



BOROUGH OF YEADON
DELAWARE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
BOROUGH COUNCIL LEGISLATIVE MEEETING MINUTES
June 18, 2020

Meeting began at 7:03 p.m.

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

II. ROLL CALL

Rohan K. Hepkins, Mayor	Present
LaToya Monroe, President	Present
Ronald Francis, Vice President	Present
Clara Johnson	Present
Rafi Cave	Present
Dolores McCabe	Present
Tomeka (Taliah) Jones-Waters	Present
Liana Roadcloud	Present
Mironda Presswood, Manager	Present
Charles Gibbs, Solicitor	Present
Julianne James, Tax Collector	Present
Eileen Mulvena, Engineer	Present
Nafis Nichols, Finance Director	Present

The Solicitor stated the following: Pursuant to the Pennsylvania state law the Borough of Yeadon is meeting tonight via Zoom and the meeting is being recorded. By staying in the meeting, you are consenting to being recorded. There is no reasonable expectation to privacy in this meeting. This meeting will be posted in a public way and can be shared however the Borough deems appropriate.

III. CITIZENS FORUM (comments limited to 3 minutes)

1. Tori (Victoria) Monroe – Ms. Monroe organized a protest regarding police brutality against black Americans (worldwide protests resulting from the atrocious death of George Floyd and many other Americans due to police brutality and injustice) on Sunday, June 14, 2020. In her speech and during this meeting, she shared the following list of demands and requests for local police departments for change in the community: (a) police departments must participate in mandatory implicit bias training (which is taught by a person of color); (b) an act or intervene policy when a fellow officer is committing a crime (when violated they face severe consequences); (c) all police officers must wear fully functioning body cameras that are always kept on while on duty; (d) end immunity for murder and for police officers to be accountable for their actions; (e) policies and training in order to criminalize violent actions to peaceful situations; (f) immediate ban on any type of chokeholds and asphyxiation caused by a police officer;

and (g) police to have positive connections within the schools. Ms. Monroe thanked everyone for their support.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Motion to approve May 21, 2020 Legislative Meeting Minutes
Moved By: Councilor Cave
Seconded By: Councilor McCabe
Unanimous

V. MAYOR'S REPORT

1. The 2nd Quarterly Mayor's Forum was held on Thursday, June 11, 2020 at 7 p.m. via Zoom. Topics included COVID-19 updates and Q&A's. This was the first Mayor's Forum conducted on Zoom. There were twenty-six (26) participants. The next Mayor's Forum will be Tuesday, September 8, 2020. Weekly meetings regarding COVID-19 were held with department heads followed by executive sessions with Council. These meetings will now take place on an as needed basis. The Black Doctor's Consortium visited Yeadon twice to perform free COVID-19 testing. Due to civil unrest the Mayor issued a curfew on June 13th for one week.

VI. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

1. Motion to approve Juneteenth as a Yeadon Borough holiday.
Moved By: Vice President Francis
Seconded By: Councilor Johnson
Unanimous
The Council President noted that Juneteenth activities will be included in the Borough's schedule next year and/or Flag Day.
2. The Nile Swim Club prepared activities for the community such as the Juneteenth celebration. Also, the swim club is conducting food giveaways every Saturday. The Council President noted that the Nile Swim Club is current on their tax arrangement with the Borough. However, there are outstanding sewer fees that were not addressed in the agreement, which Council will discuss later. There will be a motion to support the Nile Swim Club via Yeadon Borough member subsidies because the Borough will not be supporting Camp Garrett this summer as well as other activities due to the pandemic.

Council inquired if the County testing would be paid for by the Borough. The answer was no.

VII. MANAGER'S REPORT

Items Handled/Announcements

1. The Borough has reopened under the Yellow Phase of Governor Wolf's Phased Reopening Plan. The Borough is following the guidelines put in place by the Governor, continuing to social distance, wear masks, etc. Information pertaining to the changes are posted in the Borough, on the website, cable channel, and social media sites.

2. The Borough held COVID-19 testing on 5/23/20 at St. Louis Parish, where 107 people were tested, and then again on 6/13/20 at the Chapel of the Good Shepherd, where 160 people were tested. Congresswoman Scanlon sent a representative to the first event. Ms. Marlo, one of the Congresswoman's representatives emailed Management that Congresswoman Scanlon attended the second event. Ms. Marlo also indicated that the event was advertised on Scanlon's social media platforms. In addition, she stated that Congresswoman Scanlon is very supportive of the work that the Black Doctors Consortium is doing and appreciates all the work that was put in to help the community. Please be advised that the flyers for this event were sent to Congressman Evans, Senators Williams, Casey, and Toomey and Representatives McClinton and Davidson too.
3. Management met with the engineer on 6/5/20 and 6/16/20. The current and pending projects were discussed. NDI met with the department heads on 6/5/20. NDI will provide updates during their report, which will include updates regarding the camera project.

Items in Progress

1. Management worked with NDI to submit a letter to the County Council and the Delaware County Office of Housing and Community Development (OHCD) requesting reconsideration for an award of the 2020 Community Development Block Grant. This letter was presented with additional comment last night at the County Council 6:00 p.m. meeting. Darby and Colwyn are also requesting these funds. Public comments are being accepted through June 22. It was noted by County Council that there is not enough money for everyone. We do not know when the decision will be made on the award of the remaining funds from the grant, but a notice must be advertised for 30 days before Council proceeds.
2. Management worked closely with Councilor Cave to ensure that the Borough was able to lock in a low interest rate for its outstanding 2010 debt. There is a motion later tonight under the Finance section of the agenda that requires Council's action. If Council decides not to approve the motion, then the Borough will remain in a variable rate, which could change drastically in the future.
3. The Borough was awarded \$39,230.21 from the Low Volume Road grant to improve the inlets and water quality near Park Place., Maple, Hazel, and Walnut Avenues. This was the first time this grant has been offered to Delaware County municipalities and there was only \$84,000 allotted for it. Low Volume Road grants are designed to improve water quality and roads in areas where there is traffic of less than 500 vehicles by providing environmentally sensitive maintenance. This project will result in the improvement of 7 inlets with the goal of improving the outfall to Blunston Run, which is a tributary of Cobbs Creek. The Borough requested and will receive an advance of 50% of the funds once the project commences (hopefully in September). Management spoke with Ms. Wilwol, a Watershed Specialist from the Delaware County Conservation District, on 6/17/20 to review the contract and discuss the project further. Updates will be given as this project progresses.
**Please note: Parkview Blvd. was mentioned as an area for improvement, but is actually Park Place.*
4. The multi-municipal Transportation and Community Development Initiative (TCDI) Grant application was granted. This grant is for \$85,000 towards the Eastern Delco

Bikeway Prioritization project, which includes Lansdowne, East Lansdowne, Yeadon, and Upper Darby. Yeadon and these other municipalities will conduct a feasibility study that builds on the work of the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission's *Bicycle Level of Traffic Stress* report to better define a sub-regional bicycle network with implementation priorities and bicycle ridership strategies. Lansdowne is the lead on this project. Yeadon requested the incorporation of bicycle facilities on State Road 2005/Lansdowne Avenue between Marshall Road and Pembroke Avenue, and stripe sharrows in both directions on Lansdowne Avenue as feasible between Fairview Avenue and Golf Road. This would be in concert with the PennDOT Connects Initiative, and PennDOT would coordinate the necessary design activities. Updates will be given as this project progresses.

5. The summer newsletter is scheduled to be mailed out by the end of June.
6. Management is waiting for more information from the County regarding a food program being offered by the Urban League, whereby meals will be provided to Yeadon on a weekly basis throughout the summer. The County is working out the details and hopes to start distributing the meals at the end of this month. In order to participate in this program, Yeadon cannot be part of any other food distribution program. As a result, we will not be able to participate in a fresh fruit and produce program being offered through the Shared Food Program. Fortunately, the Shared Food Program would be able to proceed without Borough participation.
7. Management has been working diligently to keep the public notified of ongoing changes and events through the website, the cable channel, MyCivicApp, and the Borough's Facebook and Twitter accounts. Management is also working to make sure the residents are aware of Delco Alert, a free notification system offered by the County that provides emergency alerts and notices. All the information for these resources has been posted repeatedly in the newsletter and are also provided on the sites, app, and channel. Please be sure to let your friends, family, and neighbors know to sign up for and view these channels of communication.
8. With the stay-at-home order lifted, Management will look into filling any pending vacancies. The majority of the vacancies will be filled during the green phase and/or once things return as they were pre-COVID-19. Prior to COVID-19, the Borough was pursuing hiring for multiple departments, one of which was for a seasonal worker in the Public Works Department. Management interviewed and chose Mr. Robert Mullen to fill this position and recommends that Council approve him to be hired for this position. There is a motion later tonight under the Public Works section of the agenda that requires Council's action.

Items to Be Addressed

1. The filling of upcoming vacancies in the Borough. Please be advised that the Borough is always accepting resumes, applications, letters of interest, etc. for the committees, boards, commissions, and employment positions within the Borough.

VIII. SOLICITOR'S REPORT

1. Council discussed constructions issues regarding a Borough property at executive sessions several times. A lawsuit may be filed within the next few weeks related to the

insufficient work that was done on behalf of the Borough in relation to this property. The engineer provided a very comprehensive report of deficiencies of the stucco work that was done.

2. Resolution No. 2020-014 - Designating Juneteenth as a Borough Holiday was read in full.
3. Motion to advertise an ordinance recognizing Juneteenth as a holiday.
Moved By: President Monroe
Seconded By: Councilor Cave
Unanimous

Council inquired about whether contract changes to the NJN & Associates, LLC Agreement with the Borough changed the vote from May 21st. The Solicitor replied no and explained that the authorized indemnities are consistent with state law and do not change the approval given by Council.

IX. TAX COLLECTOR – Julianne James, Tax Collector

1. Currently the Borough has collected \$4,116,719.07. The outstanding to date is \$1,111,656.99. Two thousand eight hundred and fifty-four (2,854) residents have paid their taxes. There are over 3,000 residents registered.

Council requested a comparison from last year and what caused the increase of payments. The Tax Collector replied tax payments are ahead of schedule, many paid the discount this time. Also, contacting the residents and the discount extension may have helped.

X. ENGINEER'S REPORT

1. Motion to authorize NDI to move forward with Phase B of the camera surveillance project.
Moved By: Councilor Cave
Seconded By: Councilor McCabe
Unanimous

The Engineer noted the locations of the surveillance cameras will be Church Lane & Baily Road, Church Lane & Whitby Avenue, and Church Lane & Guenther Avenue and the proposal amount of \$79,792.

Council inquired whether the cameras were red light cameras. The response was no, they are regular surveillance cameras. There was also an inquiry as to whether the camera was the same system as used in Phase A and the response was yes. There was an additional inquiry as to whether all of Council received the proposal and the response was yes, plus Phase B was sent with the engineer's report.

2. Motion to extend the current Ordinary Street and Sewer Maintenance Contract with A. Garguile & Sons by three months.
Moved By: Vice President Francis
Moved By: Councilor Johnson
Unanimous

3. Motion to extend the current Ordinary Street and Sewer Maintenance Contract with A to U Services by three months.
Moved By: Councilor Cave
Seconded By: Councilor McCabe
Unanimous
4. Motion to extend the current Ordinary Street and Sewer Maintenance Contract with A.F. Damon by three months.
Moved By: Vice President Francis
Seconded By: Councilor McCabe
Unanimous

The Engineer updated information on the CDBG Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation project on W. Providence Road. The County held a meeting recently and the contractors, Eagle Contracting & Landscaping, Inc., are expected to begin working next week. There will be a detour for W. Providence Road between Lansdowne Avenue and the Upper Darby line. The final road paving will be performed by PennDOT.

XI. COMMITTEES' REPORTS

A. Finance, Councilor Rafi Cave

1. Motion to approve the Accounts Payable List.
Moved By: Councilor Johnson
Seconded By: Vice President Francis
Unanimous

Councilor Roadcloud inquired about the company It Takes Philly, which was listed on the Accounts Payable list. Councilor Cave and the Solicitor both confirmed this is the legal operating name for the Black Doctor's Consortium.

2. Motion to approve the Cash Balance Report.
Moved By: Vice President Francis
Seconded By: Councilor Johnson
Unanimous
3. Motion to approve Resolution #2020-013 granting the conversion of sewer notes to a fixed loan rate.
Moved By: Vice President
Seconded By: Councilor Johnson
Unanimous

Councilor Cave thanked NJN for looking out for the future expenses of the Borough.

B. Public Works, Councilor Clara Johnson

1. Motion to hire Robert Mullen as a Seasonal Worker to the Public Works Department.
Moved By: Vice President Francis
Seconded By: Councilor Johnson

6-1, Councilor Roadcloud opposed

Council inquired as to abatements. Management will review and discuss with Councilor Johnson at a later date. Council inquired about E-waste, which is scheduled for 7/18. The Council President noted that the Caucus meetings are suspended during the summer months.

C. Public Safety, Mayor Rohan K. Hepkins and Councilor McCabe

a. Police Department – Police Chief, Anthony Paparo

Asked report submitted be admitted for approval.

b. Fire Department - Fire Chief, Michael Diienno

Asked report submitted be admitted for approval.

c. Emergency Management – Operations Coordinator, Rufus Stokes

Asked report submitted be admitted for approval.

D. Recreation, Vice President Ronald Francis

1. Motion to approve discount vouchers to seniors, teens, or families for the 2020 pool season at the Nile Swim Club in the amount of \$175, not to exceed a total of \$5,250.

Moved By: Councilor McCabe

Seconded By: Councilor Johnson

6-1, opposed by Councilor Cave

Council inquired about the Nile Swim Club issuing discounts, eligibility, and requirements during reopening phases. The answer was as follows: the Borough will perform random checks to ensure discounts are applied for properly, residents will receive the discount on a first come first serve basis, Council members are ineligible for this discount, and the swim club will follow the business guidelines for reopening issued by the governor.

The Council President added because of safety concerns the Borough will not sponsor transportation to Camp Garrett and other summer activities.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

1. Motion to adjourn.

Moved By: Vice President Francis

Seconded By: Councilor Cave

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Management.