

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
SHARON HILL BOROUGH COUNCIL
JUNE 17TH, 2021 @ 7:00PM

Meeting called to order by President Oliver

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll call as follows: Councilwoman Bedford-Dean (**present** later in meeting, noted in minutes), Councilman Felder (**present** later in meeting, noted in minutes), Councilwoman Cavalieri, Vice President Booker (**present** later in meeting noted in minutes), President Oliver, Councilman Martinez, Councilman Green, Mayor Dunfee, Borough Solicitor, and Borough Manager

Borough Manager introduces the firm for the first time to the public as NJN and Associates. Speaks to firms' duties and assistance able to offer.

Borough Solicitor (Sean Kilkenny) Kilkenny Law introduces the firm for the first time to the public.

President Oliver opens the floor for public comments.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Residents asked for public comments at the beginning and end of the meeting for agenda items to be discussed. Borough Solicitor addressed concern regarding comments at end of meeting

Larry Jones has concerns about the neighbor and property line. Awaiting copy of letter from engineer and public works for property issue.

Ann Davis issue to trash vendor. Trash cans are not being properly placed in front of residents' households. Also, looking for education on trash ordinances, possible mailings.

President Oliver responded with past welcome packets to new residents. And borough manager will speak with trash vendor regarding complaints

Rita Gaspin having a dog cleanup issue on streets. Requests codes be strictly enforced for dog owners.

Vice President Booker present at meeting

Borough manager responds to questions about possible mailings of ordinances. And adding signage on streets for dog litter.

President Oliver encourages residents to call 911 for concerns.

Resident states lawn care company blows cut grass in street and down Chester pike.

Councilman Martinez recommends trash vendor put broom and shovel on trucks for minor trash overflow in streets

Councilwoman Bedford-Dean present at meeting

Councilwoman Cavalieri speaks on trash issue and how she partnered with Home Depot to provide free waste trash cans to those residents in need

A resident urges a solution to parking close to the corner on Cherry Street or a bar near Cherry Street. Also, requesting speed bumps on high speeding roads in Borough. Urges help with safety

President Oliver responds will streets will be provided for speed bump locations

Police Chief responds with Monday meeting to correct parking too close to intersecting streets

Vice President Booker comments on striping the roadway for no parking

Borough manager will provide update for next meeting on this issue

Resident asks about employees being let go and why the meeting was switched to in person last minute. To add would like update on library and advertisements of borough events/activities

Borough Solicitor respond with a legal Act that requires in person municipal meetings. Zoom options are forthcoming pending IT improvements

Borough Solicitor address private personnel matters and cannot address to the public

Councilman Felder present at meeting

Councilman Felder addressed the library and the hours of operation. States the library has been open and operational for the public's use

President Oliver addresses advertisements that are via social media, website and newsletters

Dorothy Dale asks why basketball court are open all night

Police Chief will lock courts to help enforce the curfew hours

President Oliver urges to call 911 for children at the park or courts loitering after hours

Theresa Pearson Bey inquiries about speed bumps and request that we upload the streets earmarked to receive those speed bumps. And comments on previous employees and their assistance to help the community with their needs. Also asked about sewer line camera scope.

Borough Manager responds that speed bumps will be rolled out in coming weeks and will notify the community via the website of those sites. Also, the Borough Manager will speak with public works to find out the date the camera service was performed underground.

A resident made a comment about the fire department and its recruiting process. Says we should look to offer more incentives to hire in that department. Also, ask if the Borough is still having basketball tournaments at the courts?

Councilman Green responds to the basketball court comment. Says there are leagues throughout the summer but they are only Sharon Hill kids who play in the league. And partnering with Sharon Hill ramblers to bring into the FD.

The Fire Department Chief spoke to the FD operations and the recruiting process.

Resident asks about the resignation of former employees. Ask where the positions posted for the public to apply.

Borough Solicitor responds that proposals were submitted to the council for the services needed. The borough management firm brings all office administrative work.

Resident ask for list of where the speed bumps are going

President Oliver responds with we will identify the high-risk streets to prioritize those streets for speed bumps

Sheena Brown commented to neighbors and fellow residents to communicate with each other. Be kind friendly and respectful to your neighbors

Charles Bey asked about street fixing of cracks. Where is the public works dept on fixing these issues?

Borough manager responds with prioritize this item and requested streets in particular for remedy those issues

COUNCIL BUSINESS

President Oliver requests motion to approve May 13, 2021 caucus meeting minutes

Vice President Booker moved

Second by multiple council persons

Any questions? None

Motion carried for approval of caucus meeting minutes (passed 7-0)

President Oliver requests motion to approve May 20, 2021 council meeting minutes

Vice President Booked moved

Second by Councilman Martinez

Any questions?

Vice President Booker made a statement on a letter President Oliver read and would like that letter added to the minutes. Should be a part of public record and request it be uploaded to the website.

Borough solicitor states it is an amended motion to have letter included in the meeting minutes

Motion carried for approval of council meeting minutes (passed 7-0)

President Oliver request motion to approve bill list totaling \$187,491.42 which was approved by the proper Chairperson from the respected committees and will be paid upon the next meeting

Councilwoman Cavalieri moved

Second by Councilman Felder

Any questions? None

Motion carried on bills list (passed 7-0)

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilwoman Cavalieri provides reports on the library, Chester Pike Corridor Improvement Partners and followed by updates.

Over 5,000 individuals have visited the library during the month of May 2021. Library has received a grant to host wildlife and science education. Provided the library schedule for upcoming events and activities.

Chester Pike Corridor Improvement Partners seeks grants for improving the corridor. First meeting was this week but she was unable to attend. Trying to maintain the greenspace and an active corridor to suit all walks of life. Making sure to work with connecting towns to enforce and update ordinance codes.

Sharon Hill Clean Up Day. Thanks for all who participated and State Rep. Regina Young

July 4th activities stated by Councilwoman Cavalieri. Entire week full of giving from various departments and council people during the week leading up to 4th of July.

Sharon Hill summer series full of fun filled events. Events are posted on the borough website such as talent show, movie night, and much more.

Councilman Green provided updates on Sharon Hill Ramblers football and cheer sign ups

Follow on Facebook at Sharon Hill Rambler 2018

Councilman Martinez gives an update on the Police Department. Responded to 586 calls of service for the month of May. Fire Department report for the month of May are as follows; building fire 3, auto fire alarm 14, fuel spills 1, vehicle accident 2, vehicle fire 1, trash fire 1, gas leak 2. Total incidents in Sharon hill 24. Many incidents where the FD had to assist the other departments totaling 41 responded to.

Smoke detectors are available for residents free of charge.

FD conducted in-house training and maintenance

Letter provided from Councilman Martinez passed down from FD chief seeking additional financial support for paid firefighter program of part time firefighters. Request a vote to extend the program?

President Oliver asks where we are with making that decision on if this can be extended.

Borough manager provides response and will give feedback on financial position for this extension. Will give update next week.

Councilman Felder has no report for sanitation and code at this time but will report out at the next meeting on both May and June 2021

Councilwoman Bedford-Dean has no reports

Vice President Booker updates Sharon hill arts and culture commission. Have Flea Market every third Saturday of the month. Also, doing COVID vaccinations this Saturday and will provide vaccine information.

Jazz series events on Sunday afternoons, beginning in the 27th at Memorial Park from 3p-7p.

Vice President ask about television station updates, big priority for council

Borough manager will provide update once speak with managing team

Vice President Booker provides email for arts and culture commission at sharonhill.artandculture.com

President Oliver will give treasury report for May and June 2021 at next meeting

Mayor Dunfee provides report on Sharon hill police department are as follows; adult criminal arrest 6, assault 3, vandalism 1, DUI 1, all other 1, juvenile criminal arrest 0, domestic incidents 30, customer disputes 2, PFA services 0, alarms 51, medical emergencies 49, accidents 22, building checks 124, assist other departments 8, thefts 5, warrants served 1, narcotics warrants 2, traffic citations 26, parking citations 40, street sweeping tickets 425, abandon vehicles tagged 12, towed 7.

Mayor Dunfee thanks chief of police for the report

Borough manager gives report on office items and initiatives by borough employees

Councilman Martinez made a statement on follow-up from last month's meeting. Asked if Linn Architects report on code issues on Greenwood Road, what findings were. Concerns for wood chips at park playgrounds for safety

Borough Solicitor requested to go into executive session to discuss internal matters prior to adjourning the meeting. Working with the previous solicitor on previous files and becoming familiar with the Borough.

President Oliver request motion for executive session

Meeting closed to public

President Oliver opens meeting back up

President Oliver request motion to authorize the Borough Solicitor to appeal open records to the court of common pleas

Vice President Booker moved

Second by multiple council persons

Borough Solicitor explains motion in detail

Motion carried for representation of the borough solicitor during open records request (passed 7-0)

Vice President Booker to represent the Sharon Hill Arts and Culture Commission in Darby Township and Norristown

Councilwoman Cavalieri adds comments on culture day

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Resident ask is there a certain height and distance of a stop sign? Says there a lot of big vehicles blocking view from vehicles pulling out into street. Concerned about a stop sign on greenwood road.

Borough Manager responds by speaking with the engineer on height and distance and will send public works out to review that sign.

A resident complained about trash and debris near the car wash and dry cleaner. These businesses need to be cited for the way they allow the business to look

Councilwoman Cavalieri understands the car wash is a true eye soar with the trash surrounding the establishment

Resident comment on speeding but unable to detect complete comments

A resident requested assistance with rental properties or vacant properties not being maintained. Ask for strong enforcement on ordinances.

A resident asked about borough management team experience and the inspection/permit process. States it's too long and they are not scheduling friendly. Says the school needs to maintain the track consistently.

Borough Manager responds about the management team's experience and other governments worked in and will speak with an engineer consultant on schedule and possible changes to that.

Resident address borough manager with what the plans are and bringing back answers to those questions from this meeting

Borough Manager addresses question for not replying with distinct dates on events or future actions by the borough

Councilwoman Cavalieri speaks on the process of speed bumps. Thanks for comments and urgency of trying to provide safe corridors in the borough. Appreciates comments and patience.

Resident asks for community garden update

Vice President Booker responds by attempting to get a contractor out for designs. Open for partnerships on the project with guidance and resource support. Wishful planting can happen before September

A resident asked for an update on new business opportunities. What industries or companies are looking to make the borough their next stop

President Oliver with opportunities that are within the future and passes response to Councilwoman Cavalieri on Chester Pike Corridor

Councilman Felder says there was a survey for resident input on what they would like to see on the corridor. The survey is closed but residents said they replied to survey

Resident asks inquiry on blacktop for alleyway near 1100 block of Elmwood and Sharon Avenue. George Street is the alleyway stated by the Chief of Police

A resident complained about 119 Brainerd Blvd. with major dog residue on the porch and backyard. Ask for enforcement help with the residency

Charles Pearson-Bey ask if businesses contribute to the borough's recreational activities. Ask about property acquisition for rec center or children activity

President Oliver says businesses are very giving for the community and gives back to Sharon Hill. We plan to aggressively go after grants and funding and public property opportunities with those monies

Vice President Booker actively looks for funding with State leaders in Harrisburg, specifically the CDBG grant. Urges community to reach out to state leaders and request assistance on preferred projects

Resident ask who is the grant writer and who does that for the borough

Vice President Booker has written successful grants. States the Borough Manager and team will assist in writing grants

Borough manager responds with process on grant writing and how we will work collaboratively to fulfill the wishes of council and community

Resident ask who is code enforcer

Borough Manager not sure of name but the borough has enforcement through engineer consultant

A resident asked for clarity on what a letter looks like to send to a state senator or any state elected official. Can this be a template on the website

President Oliver request create a letter and put on website for draft letters

Resident would like notice ahead of meetings when states elected officials with be present at council meetings

Resident wants more community activities for the youth

President Oliver says research and conversations have begun for grant assistance on these community economic development projects

Councilman Felder makes a statement for togetherness with the process of improvements, support and dialogue through the future potential changes. Thankful for community coming to meeting addressing concerns and take into consideration the following; time, funding and process for all of these items discussed to come to reality

Councilwoman Cavalieri address letter writing to state legislators and how this can be done from residents

President Oliver says next council meeting will be Thursday, July 8th and thanks everyone for coming out

President Oliver adjourns June 17th meeting

