi-finalists: John Biler and Peter PJ Schloth.

(01:53:29) Councilor A. Bartlett mentioned next Tuesday is the last night of the Summer Music Series.

Adjournment: President J. Connors adjourned the meeting at 9:02 PM