

**Minutes of the Work Session ZOOM Meeting
Of the Borough of Chester Heights
222 Llyewelyn Road
Chester Heights, PA 19017
September 28th, 2020**

Call to Order President Baum called the public meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led those in attendance in the reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members Present Drew Baum, President
Ginamarie Ellis, Vice President
Natalie M. Anderson, Council
Susan Clarke, Council
Dave Firkser, Council
Laura M. Lim, Council

Officials Present Gerald Montella, Esq., Solicitor
Matthew Houtmann, P.E., Engineer

Public Comment – was given by:

Marta Driscoll
458A Lenni Road

Eileen Lehmann
304 Stanton Ct

President Baum presented Council with a Motion to authorize, Specialist Solicitor Pete Rohana, Esq., and Matthew Houtmann, P.E. Engineer to attend the Zoning Board Hearing Meeting on September 29th, 2020, on behalf of the borough to gather Information.

MOTION Upon Motion, Council (Clarke/Lim/Ellis) voted and approved the authorization to allow Specialist Solicitor Pete Rohana, Esq., and Matthew Houtmann, P.E. Engineer to attend the Zoning Board Hearing Meeting on September 29th, 2020, on behalf of the borough to gather all information.

Highways/Transportation

Chair Dave Firkser, Member Larry Ward

Councilman Firkser presented – West Chester Borough Committee to re-establish rail service to West Chester:

Jo Ann Kelton emailed Councilman Firkser, Chester Heights Borough letter support of West Chester Borough's proposal to the Chester County Planning Commission for a Vision Partnership Program Grant to fund an economic impact study proposed by Econsult Solutions Inc. We strongly support this grant application and the focus on

measuring the potential boost to our community's economic activity by restoring rail service to West Chester along SEPTA's Media-Elwyn line.
Councilman Firkser requested a Motion to send the letter of support to Jo Ann Kelton.

MOTION

Upon Motion, Council (Baum/Ellis) voted and approved the letter of support be sent to Jo Ann Kelton Committee rail service to West Chester Borough, for the Chester County Planning Commission, Vision Partnership Program Grand fund application.

Finance/Insurance –

Chair Mayor Wood, Members Lim, Timmins

Treasurer Timmins presented adjustments requested for June & July 2020 Treasurer's Reports:

- June 20, 2020, Arbour Square tax interim received by tax collector in the amount of \$14,669.83.
- June 22, 2020, amount received was postmarked five days after discount deduction was allowed. Tax collector notified Chicago Title Company.
- Borough was notified 3 ½ weeks later that the full payment was received by the tax collector. The Borough's amount of \$8267.47 for Arbour Square interim also including current tax collections. The Fire Company's portion was \$7348.80 also including current tax collections.

Councilwoman Lim requested a Motion to delete the interim payment on June's 2020 Treasurer's Report in the amount of \$14,669.83 received by the tax collector.

MOTION

Upon Motion, Council (Baum/Firkser) voted and approved to delete the amount of \$14,669.83 received by the tax collector for the Arbour Square tax interim payment.

Councilwoman Lim requested a Motion to modify the July 2020 Treasurer's report from the amount of \$299.39 to \$8,267.47.

MOTION

Upon Motion, Council (Baum/Firkser) voted and approved to modify the July 2020 Treasurer's Report from \$299.39 to \$8,267.47.

Councilwoman Lim presented the PECO Green Grant, Councilwomen Lim & Ellis are going to gather additional information. This grant closes on October 31st, 2020 and is up to \$10,000.00 matching \$10,000.00. After more information is supplied for this grant, it will be submitted to Council for review. This grant would help with improvements to Chester Heights Community Park.

Old Business

Vice President Ellis reported for Mayor Wood asking for all 2021 Budget items to please be submitted by mid-October to be included. Year to Date Analysis will be made available in October.

Councilwoman Lim thanked all the volunteers and people who attended Recycling Day which was a success, President Baum thanked Councilwoman Lim for organizing the entire event day.

New Business

President Baum announced Alan Strickler offers stray dog pickup service. Cats are not accepted. The borough is currently in a 5-year contract for stray dog & cat services with BVSPCA. Councilwoman Lim reviewed the contract and, spoke with Daniel Archuff from BVSPCA and presented to Council:

- BVSPCA life of contract amount \$22,314.50
- Amount owed to break the contract with BVSPCA \$5,064.70
- Amount the borough would save by breaking contract \$8,907.05

Councilwoman Lim spoke to Mr. Archuff about our current contract. The stray dog and cat pickup is very low and most municipalities have 15 or greater animal pickups per year. The borough is below 5 for cats and dogs.

New information for stray dog pickup services was received from Alan Strickler. Who proposed in writing, a pickup fee of \$150.00 which is, a one-time fee per dog, with a possible afterhours fee.

President Baum and Councilwoman Lim asked Council and Solicitor to review the information provided to see if this is something the borough would like to revise.

President Baum proposed Larry Ward has been our ZOOM monitor/coordinator, and COVID-19 contact with the county. President Baum requested Council to consider, an increase in compensation for Larry's services for the work he has and will be performing with hosting and coordinating the ZOOM meetings. President Baum will work on an employee review during the week and present further information at the Regular Council Meeting October 5th, 2020. Multiple Councilmembers thanked Larry Ward for his services.

Solicitor Montella presented a proposed rental agreement from Valleybrook HOA for use of the clubhouse for one night as a ZHB meeting room.

The fee of \$100.00 has been waived along with a deposit. The renter is the Borough of Chester Heights and is responsible for any damage or issues that occur during the rental/use times. Solicitor Montella requested a Motion to accept/agree the rental agreement to use the Club House on September 29th, 2020 for the Zoning Hearing Board Meeting in the amount of \$1.00.

MOTION

Upon Motion, Council (Baum/Clarke) voted and approved the rental agreement between Valleybrook HOA and the Borough of Chester Heights to rent the Club House on September 29th, 2020 for a Zoning Hearing Board Meeting in the amount of \$1.00.

Additional period for public comments – given by –

Tony Leradi
271 Stanton Ct

ADJOURNMENT: **Upon Motion, Council (Ellis/Anderson) unanimously voted to adjourn meeting at 7:58 p.m.**

Land Development Dates: S.B. Conrad – 31 Smithbridge Rd – Submitted Plans 12/18/18, Reviewed Planning Commission 10/25/10, Extension 01/14/20, Extension 04/14/20, **Extension 10/11/20.**

Respectfully Submitted,
Darlene Kurten
Recording Secretary