

# Abbottstown Borough Council Meeting

July 15, 2021 6 PM

**CALL TO ORDER:** 6:02 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:** Frank Anderson, Dale Reichert, Dennis Posey, April O'Brien, Laura Baker, Mayor Daniel Watkins, Sr. Also in attendance: Solicitor, Tim Shultis; Engineer, John Golanoski. Absent: M/S/T David W. Bolton; ABPD Chief James Graham

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Led by President Posey.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Mayoral presentation of Keys to the Borough to Jerry Lillich and Shelva Meckley.

**GUESTS:** Scott Sigman, 301 Pleasant Street, Warehouse ROCKS Climbing Fitness  
Jerry Lillich and Barry & Shelva Meckley of Abbottstown Borough  
Hanna Carbaugh, 103 W. King Street  
Elizabeth Meckley Donato, East Berlin

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Minutes of the June 17<sup>th</sup> meeting presented for approval.

***Motion made by Frank Anderson to approve minutes from 6/17/21; 2<sup>nd</sup> by April O'Brien; Motion carried, 5 Ayes.***

**REPORTS:**

**TREASURER:** Treasurer's report for 6/30/2021 is presented for approval.

***Motion made by Frank Anderson to approve Treasurer's report from 5/31/2021 as presented; 2<sup>nd</sup> by April O'Brien; Motion carried, 5 Ayes.***

Motion to approve payment of municipal bills through 6/17/2021 (includes RFP from H&H for sewer lateral installations completed).

***Motion made by Frank Anderson to ratify/approve paying the bills as presented; 2<sup>nd</sup> by April O'Brien; Motion carried, 5 Ayes.***

Motion to invest \$53,695.31 ARPA grant money in PLGIT account until needed.

***Motion made by Frank Anderson to invest \$53,695.31 ARPA grant money in PLGIT account***

***until needed; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Laura Baker; Motion carried, 5 Ayes.***

**ADMINISTRATIVE:** David Bolton, MBA, CBO, left report on the following:

- ⇒ Waste hauler joint bidding process with County ongoing.
- ⇒ Park improvements: mulch in playground completed, heavy weeding done.
- ⇒ Maintenance Projects: Power washed and painted over graffiti on stage (completed), announcer building at ballfield cleaned out, wire being installed to keep out animals.
- ⇒ Carpets cleaned by Stanley Steemer done in borough building.
- ⇒ ARPA funding: received half of the \$107,390.62, other half next July.
- ⇒ Lines painted in Center Square, parking, and borough office parking.
- ⇒ Kinneman Rd has new base; overlay will occur in two weeks. Engineer gave updates.
- ⇒ York Water meeting on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> before main replacement begins. Will attend.
- ⇒ Still working on insurance claims from accidents, delays from contractor. Engineer provided an update.

**SOLICITOR:** Tim Shultis: Authorize Zoning Map Amendment and solicit county opinion.

**Motion made by Frank Anderson to authorize solicitor to work on Zoning Map Amendment and solicit county opinion; 2<sup>nd</sup> by April O'Brien; Motion carried, 5 Ayes.**

- ⇒ Solicitor was contacted by Mayor Watkins to draw up a policy stating the borough's intentions of having Mr. Graham not perform Code duties, for which he is employed by third-party provider PMCA, while he is on the clock as a police officer for the borough. This is merely a draft document and Council will review.

**ENGINEER:** John Golanoski

- ⇒ Update on Multimodal Grant for N/S German Street.
- ⇒ Update on Center Square accidents; repair process (wall, light post).
- ⇒ Land development plan received for J.A. Myers property on Sutton Rd. Will advise upon review.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:** Honorable Daniel W. Watkins, Sr.

- ⇒ Nothing further from solicitor's report.

**ABBOTTSTOWN BOROUGH POLICE DEPT:** Chief James Graham

- ⇒ Reports in file.

**CODE ENFORCEMENT:** James Graham, PMCA

⇒ HCC subdivision for 170 E. Water St – refund checks to Sharrah per Mr. Graham, borough has no activity in this action. County has already issued favorable opinion. Vote to refund fees and escrow? Previously tabled. Fees should be taken out for Engineer review, Code activity, administrative time, etc. per Mr. Shultis and advises that Engineer receive information for this and Myers plan, give update at next meeting.

**Motion made by Frank Anderson to authorize Engineer to review documents; 2<sup>nd</sup> by April O'Brien; Motion carried, 5 Ayes.**

**Motion made by Dale Reichert to authorize Engineer to review all future land development documents; 2<sup>nd</sup> by April O'Brien; Motion carried, 5 Ayes.**

**EMERGENCY SERVICES:** UH&L No. 33, PSP, AREMS      Reports submitted

**COMMITTEES and ORGANIZATIONS:**

⇒ Parks and Recreation: Laura Baker bought plants for the park, need to get with others in next two weeks to get in the ground. Church has volunteers, scout troop, residents expressed interest to Mrs. Baker. Working with DCNR to acquire more plants.

⇒ Sidewalks & Streets: Post Office does not want improvements on their property for a sidewalk along Kinneman Rd. Engineer to follow-up with them again.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** On File.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Discussion on Borough Manager appointment.

President Posey makes a motion to leave the office vacant.

**Motion made by sitting president Dennis Posey to leave the office of Borough Manager vacant; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Laura Baker; Motion carried, 3 Ayes (O'Brien and Anderson dissenting).**

**NEW BUSINESS:** None

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Hannah Carbaugh – On the subject of the Borough Manager, she notes that Council's acknowledgement of the growth that is eminent in the borough and the plans to improve the rec park will warrant a manager. President Posey states that the current borough budget is limited and the borough's "boundaries are sealed" with no room for growth, which is why Council likes to "keep things under wraps."

Ms. Carbaugh asks if 'Scotty' and 'David' are the same person, which is acknowledged. She states that if there is no pay increase being requested, the current activity in the borough with

business expansions and property development justify having a manager. President Posey states that “when those things happen, maybe then, but right now, we don’t have that need.”

Ms. Carbaugh asks if the Country Club is in the borough; President Posey (inaccurately) says “No.” VP Reichert and April O’Brien make that correction.

### **FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:**

- Laura Baker apologizes for not being present for previous Council meetings, explains her COVID-19 concerns and her family moving back in with her. She does not foresee coming to future meetings and would like Council to accommodate her with updated electronic equipment for her to call in to meetings. She states that she does not think she is doing the job she was elected to do, but she feels safer at home. President Posey suggests something to “make our voices louder” for her on the phone. She is trying to save up for new computer equipment at home. Council suggests purchasing microphones to amplify their voices during meetings. VP Reichert is hesitant due to the sound quality concerns.
- President Posey thanks everyone for attending
- Mayor Watkins requests an Executive Session of President Posey for personnel issues, but no vote of Council follows.

**RECESS:** Recording is stopped at 7:05 pm without a call from president to recess.

**RECONVENE:** Council recording reconvenes at 7:25 pm with Laura Baker speaking.

⇒ Baker begins by stating that she cannot figure out the borough’s ordinances online and does not know what the URL is for the borough codification. She continues to explain about her interaction with Mr. Bolton and Mr. Graham concerning a pool permit. She claims that borough ordinances contradict one another, are confusing, and that, somehow, she was misled concerning the costs of her permits. Baker had applied for a larger sized pool previously and did not update Code Enforcement about purchasing a smaller pool, which would eliminate the need for a permit. Calling Mr. Bolton for a resolution, she was told she would not have to pay a permit fee for the smaller pool. Mr. Shultis clarifies the zoning ordinance and confirms Mr. Bolton was correct.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Next regular Council meeting is August 19<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm.

***Motion made by Frank Anderson to adjourn at 7:36 pm; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Laura Baker; Motion carried, 5 Ayes.***