

May 10, 2021

POTTSTOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL

The regular meeting of the Pottstown Borough Council was called to order on Monday, May 10, 2021, at 7:05 p.m. as a Go-To-Meeting with President Weand in the Chair.

CALL TO ORDER

INVOCATION

President Weand requested a moment of silence.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Councilors present were Ryan Procsal, Lisa Vanni, Donald Lebedynsky, Trenita Lindsay, Dan Weand and Joseph Kirkland. Also present were Manager Justin Keller, Solicitor Charles Garner, Mayor Stephanie Henrick and Borough Secretary Virginia Takach. Councilor Paules was absent.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Borough Manager Keller explained the format for this evening's meeting, advising that the meeting is a GoTo Meeting and available on-line. Public comments are being accepted through email and chat and will be announced to all. Comments are limited to 300 words to be in compliance with Council's three-minute rule and participants shall be identified accordingly.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Councilor Kirkland, seconded by Councilor Vanni to approve the April 12, 2021 Council Meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried: 6 ayes.

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS PRESENT

- a. Thomas Winterbottom, 262 King Street – questioned the process for the homeless shelter to obtain the needed variances.

REPORTS

- a. Finance & Administration – President Weand reported that the General Fund stands at 18% in revenues and 17% in expenses. The Real Estate taxes collected are at 15% and local taxes received are at 29%. President Weand added that the Actuary is finalizing the GASB report to submit to Maillie. He added that the Liquid Fuels audit was completed by April 26th. The audit resulted in zero findings for the period 2019 and 2020. Assessments have decreased by \$593,710 for the year and property transfers continue to be monitored. He also noted that there were no new LERTA applications and Portnoff provided a favorable report.

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BOARDS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. EAC – There was no meeting.
- b. Regional Planning – Councilor Procsal reported that the new Regional Recreations Coordinator, Tricia McCloskey, was introduced and the Kummerer parcel in Upper Pottsgrove Township was discussed.
- c. Blighted Property – The minutes were provided in the packets. Councilor Procsal also advised that the Committee will be focusing on properties in the High Street area as well as properties that have been on the list for some time.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Conditional Use, Jamal Washington - Motion by Councilor Procsal, seconded by Councilor Lindsay to grant the Conditional Use request of Jamal Washington to operate a take-out restaurant at the property located at 26 North Charlotte Street, with conditions as stated in the Order dated May 10, 2021. Motion carried: 6 ayes
- b. Conditional Use, Mohammed Ammouri – Motion by Councilor Procsal, seconded by Councilor Lindsay to deny the Conditional Use request of Mohammed Ammouri to establish a business office at the property located at 21 North Hanover Street.

Solicitor Garner advised that the hearing was scheduled for May 5, 2021, 6:30 p.m. with proper notice to the applicant. The applicant did not appear and Council voted to continue the hearing to this evening. An email was sent to Mr. Ammouri to sign an extension request to hold the hearing at the June Committee of the Whole meeting and no response has yet been received. Solicitor Garner confirmed that the applicant is permitted to reapply.

Motion carried: 6 ayes.

- c. McDonald's Amended Land Development - Motion by Councilor Vanni, seconded by Councilor Lindsay to approve the Amended Land Development Plan for the McDonald's Restaurant, 189 Shoemaker Road, as presented in the Bohler Engineering letter of April 28, 2021. Motion carried: 6 ayes.
- d. Al's Heart Warming Center - Motion by Councilor Procsal, seconded by Councilor Lindsay to grant the request of Pottstown LIFT for an extension until May 31, 2022 of the temporary, pandemic-related emergency authorization of Al's Heart Warming Center, located at the former Saint Aloysius School, 214 North Hanover Street.

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Solicitor Garner advised that if no action were taken, the request would be automatically deemed denied. Council may also take action to grant or deny.

Motion carried: 6 ayes.

e. Hybrid Meetings – Motion by Councilor Kirkland, seconded by Councilor Lindsay to authorize the Borough Secretary to advertise future Council Meetings to be held at Borough Hall and to permit Councilors and the public to participate virtually on the GoTo Meeting platform

Mr. Keller confirmed that this would be an option for both the Councilors and the public.

Solicitor Garner provided the motion as stated, which would allow Council to move forward with this platform.

Motion carried: 6 ayes.

f. Conditional Offer of Employment - Motion by Councilor Procsal, seconded by Councilor Lindsay to authorize the Chief of Police to extend a conditional offer of employment to one (1) eligible candidate from the Civil Service Eligibility List. Motion carried: 6 ayes.

g. Oak Street One Way - Motion by Councilor Lebedynsky, seconded by Councilor Lindsay to adopt an Ordinance amending the Master Traffic Ordinance, establishing Oak Street, between North Charlotte Street to North Hanover Street, as a one-way street west.

ORDINANCE NO. 2204

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BURGESS AND TOWN COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF POTTSTOWN AMENDING § 207, ONE-WAY STREETS ESTABLISHED, OF PART 2, TRAFFIC REGULATIONS, OF CHAPTER 15, MOTOR VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC, OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF POTTSTOWN, AS AMENDED.

Motion carried; 6 ayes.

h. PART Budget - Motion by Councilor Kirkland, seconded by Councilor Vanni to approve the Pottstown Area Rapid Transit (PART) Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2021-2022, dated May 3, 2021. Motion carried: 6 ayes.

i. PART Local Match - Motion by Councilor Kirkland, seconded by Councilor Procsal to adopt a Resolution certifying the local match for State Operating Financial Assistance for Fiscal Year 2021- 2022.

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-15

LOCAL TRANSPORTATION ORGANIZATION RESOLUTION CERTIFYING
THE LOCAL MATCH FOR STATE OPERATING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

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The Pottstown Borough Council of Pottstown Area Rapid Transit resolves and certifies that the operating financial assistance of \$1,406,875 provided pursuant to Pa.C.S. §1513 is needed in Fiscal Year 2021-2022 or in subsequent fiscal years to help pay projected operating expenses, including asset maintenance costs; and that these funds will be used for this purpose only, because these funds are ineligible to be used for asset, or capital improvements projects; and that any funds not used this Fiscal Year will be retained and used only for only operating assistance in a subsequent fiscal year(s).

Further, the Pottstown Borough Council resolves and certifies that the required local matching funds of \$103,945 will be secured from local contributors no later than the end of Fiscal Year 2021-2022 to match the requested Section 1513 funds.

I, Dan Weand, Council President of the Pottstown Borough Council do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the Resolution adopted as a regular meeting of the Pottstown Borough Council held the 10th day of May 2021.

Motion carried: 6 ayes.

j. DOTGrant - Motion by Councilor Lindsay, seconded by Councilor Kirkland to adopt a Resolution authorizing the submittal and modification of Pennsylvania Department of Transportation DOTGrant objects

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-16

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUBMITTAL AND MODIFICATION OF PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION DOTGRANT OBJECTS RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUBMITTAL AND MODIFICATION OF PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION DOTGRANT OBJECTS

Be it resolved, by the authority of Pottstown Borough Council that any individual holding the position title(s) listed below is authorized to submit and modify the dotGrant electronic objects indicated below. This resolution shall remain in effect until rescinded or replaced with a new resolution.

Registration.Grant Apps. Projected Legacy Budget.Unaudited Actual Legacy Budget.Audited Actual Legacy Budget.Grant Agreement Execution.Invoices.Progress Rep.

Position Title: Grants Administrator
Position Title: Borough Manager

I, Dan Weand, Borough Council President of the Borough of Pottstown do hereby certify the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the Resolution adopted at a regular meeting of the Borough of Pottstown held the 10th day of May 2021.

Motion carried: 6 ayes.

k. Memorial Day Motorcade - Motion by Councilor Lindsay, seconded by Councilor Kirkland to grant the request of Michael Murphy to conduct a Memorial Day Motorcade on May 31, 2021, resulting in the closure of High Street from Bailey to Manatawny Streets and Manatawny Street to the Second Street Memorial Park entrance, from 9:45a.m. to 10:15 a.m., subject to review and

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approval of the Police and Fire Departments, and the applicant submitting, at least two weeks prior to the event, for review and approval by the Manager, a safety plan demonstrating compliance with all applicable COVID-19 and CDC regulations, which, if approved, shall be enforced by the applicant. Motion carried: 6 ayes.

l. Victory Christian Life - Motion by Councilor Vanni, seconded by Councilor Kirkland to grant the request of the Victory Christian Life Church to conduct an outside service on June 13, 2021, resulting in the closing of Washington Street, between King Street and Buttonwood Alley, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., subject to review and approval of the Police and Fire Departments, and the applicant submitting, at least two weeks prior to the event, for review and approval by the Manager, a safety plan demonstrating compliance with all applicable COVID-19 and CDC regulations, which, if approved, shall be enforced by the applicant. Motion carried: 6 ayes.

m. AMBUCS – Motion by Councilor Kirkland, seconded by Councilor Procsal to grant the request of the AMBUCS to hold its All American Soap Box Race on June 18 and June 19, 2021, resulting in the closure of Wilson Street, from Farmington Avenue to State Street, from 7:00 a.m. on June 18th to 7:00 p.m. June 19, 2021, subject to review and approval of the Police and Fire Departments, and the applicant submitting, at least two weeks prior to the event, for review and approval by the Manager, a safety plan demonstrating compliance with all applicable COVID-19 and CDC regulations, which, if approved, shall be enforced by the applicant. Motion carried: 6 ayes.

n. Human Relations Commission - Motion by Councilor Procsal, seconded by Councilor Vanni to reappoint Howard Charles to the Human Relations Commission for a four-year term to expire May 8, 2025. Motion carried: 6 ayes.

o. Land Bank Board – Motion by Council Procsal, seconded by Councilor Lindsay to appoint Lisa Vanni to the Land Bank Board to fill a vacant term to expire April 9, 2024.

Councilor Vanni commented that Jamie Sanchez would be a great contributor to any committee.

REPORT OF BILLS - Motion by Councilor Procsal, seconded by Councilor Kirkland to pay the outstanding bills in the amount of \$2,286,004.03 Motion carried: 6 ayes.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilor Vanni reminded all of the FARM opening May 15th, with a teacher appreciation event.

Councilor Lindsay commended the Community Health & Dental for its efforts during COVID. She also advised that Montgomery County will hold an immunization forum targeted for minorities and reminded all of the Library's Chairity event. Councilor Lindsay referred to Leeann Moyer for contact during homeless events. She reminded all of the May 18th Primary.

Chief Markovich confirmed that Oak Street will change as soon as all PennDOT and Borough regulations are satisfied regarding the signs and traffic lights.

Mr. Keller will verify and provide the information to Councilor Lindsay.

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President Weand adjourned the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

Submitted by,

Justin M. Keller
Borough Manager