



JENKINTOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL

PUBLIC MEETING
November 20th, 2023
7:00 P.M.

700 Summit Avenue, Jenkintown Pennsylvania
(Also ZOOM, Live Streamed on Borough Facebook Page)

MINUTES

1. **Call to Order:** President J. Connors called to order the meeting at 7:05 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 D. Ballard, President J. Connors, Vice President C. Soltysiak, Councilor D. Pancoe, Councilor G. Lewis, Jr. Councilor A. Montroy, Councilor J. Bruno, Councilor M. Marlowe
 - **Council Members Absent:** Councilor A. Bartlett (Excused), Councilor A. Narva
 - **Others Present:** Mayor G. Lerman, Chief T. Scott, Mgr. G. Locke, Engineer M. Bickerton, Solicitor P. Hitchens, S. Smith, Judge Emmett Madden
4. **Approval of Minutes: October 25th, 2023:** On motion made by President J. Connors, seconded by Councilor D. Ballard, the motion approving the October 25, 2023, council meeting minutes was approved unanimously.
5. **Approval of Payrolls dated November 2nd and November 16th in the amount of \$175,750.21 and invoices totaling \$350,472.95:** On motion made by Councilor D. Ballard, seconded by Councilor J. Bruno to approve the payrolls dated November 2nd and November 16th in the amount of \$175,750.21 and Invoices totaling \$350,472.95 was approved unanimously.
6. **Presentations**
 - **Swearing in of Gordon Lewis, Councilor Ward 1 (00:03:10)**
 - **Valley Forge Tourism Association Presentation (00:04:55)** – Samantha Cole (Director of Public Relations) presented a slide show.
6. **Public Comment (Not pertaining to the Conditional Use Hearing): (00:11:59)** Allison Dobbs spoke of behalf of the library asking to raise taxes for the library (small millage increase). **(00:15:52)** Adrian Brockwell (Treasurer) also spoke on behalf of the library. **(00:17:25)** Councilor A. Khalil voiced her support for the increase. **(00:18:20)** Jean Thompson via Zoom chat: only raise taxes if entirely necessary; not over consecutive years. She commented about how it affects her personal status.

7. Public Hearings – (00:20:43) – Continued to December 6, 2023 at 7:00 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. Jenkintown Court Realty Company LP is also seeking conditional use approval under section 181-57 B.1(a)(3) for the orientation of the drive thru window.

8. Engineer's Report - Mark Bickerton, Pennoni gave the following updates:

- Payment for School Zone under Order of Business
- Next month payment for York Road

9. Public Works' Department Report: Jim Riggins (Absent) – Updates will be included with Manager's Report

10. Solicitor's Report: Solicitor P. Hitchens will continue to provide legal services on an as needed or as requested basis.

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

- He gave thanks to the Fall Jawn organizers. (Pam Lynch and Councilor A. Bartlett)

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

- Report is included in the packet.
- Shallice University will be providing meals to the Officers working on Thanksgiving.

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

- Shade Structure was completed and dedicated. Boy Scouts helped with clean up.
- Parking Lot was paved at Greenwood/Cedar. Parts of Walnut where there were areas of deterioration were milled and paved.

(02:54:55) President J. Connors mentioned having had an Executive Session prior to this meeting.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. 610 York Road, Jenkins Court Realty Co. LP: Conditional Use: Continued to December 6, 2023.

2. 459/471 York Road Appeal: President J. Connors made a motion, seconded by Councilor J. Bruno, to authorize the Borough Solicitor to intervene / participate in the appeal filed by 459/471 Old York Road LLC Motion Approved 9 – 0

3. 2024 Budget: Permission to Advertise: Councilor D. Ballard made a motion, seconded by Councilor A. MacHaffie, to advertise the 2024 operating budget. The budget will be available for public review at Borough Hall and the Jenkintown Library during normal business hours.

(02:56:03) President J. Connors asked Solicitor P. Hitchens if now would be the time to discuss raising the tax for the Library. This opened up a discussion. Some Councilors were in favor, but not all. Councilor J. Bruno asked if there could be a transferal from another fund for the library. Manager G. Locke gave his opinion about not transferring funds. (03:03:55) Solicitor P. Hitchens explained the status of the motion and what it implies and what needs to be advertised to take action. (03:05:04) Vice President C. Soltysiak gave her opinion.

(03:08:46) Councilor D. Ballard amended his original motion, seconded by Councilor A. Khalil, to include the budget increase of full tax increase.

Motion Approved 9 – 0

(03:10:36) A question was asked by Manager G. Locke related to the sewer rate increase. Solicitor P. Hitchens gave advice on how to attach to the budget.

4. **Ordinance #2023-9: 2023 Tax Levy Permission to Advertise:** Councilor D. Ballard made a motion, seconded by Councilor D. Pancoe, to advertise Ordinance #2023-9, setting the tax levy for 2024 to include the full millage increase of .174 for the library.

Motion Approved 9 – 0

5. **Ordinance #2023-8: Non-Electoral Debt – Vehicle Lease / Purchase:** Councilor D. Ballard made a motion, seconded by Councilor J. Bruno, to adopt Ordinance #2023-8, increasing the indebtedness by issuing a General Obligation Note in the amount of \$196,827.57 for the purchase of a Ford F-250 and Ford F-600 dump truck.

Motion Approved 9 – 0

6. **Resolution 2023-25 Statewide Local Share Assessment Grant:** Councilor D. Ballard made a motion, seconded by Councilor J. Bruno, to adopt Resolution #2023-25, requesting a Statewide Local Share Assessment Grant in the amount not to exceed \$500,000 from the Commonwealth Financing Authority to be used for Accessibility, Energy and Environmental upgrades to Borough Hall.

(03:17:20) Councilor D. Ballard asked if this is something we are applying for or receiving. Manager G. Locked said we have to apply by the end of the month.

Motion Approved 9 – 0

7. **Certificate of Payment #1: Jenkintown School Zone Extension:** Councilor D. Ballard made a motion, seconded by Councilor J. Bruno, to pay Armour & Sons Electric Inc. in the amount of \$40,246.20 for the Jenkintown School Zone Extension Project.

Motion Approved 9 – 0

NEW BUSINESS AND DISCUSSION: None

ADJOURNMENT: President J. Connors adjourned the meeting at 10:23 PM.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None