

Minutes
Regular Meeting
Hummelstown Borough Council
Thursday, August 19, 2021
7:00 PM

The August 19, 2021 regular meeting was called to order by President Brian Foster at 7:00 PM. Members in attendance included Bob Weber, Patti Krow, Dee VanGavree, Chris Black and Randy Lutz. Mayor Dave Roeting, Borough Manager Theresa Eberly, Chief Justin Hess, Finance Director Deb Hummer, Zoning Officer Steve Wyld, and Solicitor Michael Miller were also present.

Public Meeting

Prior to the regularly scheduled meeting of the Hummelstown Borough Council, a public hearing was held in regard to Ordinance 2021-3, updating Zoning Ordinance, Chapter 27, Part 18, Signs, to provide for the display of personal expression signs and to regulate the size and placement of signage in zoning districts within the Borough.

There was no public comment.

Motion: to adopt Ordinance 2021-3, Update to the zoning ordinance

Motion made by Chris Black, second by Dee VanGavree. Motion carried.

The public hearing was adjourned at 7:15 PM

Approval of Agenda

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Chris Black, second by Dee VanGavree. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes of the following meetings:

Regular Meeting of July 15, 2021

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Bob Weber, second by Dee VanGavree. Motion carried.

Workshop Meeting of August 12, 2021

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Patti Krow, second by Randy Lutz. Motion carried.

Citizens Hearings

Several residents were present to address Council regarding parking issues on Poplar Avenue created by increase patronage at Rubber Soul Brewing Company.

1. Chaplin Michelle Conway, 30 Poplar Ave, Hummelstown said she witnesses u-turns in the middle of Poplar. She feels a simple solution would be to offer 1 – 2 parking spaces in front of resident’s homes. Each resident would have a permit. She doesn’t feel there should be a change in traffic patterns or parking
2. Curtis Dubinsky, 24 Poplar Ave, Hummelstown said there is a lot of noise and traffic. People are afraid to leave their homes in the evening because they will lose their parking spot. It is also an issue when family and friends want to visit. They have nowhere to park. The residents have learned to deal with the carnivals twice a year but now every night is like a carnival. He showed council pictures of what the parking looks like nearly every day. He also feels this is a quality of life issue.
3. Randall Behrens, 32 Poplar Ave, Hummelstown stated he has three kids. When his wife goes to the store or pool and comes home she doesn’t have a parking space. He has twins that are autistic and one is not aware of his surroundings. He doesn’t mind Rubber Soul. He just wants to have a parking space in front of this house.
4. Rick Conway, 30 Poplar Ave, Hummelstown said the people on this street aren’t asking for anything crazy, just some parking spots. He doesn’t worry about it during the day but in the evening when they need to get home and park. He doesn’t believe the solution is that difficult.
5. Susan Atwood, 28 Poplar Ave, Hummelstown said she has lived on Poplar for 30 years and agrees with everything that was said. She’s had to park on Water Street and carry groceries and she lives in front of the basketball court. She suggested taking out the basketball court and using that for parking.

Poplar Avenue Traffic Study

Chief Hess stated that these are “hot button” issues and do affect their quality of life.

When Officer Mason conducted a traffic study he determined that angled parking was not a feasible option. The solution that was recommended after looking at all the options was to remove zoned parking from the south side of the street for one block from South Hanover to South Water Streets. The north side of the street would be made resident parking. He feels it is not necessary to make a decision tonight. Council has the option to table the motion.

Brian Foster said because the solution to this problem is not a simple one he urged Council to consider tabling the motion so that it can make use of the suggestions that were offered by the residents.

The Chief said that if Council decides to make changes there will be a 90 day trial period. If during that 90 days it has been discovered that the problem has been pushed somewhere else Council has an opportunity to revisit if the issue has not been fixed.

Personal Wireless Communications Facilities Ordinance

Theresa Eberly reported that in 2016 the Cohen Law Group assisted 17 municipalities by drafting a Personal Wireless Communications Facilities Ordinance. The Borough participated in that and our ordinance was amended. Recently there was a new law put into place specifically for small wireless facilities. The Borough has an opportunity to work with Cohen Law Group to incorporate those changes. The ordinance must be put into place by October 28th. Through the CAPCOG group Cohen has devised a fee structure based on the amount of participating municipalities. Based on this we are looking at a cost of \$5,400. She spoke to Mr. Cohen. He can have a draft ordinance ready for the September 16th meeting. He will be able to participate virtually.

Solicitor Miller said he has worked with Mr. Cohen over the years and he is a subject matter expert on these communication facilities. He supports this solution for the Borough to consider.

Staff Reports

Manager’s Report

Theresa Eberly reported the following:

- PPL will be installing acorn lighting in the square next week.
- She and Deb Hummer went to a gaming grant pre-application meeting with Rich Fanning of the Fire Company. She and Deb will be meeting with Rich next week to offer assistance.
- The bike race will be held this Saturday from 8 – 2. The race organizers will start setting up tomorrow. The road crew will be doing street sweeping tomorrow as well. So far there are 70 registrants.
- She and Steve are meeting with Derry Township tomorrow to discuss the PRP plan.
- She, Dee VanGavree and Bob Martindill had a tour of the Life Lion facility.
- Steve Wyld has been very busy with code enforcement.

Zoning Officer’s Report

The Zoning Officer’s report was accepted as submitted. Steve thanked Theresa. Since he has been in the office full-time he has had an opportunity to address issues. He issued 54 code violation letters but he has probably had more conversations with residents to avoid the need for a letter. He said there is still a lot to do.

Police Report

Chief Hess reported NNO was a great success. He attributed the success directly to the time officers Mason and Martin put into it. The chief received a nice letter from Rep. Mehaffie for a well organized and attended event.

The U.S. Department of Justice’s July 2021 newsletter mentioned Dauphin County’s Co-Responder program. The Borough was 1 of 6 agencies referenced in the article.

Steve Wyld will be utilizing the police department reporting system to assist him with more efficient documentation of code issues.

Fire Company Report

There was no report.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Roeting reported on the following:

- He worked at the FFO Carnival. It started out slow but was very busy by the end of the week.
- On August 27th there will be a ribbon cutting at Cubby's Ice Cream Café, with their grand opening on the 28th from 3 - 9.
- The 9-11 Memorial ceremony will be held September 11 at 6 pm at the Fire House. This is its 20th year.
- The Arts and Crafts show will be held September 18th.

Financial Report

A motion to accept the financial report was made by Dee VanGavree, second by Bob Weber. Motion carried.

Tax Collector's Report

A motion to accept the tax collector's report was made by Patti Krow, second by Bob Weber. Motion carried.

Tax Exoneration & Exemption Report

There was no report.

Recreation Board

Theresa Eberly reported that the Board will have a booth at the Arts Festival.

Emergency Mgmt. Oversight Committee

Dee VanGavree reported that it has been a busy month.

- The stop the bleed and first aid kits, along with AEDs are now at Mehaffie and Shope Fields and Nye Elementary.
- EMA was part of NNO and thanked everyone that helped.
- She mentioned the tour of the Life Lion facility and how much she enjoyed it.
- August 7th EMA and the Hummelstown Police Assn had a chicken barbeque.
- September 8th EMA will be having a planning meeting.
- They are planning on having a booth at the Arts Festival.
- October 18th there will be an EMA and volunteers meeting at the Fire House that Council is invited to.

She also told Chief Hess that she had been given a Premise History form. This is a special form to assist when responding to an emergency where there may be a person with a disability.

Shade Tree Commission

There was no report.

COG Meeting

Brian Foster reported that the COG is working on salt bids.

Communications Committee Report

Dee VanGavree reported the committee met August 12th prior to the workshop meeting. They are making huge strides with the Hummelstown is Happening website and Facebook page. They would like to focus on highlighting "Hometown Heroes", people who go out of their way to help other people. They will also start doing the "Mayor's Minutes" again.

New Business

Motion: to approve changes to current parking restrictions on the first block of Poplar Avenue as recommended from the traffic study for a trial time period not to exceed ninety (90) days.

Motion made by Bob Weber to table the traffic study until further definition is done based on information from residents and the traffic study. Motion carried. Dee VanGavree abstained.

Motion: to accept the resignation/retirement of Borough Public Works Supervisor Scott Deal, effective October 22, 2021.

Motion made by Chris Black, second by Bob Weber. Motion carried.

Motion: to approve a Separation and General Release Agreement with Scott Deal, dated August 16, 2021 in a form that is acceptable to the solicitor.

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

Motion: to approve a cost not to exceed \$5,400 for the update of the Personal Wireless Communications Facilities Ordinance by Cohen Law Group.

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

Motion: to appoint Chief Justin Hess as the Right-to-Know Officer, Sergeant Eugene Spencer as the Assistant Right-to-Know Officer, and Finance Director Deb Hummer as the Assistant Right-to-Know Officer.

Chief Hess and Sergeant Spencer will be the Right-to-Know Officers for the Police Department Right-to-Know matters.

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

Motion: to approve a conditional offer of employment to Edward Pague as a Part-time Police Officer, contingent upon his successful background investigation and required physical/psychological evaluation/drug screening as mandated by MPOETC.

Motion made by Randy Lutz, second by Bob Weber. Motion carried.

Bill Fultz was present and said Mr. Pague was a full-time police officer for many years and will be an asset to the community. He also mentioned that he feels the Borough should look into hiring another full-time police officer. Council requested that Borough staff compile some financial information regarding this option.

Approval of bills payable dated August 19, 2021.

Motion made by Patti Krow, second by Randy Lutz. Motion carried.

Other Business

Chris Black mentioned that he has been approached by several people regarding a speed issue in the area of Second and Water Streets. He asked if there was anything that can be done. The Chief said that he would put the electronic speed sign on Second Street. This sign records data any makes it available for the Police department to evaluate.

Executive Session – Personnel Matter

There was no need for an executive session.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM

Respectively submitted,

Deb Hummer, Finance Director