



**JENKINTOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL
PUBLIC MEETING**

Thursday, April 25th, 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 7:04 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 (ZOOM), Councilor A. Bartlett, Councilor A. Narva, Councilor D. Ballard, President J. Connors, Vice President C. Soltysiak, Councilor G. Lewis, Councilor S. Spindler, Councilor J. Bruno
 - **Council Members Absent:** Councilor D. Pancoe (Excused), Councilor M. Marlowe (Excused)
 - **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 – February 28th, March 20th and March 27th:** President J. Connors made a motion, seconded by Councilor A. Khalil to approve the minutes dated February 28th, March 20th, and March 27th.
5. **Approval of Payrolls dated April 5th & 19th in the amount of \$169,339.03 and invoices totaling \$108,611.60:** Councilor D. Ballard made a motion, seconded by Councilor J. Bruno to approve payrolls dated April 5th and 19th in the amount of \$169,339.03 and invoices totaling \$108,611.60.
6. **Presentations: (00:06:50)**
 - **Recognition of Retired Police Department Employees (00:06:50):** Chief T. Scott recognized Frank Ryan, Chuck Stewart, Jerry Wuillermin, and Linda Bennett and presented plaques.
 - **STEM Early Learning Center – Drew and Norda (00:18:19) –** Interested in the old Wells Fargo Bank building at 400 York Road. They answered questions from Council members.
7. **Public Comment: (00:45:40)**
 - Mary Jane Riley – thanked Councilor Pancoe for understanding the concerns with commercial vehicles parking in residential areas. She asked why there are no subcommittee meetings. She expressed disappointment about the Police Department issue. She questioned whether the Sunshine Act was violated.
 - Jackie Connolly **(00:50:27)** – read a letter addressed to the Council and the Mayor.
 - Michelle O’Neil **(00:53:53)** – she will be submitting a RTK request regarding the cost benefit numbers. She stated she doesn’t believe any of the numbers.

- Gina Bachman **(00:55:12)** – asked why we are going from an accrual to cash finance system. She would like to know the actual debt amount.
- Alex Hanson – asked about Chief’s salary renewal.
- John Temple – astounded by how Council thinks it will be safer without Jenkintown Police. Their presence is a restraint on violent acts.
- Sheila Hutnick – She said nobody wants to lose the Jenkintown Police Department.
- Jim O’Neill – He asked why would we get rid of the Jenkintown Police Department with guns and proliferation.

Reports

8. Engineer’s Report: Engineer Khal Hassan from Pennoni gave the following updates:

- His office continues to provide construction submittal reviews and land development inspections.

9. Public Works’ Department Report: Foreman J. Riggins was not present so Mgr. G. Locke will cover as part of Manager’s Report.

10. Solicitor’s Report: Solicitor P. Hitchens gave the following updates:

- The Solicitor’s office continues to provide legal services on an as needed or requested basis.
- An email was sent by him to Council regarding Resolution 24-16 and apologizing for not including it in the Dropbox packet.

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

- April 27th there will be a Gazebo rededication and a recognition of the Boy Scouts at 11 AM.

12. Police Chief’s Report: Chief of Police T. Scott gave the following update:

- The DCED will be doing a full cost benefit analysis at no charge.
 - Councilor A. Khalil asked for statistics for York Road and if adjudicated arbitrations can be publicized. Chief T. Scott said he would need to find out from our Solicitor and the Labor Attorneys.
 - **(01:12:55)** Solicitor P. Hitchens asked Chief T. Scott to recap his report as while he was speaking previously, ZOOM cut out. Chief T. Scott said he mentioned how we are currently researching other companies for a more automated system to replace the meters and current kiosks. Also, we installed a UHF radio so all of the public safety agencies including the school could be in communication with each other. We hired one part time parking enforcement officer and hoping to hire a second one soon.

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

- Forman J. Riggins is dealing with sanitary sewer cover plate. He has been working with the Eagle Scouts on the Gazebo Project. He has also begun the spring cleanup.
- There are several items under Order of Business that he’s been working on: the Police Chief’s contract, STEM will be going in front of the Zoning Hearing Board in May, so Council will have a land development case coming soon, and a new vehicle for the police fleet.
 - Councilor A. Khalil asked if the materials used to complete Right to Know Requests could be posted somewhere for the Public to view. She and Solicitor P. Hitchens engaged in a conversation. President J. Connors pointed out that one Right to Know request took 9 hours to complete. Councilor A. Khalil brought p the Pioneer Lease agreement and the discussion continued between her, Vice President C. Soltysiak, and Councilor D. Ballard.

ORDER OF BUSINESS (01:26:28)

- 1. STEM Education / Day Care, 400 York Road – Applicant to Present: (00:43:46)** Councilor J. Bruno made a motion, seconded by Councilor A. Khalil to authorize the Borough to send a letter of support to the Zoning Hearing Board for the STEM education day care facility at 400 York Road. (Applicant Requesting Council Support of Project at ZHB)
Motion Approved 10 – 0
- 2. “Fire Department” Ordinance Chapter 19 – Advertised Revision** Councilor C. Soltysiak made a motion, seconded by Councilor A. Khalil to adopt Ordinance Amending Chapter 19 “Fire Department” Sections 19-1 through 19-10.
Motion Approved 10 – 0
- 3. Mutal Addendum – Chief of Police Employment Agreement, Section 5:** Councilor C. Soltysiak made a motion, seconded by Councilor A. Khalil to approve the mutual addendum to the Chief of Police contract setting the salary for 2024. Sheila Hutnick asked why are we increasing the salary and buying a new police car?
Motion Approved 10 – 0
- 4. Resolution 24 – 15, 2024 PD Interceptor Explorer (proposed 3301):** Councilor C. Soltysiak made a motion seconded Councilor J. Bruno to approve Resolution 24-15 authorizing the purchase and upfitting of an explorer interceptor for the police department and the financing agreement with US Bancorp Government Leasing & Finance.
Motion Approved 10 – 0
- 5. Sell, Convey and Dispose of Borough Property:** Councilor D. Ballard made a motion seconded by Councilor J. Bruno to place this Borough equipment for sale through an online Government auction. (Ford Ranger-99, ODB – Leaf Trailer & PD Cruiser 33H1)
Motion Approved 10 – 0
- 6. 2024 Road Paving Project – Permission to advertise:** President J. Conners made a motion seconded by Vice President C. Soltysiak to advertise the 2024 Road Paving project for Public Bid.
Motion Approved 10 – 0
- 7. Resolution 24 – 16 PaDep 902 Grant (Cycle 62) – Recycling Toters:** President J. Conners made a motion seconded by Vice President C. Soltysiak to approve submittal of the PaDep 902 Grant application for the purchase of 300 Wheeled Recycling Toters.
Motion Approved 10 – 0
- 8. Resolution 24 – 17 Parking Lot Lease Renewals (2) – Lindy Properties:** President J. Conners made a motion seconded by Councilor J. Bruno to approve the renewal of the current parking lot leases for 201-207 Leedom Street and 321 York Road for the term of two years.
Motion Approved 10 – 0
- 9. 2018 DCED - Cedar to Walnut Street Storm Water Grant:** President J. Conners made a motion seconded by Councilor A. Khalil to advertise the 2018 DCED, Cedar to Walnut Street Project for Public Bid. M. Lucak asked if it was happening. Mgr. G. Locke explained what is happening and why it was delayed. Engineer K. Hassan also gave some details.
Motion Approved 10 – 0

NEW BUSINESS AND DISCUSSION

- (01:38:35)** Mgr. G. Locke mentioned the upcoming closure of Washington Lane in mid-May at York and Townshipline Road. The Engineer and PECO are working together. Mgr. G. Locke thanked

Chief T. Scott for all he has done since starting in 2022. He thanked the Council for voting on items #3 and #5 under Order of Business. President J. Connors thanked Chief T. Scott for his role in implementing active shooter training in the school and for getting the Borough back on the radio in case there ever is a real emergency. Councilor A. Khalil also thanked him for bringing back professionalism. Vice President C. Soltysiak mentioned having attended a dinner where other Council members from other jurisdictions spoke highly of Chief T. Scott.

Councilor A. Khalil requested an Executive Session to discuss matters of personnel.

ADJOURNMENT: President J. Connors adjourned the meeting at 8:54 PM.