

November 2, 2020

The Telford Borough Council meeting held this date was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by President John Taylor with the following people in attendance: Miles Arnott, Bill Ashley, Robert Baker, Carolyn Crouthamel, Mark Gehman and Jim Schaeffer. Also present were Mayor David Snook, Manager Mark Fournier, Finance Director Craig Davies, Recording Secretary Megan McShane, Public Works Director Gary Yoder, Police Chief Randall Floyd, Solicitor James Jacquette, Fire Company President Jerry Guretske, Emergency Management Coordinator Bob Sparks and residents Wendy Leshinskie, Lori Rappold and Nicole Spiese.

The invocation was given by Jim Schaeffer, followed by the pledge of allegiance.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

A Crouthamel/Arnott motion carried unanimously (7-0) approving the minutes of the October 5, 2020 Borough Council meeting.

MAYOR'S REPORT: We did not receive a written monthly report for the file.

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

Chief Randall Floyd reported that the Police Department recently qualified for funding from a Presidential Executive Order, due to our accreditation.

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

Fire Company President Jerry Guretske reported that the Fire Company applied in conjunction with Tylersport Fire Company for a grant and they were awarded \$200,000 towards the purchase of air packs.

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

Wendy Leshinskie informed Council that there are several upcoming history presentations available via Zoom on the Library website, including the Legend of Sleepy Hollow and the Hessians, Henry Chapman Mercer: A Legacy Built in Concrete and Pearl Harbor: A Day of Infamy, to name a few.

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

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

Mr. Fournier reported that the final U&O inspection for the new Borough Hall is scheduled for this Friday morning.

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

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: We did not receive a written monthly report for the file.

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

COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE: There were no comments from the audience.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE: Ms. Crouthamel

A-1 Manager Mark Fournier presented the proposed 2021 Budget, which does not include a tax increase.

Councilman Robert Baker asked if the Lutheran Home will definitely be signing Agreements next year, and Mr. Fournier confirmed that they should be moving forward in spring or summer of next year with Phases I and II of their expansion project.

Mr. Fournier and Finance Director Craig Davies were thanked for their hard work on the budget.

A-2 Mr. Baker informed Council that he heard that a tax levy ordinance may not be needed for municipalities who do not have a tax increase. Solicitor Jim Jacquette will look into this and let the staff know what he finds.

An Ashley/Baker motion carried unanimously (7-0) authorizing the advertisement of Tax Levy Ordinance #424, if it is deemed necessary for the Borough to still have a tax levy ordinance, even though there will not be a tax increase in this year's budget.

A-3 A Crouthamel/Arnott motion carried unanimously (7-0) appointing Justin Martin to the Telford Industrial Development Authority Board. Mr. Martin is filling the remainder of Ken Price's term, who recently resigned from the Board. This term expires in January, 2021, at which time Mr. Martin can be re-appointed for another five-year term.

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMITTEE: Mr. Schaeffer

PZ-1 Mr. Fournier reported that the following municipalities are working together and are looking to engage a professional consultant to conduct a planning & feasibility study for a proposed Liberty Bell Trail: Franconia Township, Hatfield Borough, Hatfield Township, Lansdale Borough, Souderton Borough, Telford Borough & Upper Gwynedd Township.

The 25-mile trail will connect the Schuylkill River Trail with the Upper Bucks Rail Trail, and the portion of the trail that will be involved in this study will travel 11 miles starting in Telford Borough, then travel through all of the municipalities listed above and end in Upper Gwynedd Township.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE: Mr. Gehman

Councilman Mark Gehman reported that there was an NMCRC Zoom call on October 8th and there was discussion on the proposed Act 101; he added that Telford Borough was not the only municipality with concerns about it. The next NMCRC meeting will be on January 7, 2021.

PUBLIC WORKS/BUILDINGS & PLANT COMMITTEE: Mr. Ashley

Councilman Bill Ashley asked Mr. Fournier for more detail on the remaining punchlist items for the new Borough Hall project that Mr. Fournier referenced in his monthly report. Mr. Fournier reported that the fire alarm system hadn't been working but is now functioning properly, the front customer window in the lobby was out of alignment, and some of the locks had been keyed improperly, so we are waiting for cylinders on those. Council President John Taylor asked if there were any more issues with the previous water leaks, and Mr. Fournier confirmed that those have been addressed and there haven't been anymore issues with water coming into the building.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE: There was nothing to report at this time.

DEVELOPMENT AND CULTURE COMMITTEE: Mr. Baker

DC-1 After some discussion, it was the decision of Council to continue to keep the Community Building closed, and the building will remain closed until the Governor lifts the restrictions for indoor gatherings.

DC-2 Councilman Robert Baker reported that there will be a meeting on November 13th to discuss the status of the Souderton Business Improvement District. Depending on the outcome of that meeting, Souderton Borough may pull out of Souderton-Telford Main Streets, at which time, Telford Borough will need to decide how they want to proceed with the promotion and marketing of the events that Main Streets has handled for them.

OTHER BUSINESS:

An Arnott/Schaeffer motion carried unanimously (7-0) authorizing the hiring of Zachariah DeMar and Michael Matecki as part-time patrol officers, contingent upon both candidates passing their required medical and psychological examinations. Further, the starting rate of pay for Mr. DeMar and Mr. Matecki will be \$19.00 per hour, with an increase to \$20.00 per hour after their six-month probationary period.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Telford Borough Council entered into Executive Session at 8:36 pm to discuss a matter of personnel.

Executive Session was closed at 9:13 pm. No action was taken.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:14 pm by an Arnott/Crouthamel motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark D. Fournier

Secretary