

MINUTES
BROOKVILLE BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday October 4, 2022 @ 7:00 P.M.

The Brookville Borough Council met in the large conference room on Tuesday, October 4, 2022 at 7:00 P.M. with the following in attendance:

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mayor Richard Beck
Phil Hynes
Karen Allgeier
Randy Bartley
David Taylor
Lucy Ames
Sarah Gallagher

STAFF

Manager Dana Rooney
Police Chief Vince Markle
Fire Chief Chris Henry
President of the Brookville
Volunteer Fire Company -
Eric Sweitzer
Public Works Director -
Jonathan Rhoades
Code Enforcement Officer –
Vince Markle
Recorder Christine Gunning
Solicitor Jim Dennison

VISITOR/MEDIA

Justin Felgar
Jamie Popson
Bob Lewis

CALL TO ORDER:

President Phil Hynes called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M., and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag. President Phil Hynes stated before we start the meeting, he would like to make note the passing of a longtime Council Member. President Phil Hynes stated Reverend Darr Briggs served on Council for sixteen years. President Phil Hynes stated unfortunately he passed away this week. President Phil Hynes asked for a moment of silence in memory of Darr Briggs.

CORRECTIONS/APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

President Phil Hynes stated we will begin with the correction and approval of the minutes of our September 6th meeting. President Phil Hynes asked if there were any corrections. Member David Taylor stated on Arthur McKinley's presentation, he thinks the word 'plantings' should be changed to 'planning'. Member David Taylor stated in the discussion about 138 Pickering Street, they asked to have meters bagged for a moving van, and they also asked for meters to be permanently removed to accommodate the creation of a driveway. Member David Taylor stated he thinks that should be included in the minutes. Vice-President Karen Allgeier moved to approve the minutes of the September 6th meeting as corrected; seconded by Second Vice-President Randy Bartley. Motion carried 6-0.

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

- A. Approval of Expenditures** – The current bills were presented for approval. President Phil Hynes asked if there were any additions or questions. Manager Dana Rooney stated she had three additions; \$105.00 for Zoning Officer Joe

Kelsch's September hours, \$8,615.00 for work done by Procter Fire Protection for the fire alarm system in Workers' Compensation, and \$2,460.00 for September cleaning done by J's Custom Cleaning. Member David Taylor asked what is Witmer Public Safety Group? Manager Dana Rooney stated that is ammunition. Member David Taylor moved to approve the accounts payable with the additions; seconded by Second Vice-President Randy Bartley. Motion carried 6-0.

- B. Fund Level Financial Statements** – President Phil Hynes stated you have the Fund Level Financial Statement Summary, and if you have questions, the appropriate people are here.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- A. Jamie Popson – Brookville Chamber – Meter Hoods** – Jamie Popson, the new Director of the Brookville Area Chamber of Commerce, stated she was here to ask if they can put meter covers on the parking meters for the month of December. Member David Taylor made a motion to allow the Brookville Chamber of Commerce to put meter covers on the parking meters for the month of December; seconded by Vice-President Karen Allgeier. Motion carried 6-0.

REPORTS:

Chief of Police

- A. Statistics** – Police Chief Vince Markle stated in September the Brookville Police Department had 163 calls for service, wrote 218 citations, 228 warnings, and 212 parking tickets. Police Chief Vince Markle stated there were 4 felonies, 27 misdemeanors, 4 drug arrests, 7 DUI's (driving under the influence), 1 302 commitment, and 1 arson.
- B. Officer of the Month** – Police Chief Vince Markle stated Officer Jaime Rinker was Officer of the Month.
- C. Two Carports** – Police Chief Vince Markle stated he is asking permission to buy two carports for \$5,600.00, which he has in his budget, to keep the cars out of the weather. Vice-President Karen Allgeier stated if Police Chief Vince Markle has it in his budget, she will move approval for the purchase of two carports for \$5,600.00 as presented; seconded by Member David Taylor. Motion carried 6-0.
- D. Advertise for a New Parking Meter Person** – Police Chief Vince Markle stated Wayne Wolfe resigned, and he would like to get permission to advertise for another parking meter person. Vice-President Karen Allgeier made a motion to advertise for a new parking meter person effective as soon as possible; seconded by Member David Taylor. Motion carried 6-0.

Fire Chief – Fire Chief Chris Henry read his written report (attached).

Public Works - Public Works Director Jonathan Rhoades stated he will start with the waterline project. Public Works Director Jonathan Rhoades stated Terra Works almost has all their taps in for all the businesses. Public Works Director Jonathan Rhoades stated after they get all their taps in, they will start going back through and hooking main lines up off of Franklin Avenue and Pickering Street. Public Works Director Jonathan Rhoades stated Wilson Excavating is on Madison for a few more weeks, and then they

will be done, other than the restoration work. Public Works Director Jonathan Rhoades stated Allegheny Contracting is done on High Street. Public Works Director Jonathan Rhoades stated they are pretty much done with dredging. Public Works Director Jonathan Rhoades stated leaf pickup will be starting on October 24th, and there will be a spot at Longview Park to drop off leaves before October 24th. Member Lucy Ames asked if the work that was done on West Main Street will be repaired anytime soon. Public Works Director Jonathan Rhoades stated as of now they keep patching what they have because they still have to go back up and do a tie-in on Fetzer Street, and that will be part of their last phase as well as that. Member Lucy Ames asked when that is done, will that strip be patched? Public Works Director Jonathan Rhoades stated supposedly, with PennDOT specs, they have to go to the middle of the road. Vice-President Karen Allgeier stated the problem she thinks is it is getting awfully late in the season to be paving. Manager Dana Rooney stated according from on the Authority side, they are not paving this year. Manager Dana Rooney stated it will be patched for the winter, and paved in the spring.

Code Enforcement – Code Enforcement Officer Vince Markle read his written report (attached).

Zoning Officer – No Report

Committee Reports

A. Personnel Committee

1. **Executive Session – Action Expected** – President Phil Hynes stated moving on to Committee Reports, we are going to change things up a little bit. We are going to have the executive session for the Personnel Committee before adjusting the other items on the agenda. President Phil Hynes stated he does not think it will be very long, and there will probably be action afterwards.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Brookville Borough Council entered an executive session at 7:16 P.M. to discuss personnel matters with action expected. Executive session ended at 7:36 P.M. with the following action taken:

2. **Pay Only Probationary Period** – Personnel Committee Chair Lucy Ames stated she has a few motions she would like to put forward. Personnel Committee Chair Lucy Ames stated the first is that we lift the pay only probationary period effective August 29th for our current equipment operator. President Phil Hynes stated since this is coming from committee, no second is needed. President Phil Hynes asked all Council Members in favor of this motion coming from committee to say ‘aye’. Motion carried 6-0.
3. **Full-time Equipment Operator** – Personnel Committee Chair Lucy Ames made a motion coming from committee to approve a full-time equipment operator with no pay probationary period. President Phil

Hynes stated since this motion is coming from committee, no second is needed. President Phil Hynes asked all Council Members in favor of this motion coming from committee to say 'aye'. Motion carried 6-0.

4. **Manager Dana Rooney's Contract** – Personnel Committee Chair Lucy Ames stated the next is she would like to make a motion that we approve the employment contract for Manager Dana Rooney. President Phil Hynes stated since this motion is coming from committee, no second is needed. President Phil Hynes asked all Council Members in favor of this motion coming from committee to say 'aye'. Motion carried 6-0.
5. **Police Chief Vince Markle's Contract** – Personnel Committee Chair Lucy Ames stated she would like to make a motion that we accept the new employment agreement for Police Chief Vince Markle. President Phil Hynes stated since this motion is coming from committee, no second is needed. President Phil Hynes asked all Council Members in favor of this motion coming from committee to say 'aye'. Motion carried 6-0.

Solicitor

- A. **Depot Street Agreement** - Solicitor Jim Dennison stated President Phil Hynes just gave him a copy of the agreement with the Redbank Valley Trail Association with some corrections. Solicitor Jim Dennison stated he will have that for the next meeting. President Phil Hynes stated after Solicitor Jim Dennison reviews it, we will get copies of this agreement to Council so we will be prepared to discuss it, or vote on it. Second Vice-President Randy Bartley asked what was the agreement for. President Phil Hynes stated it is an agreement between the Redbank Valley Trail Association and Brookville Borough on maintenance and responsibilities involving the Depot Street spur. President Phil Hynes stated Depot Street is an ordained street in the Borough, but the Redbank Valley Trail has been developed by Redbank Valley, so this agreement will spell out who does what.
- B. **Larry Pearsall – Final Hearing** – Solicitor Jim Dennison stated they had the final hearing on Larry Pearsall before Judge Foradora, and Larry Pearsall did not show up, so that matter is finalized where he was subpoenaing everybody here. Solicitor Jim Dennison stated now Larry Pearsall continues to be a problem. Solicitor Jim Dennison stated Larry Pearsall is continuing to pursue. Solicitor Jim Dennison stated there are some pending criminal charges, and more pending criminal charges for his failure to obey this, and eventually we will get some action out of him on that.

Borough Manager

- A. **Special Event Permit – 2022 Haunted Brookville** – Manager Dana Rooney stated we have a special event permit for 2022 Haunted Brookville which is scheduled for Saturday, October 29th from 11:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. on Main Street with downtown businesses. Vice-President Karen Allgeier made a motion to approve the special event permit for 2022 Haunted Brookville as presented; seconded by Member Lucy Ames. Motion carried 6-0.

- B. Special Event Permit – 2022 Wine Walk** – Manager Dana Rooney stated next, we have a special event permit for the 2022 Wine Walk scheduled for Saturday, December 3rd on Main Street from 11:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Vice-President Karen Allgeier made a motion to approve the special event permit for the 2022 Wine Walk as presented; seconded by Member Lucy Ames. Motion carried 6-0.
- C. Special Event Permit – PATHS Pumpkin Roll** – Manager Dana Rooney stated next, we have a special event permit for PATHS Pumpkin Roll scheduled for Sunday, November 6th at 1:00 P.M. on Pickering Street. Vice-President Karen Allgeier made a motion to approve the special event permit for PATHS Pumpkin Roll as presented; seconded by Member Sarah Gallagher. Motion carried 6-0.
- D. 2023 Borough Pension Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO)** – Manager Dana Rooney stated you also have this evening the 2023 Borough Pension MMO. Manager Dana Rooney stated this is for the nonuniform, which means not the police department. Manager Dana Rooney stated you have last year's to compare it to. Manager Dana Rooney stated it dropped significantly. Manager Dana Rooney stated salaries went up, but the pension is very well funded, so the MMO is projected for 2023 at \$12,268.00. Vice-President Karen Allgeier made a motion to approve the 2023 Borough Pension MMO projected at \$12,268.00; seconded by Member David Taylor. Motion carried 6-0.
- E. Crypto Mining Impacts** – Manager Dana Rooney stated she sent out an email, and wanted to open something up for discussion. Manager Dana Rooney stated Northcentral sent us an email that she forwarded to everybody regarding crypto mining, which is the process to create and validate new crypto currency or crypto currency coins, such as bitcoin, and it is using secure blockchain transaction. Manager Dana Rooney asked how could this affect the municipality? Manager Dana Rooney stated crypto mining is energy dependent, and creates heat, and the generators and cooling fans used to keep the computers running can be noisy. Manager Dana Rooney stated there is an example of this currently in Ridgway Township, Elk County where property owners have likened the sound to a jet engine. Manager Dana Rooney stated they gave some examples of how to possibly control it if it comes in, but you would have to be proactive instead of reactive. Manager Dana Rooney stated we do have zoning, so one choice to make would be through our zoning ordinances. Solicitor Jim Dennison stated noise is already covered in the zoning ordinance. Solicitor Jim Dennison stated he thinks we need to look at the noise parameter that this puts out and the decibels, and maybe the zoning ordinance needs to be changed, so we can look at all of that. After some discussion, President Phil Hynes stated he thinks it is good to be proactive on our ordinances, because there is a lot of new technology coming in that just does not fit.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. **Halloween** – Mayor Richard Beck stated this year Halloween will be on Monday, October 31st with the parade at 5:30 P.M., and trick-or-treating from 6:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M.

ELECTED OFFICIAL COMMENTS:

- A. **Mayor Richard Beck** – Mayor Richard Beck stated he was glad to see Jamie Popson, and he thinks she will be a good Director for the Brookville Area Chamber of Commerce. Mayor Richard Beck stated he worked with her before on the Chamber of Commerce and the History Center. Mayor Richard Beck thanked all the departments for doing a great job; the Brookville Volunteer Fire Company, the Brookville Police Department, and the Street Department. Mayor Richard Beck stated he thinks things have been going really well, and Council has been doing a good job.
- B. **Member Sarah Gallagher** – Member Sarah Gallagher welcomed Jamie Popson, and stated she worked with her in other capacities, so she is sure Jamie Popson will fill those shoes very well. Member Sarah Gallagher stated she is looking forward to fire safety and fire prevention week. Member Sarah Gallagher stated we are thankful for everything the firemen do for our community. Member Sarah Gallagher stated there are a lot of great activities coming up, and she hopes the public gets out and enjoys everything. Member Sarah Gallagher stated she is looking forward to Halloween on Monday.
- C. **Member David Taylor** – Member David Taylor asked if there was any activity on the old Free Methodist Church. Manager Dana Rooney stated no. Member David Taylor stated, coming from the Historical Society, they are asking if they can use the concession stand that is up there in the grove, because they intend at some point to have events there. President Phil Hynes asked that this be put that on the agenda for the next meeting, and for the Property Committee to take a look at it.
- D. **Member Lucy Ames** – Member Lucy Ames welcomed Jamie Popson. Member Lucy Ames thanked Police Chief Vince Markle, Fire Chief Chris Henry, Public Works Director Jonathan Rhoades, and Manager Dana Rooney for everything they do. Member Lucy Ames stated she has an update on the police hiring. Member Lucy Ames stated there were five applicants. Lucy Ames stated we are going to be holding the Civil Service Test on Saturday, October 15th, and those that pass will go immediately to their physical. Member Lucy Ames stated after that we will have the oral interviews, and we will select the top two or three people, and make a decision.
- E. **Vice-President Karen Allgeier** – Vice-President Karen Allgeier thanked everyone, thanked Jamie Popson, and stated she was glad to see her at the Brookville Area Chamber of Commerce. Vice-President Karen Allgeier stated gentlemen, as always, you do a fabulous job for the Borough. Vice-President Karen Allgeier told Public Works Director Jonathan Rhoades she hopes his new hires work out to his satisfaction. Vice-President Karen Allgeier told Police Chief Vince Markle she hopes he finds a couple of good officers during the Civil Service exam. Vice-President Karen Allgeier

reminded everyone to be careful on Halloween, and wished everyone a happy Halloween.

- F. **President Phil Hynes** - President Phil Hynes stated he wanted to add something to his initial comment recognizing Darr Briggs. President Phil Hynes stated he served on Council with him for a couple of years, and he was in charge of finances for the Borough for at least a decade. President Phil Hynes stated he was well known to be very tight with the budget, and he left the Borough in really sound financial shape for a long period of time. President Phil Hynes stated he thinks Darr Briggs should be recognized for that, because he did a good job on the books. President Phil Hynes asked the media if they had any questions.

MEDIA COMMENTS/QUESTIONS/CLARIFICATION: None

ADJOURNMENT:

Vice-President Karen Allgeier moved to adjourn; seconded by Second Vice-President Randy Bartley. Motion carried 6-0 at 8:01 P.M.

Borough Manager