



**JENKINTOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL
PUBLIC MEETING
February 28th, 2024
7:00 P.M.
700 Summit Avenue, Jenkintown Pennsylvania
(Also - Live Streamed via ZOOM to the Borough Facebook Page)**

MINUTES

1. **Call to Order:** President J. Connors called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance:** Mayor 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, Councilor D. Ballard, President J. Connors, Vice President C. Soltysiak, Councilor D. Pancoe, Councilor G. Lewis (ZOOM), Councilor S. Spindler, Councilor J. Bruno, Councilor M. Marlowe
 - **Council Members Absent:** None
 - **Others Present:** Mgr. G. Locke, Chief T. Scott, Mayor G. Lerman, Solicitor P. Hitchens, , Engineer K. Hassan, and Fire Chief K. Lynch
4. **Approval of Minutes:** On motion made by Councilor D. Ballard, seconded by Vice President C. Soltysiak, the motion approving the January 24, 2024, council meeting minutes was approved unanimously.
5. **Approval of payrolls dated February 8th & 22nd in the amount of \$170,885.10 and invoices totaling \$418,228.09:** On motion made by Councilor D. Ballard seconded by Councilor J. Bruno to approve payrolls dated February 8th and 22nd \$170,885.10 and invoices totaling \$418,228.09 was approved unanimously.
6. **Public Comment (00:04:18):**
 - Gina Bachman made comments about the Police Department and not wanting to argue.
 - Reed Virgilio (409 Cedar St) – She spoke on behalf of Jackie Connelly.
 - We should try to forth without anger and show respect.
 - Apologized for heated rhetoric
 - Mentioned how Council Members are volunteers; unpaid
 - She hasn't received notices - Councilor A. Khalil suggested she submit her email online
 - She mentioned the increase in taxes is ok if that means keeping the police.In response to the comment about hiring a headhunter, Councilor A. Khalil responded. **(00:14:41)** Solicitor P. Hitchens advised everyone about the structure of this meeting as it relates to the Sunshine Act. There is no legal obligation to have a Q & A session.
 - Alexander Hanson
 - She raised a question about Bellevue Contract and why was it not deliberated.
 - Mary Jane Riley
 - Question about trailer parked on West Ave.

- Inquired about doing an email blast.
 - Citizens need to attend meetings.
- Mark (Beaver Hill)
 - Questions about the Manager and the Mayor
 - Questions about budget line items
- Linda McGrath (Cedar St)
 - Suggested using IACP document when discussing consolidation or merging. Councilor A. Khalil thanked her and asked her to forward it along.
- John Martin (Cedar St)
 - If the Police Department can be voted out, so can Council.
- Maureen Lucak (Cedar St)
 - Made a comment about the Police Department
 - Asked if systems could be frozen to help with this proves.
- Pam Lynch
 - Suggested speaking to Narberth; there is an article about why they did not follow through with a merger. Councilor J. Bruno stated they utilize Lower Merion for their overnight shifts.
- Mary Doherty
 - She asked a question related to the negotiations. Chief T. Scott stated it is still ongoing.
- Linda McGrath (Cedar St)
 - Is there a timeline for decision making related to the police department?
- Gina Bachman
 - Made a statement in the interest of support for Council.
- Mayor G. Lerman stated that there are a lot of things they are not allowed to discuss.

Reports

7. Engineer's Report: Khal Hassan, Pennoni gave the following updates:

- 93 York Submittal review completed.
- Construction change review for 821 Homestead was completed.
 - Engineer K. Hassan explained PECO fixed a sanitary sewer line. Councilor D. Panco asked about the steel plates in that area on York Road. Perhaps a second one is needed to cover a pothole. Engineer K. Hassan said he would contact the contractor. Councilor D. Ballard asked if the 93 York Road project is on schedule. Engineer K. Hassan confirmed it is. It was also mentioned that an upcoming detour lasting approximately one week would be announced and it will be 9 to 3 every day.

8. Public Works' Department Report: Foreman J. Riggins (absent) Will be covered with Manager's Report

9. Solicitor's Report: Solicitor P. Hitchens gave the following update:

- The Solicitor's office continues to provide legal services on an as needed or requested basis.

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

- Recognized the Scouts; picture will be posted to the website.
- Gave appreciation to all of the residents for coming out to the meetings.
- Acknowledged the folks who attended tonight's meeting.
- Thanked Mayor Sorgue who stepped in for a wedding ceremony in his absence.

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

- Clarification given regarding the multi-purpose vehicle.

- Mentioned grant funding is available.
 - **(00:53:10)** Councilor D. Ballard made a comment about grant funds received.

(01:02:03) Councilor A. Bartlett stated April 6 will be the Spring Egg Hunt, awaiting update with the location.

12. Manager's Report: Borough Manager G. Locke gave the following updates beginning with Public Works:

- Inlet surface cleaning started.
- Mather Road scoped inlet; looking to repair,
- Sidewalk inspections on Walnut Street are underway.
- 118 tons of salt used during the snowstorms.
- PECO gas main work for two projects starts March 5th:
 - Wyncote from Train Station to York Road
 - York/Homestead to train bridge
- Dump Truck received: went into detail about the multi-purpose vehicle.
- Sunset 5K Run meeting was held in January.
 - (01:08:55)** Councilor D. Pancoe asked about the Homestead Road No Parking Zone. Mgr. G. Locke explained it is on the agenda as an order of business, then gave some details.
 - (01:10:52)** Councilor A. Khalil asked the Watch for Children sign on Cottman and whether it was still there. Mgr. G. Locke would have to check.
- **(01:12:06)** Mgr. G. Locke gave the following updates as part of the Manager's Report:
 - Annual Audit of 2023 currently underway
 - Mgr. G. Locke explained the process.
 - Councilor A. Khalil asked about the audit and Mgr. G. Locke confirmed this occurs each year.
 - **(01:13:36)** Mgr. G. Locke spoke about the DCED Report that is on our website. Councilor D. Ballard also commented on the report.
 - 127 Walnut Street – able to place a light on the pole.
 - The resident who inquired will be getting a petition to support the addition of the light.
 - Additional comment about the PECO project on process for alerting the residents.
 - Meeting with the Time Chronicle Developer
 - New purchaser
 - Same project to be planned.
 - Public Safety Meetings have taken place at Borough Hall and at the High School
 - ADA CDBG Curb Project will be starting.
 - Green Light Go Runnymede/Walnut Project
 - \$500k to replace.
 - 1st phase starting around \$50k.
 - Rep Nelson located funding to help with the multi-purpose vehicle.
 - Will be applying on Friday.
- **(01:26:40)** EAC Report presented by Maureen Lucak
 - School Sustainability – single use plastic
 - The school will get a bench if they reach 1000 pounds.
 - **(01:29:10)** Councilor A. Khalil asked about the DEP reward for recycling. Mgr. G. Locke explained.
 - No Mow May Proposal
 - Working on Code Enforcement support
- **(01:33:13)** Mgr. G. Locke mentioned offering the finance manager position to Angel Rivera who has helped the Borough get through the audit. He also extended appreciation to the other staff members, Michelle Marlin and Maryellen McSherry.
- **(01:37:28)** Vice President C. Soltysiak asked about the new ice cream shop which is replacing Hilal Bakery. Mgr. G. Locke confirmed the process has just begun.

- **(01:41:13)** Gina Bachman asked about students coming to the office to help with some of the work/internships.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. **Hiway Theater's PHMC Keystone Grant Application:** President J. Conners made a motion seconded by Councilor M. Marlowe for Council to Issue a Letter of Support for the HIWAY Theater PHMC Keystone Grant Application.
Motion Approved 12 – 0
2. **Intermunicipal Cooperation Agreement, Abington Township:** Councilor D. Ballard made a motion, seconded by Councilor A. MacHaffie for approval of the Intermunicipal Cooperation Agreement with Abington Township for maintenance of Traffic signals and Street lights.
(01:45:56) Councilor D. Ballard asked for a description. Mgr. G. Lock referenced the list in the packet.
Motion Approved 12 – 0
3. **Police, Public Safety & Emergency Management Multi Use Vehicle:** Councilor D. Ballard made a motion, seconded by Vice President C. Soltysiak to authorize the Borough Manager permission to complete application through the Department of Economic Development for the Funding of the Police, Public Safety & Emergency Management Multi-Use Vehicle.
Motion Approved 12 – 0
4. **York Road Traffic Calming Plan - Payment to Contractor:** Councilor D. Ballard made a motion, seconded by Councilor J. Bruno to authorize payment release #1 to Armour and Sons Electric in the amount of \$47,512.35.
Motion Approved 12 – 0
5. **CDBG Grant - ADA Curb Ramps - Public bid advertisement:** Councilor D. Sines Pancoe made a motion, seconded by Councilor A. Khalil motion to grant permission to advertise the CDBG grant / ADA Curb Ramp project for public bid.
Motion Approved 12 – 0
6. **Library Accessibility Upgrade Project - Permit Fee:** Councilor J. Bruno made a motion, seconded by Vice President C. Soltysiak to amend the permit fee to cover time and expense of review and inspections on the Library Accessibility Project.
(01:50:07) Councilor A. Khalil asked how much the fee is. Mgr. G. Locke said we don't know because they have not submitted the plans yet and went on to explain how the cost is determined. Solicitor P. Hitchens also provided some details.
Motion Approved 12 – 0
7. **Greenwood Avenue / Cedar Street Leased Parking Lots:** Councilor J. Bruno made a motion, seconded by Councilor A. Khalil to make publicly available monthly parking passes and Park Mobile spaces in both parking lots.
(01:53:50) Vice President C. Soltysiak asked how the passes will be available. Chief T. Scott stated they can be purchased from Shauna at the Police Station. Mgr. G. Locke stated signs will be put up in the lots regarding Park Mobile. 6 PM – 6 AM parking is allowed.
Motion Approved 12 – 0
8. **Parking Ordinance Chapter 174 - Advertisement for Revision:** Councilor C. Soltysiak made a motion, seconded by Councilor A. Khalil to grant permission to advertise revision of Chapter 174

Parking Ordinance as it applies to Homestead Road, as reflected in the Borough Traffic Engineers letter and sketch provided.

Motion Approved 12 – 0

NEW BUSINESS AND DISCUSSION – None at this time.

ADJOURNMENT: President J. Connors adjourned the meeting at 8:58 PM.