

Borough of Hellertown
Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, February 7, 2022

The Meeting Was Held In Person, Via Zoom, and Streamed Live on Facebook.

I. Call to Order – Thomas Rieger, 7:00 p.m.

II. Pledge - All

III. Roll Call – Thomas Rieger

Theresa Fadem-	Present
Earl Hill-	Present
Andrew Hughes-	Present
Matthew Marcincin-	Present
Michael McKenna-	Present
Thomas Rieger-	Present
Gil Stauffer-	Absent with prior notification
Mayor Heintzelman-	Present

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

IV. Adoption of Meeting Agendum

Motion made by Matthew Marcincin, seconded by Earl Hill, to adopt the meeting agendum as written with the addition of New Business #15, Pause All Intergovernmental Agreements with Lower Saucon Township, and New Business #16, Response to Grievance from Police Department. Motion carried 6-0.

V. Approval of Meeting Minutes

1. January 18, 2022
2. January 26, 2022
3. January 31, 2022

Motion made by Michael McKenna, seconded by Matthew Marcincin, to approve the January 18, 2022; January 26, 2022; and January 31, 2022, meeting minutes as written. Motion carried 7-0.

*******Public Hearing on Petition to Liquor Control Board for Exemption to Noise Regulations*******

The Public Hearing was declared open at 7:05 p.m.

Chief Shupp- A municipality can request an exemption from the Liquor Control Board noise regulations. Their rules are very strict and outdated. Ordinance 836 was adopted by Borough Council last year. This allows any issues to be handled on a local level. The municipality holding a Public Hearing is the last step before presenting the ordinance to the Liquor Control Board.

Liz Thompson, 421 Maple Road, spoke in support of this petition.

Motion made by Michael McKenna, seconded by Earl Hill, to close the Public Hearing at 7:08 p.m. Motion carried 6-0.

VI. Courtesies of the Floor

- A. Pre-Scheduled Appearance- None
- B. Agenda Items- None
- C. Non-Agenda Items
 - 1. Correspondence from Alec Bachman
 - 2. Correspondence from Tiffany Nolder

Mr. Rieger- We received an additional letter on Sunday from Diane Bachman after the agenda was posted. All three letters are regarding opposition to the developments discussed on Kichline Avenue and Clauser Street and their admittance into the FRO. A copy of the letters will be made a part of these minutes.

VII. Reports from Elected Officials

A. President

Mr. Rieger- At the last meeting, Council did fully execute a new agreement with the Hellertown Area Library. Mrs. Hartranft and I met last Thursday at the library to present the emergency appropriations.

An Executive Session was held prior to this meeting to discuss personnel, contract negotiations, and potential litigation.

B. Mayor

Mayor Heintzelman had nothing to report.

C. Hellertown Historical Society (Gil Stauffer)

Mr. Stauffer was not present for the meeting.

D. Planning Commission (Earl Hill)

Mr. Hill had nothing to report.

E. Hellertown Area Library Board of Trustees (Matthew Marcincin)

Mr. Marcincin- There is a tentative meeting scheduled with a Commonwealth Library Representative to discuss what the library can and can't do with the members from Lower Saucon Township.

F. Hellertown Borough Authority (Earl Hill)

Mr. Hill- The next meeting will be held on Wednesday.

G. Hellertown Chamber of Commerce (Tom Rieger)

Mr. Rieger- The Chamber is hard at work on the Music in the Park series and the Food Truck Festival in Dimmick Park.

H. Saucon Valley Partnership (Andrew Hughes)

Mr. Hughes- The Partnership meeting is Wednesday.

I. Saucon Rail Trail (Theresa Fadem)

Ms. Fadem- The Saucon Rail Trail held a meeting to reorganize on January 24, 2022.

The Hellertown station sign will be installed either in March or April.

The committee is looking to add an interactive map to the website.

There was a discussion to add some sort of shelter for the items donated to the Project Keep Hellertown Warm.

J. Hellertown Civil Service Commission (Michael McKenna)

Mr. McKenna had nothing to report.

VIII. Reports from Appointed Officials

A. Treasurer

1. December 2021 Statement of Revenues and Expenditures

Motion made by Andrew Hughes, seconded by Earl Hill, to approve the December 2021 Statement of Revenues and Expenditures. Motion carried 6-0.

B. Engineer

Mr. Smith- A pre-bid meeting for the Pool Concession Stand Renovation Project was held. The bids results will be presented to Council at the February 22, 2022, meeting.

The contractor will be delivering materials for the Public Works Facility starting tomorrow through the end of the week. Construction will begin next Monday.

C. Solicitor

Mr. Corriere had only agenda items to discuss.

D. Manager

Mrs. Hartranft- Staff has met with the developer for the former Neighbor's site. They will be coming before Council at the next meeting.

Mr. Rieger- The Borough has received several comments from members of the public regarding this proposed development.

E. Chief of Police

Chief Shupp had nothing additional to report.

F. Public Works Director

Mr. Yonney had nothing to report.

G. Zoning/Codes Officer

Mr. Russo had nothing to report

H. Fire Chief

Mr. Simkovic- I went out for the final inspection of the new fire apparatus in January. The truck should ship at the end of February and will then be taken to New Jersey for equipment installation and decals.

The fire rescue vehicle will be out of service for approximately two weeks beginning February 21, 2022, for cosmetic repairs from accidents.

Dewey Fire Company has been on 69 calls since November 2021.

We do participate in a program to get Fire and CO detectors. If residents are in need, please have them contact the station.

I have been working on getting estimates to replace the Crown Victoria. Once I receive them, I will bring them before Council for discussion.

I. Emergency Management

Mr. Scherer- There has only been 1 EMA callout since my last report. Unfortunately, I was out of town but I did talk to Chief Shupp and Northampton County by phone.

I will begin working on renewing the emergency operation plan and will bring before Council.

IX. Unfinished Business

1. Discussion on Price Adjustment Received for Public Works Facility- Council Action

Mr. Rieger- I recommend that we reject the price adjustments and only ask for what the codes require.

Mr. Hill- Mr. Yonney does need to electric to run some of the equipment.

Motion made by Earl Hill, seconded by Andrew Hughes, to reject the proposal and only proceed with electric for the welder and compressors. Motion carried 6-0.

X. New Business

1. Outstanding Obligations- Approval of Payments

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

2. Approval of Special Event Request and Request to Waive Pavilion Fees for Saucon Valley Easter Egg Hunt, April 16, 2022- Council Action

Motion made by Theresa Fadem, seconded by Earl Hill, to approve the Special Event Request and waive pavilion rental fees for the Easter Egg Hunt. Motion carried 6-0.

3. Authorization to Reduce Escrow by \$81,219.00 for Starbucks- Council Action

Mr. Smith- The contractor has completed a number of site improvements. The improvements are mostly to the interior. All items have been certified.

Motion made by Michael McKenna, seconded by Matthew Marcincin, to reduce the escrow for Starbucks by \$81,219.00. Motion carried 6-0.

4. Authorization to Purchase 2022 Police Interceptor SUV. Total Cost \$53,950.00- Council Action

Chief Shupp- This vehicle would be replacing the 2013 Interceptor. They do have the vehicle in stock. The price includes the purchase and outfitting. It is overbudget by about \$950.00 due to increased costs.

Motion made by Theresa Fadem, seconded by Earl Hill, to approve the purchase of the 2022 Police Interceptor SUV. Motion carried 6-0.

Council asked Chief Shupp to contact Chief Simkovic to see if they can use the old vehicle.

5. Approval of Handicap Parking Space Request for 1076 2nd Avenue- Council Action

Motion made by Matthew Marcincin, seconded by Theresa Fadem, to approve the handicap parking space request at 1076 2nd Avenue. Motion carried 6-0.

6. Discussion Only on Upgrading Employee Dental Plan

Mrs. Hartranft- We have been approached by some of our employees to look into an upgrade of the dental insurance benefits. The additional cost would be covered by the employees. All employees must agree to the upgrade. I would like Council's permission to poll the employees.

Motion made by Earl Hill, seconded by Michael McKenna, to allow the polling of employees. Motion carried 6-0.

7. Authorization to Advertise Summer Employment Ads for Parks and Pool- Council Action
8. Authorization to Advertise Aquatics Manager Position- Council Action
9. Authorization to Advertise Concession Stand/Ticket Booth Manager Position- Council Action

Motion made by Michael McKenna, seconded by Matthew Marcincin, to authorize the advertisement of Summer Employment Ads for Parks and Pool, Aquatic Manager position, and Concession Stand/Ticket Booth Manager position. Motion carried 6-0.

10. Authorization to Hold E-Cycling and Shred Event- Council Action

Mrs. Hartranft- I am looking to hold this event on April 23, 2022, at Dimmick Park. There will be two trucks for two hours or until full. This event will only be open to Hellertown Borough residents. Public Works will handle traffic control. This item was budgeted for 2022. *note the correct date is April 30, 2022.

Motion made by Earl Hill, seconded by Andrew Hughes, to authorize holding the e-cycle and shred event. Motion carried 6-0.

11. Authorization to Advertise Issuance of \$2,000,000.00 Note with Truist- Council Action

Mr. Rieger- Council previously authorized staff to present a plan for refinancing the General Obligation Note and adding approximately \$800,000.00 in funding for the Public Works Facility.

Motion made by Andrew Hughes, seconded by Matthew Marcincin, to advertise the issuance of \$2,000,000.00 note with Truist. Motion carried 6-0.

12. Discussion on Hellertown Historical Society's Request to Seek Adding the Gristmill to National Registry of Historic Places- Council Action

Chip Wagner was present on behalf of the Hellertown Historical Society.

Mr. Wagner- We would like to pursue adding the Gristmill to the National Registry of Historic Places. Only the owner of the property can have the building nominated. The registry is on the state/local level. It sets no restrictions on the use of the property. The process could take between 1 to 1½ years to complete. It would be at no cost to the Borough and would make the Hellertown Historical Society eligible for additional grants.

Motion made by Michael McKenna, seconded by Earl Hill, to allow the Hellertown Historical Society to seek adding the Gristmill to the National Registry of Historic Places. Motion carried 6-0.

13. Discussion and Possible Action on Hellertown Area Library Bylaws and Board of Directors/Trustee Appointments- Council Action

Mr. Rieger- The Borough is in receipt of the approved, updated bylaws of the Hellertown Area Library. They need to be approved by Council.

Motion made by Matthew Marcincin, seconded by Theresa Fadem, to approve the updated bylaws as submitted. Motion carried 6-0.

Mr. Rieger- We are in receipt of an email from the director of the Hellertown Area Library recommending appointing Pamela Hahn to the Hellertown Area Library Board of Trustees.

Motion made by Earl Hill, seconded by Michael McKenna, to appoint Pamela Hahn to the Hellertown Area Library Board of Trustees. Motion carried 6-0.

14. Adoption of Resolution 22-03, Authorization to Apply to LSA for \$397,710.00 Grant for Gregory Park Upgrades- Council Action

Mr. Rieger- This grant application is for the park located at Easton Road and 3rd Avenue.

Motion made by Earl Hill, seconded by Matthew Marcincin, to adopt Resolution 22-03. Motion carried 6-0.

15. Discussion on Pausing All Intergovernmental Committees and Partnerships Between Hellertown Borough and Lower Saucon Township- Council Action

Motion made by Earl Hill, seconded by Michael McKenna, to pause all Hellertown Borough and Lower Saucon Township Intergovernmental Committees and Partnership participation by Hellertown Borough and until such a time when a formal review can be conducted by Borough Administration and presented to Council for further action. Motion carried 5-0 (Ms. Fadem abstained).

16. Response to Grievance Received from Police Department- Council Action

Mr. Rieger- Borough Council received a grievance from the police department regarding holiday pay for an officer on Heart & Lung. This grievance has been denied by Chief Shupp and Mayor Heintzelman.

Motion made by Andrew Hughes, seconded by Earl Hill, to reject the grievance. Motion carried 6-0.

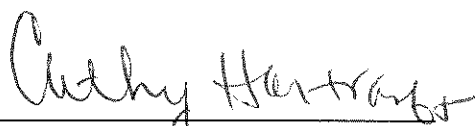
XII Announcements- None

XIII. Executive Session- None

XIV. Adjournment

Motion made by Michael McKenna, seconded by Earl Hill, to adjourn the meeting 8:00 p.m. Motion carried 7-0.

Adopted by the Hellertown Borough Council this 22nd Day of February 2022.


Borough Secretary

Alec Bachman
116 Front St.
Hellertown, PA 18055
Email: Abachman64@gmail.com

January 26, 2022

Borough of Hellertown Council and
Mayor David Heintzelman
685 Main Street
Hellertown, PA 18055

Re: Proposed High Density Housing - Kichline Avenue

Dear Council and Mayor,

My name is Alec Bachman. I have been a proud Hellertown Resident for the last 22 years. Hellertown has meant a lot to me throughout my life. I wasn't born a resident of Hellertown. I am a first generation Hellertonian. I spent the first years of my life living in Allentown and Bethlehem. One could say I lived in "less than desirable" areas. I was the child of a single mother who was doing her best to provide for her son.

When my mom decided to buy a home, her first priority was to buy in a safe area within a small, close knit community and with a highly rated school. Hellertown appeared to be that perfect choice. And, for me as a child, it was a breath of fresh air. I was able to play on clean, needle free playgrounds, live in a good neighborhood and a nice community.

To start with a question, what is the first street you pass when entering Hellertown, whether that be from 78 or Bethlehem? The answer is easy, it's Kichline Avenue. There you would have seen, until recently, a small town community where neighbors know each other, single family homes line the street with small businesses around them. Now, with the proposed development of Kichline, you will no longer see a small town. Instead you will just see a continuation of Bethlehem, high density apartments and housing. Kichline Avenue is critical to the small town appearance of Hellertown. More so than the clock tower or Dimmick Park. For it is the first thing you see when entering the town from a major city and a major highway. This is the first taste of Hellertown, so wouldn't you think there would be a priority to preserve and garner this area to appeal to incoming residents and those wanting to support the local businesses of a small town?

I grew up on Kichline Avenue and the great experiences I had growing up in this neighborhood led me to proudly purchase a home within this town I love so much. But after purchasing a home on the other side of town, I started to notice the differential treatment of the area I grew up in, and the area I live in now. Just as recently as 11/9/2021, during the Hellertown Planning Commission meeting, Joe Pampanin spoke about the recently purchased properties that are now being considered for development and had this to say. " Looking up

and down Kichline, they're probably the nicest, now that you fixed them, nicest houses out there". This remark is appalling. Are the other residents now to believe that their properties, in which they take pride in, are not worthy of consideration in this town? But what is even more appalling than Mr. Pampanin's remark was the laughter that followed from these so-called representatives of Hellertown. Mr. Pampanin's comment and the response from the committee members shows a callous disrespect for the homeowners on Kichline. How is a resident supposed to believe that the Borough and its committees have their best interests in mind when members are allowed to make comments like that without repercussions.

My concerns for Kichline are my concerns for the entire town. As a resident, I see a council that is willing to sacrifice the small town atmosphere for additional tax dollars. How is Kichline Avenue supposed to accommodate the increased traffic? This is a street where only 1 resident has a garage facing the street. Residents have no other option but to park on the street. The apartments currently under construction have a parking lot facing Gum Alley, an alleyway that can barely fit a single car going down it. Yet, it has been announced that an additional 60+ apartment unit and another 25 plus apartment building for a total of 110 apartments and business space. I have seen similar proposals for other sections of Hellertown get shot down by council, yet the development of Kichline goes through and the Planning Commission laughs at the residents who currently live in this area. Is the Commission and Council for the residents or for the developer? The way I see it, it is certainly not for the residents.

With increased population in our borough comes strains on other aspects, such as our school system, our public library, our police department and our public works. How will our current Police department be able to serve and protect our community with this increase in population? How will our public works be able to support snow removal and waste removal for these areas, when we already have issues getting all our roads plowed in a timely manner as well as collecting all our garbage?

In conclusion, I worry about the image of our town going forward as well as its infrastructure and credibility. We are a small town sandwiched between two cities. We should embrace that small town image, it is the reason why many choose to live here, but I feel that this is being sacrificed. Additionally, how can the Borough instill trust in its residents when reprehensible remarks and behaviors are allowed to be made by representatives of the borough with no fear of recourse. As Councilman Andrew Hughes said during the meeting regarding the Library "It's a Council Member's duty to be listening to the residents". From where I and many others stand, the Council currently does not. If only the council could have the same attitude, drive and compassion towards other community matters as they have shown with the latest library debacle, then maybe there would be no need for me to write this letter. I thank you all for your time, and I hope nothing more than for you to make the right decisions in maintaining the appeal and atmosphere that has led many of us to choose Hellertown to call "Home".

Sincerely,

Alec Bachman

Tiffany Nolder
109-111 Kichline Avenue
Hellertown, PA 18055
Email: tnolder2000@yahoo.com

January 25, 2022

Mayor David Heintzelman
Borough of Hellertown Council
685 Main Street
Hellertown, PA 18055

Re: Proposed Development on Kichline Avenue

Dear Mayor and Council Members,

My name is Tiffany Nolder and I reside at the above address. I have worked in Hellertown for 18 years and have resided in Hellertown for 6 years. During this time, I have grown to love this town. So much that in 2021, I decided to make 109-111 my permanent home and purchased this property so that my daughter and I could have a nice, affordable place to live. This property also houses a few tenants.

Over the past year, there has been development at the lower end of Kichline Avenue. I wasn't opposed to the first development at the address of 232 Kichline, however, now that there is a proposal for development at 221-223 Kichline and the Clauser Street project, I have many concerns which I feel I need to address, although I have my doubts that my concerns will have any impact on Council's consideration regarding these projects.

At a Planning Commission meeting, a member of the Planning Commission made a very disturbing comment which made me, as a property owner in Hellertown, feel as though my property was not worthy of being in Hellertown. Because of these comments, I am voicing my concerns in the hopes that you all will have a little compassion for those of us that currently reside on Kichline Avenue, regardless of how you feel about our homes.

One of my biggest concerns is the increased traffic on Kichline. Most of us who live on Kichline have no other option than to park "on street". I am concerned that we will eventually lose that ability to park on street. And although the Borough may not consider this in the immediate future, I am concerned that, once there are 85+ apartments and businesses adding to the traffic, this may be a consideration. These developers have the ability to make parking available for these apartments, however, we do not have that luxury.

I am also concerned about the change to our neighborhood. Whether Council or the Planning Commission realizes it or not, we on Kichline "know each other". We have had our own community picnics, have gotten together as neighbors to help each other shovel during snow storms and have become close friends over the years. We do not want to see our neighborhood become over populated. I feel that I have great neighbors all around me and most feel the same way I do.

My other concerns are, with the increase in population, that our taxes will go up. Hellertown already has one of the highest millage rates in Northampton County and, quite frankly, in this economic environment, people just cannot afford it. Developers obviously have no issue with it but the average resident cannot afford a huge tax increase.

I also fear an increase in crime. Again, with the increase in population, comes the potential for higher crime. Quite frankly, I do not believe our small police force can handle an uptick in crime. And the residents do not want this area to become a magnet for crime. Especially being so close to I-78 and the proximity to New York.

In closing, while I do understand that the Borough would like to see development of the open space at the end of Kichline Avenue and that most of you have good intentions, my question is, does it really have to be in the form of high-density housing?

Thank you for your time and my hope is that you will consider the residents who love this town and would like to see this small beautiful community remain somewhat in tact.

Sincerely,

Tiffany Nolder

Diane Bachman
40 Kichline Avenue
Hellertown, PA 18055

February 5, 2022

Borough of Hellertown Council
685 Main Street
Hellertown, PA 18055

Re: Development on Kichline Avenue

Dear Council,

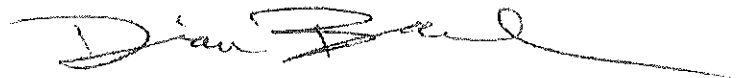
I have been a resident of Kichline Avenue for almost 23 years. When I moved here in 1999, my one and only concern (as a single parent) was to provide my 5 year old son with a safe place to grow up and a great school. Hellertown provided both of those things. The best thing about Hellertown was the small community that cared for one another. But over the years, I have seen changes that are not for the better. This small community is starting to look like a larger city. This small town is losing its image. It is a town that is hardly recognizable anymore.

The high-density housing on Kichline Avenue is just one example of this change. While most of us understand that development is something that every town or borough will experience and, at times, change can be for the better. But for those of us on Kichline, we are concerned that our area is not equipped to handle the increased traffic that will come and the possibility of increased crime. Is the Borough in a position to provide additional resources that are needed with an increase in population, vehicle traffic and other needs of residents?

As residents, it is within our right to voice our concerns. Aside from the obvious concerns, another concern that a few of us neighbors have discussed was a comment made by a Planning Commission member implying that our homes are less important than that of the developer's building on Kichline Avenue. We found those comments to be very disrespectful towards us. However, the laughter that followed from the other commission members was nothing short of appalling. These are "our homes". We take pride in them and we do the best we can to maintain them with the resources we have at our disposal.

While there is nothing that can be done to change the development that has already been approved and begun, I do feel that adding more high-density housing to Kichline Avenue, specifically at 221-229 Kichline Avenue, should not be permitted. I am concerned that the increase in traffic and population is going to be detrimental to our public works, police department, school system and other resources of this borough. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Diane Bachman