



JENKINTOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL

PUBLIC MEETING

December 6th, 2023

6:30 P.M.

700 Summit Avenue, Jenkintown Pennsylvania

(Also ZOOM, Live Streamed on Borough Facebook Page)

MINUTES

1. **Call to Order:** Vice President C. Soltysiak called to order the meeting at 6:38 PM.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance:** Mayor G. Lerman led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **Roll Call:**
 - **Council Members Present:** Councilor A. Khalil, Councilor A. MacHaffie, Councilor A. Bartlett, Councilor A. Narva (ZOOM), Councilor D. Ballard, President J. Connors, Vice President C. Soltysiak, Councilor D. Pancoe, Councilor G. Lewis, Jr. Councilor A. Montroy, Councilor J. Bruno (ZOOM), Councilor M. Marlowe
 - **Council Members Absent:** N/A
 - **Others Present:** Mayor G. Lerman, Chief T. Scott, Mgr. G. Locke, Solicitor P. Hitchens, S. Smith, Engineer K. Hassan (ZOOM)
4. **Approval of Minutes: November 20th, 2023 & November 27th, 2023:** On motion made by Vice President C. Soltysiak, seconded by Councilor D. Ballard, the motion approving the November 20, 2023, and November 27, 2023 council meeting minutes was approved unanimously.
5. **Approval of Payroll dated November 30th in the amount of \$89,168.70 and invoices totaling \$226,295.24:** On motion made by Vice President C. Soltysiak, seconded by Councilor A. Khalil, the motion to approve the payroll dated November 30th in the amount of \$89,168.70 and invoices totaling \$226,295.24 was approved unanimously.
6. **Public Comment (Not pertaining to the Conditional Use Hearing):** Members of the Library Board gave thanks for the increase in taxes to help them – Allison Dobbs and Nina (director). Maureen Lucak asked for more recycling bins in Borough Hall and also thanked Foreman Riggins for putting up the Christmas decorations and all things they helped with to prepare for the holidays throughout town.
7. **Public Hearings – (00:39:24) (7:10 PM)**
 - **Conditional Use Hearing: 610 York Road -** Jenkintown Court Realty Company LP of 610 York Road Suite 340m Jenkintown PA has requested a hearing before the Jenkintown Borough Council to seek Conditional Use approval under section 181-57.B.(1)(a) of the Jenkintown Zoning Ordinance to construct a new 2,522 sq ft. café with drive-through facilities and a 1,000 sq ft establishment for frozen desserts and associate parking lot.

(03:30:48) Went off record to deliberate in another room at 10:00 PM.

(04:22:38) Went back on the record following deliberations.

8. Engineer's Report: (00:37:12) Engineer K. Hassan gave the following updates:

- 93 York Road, 501 Washington, and 821 Homestead are progressing well.
 - 821 Homestead – PECO box interference which will be remediated and resolved soon.

9. Public Works' Department Report: Jim Riggins was not present (updates will be part of the Manager's Report).

10. Solicitor's Report: Solicitor P. Hitchens' office will continue to provide legal services on an as needed or as requested basis. He also added that he has been working with the Borough on the DCED approval process and lease/purchase for the vehicles.

11. Mayor's Report: Mayor G. Lerman gave the following updates:

- He attended the Holiday Market and was present for Santa's arrival.
- Police Department negotiations are ongoing.
 - Councilor A. Bartlett concurred, great turnout and weather.

12. Police Chief's Report: Chief T. Scott gave the following updates:

- The department handled 589 calls for service in November.
- The investigation into the fatal accident at 500 York Road has been completed. We are working with the Montgomery District Attorney to discuss any charges that may be assessed in the incident.
- We will be submitting in the budget to increase our Crossing Guard staff by one guard so we can cover York and West Ave and have two extra personnel to cover callouts and other issues. We have spoken with the School District, and they are working on accommodating the increase in the budget for 2024-2025.
- All our patrol vehicles have been repaired and are back in service after a few major repairs were needed.
- We have had some theft from vehicle reports that are an issue. Residents and visitors are reminded to lock your vehicles and remove any valuables from your vehicle. Please don't leave your spare keys in your vehicle.
- Our damaged speed sign will be returned shortly. We are anticipating placing that sign back on the 400 Block of York Road. We will be conducting a speed analysis in January to see if the upgrades in traffic calming have made any significant change in speeds.
- We assisted the School District with two evacuation drills on November 20th and 21st. The evacuation drills were successful, and the students and staff were engaged in the process of emergency preparedness.
- We will be conducting training with the Grace Presbyterian Pre-School and Church staff on emergency preparedness training in the next few months.
- The York Road Traffic Calming project work took place during the end of October. There has been a noticeable change in the traffic and possible reduction of speeds coming into the Borough. The pedestrian crossing and other speed legends are noticeable and may influence the vehicle speeds. We will be conducting surveys soon to assess the impact.
- A few officers attended training this past month for Missing Child Investigations, and Crisis Communication Management.
- We have had an increase in issues at the Fig Café with regards to noise complaints and a large fight that occurred this past month. We will be in contact with the business owners to mitigate these issues. Officers will be conducting regular park and walks to deter the noise issues and prevent further disturbances.
- We will be preparing and conducting performance evaluation meetings with all staff in the month of December.
 - Vice President C. Soltysiak made a comment about seeing higher police presence near Runnymede and West – this presence forces cars to stop at the stop signs.

13. Manager's Report: Manager G. Locke gave the following updates:

- He is still working on the DCED paperwork for the two vehicles.
- The holiday lighting of the Menorah is scheduled for December 7th by the JCA.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. **610 York Road, Jenkins Court Realty Co. LP: Conditional Use:** Councilor A. Khalil made the motion, seconded by Vice President C. Soltysiak, as presented by Solicitor P. Hitchens (**04:22:51** – refer to stenographer record).
Motion Approved 10 – 0
2. **101 West Avenue Assessment Appeal Settlement: (00:21:55)** Vice President C. Soltysiak made a motion, seconded by Councilor D. Ballard, to approve the assessment appeal settlement for the property located at 101 West Avenue.
Motion Approved 10 – 0
3. **2024 Meeting Schedule: (00:22:29)** Vice President C. Soltysiak made a motion, seconded by Councilor A. Khalil, to adopt and advertise the 2024 Council, Committee and Commission meeting schedule as presented.
Motion Approved 10 – 0
4. **Resolution #2023-28 Tax Revenue Anticipation Note (TRAN): (00:22:53)** Vice President C. Soltysiak made a motion, seconded by Councilor A. Khalil to approve Resolution #2023-28, authorizing, and approving a Tax Revenue Anticipation Note for \$350,000.
Motion Approved 10 – 0
5. **2024 Budget: (00:23:37)** Councilor D. Ballard made a motion, seconded by Councilor A. Khalil, to adopt the 2024 operating budget as presented. (**00:24:10**) Mgr. G. Locke explained the timeline for the budget to get to this point. (**00:26:10**) Councilor A. Khalil made comments about it being 16 years since Library had a increase and sewer rates have not increased since 2015. Mgr. Locke further explained the sewer rate increases and responded to Councilor A. Khalil's comment about the collection of close to \$35,000.00 in delinquent trash bills. Vice President C. Soltysiak commented about the new businesses. (00:30:00) Councilor J. Bruno commented on why she will not be voting for the budget.
Motion Approved 9 – 1
6. **Ordinance #2023-9: 2024 Tax Levy: (00:32:09)** Councilor D. Ballard made a motion, seconded by Councilor A. Khalil to adopt Ordinance #2023-9, setting the tax levy for 2024.
Motion Approved 9 – 1

<i>General Fund</i>	<i>8.070 mills</i>
<i>Street Light Fund</i>	<i>0.202 mills</i>
<i>Fire Protection Fund</i>	<i>0.680 mills</i>
<i>Fire Apparatus Reserve</i>	<i>0.110 mills</i>
<i>Library Tax Fund</i>	<i>1.000 mills</i>
<i>Ambulance Service Fund</i>	<i>0.050 mills</i>
<i>Street Tax Fund</i>	<i>0.265 mills</i>
<i>Debt Service Fund</i>	<i>0.960 mills</i>
Total Tax Rate	11.337 mills

7. **Resolution #2023-27 Sanitary Sewer Rate:** Councilor D. Ballard made a motion, seconded by Councilor D. Pancoe to adopt Resolution #2023-27, approving the fee schedule and the sanitary sewer rental charges for users of the sanitary sewer system of the Borough of Jenkintown. (**00:33:23**) Councilor D. Ballard asked Mgr. G. Locke for an explanation and he provided one. This translates to an increase of roughly \$47.00 annually per household.
Motion Approved 10 – 1

NEW BUSINESS AND DISCUSSION: None

ADJOURNMENT: President J. Connors adjourned the meeting at 10:56 PM.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None