

**Sharon Hill Borough  
Legislative Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

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**Back to School Meeting Quote: “It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men.” Frederick Douglass**

**1. Call To Order 7 PM**

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

- 3. Roll Call:** President Tanya Allen, Vice President Keith Martinez, Councilor Edward Booker [**Excused**], Councilor Sharon Booker, Councilor William Felder, Councilor Rodney Hill, Councilor Sandra Holcombe, Solicitor Courtney Richardson, Borough Manager Ieasa Nichols, Treasurer William Morgan, Celandra Rice-Adeloye [**Excused**], Borough Engineer

**President Allen** advised residents that there were **two executive sessions held prior to this meeting:** On **August 24<sup>th</sup>** an Executive Session held for legal and personnel matters, and on **September 8<sup>th</sup>** an Executive Session held for personnel matters

**4. Public Comment:**

- **Pat Rummaker – Sharon Hill resident:** Inquired about the placement of the large safety mirrors on Greenwood Road. **Borough Manager Nichols** advised that there would be further discussion with Public Works. Our Code Enforcer Chris McSween previously spoke with the landlord of the property concerning clearing the shrubbery blocking visibility of the new mirrors.
- **Carolyn Garrett 114 Reese St** - Thanked President Allen for assisting with another issue. Garrett inquired about the paving process on Reese Street as she believes there were sinkholes because of the work. Garret also discussed the leaning pole and was advised by a utility worker that the pole belongs to Horizon and not PECO. President Allen inquired if Aqua completed the work on Reese St. Borough Manger and Engineer Susan Lynch further explained that the street must be built up and must allow 30 days for asphalt to level.

**5. Motion to approve minutes:**

**Moved by** Vice President Keith Martinez

**Seconded by** Councilor Sandra Holcombe

**Passed [with corrections] 6 – 0**

**Corrections:** Councilor Felder on page 3 strike Senior Center or Recreation Center; change to ‘Multipurpose Center.’ Public Comment Correction on name strike ‘John Carter’ and replace with ‘John Lafferty’ on page 2; New Business under CPCIP strike *[inaudible]*

**6. New Business:**

- a. **Sharon Hill Fire Department Presentations VP Keith Martinez** presented the SHFD with the \$50,000 ARPA fund allocation for their paid fire fighter program
- b. **Resolution #2022-2023: Adopting Best Practices for Public Meeting Decorum – Solicitor Courtney Richardson** read the resolution aloud which focused on keeping public comments to three minutes without violating First Amendment Rights; residents and taxpayers are to not make threats or use profanity during meetings.

**Councilor Sandra Holcombe** had inquiries about limiting the comment time to three-minute comments as it relates to the Sunshine Law. Solicitor advised that the law advises three minutes is sufficient and resident must appeal for extenuating circumstances. **Councilor Felder** expressed concerns about limiting how others express themselves even if using profanity; that the focus should be on the issues and not the language. Councilor Felder also mentioned that Officials should be held to the same standards. **Councilor Sharon Booker** expressed concerns about how residents are allowed to express their concerns which sometimes include threats and are to be taken seriously. **Solicitor Richardson** read portions of the language from the **OOR [Office of Open records]** and advised that profanity is not protected speech within the First Amendment. **Councilor Holcombe** had inquiries on the release of the agenda to the public. **President Allen** further explained the process of the Sunshine Act which states the agenda must be posted 24 hours prior to council meetings and that the Resolution was on the agenda. **Councilor Rodney Hill** wished to have on record that the way the agenda and Resolutions are presented to council has not changed since the beginning of this administration.

**Moved:** Councilor Sharon Booker

**Seconded:** Councilor Rodney Hill

**Motion Passes: 4 - 2**

- c. **Motion to accept stipulation to settle pending property tax appeal for the property located at 1035 Coates Street for \$105,000**

**Solicitor Richardson** provided background information regarding reassessments of properties in Sharon Hill. There was further explanation on why it would be financially feasible [based on the cost of litigation] for the borough to move forward with acceptance of the appeal as it is merely a difference in taxes between \$50 - \$100 in the millage.

**Moved:** Councilor Sandra Holcombe

**Seconded:** Vice President Keith Martinez

**Motion Passes: 6-0**

**7. Old Business: No old business**

**8. Committee Updates:**

- a. **President Tanya Allen, CPCIP / Finance/ Library**

- **CPCIP:** Did not meet because they are on an alternate schedule; CPCIP spoke with the borough engineer regarding a number of new street signs and the names of signs will be discussed when CPCIP meetings reconvene
- **Library Report read by President Allen in Director Richard Ashby's absence.** The focus of the report pertains to new winter hours, movie nights, the cook-off event, bingo for seniors, books and ballet; a New digital display was mounted for promotion of library events and for schedule changes.
- **Finance Report was presented by Treasurer William Morgan**

**Motion to approve September's finance report:**

**Moved by** Vice President Keith Martinez

**Seconded by** Councilwoman Sharon Booker

**Motion Passed 6 – 0**

**The bills list was read by Treasurer William Morgan. Treasurer Will Morgan had** advised that there were additional bills added since the caucus meeting including AQUA, Low Budget Auto repair and Commonwealth Code Enforcement. **Councilwoman Sharon Booker** inquired about a bill from Jani-King. **Treasurer Morgan** explained it is the borough's cleaning company. **President Tanya Allen** asked why there are multiple AQUA bills. **Borough Manager Ieasa Nichols** advised of the various borough buildings that are billed separately by AQUA. **President Allen** also inquired about the Brandywine SPCA bill. **Borough Manager Nichols** advised that the current agreement with the Brandywine SPCA would have been through a previous county consortium initiated 2015 - 2016. **Chief Richard Herron** advised the Police call the SPCA if the animal is harnessed. **Borough Manager Nichols** advised that the borough has challenged a charge on one of the previous bills. **President Tanya Allen** had questions regarding 2 abatement totals. **Borough Manager Ieasa Nichols** explained that the invoice amounts were the same. However, the addresses were different.

**Motion to approve bills list as presented.**

**Moved by** Vice President Keith Martinez

**Seconded by** Councilor Sandra Holcomb

**Passed 6 – 0**

**Treasurer Morgan** spoke about the distributions of **ARPA funds**, forecast of funds for the rest of 2022, and planning the upcoming 2023 budget. **President Allen** discussed the changing of monthly meeting dates from the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays to the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays.

**Solicitor Courtney Richardson** provided the specific timeframes for legally advertising ordinances so that residents are aware, and council can vote. **Councilman Felder** mentioned having one meeting per month because two meeting created duplication; a second meeting was implemented when it was time to address the annual budget. **President Allen** states the caucus meeting was

initially established to give council time to review upcoming ordinances and resolutions prior to voting at the legislative meetings.

- b. **Vice President Keith Martinez – Public Safety:** The Sharon Hill Fire Department report was read, and residents reminded that smoke detectors are available at the fire house.
- c. **Councilor Sharon Booker, SHACC:** Upcoming events were highlighted such as: paint night, the monthly flea market and the annual Art and Jazz in the Park Community Event.
- d. **Councilor Edward Booker, Public Health /Multiple Municipality:** President Allen advised that Councilor Booker is solidifying the youth forum alongside neighboring communities.
- e. **Councilor Rodney Hill, Recreation / Community Engagement:** Councilor Hill focused on the upcoming Trunk or Treat and the need for donations
- f. **Councilor Will Felder, Public Works:** The code report was read. Code Department Special projects: focus has been placed on violation sweeps on Greenwood Road as well as trimming back a large tree near the intersection of Greenwood & Poplar to increase visibility for motorist; The owner of 1100 Chester Pike installed a privacy screen so that residents on Burnside Ave do not have to see the shopping center’s dumpsters. **Councilor Felder** expressed concerns about traffic near Barker and Maple Ave requesting blinking lights or the word ‘STOP’ be painted on the street to alert drivers of the upcoming stop sign. **Borough Manager Nichols** advised that **Councilor Felder** is welcomed to meet with our Highway Department to discuss additional trouble spots. **Councilor Felder** also discussed reviewing vehicle expenses of the borough’s entire fleet of vehicles inclusive of both Fire and Police. **Councilor Felder** also requested that it go on record that the Delco Library System DCLS reimburse up to 500\$ for Library passes to museums etc; the library receives approximately 21,000\$ in funds; 18,000\$ from the state and 2,000 - 3000\$ from reciprocal borrowing **President Allen thanked Code Official Chris McSween and Borough Manager Ieasa Nichols** for working alongside neighbors and business owners. Councilor Felder inquired about equipment for leaf collection and was directed by the Borough Manager to contact our Highway Department foreman directly.

## 9. Officials’ Reports:

- a. **Borough Solicitor, Courtney Richardson, Esq.:** No new report
- b. **Borough Engineer, Susan Lynch**
  - 1. **Folcroft Bridge Project:** The grant coordinator was able to get the project fully funded through the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission’s TIP Program to cover 80% of funding and the remaining 20% of bridge restoration under a different program.
  - 2. **Chester Pike Bus shelters:** Currently, they are being designed
  - 3. **High Street Sanitary Sewer Project:** Working with contractors and the previous engineer to secure the previous contracts
  - 4. **The Water Main Replacement:** AQUA has finished the project and now working on a repaving timeline which should occur the end of October
  - 5. **Weiderwax Park Kick off Meeting:** Currently being surveyed and a concept plan is underway

6. **Storm Water Ordinance:** Lighthouse Engineering recently reached out to the County to request an extension because the ordinance must be signed by September 30<sup>th</sup>. There must be an escrow account set up so that administrative costs are covered by the developer.

**Engineer Lynch** advised that she recently met with **Councilman Hill** to continue discussion on traffic calming measures and to consider placement of inexpensive, temporary structures prior to installing permanent structures. **President Allen thanked the SHFD** for shedding light on the Folcroft Bridge matter and thanked the current Council administration for fighting to keep the bridge. Originally the bridge was going to be demolished due to the previous damage from a fire.

c. **Police Chief, Richard Herron:** **Chief Herron** advised that the SHPD now has new software: The Power DMS Policy and training software. Police officers are now required to have monthly trainings through the Power DMS software. **Councilwoman Booker** and **Councilor Felder** inquired about additional diversity training. **Chief Herron** addressed those concerns are being met via the new software and the data is maintained for two years. **Chief Herron** advised that he and **Mayor Hykeem Green** are working on additional programs related to the new training.

- **Mayor Green** read the Police Department report. In addition, traffic concerns and possible solution were discussed relating to Academy Park High School dismissal times **with Chief Herron**. **Mayor Green** requested an investigation of Casablanca Auto. An invitation was extended to council members and SHPD for an upcoming community event held by Actor Elijah Everett and sponsored by Shaquille ONeill to be held on September 24<sup>th</sup>. **Mayor Green** also provided an update on the Ramblers season and upcoming events. **President Allen** inquired about the issuance of citations throughout the borough. **Chief Herron** advised that a new officer was hired and is greatly assisting in that area. **Councilor Hill** inquired about the process of towing abandoned vehicles. **Chief Herron** advised of the process.

d. **Borough Manager, Ieasa A. Nichols:** Weiderwax Park is in design phase with possible upgrades to restrooms funded by the CBDG grant \$140,000. The 2016 grant monies in the amount of 107,500 was unable to be reopened as it closed in June. We are looking to apply to the Open Space grant to subsidize the funding that was lost. Once the design is approved the bid will be put out November / December 2022 with the park to begin construction in Summer 2023. The engineer met with Highway Department to map the locations of the speed humps which requires additional signage. We are securing inlet repairs quotes and the borough does not have to put the repairs out for bid as these are emergency repairs.

**Quote of the Meeting** read by **President Allen**. The next Sharon Hill Borough Council Legislative Meeting will be held on Thursday, October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022 @7:00pm

**Adjournment 9:04 PM**

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