

April 4, 2022

The Telford Borough Council meeting held this date was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Vice-President Bill Ashley with the following people in attendance: Carolyn Crouthamel, Spencer Kulhanjian, Jeffrey Maxwell, John Taylor and Emiline Weiss. Also present were Mayor Jerry Guretse, Manager Mark Fournier, Public Works Director Gary Yoder, Public Works Employees Eric Fluck and Terry Kratz, Police Chief Randall Floyd, Officer Kyle Heffernan, Officer Erica Robbins, Recording Secretary Megan McShane, Mrs. Erica Fluck and residents Daniel Gravatt, Wendy Leshinskie, Dale Nice and Lori Rappold. Council President Miles Arnott was absent.

The invocation was given by Councilwoman Carolyn Crouthamel, followed by the pledge of allegiance.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF PUBLIC WORKS EMPLOYEES:

Mayor Jerry Guretse first read the following Proclamation into the minutes, recognizing Parks Foreman Brian Kopp:

WHEREAS, on January 11, 2022, Telford Borough Public Works employee Brian S. Kopp demonstrated incredible awareness by recognizing a potentially dangerous situation for a young toddler; and

WHEREAS, While driving along East Reliance Road near Centennial Ridge, he saw a toddler wandering alone close to the road. Mr. Kopp pulled over, contacted the police, and brought the child into his work vehicle until the police arrived. Mr. Kopp then safely turned the toddler over to the police officer; and

WHEREAS, Brian S. Kopp quickly recognized the danger to the child, took decisive action and secured the safety of the toddler; and

WHEREAS, This heroic act by Mr. Kopp must be recognized as above and beyond the call of duty. Mr. Kopp has set an example for his colleagues, as well as the citizens of Telford Borough; and

NOW THEREFORE, I, Jerry Guretse, proclaim on behalf of the Borough of Telford our sincere appreciation as we honor and recognize Brian S. Kopp for his exemplary actions.

Mayor Guretse then recognized Public Works employees Eric Fluck and Terry Kratz and Collections Foreman Warren Harris by reading the following Proclamation into the minutes:

WHEREAS, on March 31, 2022, Telford Borough Public Works employees Eric S. Fluck, Warren J. Harris, II and Terry L. Kratz demonstrated incredible bravery and heroism when he took action in a life-threatening situation; and

WHEREAS, While driving from a training session within West Rockhill Township, these employees came upon a severe head-on collision accident along County Line Road near the entrance to Telford Borough Authority Well #5; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Fluck, Mr. Harris & Mr. Kratz selflessly and without hesitation quickly jumped out of the pick-up truck and assisted a woman out of a vehicle, attempting to free the injured persons, and then attempted to extinguish the flames of the burning vehicles with fire extinguishers; and

WHEREAS, This incredibly heroic act by these employees must be recognized as above and beyond the call of duty. Mr. Fluck, Mr. Harris and Mr. Kratz have set an example for their colleagues, as well as the citizens of Telford Borough; and

NOW THEREFORE, I, Jerry Guretse, proclaim on behalf of the Borough of Telford our sincere appreciation as we honor and recognize Eric S. Fluck, Warren J. Harris, II and Terry L. Kratz for their life-saving actions.

Mayor Guretse presented Mr. Fluck and Mr. Kratz with framed Proclamations since they were in attendance, and Mr. Harris and Mr. Kopp will be given framed Proclamations as well.

Mayor Guretse commented that it took an incredible act of heroism for these employees to do what they did, and they acted without hesitation. He added that Council should be comforted to know that the Borough has Public Works employees like these.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

A Weiss/Crouthamel motion carried unanimously (6-0) approving the minutes of the March 7, 2022 Borough Council meeting.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Guretse reported that he attended a Public Safety Committee meeting last month and that he plans to visit the WWTF this month.

POLICE REPORT: We received a written monthly report for the file.

FIRE REPORT: We received a written monthly report for the file.

Mayor Guretse reported that the Fire Company held their shred event on Saturday, and added that the Fire Company has already had 71 calls so far this year.

LIBRARY REPORT: We received a written monthly report for the file.

Wendy Leshinskie reported that National Library Week is April 3rd through April 9th. She also informed Council that orders are now being accepted online only until May 1st for the annual Library Herb Sale; orders can be picked up on May 6th and 7th at the Library, and proceeds benefit the Library and Ukraine relief.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT: We received a written monthly report for the file.

Councilman Jeffrey Maxwell asked Public Works Director Gary Yoder what the Public Works Department was doing on County Line Road, and Mr. Yoder explained that they were sucking debris out of valves.

Council Vice-President Bill Ashley asked Mr. Yoder if there is any ongoing road work around town aside from the Fourth Street water line project, and Mr. Yoder stated that there isn't as of yet.

Mayor Guretse asked if Fourth Street will be closed while the road work is taking place, and Mr. Yoder assured him that the fire truck will be able to get through if need be.

MANAGER'S REPORT: We received a written monthly report for the file.

Manager Mark Fournier reported that Finance Director Craig Davies will be returning to work tomorrow.

BUILDING OFFICIAL'S REPORT: We received a written monthly report for the file.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Solicitor Jim Jacquette reported that the latest revisions are complete on the police contract and the Borough is waiting for a response from the officers.

ENGINEER'S REPORT: We received a written monthly report for the file.

Mr. Fournier reported that the foundations are complete on the first four units of the Lutheran Home Summerfield project.

COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE:

Mr. Dale Nice from 364 West Broad Street asked if there was an update on the County Line Road paving project that was supposed to start in the beginning of March. Mr. Fournier stated that there is no new update since they started base repair. Mr. Nice then asked if Haines & Kibblehouse is doing the work, and Mr. Yoder informed him that Blooming Glen Contractors is doing the work. Mr. Nice added that his patience is wearing thin and he's getting ready to make a trip out to Harrisburg to address this.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE:

A-1 Mr. Fournier gave an overview of Resolution 22-02, a resolution authorizing small borrowing for capital purposes under Section 8019 of the LGUDA. This resolution will allow the Borough to borrow funds to purchase a new police vehicle. The payment details have not been finalized yet, but the term will be a 5-year lease. Resolution 22-02 authorizes the Borough borrowing \$49,551.

A Maxwell/Weiss motion carried unanimously (6-0) approving Resolution 22-02.

Mayor Guretse asked if the Borough could borrow money from the General Fund to pay for this vehicle. Mr. Fournier explained that the Borough intends to borrow funds out of Capital Reserve and reimburse ourselves back.

Mayor Guretse then asked if the vehicle is fully outfitted, and Chief Floyd confirmed that it is, however, lettering and a Department mobile computer still needs to be tied into it.

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMITTEE:

PZ-1 A Crouthamel/Kulhanjian motion carried unanimously (6-0) appointing Daniel Gravatt to the Zoning Hearing Board, term to expire January, 2024. Councilwoman Emiline Weiss informed Council that Mr. Gravatt is currently serving as Telford Borough's Judge of Elections.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE:

Councilman Spencer Kulhanjian reported that a Northern Montgomery County Recycling Commission meeting is scheduled for this month, and that he plans to visit the WWTF this month.

PUBLIC WORKS/BUILDINGS & PLANT COMMITTEE:

Mr. Ashley informed Council that staff contracted a company to get appraisals on 122 Penn Avenue and 50 Penn Avenue. Mr. Fournier reported that Indian Valley Appraisal Company is coming tomorrow to assess the two buildings.

Mr. Ashley reported that he and David Snook attended the IVRPC meeting on March 24th and that there is interest among the municipalities in developing a flood management plan for the Perkiomen Creek.

Mr. Ashley also reported that the Montgomery County Boroughs Association has resumed their meetings.

Mr. Ashley then informed Council that he met with Daniel Butler, the new owner of 261 West Broad Street, which is now a gun store. He added that Mr. Butler has really cleaned the place up, and that Mr. Butler has talked with both Chief Floyd and Jesse Hill, the Borough's code enforcement officer.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE:

Mr. Ashley reported that the Public Safety Committee met and had a discussion on the challenges that the Souderton Ambulance Association is facing, including staffing, funding, an old roof on the building and 2 ambulances that each have over 90,000 miles on them. He added that the Association is looking into the possibility of a joint partnership with Lansdale EMS.

Mayor Guretse also reported that the Association has to present a plan to the state as to how they will get their in-station numbers up to 100%; they are currently at 60%. He added that this is a statewide problem and that they are looking at possible ways to help the emergency management services.

DEVELOPMENT AND CULTURE COMMITTEE:

Councilman John Taylor informed Council that Telford Happenings is having an egg hunt at Centennial Park on Saturday, April 9th from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. He also reported that Opening Day of the Telford Night Market is on Wednesday, June 1st and that Telford Happenings will be celebrating both the 20th anniversary of Telford Borough hosting a market, and Telford Borough's 125th anniversary.

Mr. Taylor then informed Council that So You Think You Can Cook is coming up on Wednesday, April 6th from 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm at the Franconia Heritage, and also stated that the list of Concert Sundaes is now available on the Souderton Connects website.

Mr. Taylor reported that he attended a recent Bucks County Borough's Association meeting, and that they will be doing a re-organization at their September meeting. Mr. Taylor plans to go as a Bucks County representative for Telford Borough Council.

OTHER BUSINESS: Nothing at this time.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:21 pm by a Weiss/Crouthamel motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark D. Fournier

Secretary