

**TELFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
March 20, 2023  
7:30 PM**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

President William Ashley called the Telford Borough Council meeting of March 20, 2023 to order at 7:30 p.m.

**II. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The invocation was given by Council Member John Taylor, followed by the pledge of allegiance.

**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 Guretsch, Interim Manager Cary Vargo, Police Chief Randall Floyd, Public Works Director Gary Yoder, Solicitor James Jacquette and Recording Secretary Tracey Inman.

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

Prior to citizens' comments, Council President Ashley announced that the Council met in Executive Session on March 13<sup>th</sup> to discuss real estate.

**IV. CITIZENS' COMMENTS- AGENDA ITEMS ONLY**

There were no citizens' comments regarding agenda items.

**V. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Council Vice President Emiline Weiss made a motion to enter into the record the minutes of the February 6, 2023 meeting. Council Member John Taylor seconded the motion and the motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

Council Member Taylor made a motion to enter into the record the minutes of the January 3, 2023 meeting. Council Member Kratz seconded the motion and the motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

## **VI. TREASURERS REPORT**

Interim Borough Manager Cary Vargo presented the treasurer's report.

## **VII. MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Guretse made a statement regarding the need for additional police and discussed the reduction of funds to the Indian Valley Public Library. Mayor Guretse also read a personal statement regarding the defunding of the library and a council member's attempt to rewrite police policy regarding LGBTQ individuals.

Prior to the police department report, Council Member Taylor made a statement denouncing Council Member Jacobus' behavior and asked that he resign from Council. A straw poll was taken among the Council on whether Council Member Jacobus should resign with the vote 5-1 in favor of Council Member Jacobus resigning. Council Member Kratz was the dissenting vote.

## **VIII. POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Police Chief Floyd provided a written report for the file and updated Council on the license plate reader that the Telford Borough Police Department recently acquired.

## **IX. FIRE REPORT**

A written report was submitted for the record.

## **X. EMS REPORT**

A written report was submitted for the record.

## **XI. LIBRARY REPORT**

Margie Stern the Director of the Indian Valley Public Library addressed Council regarding recent threats to the staff of the library. Ms. Stern advised that complaints regarding material at the library should be directed to the library and not other entities. Ms. Stern invited the Council to come tour the library facility. Ms. Stern also answered questions from some of those present in the audience.

## **XII. BOROUGH STAFF REPORTS**

### **A. Public Works Department- Gary Yoder**

Public Works Director Gary Yoder provided a written report for the file.

### **B. Manager's Report- Interim Manager Cary Vargo**

Mr. Vargo advised that the Borough will be unveiling a new website soon and requested photos from those in attendance to use on the new website. Mr. Vargo also updated the Council on the Franklin Alley swale project.

## **XIII. PROFESSIONAL CONSULTANTS' REPORTS**

### **A. Building Official's Report- Jesse Hill, Keystone Municipal Services**

A written report detailing permits issued during the month of February 2023 was submitted for the record.

### **B. Solicitor's Report- James Jacquette, Timoney Knox LLP**

Borough solicitor James Jacquette advised that there were no action items.

### **C. Engineer's Report- CKS Engineers**

Mr. Vargo updated Council on the police department capital security project.

## **XIV. COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **A. Finance and Administrative Committee- Emiline Weiss**

1. Council Vice President Weiss made a motion to consider approval of a Public Meeting Attendance and Participation Policy. Council Member Kulhanjian seconded the motion and the motion passed with a 7-0 vote.
2. Council Vice President Weiss made a motion to consider a revision to the hourly fee charged by the Borough solicitor. Council Member Taylor seconded the motion and the motion passed with a 7-0 vote.
3. Council Vice President Weiss made a motion to consider awarding the Police Department security improvements project to low bidder, Walter Brucker & Co. Inc. in the amount of

\$64,171. Council Member Crouthamel seconded the motion and the motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

**B. Planning and Zoning Committee- Carolyn Crouthamel**

Council Member Crouthamel advised that there was no report.

**C. Environmental Committee- Spencer Kulhanjian**

Council Member Kulhanjian advised that the Northern Montgomery County Recycling Commission met in February and will meet again in April.

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

Council Member Jacobus advised that he attended the last meeting of the Telford Water Authority.

**E. Public Safety Committee- William Ashley**

Council President Ashley made a motion to consider the below listed items. Council Member Taylor seconded the motion and the motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

1. To authorize the designation of the following as “Speed Limit 25 Miles per Hour:”
    - A. Spring House Lane initiating Reliance Road to property line of Telford Hills Association
    - B. Countryside Lane initiating Reliance Road for its entirety
    - C. Village Green Lane initiating Reliance Road for its entirety  
and
  2. The installation of four “Speed Limit 25” signs one each at:
    - A. Spring House Lane, East Side, First property upon entry from Reliance Road
    - B. Countryside Lane, East Side, First property upon entry from Reliance Road
    - C. Village Green Lane, East Side, First property upon entry from Reliance Road
    - D. Spring House Lane, West Side, First property upon departure from Telford Hills Association
- Telford Borough resident Walter Chwastyk commended Council on the addition of speed limit signs on Spring House Lane.

Council President Ashley also discussed the height requirement for the new fire siren. Public Works Director Yoder advised that he will provide a report on the siren height at next month’s meeting. Council President Ashley also discussed potential PP&L lights for the Borough and concluded his report by adding that he attended fire company and library meetings during the months of February and March.

**F. Development & Culture Committee- John Taylor**

Council Member Taylor discussed “So You Think You Can Cook”, an amateur cooking competition, which was held on March 8<sup>th</sup>. Council Member Taylor also advised that the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held on April 1<sup>st</sup> at Centennial Park, and that the Indian Valley Today publication was recently distributed to residences. Council Member Taylor also recently attended the Bucks County Boroughs Association meeting which was held on March 14<sup>th</sup>.

## **XV. OTHER BUSINESS**

- A. Council President Ashley made a motion to appoint Scott Landis to the Telford Industrial Development Authority Board, term to expire 1/1/28. Council Member Crouthamel seconded the motion and the motion passed with a 7-0 vote.
- B. Council Vice President Weiss made a motion to table consideration of a resolution approving the type of flags that can be flown on Borough properties to April’s meeting. Council Member Kulhanjian seconded the motion and the motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

## **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:

Robert Jacobus, 424 S. Main Street  
Neal Grendon, 118 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Kaitlin Derstine, 21 S. Hamilton Street  
Megan Corbo-Syrellis, 416 S. Main Street  
Katherine Farina, 620 S. Main Street  
John Waldenberger, 149 N. 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Eric Kratz, 214 Crestview Drive  
John Harrell, 31 Branch Avenue  
Bill Brosius, 325 E. Church Road  
Nancy Brosius, 325 E. Church Road  
Lauren Geitz, 217 W. Hamlin Avenue  
Sandra Harrell, 31 Branch Avenue  
Janet Russell, 263 N. Main Street  
Ryan Shapella, 423 Acorn Avenue  
Katie Shapella, 423 Acorn Avenue

The following non-resident’s offered commentary:

Jay Shisler, address not audible (stated he hasn’t lived in Telford since 1974)  
Alvin Landis, 3055 Old State Road (non-resident, West Rockhill Township)  
Tif Swartley, Thomas Drive (non-resident, Franconia Township)  
Resident from Souderton Borough

There were additional speakers, however their commentary was inaudible.

## **XVII. ADJOURNMENT**

Council Member Taylor motioned for adjournment and Council Member Kratz seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 7-0 vote and the meeting was adjourned at 10:16 PM.