

IVYLAND BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

October 13, 2021

CALL TO ORDER: 7:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Council Members: Sal DiPaolo, President,
Bill Linwood, Vice President, Todd Savarese,
Matthew Piotrowski, Christina Finello
Excused: Chuck Bristow, Elaine Butkus

OTHERS: Chris Peterson, Borough Engineer
Greg Sturn, Borough Solicitor

ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE WAS FOLLOWED BY A MOMENT OF SILENCE

MINUTES OF 9/8/21:

Bill Linwood made a MOTION, seconded by Todd Savarese to approve the minutes of the September 8, 2021 Council meeting as submitted.

MOTION was ADOPTED 4-0-1. Christina Finello abstained.

TREASURER’S REPORT:

Christina Finello read the Treasurer’s report into the record. It was accepted subject to audit.

BILLS LIST:

Christina Finello reported that the prepaid bills list totaled \$59,222.06 and unpaid bills list totaled \$11,953.36.

Sal DiPaolo made a MOTION, seconded by Christina Finello to pay the bills.

MOTION was ADOPTED 5-0.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Christina Finello said a “thank you” letter was sent from former Zoning Officer, Bill Norton. Also, an email was sent from Mr. Scotese of Ryan Avenue regarding two light poles in the Village Green that do not illuminate at night and requested that it be fixed.

NANCY MAPES/IVY MEADOWS HOMEOWNERS’ ASSOCIATION:

Ms. Vicky Kushto, Attorney representing Ivy Meadows Association, introduced Nancy Mapes as well as members of the Homeowners’ Association, and stated that a letter was received from Mr. Hagey of the Warminster Municipal Authority, who indicated that the community could receive individual wireless meters. Also, she questioned who would be responsible for changing the meters once they are installed and would the individual owners be billed as opposed to one bill for the association.

Mr. Hagey replied that the infrastructure outside of the meter pit does not belong to the WMA, so that will make it simpler to meter individually and we will be able to read the meters using wireless capabilities, and individual bills are a possibility.

Warminster Municipal Authority Update:

Mr. Hagey reported that 89% of the Borough’s water supply comes from Forest Park Water Treatment facility in New Britain Township and the other 11% comes from two wells in which the water is treated. The WMA provides ongoing maintenance of water/sewer mains as well as sewer pump upgrades. There is more information in the WMA newsletter, which can be found on our website.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Jennifer Linwood, 57 Chase Avenue, asked about getting two new streets lights on the circle on Pennsylvania Avenue.

Sal DiPaolo replied there is no extra funding for new streetlights at this time; however, we can consider that going forward.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:

Sal DiPaolo made a MOTION, seconded by Bill Linwood to accept the Code Enforcement report.

MOTION was ADOPTED 5-0.

REPORT OF PRESIDENT: None.

ENGINEER:

Chris Peterson said previously, Council approved a storm sewer repair at 57 Chase Avenue and the plumber is waiting for parts for that project.

After a recent storm, a sinkhole was identified located in PennDOT's right-of-way, so we filed a complaint through their email system.

The Greeley Avenue storm inlet has a railroad tie lodged in it, and we contacted the railroad many times about removing it with no luck; however, we did speak with a rep of PECO, and they agreed, but they will not begin that work for some time.

Sal DiPaolo said that members of the Parks and Recreation and Public Safety Committees will be taking care of it.

Chris Peterson continued that the MS4 report was submitted at the end of September, and we will be updating the map.

Also, he, along with Councilman Savarese had a meeting with Planning Partners on the grant funding opportunity from TASA (Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program). We put together a cost estimate for construction of installation of a crosswalk, lighted poles, and sidewalk extension including handicapped ramps as well as engineering costs to complete the design, and Planning Partners indicated that construction costs would need to be in the range of \$250,000 for a project such as this to be considered.

Todd Savarese added that it was suggested to partner with Warminster Township as reps of Planning Partners felt the project was too small for this program. He suggested refocusing the crosswalk project to be done in conjunction with the development of the parkland property.

Christina Finello added that Warminster officials indicated they were not able to commit to partnering with the Borough at this time; however, they may be interested on future projects. Also, we need to come up with a comprehensive plan on how to proceed with this project working towards goals each year as a Borough.

Council formed a subcommittee to work on this project consisting of Councilman Savarese, Councilwoman Finello and Councilman Piotrowski

SOLICITOR:

Continuation of the Public Hearing to enact an ordinance to update Property Maintenance Code:

Council reopened Public Hearing at 8:19 p.m.

Council asked for any public comments. There were none.

Greg Sturn noted that if an authorized municipal officer issues a condemnation order against a property, the municipality could record that order in the Recorder of Deeds Office and then there is notice of a lien placed against the property and that lien will carry over to whoever owns the property, and the condemnation order needs to be rectified before a title is placed on it. The 2018 version is the one cited in proposed ordinance as well as a provision that as subsequent versions are published by the ICC (International Code Council), they will automatically become the applicable code of the Borough.

Sal DiPaolo made a MOTION, seconded by Bill Linwood to enact Ordinance No. 2021-1 updating the Property Maintenance Code of Ivyland Borough.

MOTION was ADOPTED 5-0.

Landscaping/Snowplow Bidding:

Todd Savarese said that the trimming back of limbs that obscure public sidewalks is not referenced in the existing landscaping contract, so he red-lined the bid specs making clear that the contractor who is awarded the bid would be expected to do that as well as the public sidewalks at the Ivyland Village gazebo area, the park at Eddowes Road and Brewster Drive and the sidewalk along Jacksonville Road at Eddowes and Kirk Roads.

Greg Sturn noted that is for plantings on Borough's property in which the Borough is responsible. Also, bid opening will be held one week prior to the November Council meeting, so there is time for review.

Todd Savarese made a MOTION, seconded by Bill Linwood to authorize advertisement of the bid specs for landscaping/snowplowing.

MOTION was ADOPTED 5-0.

Greg Sturn continued that there is an old version of the Fire Safety Code, which is the criteria for fire inspections and a similar ordinance will be needed to update to the current 2018 version of the International Fire Code, and as future additions become published, it would automatically become the applicable fire code for Ivyland Borough.

Matthew Piotrowski noted that the International Fire Code is less restrictive than what the Borough enforces.

Greg Sturn replied the Borough uses the Fire Safety Code for fire inspections and the ordinance includes a checklist of items; however, he will review that further.

Todd Savarese suggested authorizing advertisement of the Fire Safety Code Ordinance next month following further review by Borough Solicitor.

Ivyland Hotel Update:

Greg Sturn noted there is an outstanding issue regarding the type of materials for the exterior building of the Ivyland Hotel that needs to be reviewed/approved by Council.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

MAYOR: No report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

PARKS AND RECREATION:

Sal DiPaolo announced that the light is working in Memorial Park. Also, the hayride/bonfire event will be held this month.

FINANCE:

Christina Finello said the budget is a work in progress and we will keep to the schedule for advertisement and then consideration of approval in December.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

Bill Linwood reported that the Public Safety Committee is working on getting car cameras for the police department.

BOROUGH PROPERTY: No report.

STREETS/WALKS:

Todd Savarese commented that a resident of the Village has been in contact with PECO, and following their response, the resident filed a complaint to the PUC regarding reclosure devices that PECO installs to limit and contain power outages, and the issue is the circuit that the resident is on is for 218 customers and the reclosure devices are targeted at reducing circuits below 750 customers, and because the circuit is already below the threshold, the number of outages by PECO standards is not that significant and PECO determined that a reclosure device would not be available for the circular that the resident is on.

PLANNING COMMISSION: None.

FIRE COMPANY:

Deputy Chief Ed Hoffman reported that in the past 30 days, there were nine calls, 55 YTD. An officers’ meeting was held to discuss budgets that were provided to the Fire Company’s Treasurer. Congratulations to Carter Rowe on the Burpee Award and Frank Singer for passing his Security and CompTIA + Certification. A fire truck was provided for Demo Day at East West Karate, and we will be attending Children of America for Fire Prevention along with Hatboro Station 95 on October 15, 2021. Training is ongoing, and the Public Safety Committee met our three new Fire Company members. Community events include Fire Prevention/Open House on Saturday, October 23, 2021, at the Firehouse from 7-9 p.m. Coin Drop Fundraiser will be Friday, November 26, 2021; Pancake Breakfast with Santa will be held on Sunday, December 5, 2021, from 8 a.m. – noon; and Santa Comes to Ivyland on Saturday, December 11, 2021.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT: No report.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Council convened an Executive Session at 8:58 p.m. until 9:46 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: 9:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Vile, Recording Secretary

Minutes approved by Borough Council _____, 2021