

September 7, 2021

The Telford Borough Council meeting held this date was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by President John Taylor with the following people in attendance: Miles Arnott, Bill Ashley, Robert Baker, Carolyn Crouthamel, Mark Gehman and Jeffrey Maxwell. Also present were Mayor David Snook, Manager Mark Fournier, Recording Secretary Megan McShane, Public Works Director Gary Yoder, Solicitor Jim Jacquette, Police Chief Randall Floyd, Emergency Management Coordinator Bob Sparks, and residents Pam Baker, Spencer Kulhanjian, Wendy Leshinskie, Dale Nice, Lori Rappold and Nicole Spiese.

The invocation was given by Councilman Robert Baker, followed by the pledge of allegiance.

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:**

An Arnott/Crouthamel motion carried unanimously (7-0) approving the minutes of the August 2, 2021 Borough Council meeting.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Manager Mark Fournier reported that the Borough has taken in 78.85% of its revenues and spent 54.57% of its expenditures as of the end of August, 2021.

Mr. Fournier reported that Telford Borough received our American Rescue Act Grant, in the amount of \$256,125.56.

Mr. Baker asked Mr. Fournier if there are guidelines that have to be followed for the spending of these grant monies, and Mr. Fournier explained that the guidelines are vague, but we will have 3-4 years to spend the grant monies; he and Craig Davies will be attending a seminar this Thursday hosted by the Bucks County Consortium to review the guidelines. Mr. Fournier also informed Council that the Borough might purchase a generator for Borough Hall with the grant monies, if the guidelines allow, and we may also do some MS4 program projects, including some detention basin work and streambank stabilization. Mr. Fournier added that the Borough will be receiving another approximately \$250,000 next year from this same grant.

A Gehman/Arnott motion carried unanimously (7-0) approving the Treasurer's Report for August, 2021.

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

Mayor David Snook reported that he performed 2 weddings this month and made his usual visits to Borough Hall and the Police Department.

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

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

Council Vice-President Miles Arnott thanked the Fire Company for everything they did on the night there was severe flooding from Hurricane Ida.

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

Library Representative Wendy Leshinskie reported that there will be a link available on the Library website on September 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> to a free seminar hosted by the 9/11 Memorial & Museum called "Anniversary in the Schools: Commemoration of the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of 9/11".

Ms. Leshinskie also informed Council that PA PBS has a new series called Librarians, and 2 of the Indian Valley Public Library librarians were interviewed for a segment. There is a link to the segment on the Library website.

Ms. Leshinskie added that there will be a used book sale at the Library on Thursday, September 9<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, and a blood drive on Friday, September 24<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Baker thanked the Library for donating a lot of books for the Give a Book, Take a Book bookshelf at the Telford Night Market this season.

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

Mr. Taylor thanked the Public Works Department for all of their support all season at the Night Market and for their work during and after the flooding from Ida.

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

Mr. Fournier reminded Council that the Borough Hall Grand Opening is scheduled for Wednesday night at 6:00 pm.

**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.

Solicitor Jim Jacquette reported that he exchanged comments with the Lutheran Home attorney on the first draft of Agreements and it went pretty smooth.

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

Mr. Baker asked if there was an update on the Lutheran Home expansion, and Mr. Fournier informed Council that the Lutheran Home wants to begin construction this year; they are waiting for the finalization of agreements. It has been reported that 12 of 14 cottages in the first phase have sold.

**COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE:**

Nicole Spiese from 421 Acorn Avenue stood and introduced herself, stating that, on behalf of Telford Happenings, she wanted to thank Council for helping with the Night Market this year, particularly Bob Baker and John Taylor. Mr. Baker then thanked Mr. Jacquette for the assistance he provided to Telford Happenings with obtaining their non-profit status.

**DEVELOPMENT AND CULTURE COMMITTEE:** Mr. Baker

DC-1 Pam Baker stood and explained that Telford Happenings would like to have Oktoberfest where the Telford tree lighting is held, in the Telford Municipal Parking Lot and pavilion area. This is just a one-time request; the group is hoping to be back at Stover Beverage next year.

Ms. Baker then gave an overview of what is planned for Oktoberfest, including an overview of the vendors, the kids crafts and their setup, adding that there will be up to 5 beer/wine vendors at the event. Yellow caution tape will be placed around the area near those vendors so no one can leave with an open container. Volunteers will help monitor the alcohol consumption to make sure it stays in the designated area.

An Arnott/Crouthamel motion carried unanimously (7-0) authorizing Telford Happenings to hold Oktoberfest in the Municipal Parking Lot on October 16, 2021 from 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm.

Mr. Baker reported that the Night Market was a huge success this season, with a good variety of new vendors and the core regular vendors.

**FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE:** Ms. Crouthamel

A-1 A Crouthamel/Maxwell motion carried unanimously (7-0) authorizing payment of bills for the month of August, 2021 in the amount of \$505,334.55.

A-2 A Crouthamel/Ashley motion carried unanimously (7-0) to adopt the Minimum Municipal Obligation for the Non-Uniform Pension Plan for the year 2022 with the amount being \$242,807.

A-3 A Crouthamel/Baker motion carried unanimously (7-0) to adopt the Minimum Municipal Obligation for the year 2022 for the Police Pension Plan with the amount being \$65,628.

**PLANNING AND ZONING COMMITTEE:** Mr. Maxwell

Mr. Fournier reported that the Telford Borough Planning Commission will be meeting on September 15<sup>th</sup> to review a proposed subdivision plan for 25 & 27 North Main Street. If the Planning Commission approves the plan, it will then be submitted to Council for approval at their next meeting.

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE:** Mr. Gehman

Councilman Mark Gehman presented the Borough with a check from the Northern Montgomery County Recycling Commission in the amount of \$8,637.50.

**PUBLIC WORKS/BUILDINGS & PLANT COMMITTEE:** There was nothing to report at this time.

**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE:** Mr. Arnott

PS-1 An Arnott/Crouthamel motion carried unanimously (7-0) approving the following additional activity for the Telford Volunteer Fire Company: Fire Police Assistance with the Perkasio Borough Car Show on August 21<sup>st</sup>, Fire Police Assistance with Lansdale Founders Day Fireworks on August 28<sup>th</sup>, Hope Festival from September 16<sup>th</sup> through 19<sup>th</sup>, Fill the Boot Fundraiser on September 18<sup>th</sup>, Fire Police Assistance with the Sellersville Gallery of Arts on September 19<sup>th</sup> and Fire Police Assistance with the Lansdale Car Show on September 25<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Arnott reported that both the Public Safety Committee and the Finance & Administration Committee met and discussed the part-time patrol officer rate of pay. They reviewed data from other surrounding municipalities and Mr. Arnott informed Council that Telford Borough is on the low side, as far as part-time officer wages.

Mr. Arnott stated that it is the recommendation of the Committees to increase the part-time patrol officer starting rate of pay to \$22.00 per hour, with an increase to \$23.00 per hour after the completion of field training, and another increase to \$24.00 per hour after one year of service. Mr. Fournier asked when this rate change would be effective, and Mr. Arnott stated that it would be effective immediately.

An Arnott/Maxwell motion carried unanimously (7-0) implementing the part-time patrol officer wage rate to be increased to start at \$22.00 per hour, with an increase to \$23.00 per hour after the completion of field training, and an increase to \$24.00 per hour after one year of service. These rates will be effective September 9, 2021.

Mr. Baker stated that the Committee should see how this increase relates across the board with the Borough employees, and should be looked at annually. Mr. Arnott stated that the Finance & Administration Committee will look at this at budget time. Mr. Fournier advised Council that they will be seeing an increase in the wages for summer help next year, since the Borough could not get any summer help this year.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 pm by a Crouthamel/Arnott motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark D. Fournier

Secretary