

IVYLAND BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

November 10, 2021

CALL TO ORDER: 7:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Council Members: Sal DiPaolo, President,
Todd Savarese, Christina Finello, Chuck Bristow
Matthew Piotrowski (7:33 p.m.)
Excused: Vice President Bill Linwood, Elaine Butkus

OTHERS: Tony Judice, Mayor
Chris Peterson, Borough Engineer
Greg Sturn, Borough Solicitor
Janet Pacchioli, Treasurer/Secretary

ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE WAS FOLLOWED BY A MOMENT OF SILENCE

MINUTES OF 10/13/21:

Christina Finello made a MOTION, seconded by Todd Savarese to approve the minutes of the October 13, 2021 Council meeting.

MOTION was ADOPTED 4-0. Councilman Piotrowski was not in attendance at this time.

TREASURER’S REPORT:

Janet Pacchioli read the Treasurer’s report into the record. The report was accepted subject to audit.

BILLS LIST:

Janet Pacchioli reported that the prepaid bills list totaled \$29,248.41 and the unpaid bills list totaled \$8,332.50.

Councilman Piotrowski entered the meeting at 7:33 p.m.

Christina Finello made a MOTION, seconded by Chuck Bristow to pay the bills.

MOTION was ADOPTED 5-0.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Janet Pacchioli confirmed with Council that the schedule of the Committee Meeting dates/times will remain the same in 2022.

Council agreed that the schedule will remain the same.

EAGLE SCOUT JENSEN RUDDEROW TREE PLANTING:

Eagle Scout Jensen Rudderow, Boy Scout Troop 200, announced that volunteers will be planting 13-14 trees of a variety of species along Pennsylvania Avenue during the weekend of November 20, 2021, and cost for the trees including delivery totals \$1,700.00.

Sal DiPaolo noted that funds will be used from the capital tree account for the project.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Sharon and Douglas Hamilton, 126 Milbob Drive, Northampton Township, expressed interest in the property located at 1120 Jacksonville Road to open a pediatric dental office. Proposed was not to change the footprint but update the façade to honor the historic nature of the town; install nice landscaping in the front; convert the back into a parking lot with landscaping; keeping the trees on the perimeter for privacy as well as remove the existing front parking lot turning it back to lawn with additional landscaping.

Sal DiPaolo noted that it is a noncompliant use on the property located in R-2 Residential District.

Greg Sturn added that the applicant would need to apply for a special exception to change the nonconforming use, which would require an application to the Zoning Hearing Board, and those requirements are listed in the Borough's Zoning Ordinance.

Todd Savarese commented that the building should be used for something as it has been vacant for a long time, although it is a process that will involve zoning as well as the land development process because a nonresidential use is proposed along with parking.

Andrew Wessner, 5 Wilson Avenue, expressed concern that a fence was installed by his neighbor right down the middle of the alleyway blocking access to his barn and he discussed with the neighbor about where the boundary line is.

Todd Savarese questioned whether there was a permit issued for the fence.

Janet Pacchioli replied yes, it was issued by Bill Norton, former Zoning Officer.

Todd Savarese questioned whether the permit was reviewed making sure the fence was erected in the location consistent with the permit.

Mr. Wessner replied he spoke with the current Zoning Officer who indicated that he does not deal with fence issues.

Greg Sturn said that if the alleyway is not dedicated to the Borough, then the rear property line extends to the center of the alleyway, so it is a private property matter, and the Borough cannot get involved with disputes between neighbors, although the fence permit should be reviewed.

Todd Savarese said he is sympathetic to the situation, and Council will make sure that the permit issued to the property owner was properly done. Other than that, it is a dispute between private property owners and Council does not get involved.

Sal DiPaolo requested that the Borough Solicitor follow up with the Zoning Officer on this matter.

CODE ENFORCEMENT/ZONING REPORTS:

Council reviewed code enforcement and zoning reports.

REPORT OF PRESIDENT: No report.

ENGINEER:

Chris Peterson, Borough Engineer, reported that the 57 Chase Avenue storm sewer repair work was completed by Winter Plumbing & Heating Company and final invoice was submitted for payment.

Also, the Borough has fulfilled its requirement of the MS4 permit of 5% reduction in sediment that is required during this five-year permit period and that was realized through the completion of the Fire Dam Streambank Stabilization project completed in 2020. A letter along with supporting documents indicating that the requirement was fulfilled shall be included with the 2022 MS4 Annual Report to DEP

SOLICITOR:

Updated Fire Code Ordinance:

Greg Sturn said Council may wish to authorize advertisement of the Fire Code Ordinance, which has been updated to the 2018 version, and it is the code that the Fire Inspector uses when performing annual inspections. A provision was added to the draft ordinance that says that in the event of a conflict, the more stringent requirements will apply specifically for sprinklers. If Council authorizes advertisement tonight, it will be ready for consideration of adoption in December.

Chuck Bristow made a MOTION, seconded by Todd Savarese to authorize advertisement of the updated Fire Code Ordinance for Ivyland Borough.

MOTION was ADOPTED 5-0.

Snowplow/Landscaping Bids:

Todd Savarese noted that only one bid was received and that was from Mike Granieri whose price increased, although there was no increase in price for the extension period of the contract, so he recommends awarding the contract to Mike Granieri for snowplowing/landscaping services.

Todd Savarese made a MOTION, seconded by Matt Piotrowski to award the contract to Mike Granieri for snowplowing/landscaping services for Ivyland Borough.

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

Greg Sturn said Council needs to authorize Sal DiPaolo, President of Borough Council, to authorize execution of the contract with Mike Granieri, which is the same as the previous one, but updated with new dates and incorporates all documents relating to the agreement.

Todd Savarese noted there is still one date that needs to be changed within the contract.

Todd Savarese made a MOTION, seconded by Matt Piotrowski to authorize Sal DiPaolo, President of Borough Council, to sign the amended contract with Mike Granieri for snowplowing/landscaping services on behalf of Ivyland Borough.

MOTION was ADOPTED 5-0.

Sal DiPaolo asked for the status of Mr. Cremeans' noncompliance of fire code requirements.

Greg Sturn replied that Mr. Cremeans was imposed with a fine for noncompliance of the fire inspection ordinance last year and he still has not complied. A violation notice was issued, and it may be time for a citation; however, there is an official notification period required, which is the purpose of a violation notice.

Mayor Judice commented that if Mr. Cremeans was fined for noncompliance of last year's fire code, and it is now November 2021, and has done nothing to comply with this year's fire code, why is the Borough required to go through this procedure again?

Greg Sturn replied that the International Fire Code requires that a warning notice be served prior to any formal citation proceedings.

Sal DiPaolo said that it is unacceptable, and this is an historic building.

Todd Savarese suggested reviewing when the enforcement notice was issued to Mr. Cremeans and under whose authority and research further what the Borough is authorized to do going forward.

Chuck Bristow made a MOTION, seconded by Christina Finello to authorize Sal DiPaolo, President of Borough Council, to meet with the Fire Inspector and Code Enforcement Officer regarding this matter.

MOTION was ADOPTED 5-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Resolution to adopt 2021 Bucks County Hazardous Mitigation Plan Update:

Council asked for a copy to review and will consider the resolution at its meeting in December.

MAYOR:

Mayor Judice provided the police report for October 2021; 34 traffic citations were issued; two warnings, two parking tickets and one nonreportable accident. Check received from District Court in October was \$921.87.

Also, Sergeant Carey indicated there was vandalism of the former Navy homes, although there were negative results of anyone squatting in the homes and suggested boarding up the broken windows. So, we may need to consider demolition of one or two homes and see how much LECK would charge to haul the debris away.

Todd Savarese suggested in the meantime posting “No Trespassing” signs.

Sal DiPaolo asked Janet Pacchioli to contact LECK about cost for hauling debris.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

PARKS AND RECREATION:

Sal DiPaolo reported that we are working with Geff Rapp on a committed schedule for the Loud Speaker.

FINANCE:

Approval to Advertise 2022 Budget:

Christina Finello provided Council with a copy of proposed 2022 budget noting that no tax increase is proposed; however, the Borough Office/Meeting Hall complex is in dire need of a new heating system, so \$35,000 from unallocated funds was put into the budget, and for the additional revenues anticipated, \$65,500 was put into various capital expenses inclusive of the new heating system for the Borough complex.

Todd Savarese commented that \$12,000 for Mercantile Tax seems low and the ordinance indicates 1.5 mills for businesses, and he questioned whether that tax is being properly collected.

Janet Pacchioli said she will call Jim Hunt of Berkheimer for an audit of the accounting and a list of the businesses in the Borough.

Christina Finello continued that Council needs to vote to approve advertisement of proposed 2022 budget that will be available for review in the Borough Office and online and then consider adoption in December.

Sal DiPaolo made a MOTION, seconded by Chuck Bristow to approve advertisement of proposed 2022 budget for Ivyland Borough.

MOTION was ADOPTED 5-0.

BOROUGH PROPERTY:

Mayor Judice reported there is a new light in front of the Borough Office.

Todd Savarese said he put lightbulbs in the two lampposts where the gazebo is located, and the fixtures are deteriorating.

STREETS/WALKS: No report.

PLANNING COMMISSION: None.

FIRE COMPANY:

Deputy Chief Ed Hoffman, Ivyland Fire Company, reported that in the past 30 days there were seven calls, 58 YTD. Once the general and relief fund budgets are approved, a copy will be provided to the Borough. Training is ongoing. Fire Prevention event was successful, and it worked well in conjunction with the bonfire. A fire truck was provided for Demo Day at East West Karate, and we attended Children of America for Fire Prevention. We were invited to Hatboro's Christmas Parade on November 21, 2021, and Santa and Mrs. Claus will be visiting the Borough; also, there will be a pancake breakfast with Santa and Mrs. Claus.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT: No report.

NEW BUSINESS:

Matt Piotrowski commented that he found the site plan for the property where former Navy homes are located, and we will discuss demolition going forward.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

A resident from Chase and Greeley Avenues, commented via Facebook Live, that there is a need for additional police presence in many areas of the Borough as there is blatant disregard for the "Stop" signs, and the "Jacksonville/Bristol Road cut-thru needs to be better enforced."

Christina Finello reminded everyone that tomorrow is Veterans Day, and she thanked all the Veterans for their service. Also, this is the first Veterans Day without her grandfather, who was a WWII Veteran in the Philippines, and he passed away earlier this year.

Council Meeting

November 10, 2021

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Council convened an Executive Session beginning at 9:16 p.m. until 9:40 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Vile, Recording Secretary

Minutes approved by Borough Council _____, 2021.