

Borough of Hellertown
Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, June 3, 2019

- I. Call to Order – Thomas Rieger, 7:00 p.m.
- II. Pledge - All
- III. Roll Call – Cathy Hartranft

Earl Hill-	Present
James Hill-	Absent with prior notification
Andrew Hughes-	Present
Michael McKenna-	Present
Thomas Rieger-	Present
Gil Stauffer-	Present
Philip Weber-	Present
Mayor Heintzelman-	Present

Also in attendance were Michael Corriere, Barry Yonney, Cathy Hartranft, Angie Thiede, and Kris Russo. Bryan Smith was absent with prior notification.

- IV. Adoption of Meeting Agendum

Motion made by Earl Hill, seconded by Michael McKenna, to adopt the meeting agendum as written. Motion carried 6-0.

- V. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- 1. May 20, 2019

Motion made by Philip Weber, seconded by Gil Stauffer, to approve the May 20, 2019, meeting minutes as written. Motion carried 7-0.

- VI. Courtesies of the Floor

- A. Pre-Scheduled Appearances- None

- B. Agenda Items- None

C. Non-agenda Items

Bill Broun thanked Mr. Weber and Mr. Rieger for meeting with him following the primary election. He requested the community work together toward a bright future and reminded them that you don't always have to agree but should try and work together.

VII. Reports from Elected Officials

A. President

Mr. Rieger requested an Executive Session to discuss personnel matters.

Mr. Rieger thanked Mr. Broun for meeting with him and Mr. Weber. I feel the meeting will foster good things for Hellertown and lead to a bright future for all. Two years ago, there weren't enough running to fill the open Council positions. It is very important for residents to stay active and involved in local government.

The Reinhard Roundtable will be held on June 10, 2019, beginning at 6:30 p.m. I would like to have some of the Public Works vehicles present. I feel it will be a benefit to show the residents what is used on a daily basis.

B. Mayor

Mayor Heintzelman congratulated the winners of the primary election and assured those that had lost that their opinions were heard. He hopes Hellertown can move forward in a unified way.

I spoke at the Memorial Day Service at Union Cemetery.

I attended the Blockwatch Meeting at 650 Northampton Street. They will be hosting the next Coffee with Cops on June 19, 2019.

The ribbon cutting for the renovated McDonald's was held at 5:30 p.m. this evening.

Doorhangers are being handed out announcing the Music in the Park series for 2019. Their first concert is this Sunday at 6:00 p.m. with the Large Flowerheads.

Mayor Heintzelman started a "Did you know" portion of his report by explaining how former Hellertown resident, Ron Matey, is still helping his hometown by supplying the Borough with pizzas for the pool snack stand. These are still made locally. Mr. Matey has also donated the pizza ovens to use in the snack stand for the summer.

C. Council

Council had nothing to report.

VIII. Reports from Appointed Officials

A. Treasurer- None

B. Engineer

Mr. Smith was not present for the meeting.

Mr. Rieger- The Dimmick Park Playground Project is on schedule. The surface should be installed either late this week or early next week.

C. Solicitor

Mr. Corriere requested an Executive Session to discuss potential litigation.

D. Manager

Mrs. Hartranft- Council had asked staff Tina and I to investigate investment options. The one we are recommending would be an automated cash sweep. There is no time limit required to leave the funds in this account. There are also no fees or penalties. When the Borough needs the funds, they will be swept back into the individual accounts. The current interest rate is 2.24 percent. We are proposing that between 3.5 and 3.7 million could be swept over into this account initially. That would be a significant amount of interest earned. The

process would take at least two weeks as signatures and resolutions will be required.

Motion made by Andrew Hughes, seconded by Gil Stauffer, to authorize the creation of the account and move all outlined funds in the new account. Motion carried 6-0.

I reached out to PennDOT to discuss the traffic study for the turning arrows at Main and Water and Main and Walnut. The request has been approved and will be completed once school is back in session and the Water Street Bridge is completed.

The Borough received the Police Pension Actuarial Study which I have emailed to Council.

E. Chief of Police

1. Monthly Report

Motion made by Gil Stauffer, seconded by Earl Hill, to receive the Police Monthly Report and make a part of these minutes. Motion carried 6-0.

2. Overview of the Borough Fireworks Ordinance

Chief Shupp- Under our ordinance, which reflect the State law, persons must be over the age of 18 to purchase or possess the fireworks. Fireworks cannot be ignited on property without consent; cannot be thrown from a car or window; cannot be thrown at a person, car, or building; cannot be ignited after 10:00 p.m.; cannot be ignited in streets, on sidewalks, or any other Borough owned property; and must be at least 150 feet from an occupied structure. Most people when they call to report fireworks being set off wish to remain anonymous which means that an officer must actually see the act occur to be able to press charges. This law does not apply to ground fireworks or sparklers.

Members of the audience requested the Borough place harsher restrictions or ban the use of fireworks all together. Mr. Corriere reminded them that the Borough cannot supersede a State law. The Borough adopted the state ordinance and added penalties but cannot ban them.

Chief Shupp-If the fireworks are confiscated, we will remove and destroy all fireworks in their possession at their expense in addition to a fine.

Mr. Rieger reminded everyone that the best thing we can all do is respect your neighbors. Another email blast will be sent out regarding the use of fireworks.

F. Public Works Director

Mr. Yonney- Another sinkhole opened up on Oliver Street which we filled.

The main valve at the pool broke. I want to thank the Authority and Walters for their immediate assistance to help with repairs.

The week of June 10, 2019, will be yard waste collection. If you have trees or bushes hanging out in the alley, I urge you to trim them. We can take the clipping to the Compost Center.

Mr. Rieger- If anyone notices trees or bushes hanging out in the road or onto the sidewalk, please contact our zoning officer.

G. Zoning/Codes Officer

Mr. Russo had only agenda items to discuss.

H. Fire Chief- None

I. Emergency Management

Mr. Scherer had a prior commitment and will attend the next meeting.

IX. Unfinished Business

1. Discussion on Regulating the Planting of Bamboo- Council Action

Mrs. Hartrant- Council had requested that I reach out to neighboring municipalities to see if they adopted an ordinance regarding bamboo. Those that have adopted one have all used the same ordinance.

Terry Boos- The type of bamboo that is the issue is the running bamboo. To keep it from spreading, you need to dig a trench at least three feet deep and line it with steel, concrete, or HDPD. Even then, it can become root bound and expand above ground. This plant is very aggressive.

Mr. Russo- Approximately two years ago, we added to the nuisance ordinance. If created, we would want to add this to the nuisance ordinance to be able to enforce it and either fine the property owner or remove the problem and place a lien on the house.

Mr. Corriere noted that the Borough might consider adding it to the property maintenance code as well as the nuisance ordinance.

Mr. Yonney inquired how you dispose of the bamboo.

Mr. Boos- The cane can be mulched. The issue is with the roots. June is a good time to cut it at the base and apply a stump treatment with a paint brush to contain the herbicide.

Matt Marcincin had once planted it as a fast growing barrier. He also removed it by constantly picking out the roots for an entire season.

Motion made by Philip Weber, seconded by Earl Hill, to direct staff to work with the Solicitor to create an ordinance or amendment to restrict the planting of running bamboo and present to Council in two weeks. Motion carried 6-0.

2. Discussion on Hometown Heroes Project

Mrs. Hartranft- Council had me look into creating banners identifying veterans. Rifeigh's has two different sizes: 24x48 which are \$90.00 and 30x60 which are \$110.00. The hardware for both sizes will cost \$79.00. We would need to order a minimum of 10 banners to get this pricing. The lead time is 30 days at the minimum. With the inclusion of our Hellertown banners, there is room for approximately 20 of these banners without having to get additional PPL approval.

Mr. Rieger- I feel we should take our time to plan this project for next summer. I would like to see a committee created with the American Legion, Council, Mayor, Mrs. Hartranft, Mr. Yonney, and residents to plan the parameters and present a design.

Motion made by Michael McKenna, seconded by Andrew Hughes, to create a committee. Motion carried 6-0.

X. New Business

1. Outstanding Obligations- Approval of Payments

Motion made by Earl Hill, seconded by Philip Weber, to approve the payments. Motion carried 6-0.

2. Approval of Handicap Parking Space Request at 785 Front Street- Council Action.

Motion made by Earl Hill, seconded by Philip Weber, to approve the Handicap Parking Request for 785 Front Street. Motion carried 6-0.

3. Approval of Noah Kates as Junior Councilperson for Summer 2019- Council Action

Motion made by Michael McKenna, seconded by Gil Stauffer, to reappoint Mr. Kates as Junior Councilperson for Summer 2019. Motion carried 6-0.

Mr. Kates presented a beautification plan that he created to enhance the I-78 corridor with landscaping and memorial trees.

Mr. Rieger informed him that the area he is speaking about is actually in the City of Bethlehem. Council fully supported the project and for him to reach out to the City.

Motion made by Earl Hill, seconded by Gil Stauffer, to proceed with the preliminary meetings with the City of Bethlehem. Motion carried 6-0.

XI Announcements

Mr. Rieger reminded everyone that the Reinhard Roundtable will be June 10, 2019, at 6:30 p.m.

XII. Executive Session

Motion made by Michael McKenna, seconded by Andrew Hughes, to adjourn to Executive Session at 8:20 p.m. Motion carried 6-0.

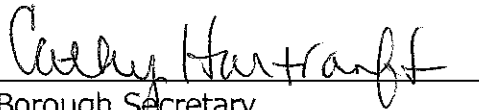
Mr. Corriere advised that the Executive Session is to discuss litigation and collective bargaining.

Council reconvened from Executive Session at 8:50 p.m. Mr. Corriere reiterated that the Executive Session was held to discuss potential litigation and collective bargaining.

XIII. Adjournment

Motion made by Earl Hill, seconded by Gil Stauffer, to adjourn the meeting at 8:52 p.m. Motion carried 6-0.

Adopted by the Hellertown Borough Council this 17th Day of June 2019.


Borough Secretary

HELLERTOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT

April 2019

This is the monthly report for the Hellertown Police Department from April 1st through April 30th, 2019.

During the month of April the Police received 600 calls for service. We did receive 3 Theft, 8 Domestic/Assault, 1 Sex Offence/Prostitution, 2 Forgery and 14 traffic collision calls. We wrote 150 citations.

The Police Department filed 43 charges including 24 for Narcotics Possession, 7 for DUI, 1 for Theft/RSP, 2 for Forgery/Fraud and 3 for Assault.

In the month of April our call volume was definitely higher than usual. We did have an increase in our Narcotics arrests and the guys are doing a great job in that area. The guys worked a very involved fraud case and did a great job making 2 arrests. We are definitely seeing more traffic on the roads, not sure why but it is happening. The nicer weather has brought people out sooner than normal which definitely had a effect on our call volume and arrests. Our narcotics and DUI arrest were higher than April of last year. The guys are doing a good job. Any questions feel free to call or stop in.

Chief Robert Shupp III