

Abbottstown Borough Council Meeting

December 21, 2023 - 6 PM

CALL TO ORDER: 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Frank Anderson, Laura Baker, April O'Brien, Dennis Posey, Dale Reichert, Mayor Daniel W. Watkins, Sr., Chief James Graham, M/S/T Dr. David W. Bolton, and Solicitor Tim Shultis, Esq. were present. Engineer Erik Vranich was excused.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by President Dennis Posey

GUESTS: Hanna Carbaugh, 103 W. King Street
Sandy Myers, Country Club Road
Tara Bolton, Conewago Township
Logan Kibler, Borough Employee

PUBLIC COMMENT (on agenda items only): Sandy Myers opposes the rental inspections, but if it must be passed, she would like the fee to be \$10 per unit instead of \$50.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: *Motion made by Frank Anderson to accept minutes from November 16, 2023, as presented; Seconded by Laura Baker; Motion carried, 5 Ayes.*

TREASURER REPORTS: Dr. Bolton provided an update on the borough's fiscal status.

*Motion made by Frank Anderson to accept the Treasurer's Reports thru 10/31/23
Seconded by Laura Baker; Motion carried, 5 Ayes.*

Motion made by Frank Anderson to approve/ratify paying the bills as presented thru 11/16/2023; Seconded by April O'Brien; Motion carried, 5 Ayes.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS: Dr. Bolton updates Council on projects, current agreements, and other borough activity.

- ⇒ Motion to advertise 2024 meeting dates and times. *Motion made by Frank Anderson to advertise 2024 meetings; 2nd by Laura Baker. Motion carried, 5 Ayes.*
- ⇒ Resolution fixing municipal tax rates for 2024 (unchanged). *Motion made by Frank Anderson to adopt resolution; 2nd by April O'Brien. Motion carried, 5 Ayes.*
- ⇒ Authorization to work with Solicitor, Engineer, and Chief on parking ordinance amendment for Sutton Road. *Motion made by Frank Anderson to authorize; 2nd by Laura Baker. Motion carried, 5 Ayes.*
- ⇒ Approval of Center Square restorations (insurance funds). *Motion made by Frank Anderson to restore square as discussed; 2nd by Laura Baker. Motion carried, 5 Ayes.*
- ⇒ Resolution for authorizing check signers for ACNB (Reichert, Bolton, Carbaugh). *Motion made by Frank Anderson to authorize signers; 2nd by Laura Baker. Motion carried, 5 Ayes.*

SOLICITOR: Tim Shultis

- ⇒ Enactment of Ordinance 2024-04 Rental Property Inspection Program. ***Motion made by Laura Baker to enact ordinance; 2nd by Dale Reichert. Motion carried, 4-1 (O'Brien dissents).***
- ⇒ ***Mayor Watkins presents a letter of dissent and vetoes the ordinance.***
- ⇒ The original agenda has an action item listed to reconsider the ordinance pending Mayoral Veto, as Mayor Watkins announced at the previous meeting that he would be vetoing the ordinance.
- ⇒ Reconsideration of Ordinance 2024-04 following Mayoral Veto. ***Motion made by Dale Reichert to override Mayoral Veto and enact Ordinance 2023-04; 2nd by Frank Anderson. Roll Call Vote: Anderson – Aye; O'Brien – Nay; Baker – Aye; Reichert – Aye; Posey – Aye. Motion carried and Veto overturned, 4-1 (O'Brien dissents).***

ENGINEER: Keller Engineers – Sutton Run development updated plans expected soon.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Honorable Daniel W. Watkins, Sr. – Nothing at this time.

CODE ENFORCEMENT: PMCA – Solicitor updates: legal pending filing on 13 E. King Street, owner's widow found and notified. Should not be much of a fight from family to get an order; updates in February. Code Officer Graham: 3 updates. 8 E. King Street, new owner has permits to make improvements. Does Council want to start enforcing sidewalk issues? Send letters in January for sidewalks for permit by Sept 15, one year to install from permit issue.

ABPD: Chief James Graham – no issues with vehicle. Looking for a second vehicle. Some departments are getting rid of computers, we can purchase for minimal cost, still installed with county software. AOPC citation program (CNET) for reporting and citation printing for a nominal fee (\$350/year).

EMERGENCY SERVICES: Reports on file.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: Council instructs Dr. Bolton to prepare an ordinance amendment for the cottage industry zoning regulations to increase allowed square footage from 500 to 1500.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER: Dr. Bolton thanks Frank and Dennis for their leadership and cooperative spirits. Frank thanks everyone for working with him on the Council. Laura-Merry Christmas and thanks to Dennis and Frank. April – thanks everyone for supporting each other and Happy New Year. Mayor – thanks Council for flowers sent to his wife for her surgery. Thanks Frank and Dennis for their leadership. Dale- thanks everyone for their service. Columbia Gas notified him that they are done for the month and will be back in January for more paving. Dennis – thanks everyone for working with him, keep God in your thoughts for Christmas. Work together in the future and try to find middle ground.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Next regular Council meeting is January 2, 2024, at 5 pm.

ADJOURNMENT: ***Motion made by Frank Anderson to adjourn at 6:53 pm; 2nd by Laura Baker; Motion carried, 5 Ayes.***