

**TELFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
September 11, 2023
7:30 PM**

I. CALL TO ORDER

President William Ashley called the Telford Borough Council meeting of September 11, 2023 to order at 7:32 p.m.

II. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The invocation was given by Mayor Jerry Guretse, followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Prior to roll call, Council President Ashley held a moment of silence in remembrance of 9/11 and the lives that were lost on that day.

Council President Ashley also called into question the noted absence of an agenda item specifically addressing a planned moment of silence for victims of 9/11.

III. ROLL CALL

Present at the meeting were President William Ashley, Vice President Emiline Weiss, and council members John Taylor, Carolyn Crouthamel, Spencer Kulhanjian, Eric Kratz and Robert Jacobus. Also in attendance were Mayor Jerry Guretse, Manager Kyle Detweiler, and Recording Secretary Tracey Inman.

Prior to citizens' comments, Council President Ashley inquired if anyone in attendance would be audio or video recording tonight's meeting, or live streaming. Telford resident John Waldenberger of 149 N. 4th Street advised that he would be live streaming the event on Facebook.

IV. CITIZENS' COMMENTS- AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

John Waldenberger, 149 N. 4th Street

Mr. Waldenberger had questions and concerns regarding the Executive Session held during the July 10, 2023 meeting. Mr. Waldenberger also had questions regarding the purchase of land from **Trinity UCC Church.**

V. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Prior to approval of the minutes from the August 14, 2023 regular meeting, Council President Ashley questioned why there was a difference in the citizens comments section that listed the names of citizens who spoke versus a letter that was submitted by a resident. He specifically asked why there was more content listed for the name of the resident who submitted the letter versus the residents who spoke in person and advised that he “likes things the same”.

Council also advised that there was an error in the minutes and that “Trinity UCC” was listed as “Trinity Lutheran” in the August 14th minutes. After discussion it was agreed that the minutes would be approved after a correction to this matter.

Council Vice President Weiss made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 14, 2023 meeting with the stipulation that the minutes be corrected. Council Member Taylor seconded the motion and the motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

VI. TREASURERS REPORT

A written report was submitted for the record.

After discussion, Council agreed to hold a budget meeting on October 16th and asked that it be noted on the Telford Borough website.

VII. MAYOR’S REPORT

There was no formal report submitted for the record. Mayor Guretse advised that he recently took many phone calls, met with Council, Police Chief Floyd and many residents.

VIII. POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Chief Floyd submitted a written report for the record. Chief Floyd provided an update on the Citizens Academy and answered questions regarding the gun shop in Telford was burglarized on August 11, 2023.

IX. FIRE REPORT

A report was submitted for the record. Bob Sparks from the Telford Fire Company also advised that the Junior Cadet Program was successful, but the adult program was cancelled due to low enrollment. Mr. Sparks stated that the Saturday “Fill-The-Bucket” event was cancelled.

Council Member Kratz inquired about the new siren and Mr. Sparks provided an update.

X. EMS REPORT

Mayor Guretse advised that there were fifty-three calls during the month of August 2023. Mr. Guretse also advised that there is still some confusion from residents as they think VMSC is still known as Souderton Ambulance.

XI. LIBRARY REPORT

Wendy Leshinskie advised there was no library report for the record this month. Ms. Leshinskie also discussed the “Dinner In White” event that was a fund raiser for the library. The event was held in August. Ms. Leshinskie advised that the Indian Valley Public Library recently held a public meeting to discuss policy. Ms. Leshinski also advised that the Foundation of Friends meets the second Wednesday of the month.

XII. BOROUGH STAFF REPORTS

A. Public Works Department- Gary Yoder

Mr. Yoder submitted the Public Works report. Mr. Yoder thanked retiring employee Brian Kopp for his years of service to Telford Borough.

Council Member Taylor inquired about the American flag not being lowered to “half-mast” in observance of 9/11 and advised that a resident brought it to his attention. Mr. Detweiler advised that he will take responsibility for the issue and will try to make sure it doesn’t happen again.

B. Manager’s Report- Manager Kyle Detweiler

Mr. Detweiler submitted a written report. Mr. Detweiler answered questions from Council regarding items detailed in the report. Mr. Detweiler advised that the RAVE program is now ready.

XIII. PROFESSIONAL CONSULTANTS’ REPORTS

A. Solicitor’s Report- James Jacquette, Timoney Knox LLP

Mr. Jacquette was not in physical attendance but was available via telephone. Mr. Jacquette advised there was no solicitor’s report.

B. Engineer’s Report- CKS Engineers

A written report was submitted for the record.

XIV. COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Finance and Administrative Committee- Emiline Weiss

1. Council Vice President Weiss made a motion to approve bills from August 2023 in the amount of \$228,634.01. Council Member Crouthamel seconded the motion and the motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

B. Planning and Zoning Committee- Carolyn Crouthamel

There was no report. Ms. Crouthamel discussed the recent staff appreciation picnic.

C. Environmental Committee- Spencer Kulhanjian

Council Member Kulhanjian advised that the Northern Montgomery County Recycling Commission will meet on September 21, 2023 at North Wales Borough.

D. Public Works/Buildings & Plant Committee- Robert Jacobus

There was no report.

E. Public Safety Committee- William Ashley

Council President Ashley advised that the Public Safety Committee met on September 5th, 2023. Council President Ashley also discussed the potential upgrade to Borough streetlights and shared the different technologies pertaining to the lights. Council President Ashley advised there will be a resolution next month on whether to approve or reject the proposal.

F. Development & Culture Committee- John Taylor

Council Member Taylor advised that the Oktoberfest event will be held on October 21st from 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM at Stover's. Council Member Taylor also advised that there were issues at the Night Market with some food trucks not showing up and that Telford Happenings hopes to have that resolved before next year's Night Market events.

Council Member Taylor discussed a Junior Council Member project that high school students participating in student government may wish to become involved with at Telford Borough.

Mr. Detweiler updated Council on the Hometown Heroes Banner project.

XV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

XVI. CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Council President Ashley advised the audience that they would be afforded three minutes to speak and advised that comments should be limited to Telford Borough residents.

The following Telford Borough resident's offered commentary during the September 11, 2023 meeting:

Meredith Torres of 206 W. Lincoln Avenue had questions regarding the police report and wanted to know if drug overdoses were higher than usual.

John Waldenberger of 149 N. 4th Street questioned whether solar lighting could be considered for streetlights. Mr. Waldenberger also inquired about the RAVE program for renters, and whether there would be non-alcoholic beverages offered at Oktoberfest. Mr. Waldenberger also asked for clarification on Council Member Jacobus' vote to approve the payment of bills for the month of August 2023.

Katherine Farina of 620 S. Main Street inquired about adding more streetlights and wanted to know if the item could be budgeted for. Ms. Farina also had questions about the RAVE program and asked about an ordinance that would allow for chickens in the borough.

John Harrell of 31 Branch Avenue discussed the potential lighting upgrade in the Borough and also commented about the length of the time that Council meetings last.

Karen Strauss of 135 N. Washington Street discussed water damage to her property from her neighbor's yard and asked Council to help find a solution.

J. Fairchok of 303 Northview Avenue asked Council for information regarding policy and ordinance changes and advised that he would like things to be solved. Mr. Fairchok did not specifically address what changes he is referring to. Mr. Fairchok also advised that some residents do not like additional street lighting as the lights shine through their windows at night.

Trudy Tilghman of 304 Northview Avenue questioned whether the Borough has a noise ordinance and referred Council to excessive noise near her property during late hours of the evening.

XVII. ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Crouthamel motioned for adjournment and Council Member Kratz seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 7-0 vote and the meeting was adjourned at 9:01 PM.