

August 2, 2021

The Telford Borough Council meeting held this date was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Vice-President Miles Arnott with the following people in attendance: Bill Ashley, Robert Baker, Carolyn Crouthamel and Mark Gehman. Also present were Mayor David Snook, Manager Mark Fournier, Recording Secretary Megan McShane, Public Works Director Gary Yoder, Attorney Andrew Knox from Timoney Knox, Police Chief Randall Floyd, Fire Company President Jerry Guretse, Emergency Management Coordinator Bob Sparks, and residents Marie Gargas, Michael Gargas, Wendy Leshinskie, Nicole Spiese, Lori Rappold and Emiline Weiss. Council President John Taylor was absent.

The invocation was given by Mayor David Snook, followed by the pledge of allegiance.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

Councilman Robert Baker reported that he gave an incorrect date at last month's meeting for the fife and drum group appearance at the Telford Night Market; it should be changed from August 25th to August 11th.

A Gehman/Crouthamel motion carried unanimously (6-0) approving the minutes of the July 6, 2021 Borough Council meeting, as amended.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Manager Mark Fournier reported that the Borough has taken in 64.4% of its revenues and spent 46.05% of its expenditures as of the end of July, 2021.

An Crouthamel/Ashley motion carried unanimously (6-0) approving the Treasurer's Report for July, 2021.

MAYOR'S REPORT: We did not receive a written monthly report for the file.

POLICE REPORT: We received a written monthly report for the file.

FIRE REPORT: We received a written monthly report for the file.

LIBRARY REPORT: We received a written monthly report for the file.

Library Representative Wendy Leshinskie stated that it is her understanding there was follow-up from the Director of the Library to Council regarding the discussion at last month's meeting about the LGBTQ materials that were in the children's section of the Library during Pride month. Mr. Arnott confirmed that the letter was received and asked if any Council members had any comments.

Councilman Jeff Maxwell commented that he felt the letter was kind of bullying, and added that a little communication would've gone a long way, with a simple phone call.

Mr. Arnott felt that the letter was perfunctory and dismissive, adding that he had been hoping for a little more dialogue from the Library.

Ms. Leshinskie informed Council that the Library was shocked by Mr. Arnott's statements and felt that his comments were out of keeping with the American Library Association (ALA). She added that she had not seen a copy of the letter, and Mr. Maxwell provided her with the copy of the letter from the Library that was included in the meeting packet.

Councilman Mark Gehman stated that Mr. Arnott's comments were more about the Library over promoting the materials and about the Library not being on track with where the community stands regarding the LGBTQ materials. Mr. Gehman also expressed concern that the materials are being promoted to an age group that may not comprehend them yet.

Mr. Maxwell added that this whole thing could've been avoided with a simple phone call.

Mr. Arnott stated that he appreciates the concerns being raised by Council about the promotion and placement of the materials in an age-appropriate place, and he is shocked that the library was shocked at his comments; he added that the materials may have forced a conversation that parents may not have wanted to have yet with their children. He further added that it would be prudent to remember that the Library receives funding from communities and the Borough is under

no obligation to continue funding it. No one wants to ban anything, and we'll have to agree to disagree, but these things will come into consideration at budget time.

Ms. Leshinskie told Council that she will take those comments back to the Library.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT: We received a written monthly report for the file.

MANAGER'S REPORT: We received a written monthly report for the file.

Mr. Fournier reminded Council that the September meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 7th, due to the Labor Day holiday.

BUILDING OFFICIAL'S REPORT: We received a written monthly report for the file.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: We did not receive a written monthly report for the file.

ENGINEER'S REPORT: We received a written monthly report for the file.

COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE:

Michael Garges stood and introduced himself and his mother, Marie, who live at 361 West Broad Street. Mr. Garges stated that he has noticed the paver from the West Broad Street contractor parked in the VFW parking lot, adding that he knows the repairs have been problematic and they seem to have disappeared after the curb work was done. Mr. Garges informed Council that a 6-8" chunk was taken out of the curb in front of their home by the contractor and feels it should be fixed by the contractor.

Mr. Fournier told Mr. Garges that the Borough will take a look at the curb and will get it addressed, adding that the Borough has already rejected several other repairs that were done by the contractor. Mr. Fournier informed Mr. Garges that we will review the pre-construction video to verify the damage was done by the contractor and if so, we will get it restored to what it was.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE: Ms. Crouthamel

A-1 A Crouthamel/Maxwell motion carried unanimously (6-0) authorizing payment of bills for the month of July, 2021 in the amount of \$269,039.59.

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMITTEE: There was nothing to report at this time.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE: There was nothing to report at this time.

PUBLIC WORKS/BUILDINGS & PLANT COMMITTEE:

Councilman Bill Ashley reported that he had a tour of the Telford WWTF last month and commented that it is a very well run facility. He also attended a Committee meeting for the Borough Hall Grand Opening, which will be held in conjunction with the last night of the Telford Night Market on September 1st, with a raindate of September 2nd.

Mr. Ashley also reported that he attended the July IVRPC meeting and was caught off guard that there were several Indian Valley Public Library Board members in attendance who discussed possibly relocating the Library out of the Borough.

Ms. Leshinskie informed Mr. Ashley and Council that Foundation of Friends was tasked with finding funds to improve the Library. There have been a number of people suggesting that the Library be moved to a more central location; the Foundation of Friends is trying to ascertain if there is funding and support for this relocation. The Library thought that the IVRPC could be a good resource for information and help better define the best location for all users and municipalities.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE: There was nothing at this time.

DEVELOPMENT AND CULTURE COMMITTEE: Mr. Baker

Mr. Baker reported that there are five more weeks of the Telford Night Market and the last night of the Market will coincide with the open house for the new Borough Hall.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Mr. Maxwell asked if the Borough could reach out to the trash haulers and remind them of the times that they are permitted to haul in the Borough; he has heard them as early as 5:15 am and didn't think they were allowed to start until after 6:00 am. Chief Floyd asked Mr. Maxwell which hauler it was and will reach out to them.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Telford Borough Council entered into Executive Session at 8:05 pm to discuss a matter of personnel.

Borough Council closed Executive Session at 8:33 pm. No action was taken.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:34 pm by a Crouthamel/Baker motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark D. Fournier

Secretary