

MINUTES
BROOKVILLE BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday, August 1, 2023 @ 7:00 P.M.

The Brookville Borough Council met in the large conference room on Tuesday, August 1, 2023 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
Code Enforcement Officer -
Vince Markle
Recorder Christine Gunning
Solicitor Jim Dennison

VISITOR/MEDIA

Justin Felgar
Alex Nelson
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.

CORRECTIONS/APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Vice-President Karen Allgeier moved to approve the minutes of the July 5th meeting as submitted; seconded by Member David Taylor. Motion carried 6-0.

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

- A. Approval of Expenditures** – Manager Dana Rooney stated she had one addition; \$2,460.00 for J's Custom Cleaning. Member David Taylor moved to approve the accounts payables dated July 18th and August 1st as amended; seconded by Vice-President Karen Allgeier. 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, we are here to answer them.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

REPORTS:

Chief of Police

- A. Statistics** - Police Chief Vince Markle stated in July the Brookville Police Department had 183 calls for service, wrote 207 citations, 34 incidents, 75 warnings, 203 parking tickets, 12 misdemeanors, and 9 PoliceOne trainings.
- B. Comments** – Police Chief Vince Markle stated he had his guys do Ethics and Law Enforcement, Law Enforcement and Family Dynamics, and How to Lead in

Emotional Survival. Police Chief Markle stated everybody did their annual qualifications with the handguns, and this year we are required to do a handcuffing course. Police Chief Markle stated their Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) reports for our community cover from January 2001 to June of 2023, and show a fifty percent increase in violent property crimes, a forty-two percent increase in non-violent drug and alcohol crimes, a sixty-six percent increase in simple assault, a fifty percent decrease in vandalism, a one hundred percent decrease in unlawful weapon possessions, and the number of drug possessions and sale cases is down sixty-six percent. Police Chief Markle stated there was a one hundred and fifty percent increase in DUI (driving under the influence) arrests, and a one hundred and fifty percent increase in disorderly conducts, so we are trying to keep everybody as safe as possible.

- C. **Cash Transfer** – Police Chief Vince Markle stated he would like to move five thousand dollars out of line item 410-603 police vehicle, computer, to line item 410602 firearms, parts, and ammunition because they are ordering new guns for the department, and they are a little short in the firearms line item. President Phil Hynes asked Police Chief Markle how fast he needed to do that, because proper procedure would be to get this in at the next meeting. Police Chief Markle stated we do not need it right away.

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

Public Works – President Phil Hynes stated Public Works Director Jonathan Rhoades is not here, so Manager Dana Rooney will give his report. Manager Rooney stated the storms have been keeping them busy with cleanup. Manager Rooney stated dredging has begun, and the playground at Memorial Park should open soon.

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

Committee Reports - None

Solicitor

- A. **Fire Tax Credit** – Solicitor Jim Dennison stated he has not done anything with the Fire Tax Credit since he has been out of commission for the past month.
- B. **Master Gardeners Lease for Memorial Park** – Solicitor Jim Dennison stated he is just about done with the Master Gardeners lease for Memorial Park.
- C. **Philip Taylor House Lease** – Solicitor Jim Dennison stated he is almost done working on the Philip Taylor House lease.
- D. **Colonial Crestwood Release** – Solicitor Jim Dennison stated Council basically approved the Colonial Crestwood Release before. Solicitor Dennison stated there was a mortgage foreclosure action against Colonial Crestwood by the previous owner. Solicitor Dennison stated technically nothing has happened with the ownership yet. Solicitor Dennison stated this

kind of ends the litigation against the Borough, but it does not end litigation against the Brookville Municipal Authority. Solicitor Dennison stated he recommends that Council signs the release. Vice-President Karen Allgeier made a motion to sign the Colonial Crestwood Release; seconded by Member David Taylor. Motion carried 6-0.

Borough Manager

- A. Valley Street Drainage Project Bids** – Manager Dana Rooney opened the bids and stated we received two bids for the Valley Street Drainage Project; Terra Works bid \$117,441.00 with no bid bond, and Dave Roman Excavating bid \$119,780.00 with no bid bond. Manager Rooney stated they would pay for the project with American Rescue Funds. Second Vice-President Randy Bartley made a motion to accept the Terra Works bid of \$117,441.00 pending the engineer's review; seconded by Vice-President Karen Allgeier. Motion carried 6-0.
- B. New Address Request** – Manager Dana Rooney stated this address change was tabled from the last meeting, and Council is looking for some input from Solicitor Jim Dennison. Manager Rooney stated it is on Mabon Street, and it is currently addressed 104 Mabon Street. Manager Rooney stated they want to change it to 104 Mabon Street, apartment one, and 104 Mabon Street, apartment two. Manager Rooney stated Mabon Street is zoned low density residential (LDR) which does not allow apartments. Manager Rooney stated Council's question was there are currently apartments on Mabon Street. Manager Rooney stated as she understands it, they were already existing, and they were grandfathered in. Manager Dana Rooney stated 104 Mabon Street did not always function as apartments. After some discussion, this topic was tabled until the next meeting.
- C. Auditors** – Manager Dana Rooney stated the auditors will be in the office tomorrow to start the Borough's and the Brookville Municipal Authority's audit.
- D. 2024 Budgets** – Manager Dana Rooney stated our 2024 Budgets have unofficially started, and the supervisors have their forms to start working on, so the Budget Committee will see a preliminary budget soon.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Tree Wells/Weeds on Main Street** – Member Lucy Ames stated one of our downtown business owners asked who is responsible for maintaining the tree wells, and the trees and weeds that are in them, that are in front of some of the businesses. Solicitor Jim Dennison stated the building owner is responsible.

ELECTED OFFICIAL COMMENTS:

- A. Mayor Richard Beck** – Mayor Richard Beck stated all the departments have been doing really well, and he hopes they keep up the good work.

- B. **Member Sarah Gallagher** – Member Sarah Gallagher thanked the Brookville Volunteer Fire Company for their hard work during the storm.
- C. **Member David Taylor** – Member David Taylor stated last month we talked about Pennsylvania Great Outdoors (PAGO), and he heard they reached a separation agreement between PAGO and the county. Second Vice-President Randy Bartley stated he heard the county was going to continue the decertification process with PAGO. President Phil Hynes stated he thinks the Borough's position at this time is, we are going to wait and see what they actually do, because he would rather not get involved. Mr. Taylor stated we received two letters from Gwin, Dobson, and Foreman (GD&F) that contain a clause that they neither warrant nor guarantee that they have identified all design errors in the technical review, that accountability for the accurateness and completeness of the design plans is the sole responsibility of the design consultant acting on behalf of the applicant, and that GD&F is to be held harmless from all liability. Solicitor Jim Dennison stated all engineering firms have a clause like that, and he does not have a problem with it.
- D. **Member Lucy Ames** – Member Lucy Ames thanked Fire Chief Chris Henry, Police Chief Vince Markle, and all of their staff for everything they do. Mrs. Ames thanked Manager Dana Rooney for everything she does. Mrs. Ames stated in Grease, Mrs. Allgeier did a wonderful job as director, and Mrs. Gallagher's son stole the show.
- E. **Second Vice-President Randy Bartley** – Second Vice-President Randy Bartley stated he hopes everyone grasps the significance of the report Police Chief Vince Markle gave us about those crime numbers. Mr. Bartley stated that is why people are moving to small towns. Mr. Bartley thanked the Street Department for clearing away the debris and brush around the watering trough on East Main Street, and suggested putting up a sign saying what it is and when it was put in, because it is a significant landmark, and it should be recognized.
- F. **President Phil Hynes** – President Phil Hynes thanked everyone for coming to the meeting, and stated he is retiring from his real job on September 1st. Mr. Hynes asked the media if they had any questions.

MEDIA COMMENTS/QUESTIONS/CLARIFICATION:

- A. **Reporter Justin Felgar** – Reporter Justin Felgar asked Police Chief Vince Markle if he could get a copy of the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) report. Police Chief Markle stated yes.

ADJOURNMENT:

Second Vice-President Randy Bartley moved to adjourn; seconded by Vice-President Karen Allgeier. Motion carried 6-0 at 7:46 P.M.

Borough Manager

