

Minutes
Workshop Meeting
Hummelstown Borough Council
Thursday, July 9, 2020
7:30 PM

The July 9, 2020 Workshop Meeting of the Hummelstown Borough Council was called to order at 7:30 PM by Council President, Brian Foster. Members in attendance included; Bob Weber, Dee VanGavree, Chad Lister, Patti Krow, and Chris Black.. Also in attendance were Mayor Dave Roeting, Chief William Ryan, Finance Director Deb Hummer, Asst. Zoning Officer, Steve Wyld, Borough Manager Mike O’Keefe and Solicitor Jon Yost, and Atty. Michael Miller.

Motion: To accept the retirement/resignation of current Solicitor, Jon Yost, and appoint the law firm of Eckert, Seamans and Michael Miller as the Borough Solicitor

Motion made by Bob Weber, second by Patti Krow. Motion carried

Brian Foster presented Jon Yost with a Certificate of Appreciation and thanked him for his years of service. Jon said he enjoyed working with council over the years and how impressed he was that council members worked so well together.

Citizens Hearings

Adrienne Leasa, 190 Brownstone Park, Hummelstown would like Council to decriminalize cannabis. She is planning on coming to future meetings and bringing statistics and a researched presentation.

Justin Douglas, 4760 Ridge Road, Elizabethtown saw that the Police Department has 7 of the “8 can’t wait” and he was curious as to which one was missing. Chief Ryan told him that the “requirement to exhaust all other means” was the one that was missing and that at the July 15th staff meeting it will be specifically spelled out.

Amber Borelli, 100 Poplar Ave, Hummelstown believes now there is an opportunity to look at how police interact with their black and brown citizens.

Administration

Motion: To approve the Borough reopening a Voluntary Retirement Incentive Program applicable to Borough employees who are age 60 or over and have served this community for 25 years or more. This early retirement program will compensate an employee who meets the eligibility criteria and is otherwise in good standing at 1.2% of the participant’s annual salary multiplied by the participant’s years of service to the Borough, with a cap of 35 years. This voluntary program will be open to eligible employees from July 1 through September 1, 2020

Motion made by Dee VanGavree, second by Bob Weber. Motion carried.

Review of proposed Resolution No. 2020-2 regarding the Borough’s 457(b) plan

Deb Hummer reported this is merely a formality. A Plan Document must be approved for each retirement plan. The Plan Document states the provisions of the plan and how the plan operates. MetLife merged with Brighthouse and a new document needs to be created.

Motion: To adopt Resolution 2020-2 authorizing the restatement of the Hummelstown Borough 457(b) plan

Motion made by Bob Weber, second by Chad Lister. Motion carried.

Continuing Review of Ordinances/Regulations for the keeping of certain animals

Chad Lister reported that he has done research and feels he has addressed councils concerns regarding the keeping of chickens. He wrote an ordinance and Bob Weber suggested giving it to Michael Miller for review. Chad will email the ordinance to Mr. Miller.

Requests for co-applicant support for Gaming Grant Applications and recommendation to submit application from the Borough for Debt Service

1. The Hummelstown Area Historical Society would like to ask for \$25,000 for restoration of HAHS Parish House Museum.
2. Rubber Soul Brewing is seeking funds of \$100,000 for Phase II of the renovation and construction of their brewery and café. The Borough co-sponsored them last year for Phase I of the project.
3. Mike O’Keefe recommended the Borough seek funds for Debt Service for the Borough Building.

Dee VanGavree recused herself during the discussion of these requests.

Recommendation to put this item on the July 16, 2020 agenda was made by Bob Weber and Patti Krow.

Review of Revised Park Rental Application (proposed rentals to begin August 1, 2020) and continued discussion of permitting consumption of alcohol in the parks.

Deb Hummer reviewed the changes that were made to the existing application. The primary change is the two tiered rental rates for residents and non-residents. Mike Miller will look over the application to see if there should be any deletions or additions.

Mike Miller reported that he has an ordinance prepared regarding the use of alcohol in the parks. Brian Foster asked if this could be a resolution and it can be. Mr. Miller will cast it as a resolution and send a draft to council to review.

Public Works

Review of bid for 2020 Resurfacing Project

Steve Wyld reported that only one bid was received. That bid was from Stewart and Tate in the amount of \$120,656. This figure was much lower than the budgeted amount. Mike O’Keefe feels that Council should not attempt to spend the extra savings. Due to the coronavirus and decreased travel there will be less gas tax and he feels this will have an effect on the amount of Liquid Fuels funds that will be received in 2021.

Recommendation to put this item on the July 16, 2020 agenda was made by Bob Weber and Chris Black.

Status Reports

Approval of documents by the Army Corp of Engineers

Mike O’Keefe reported that he has received the executed Letter of Agreement. They require a payment of \$30,000 which must be submitted to them electronically. Deb Hummer is still waiting for the bank to finalize the paperwork so that this can be done.

Update of the Website project

Deb Hummer reported that the new website design has been completed and was launched on Wednesday afternoon. She is still tweaking a few things and told council to check it out. If they have any additions or suggestions to let her know.

Audit Report at July 16 2020 Meeting

Brian Marchuck of Brown, Schultz, Sheridan and Fritz will be going over the 2019 audit at next week’s regular meeting.

Other Business

- Chad Lister suggested revisiting the discussion of Communication Coordinator. He would like to see the committee start back up and he will send out information as to where the committee left off before COVID-19.

- Mike O’Keefe reported that he received a request from HBPA. They would like the Borough to approve closing up the parking spots around the Square so that the Taste of Hummelstown can provide safe distancing by putting seating in those locations. Chief Ryan stated he is not at all comfortable with this. Dee VanGavree said that at the EMA meeting last week they discussed the Taste of Hummelstown event. The committee is recommending organizations hold off on medium to large size events. She feels it is better to be safe than sorry.

Motion: To reject HBPA’s request to block off parking spots at the Square due to safety issues.

Motion made by Chad Lister, second by Chris Black. Motion carried.

- Steve Wyld reported that there are still vacancies on the Planning Commission and Zoning Hearing Board. After he and Mike O’Keefe did some research on the Municipality Planning Code they determined that a 7 member Planning Commission is permitted to have 2 elected officials on the Commission. Councilman Chris Black is willing to fill that position.

Motion to appoint Chris Black to the Planning Commission made by Bob Weber, second by Patti Krow. Motion carried.

Executive Session (Personnel Matter)

Council rose into an Executive session at 8:30 PM.

Council reconvened at 9:00 PM

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Respectively submitted,

Deb Hummer, Finance Director