

HULMEVILLE BOROUGH COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

March 4, 2024

The regular monthly meeting of the Hulmeville Borough Council was held on the above date at the Borough Hall, 321 Main Street.

Councilmembers Present

Thomas Wheeler, President
Rebecca Krause, Vice President
Dan Mandolesi
Jose Gonzalez
Nick Lodise
Judy Coleman

Staff in Attendance

Tom Panzer, Solicitor
Debbie Mahon, Mayor
Diane McKairnes, Treasurer
Dorothy Omietanski, Secretary
Bill Wheeler, Borough Manager
John Baran, Chief of Police

Councilmembers Absent: Jim Pio and Naz Atabas, Junior Councilmember

Councilmembers Late to Arrive: none

Staff Absent: none

Guests in Attendance: Paul Peterson, Rita D'Angelo, Joe Coleman, Mary Johnson, Sheri Wheeler, Patricia Taggart, Martin Bradley, Lynda Jones, Sandy Carroll, Amanda Gonzalez, and Ed Preston

Call to Order: Tom Wheeler called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm; all those present joined the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes:

Motion made by Mr. Mandolesi seconded by Mr. Lodise to approve the minutes of February 5 & 20, 2024; Motion passed with all in favor 6-0-0.

Public Comment:

- Mary Johnson wanted to thank everyone who participated and attended the soup night this past Saturday. It was well attended. Ms. Johnson also wanted to inquire about the siding on a resident's home along Main Street that was agreed to be changed. She wanted to know if the homeowner was given a deadline. The homeowner was asked to complete the work once the weather broke. Mary also inquired about investing in a speed camera for Main St. Chief Baran explained that currently there are no speed cameras in Bucks County.
- Joe Coleman presented the council with the original strong box that was in the First Bank in Hulmeville. The box was relocated to Bristol and was residing in a Wells Fargo bank. The bank is now permanently closed. Mr. Coleman reached out to the board of directors for Wells Fargo and asked if the box could be returned to Hulmeville Borough. Also,

with the box he was able to take notes from 1814 as well as a few other artifacts that will be put on display.

- Paul Peterson, who lives on Reetz Ave recently installed a shed on his property. He was not aware that there needed to be a permit and came to the council to confirm if a permit was necessary. Tom Wheeler explained that a permit is needed to determine if it has been placed properly considering all the property lines around the structure. He needs to fill out the zoning form and submit the information. If there is an issue it may then require that they have to go to the Zoning Hearing Board who do meet once a month on an as needed basis to discuss the matter further.
- Trash Pick Up – The McKairnes trash pick-up will be April 7th from 10am – noon. She has requested police assistance which was confirmed by Chief Baran.

Mayor:

- Welcome Wagon – The Mayor is looking for volunteers to help run the Welcome Wagon.
- Evening with Karen Hluchan – Dorothy Omietanski with the 150th Committee is hosting an evening with international spirit medium Karen Hluchan. The event will be held on March 9, 2024, at Johnson Hall Coffee House. It is a sold-out event.
- Neshamony Methodist Church – The pastor at NMC would like to use the field to hold an Easter sunrise service and wanted to make sure it was ok to do so. Mary Johnson said it would be fine.

Public Safety:

- Police Report – Mayor Mahon read the report for the month of February 2024:

Incident reports	10	Summary citations	0
Accident reports	0	Traffic citations	31
Assists	4	Criminal arrests	3
EMS calls	0	Parking ordinance	1
Court – local	10	Court – Doylestown	0
Hours worked	212	Salary	\$6,813.84

- Easter Egg Hunt – The Easter Egg Hunt will be held on March 30th. The police department is requesting no more than \$200 to be spent on candy for the hunt this year.

Motion made by Mr. Mandolesi and seconded by Mr. Lodise to approve the expenditure of no more than \$200 for the candy for the Easter Egg Hunt; motion made with all in favor 6-0-0.

- Tracs System – The Mayor is requesting approval to purchase Tracs System for the two police vehicles at a cost not to exceed \$2,200. This price will include a printer, bar code scanner, all software and updates, all supplies, mounting brackets, cables and includes installation. The system is needed because the state is no longer supporting the printing

of paper citations. If we independently went to a printer the paper citations could cost the borough \$2,200 for a minimum order of 1,100 and if the state changes any of the information on the citations or fees any existing paper citations would need to get thrown out and more need to be ordered. Now with the computerized system all updates are done for free. The only cost after the initial investment will be to buy the paper that goes into the printer.

Motion made by Mr. Gonzalez and seconded by Mr. Lodise to approve the purchase of Tracs System for the police department at a cost of \$2,200; motion passed with all in favor 6-0-0.

- Drug Take Back Day – The event will be held at William Penn Fire House on April 27, 2024, from 10-2pm.
- Donation – Chief Baran is donating to the Hulmeville Police Department four lockers. The lockers they have now are too small to fit all their equipment.
- Run for Fallen – The Hulmeville Police Department will be assisting Penndel Police Department with the annual Run for Fallen 5K on April 28th.

Storm Water/Floodplain/MS4:

- Earth Day Event – The Earth Day Event this year will be held on April 27 from 11-2 pm at Core Creek Park, Tollgate Road entrance. She is looking for volunteers to help run the event. The mayor would like to request no more than \$150 to be spent on seeds, envelopes, and labels for the give-a-way for the event.

Motion made by Mr. Lodise and seconded by Mr. Mandolesi to approve Mayor Mahon spending no more than \$150 on seeds, envelopes, and labels for the Earth Day give-a-way; motion passed with all in favor 6-0-0.

TMDL / BMP's: Permit years 2018-2022 – DEP will be doing permit inspections. Samantha Brinker from Gilmore and Associates will keep us informed of that inspection. Due to Covid-19, this has been postponed.

- TMDL No 1: encouraged riparian forest buffers for all residents along the creek.
- TMDL No 2: conduct site inspections to encourage storm water control measures.
- TMDL No 3: installation of 2 deciduous trees in open space or within the borough proper
- TMDL No 4: reduce infiltration.
- TMDL No 5: modify basins for increased infiltration reduction.
- TMDL No 7: encouraged homeowners to install rain barrels.
- TMDL No 8: additional provisions:

Borough Property:

- Weed Control – Mr. Mandolesi confirmed with Green Up Turf Care that they will spray the playground soon to control the weeds.
- Lawn Care Bids – Mr. Mandolesi will start working on gathering three lawn care bids.

- Boiler at Borough Hall – Mr. Mandolesi received three bids for the boiler – Harris \$1,885, K.E. Seiffert \$1,587 and Davies Plumbing \$1,585. All bids were for the same 40-gallon unit.

Motion made by Mr. Mandolesi and seconded by Mr. Gonzalez to accept the bid from Davies Plumbing for \$1,585 for a new 40-gallon boiler; motion passed with all in favor 6-0-0.

Note Debbie Mahon left meeting 7:47pm Tom Wheeler becomes Mayor and will not vote for rest of meeting.

Finance:

- Request for Transparency – Ms. Krause explained that the committee was working on how they are going to report the cost of the Superior Holdings appeal, so the residents know how much it is costing the Borough. So far, a little over \$3,000 has been spent.

IT: no report

Personnel:

- Deputy Tax Collector – Michelle Mandolesi is stepping down as Deputy Tax Collector. Valerie Myers will be selecting her own moving forward.

Public Works:

- Sign Down – Tom Wheeler notified Mr. Lodise that there is a street sign down on Main St. Bill Wheeler requested when the sign is reinstalled that they move it to the other side of the sidewalk, so it does not interfere with the fire trucks.

Ordinances:

- Fee Schedule – Bill Wheeler has been working on updating the fee schedule and will need the committee to meet to discuss.

Borough Manager: no report

Fire Marshal/EMC: no report

Zoning/ Code Enforcement: no report

Water and Sewer:

- New President – Ms. Taggart was happy to report the Authority has elected Doug Harris as the new President of the Authority.

- Meter Replacement Project – The meter replacement project is going well. The person doing the work has been great to work with and a good number of meters have been replaced. The Authority should be able to provide updated numbers at the next meeting.

Solicitor Report:

- Superior Holdings Update – Superior Holdings has requested a Rule 27 Conference where the lawyers will meet with the judge to discuss the case. Superior Holdings has submitted to Terry Clemons their desire to build a cluster development of 79 homes at a minimum. As of 3/1 Terry Clemons has not responded to the letter. There is a difference between the borough’s engineer by right number and Superior Holdings engineers by right number. Both sides are making an educated guess as to how many homes there are. The borough engineer is estimating it at 62 and Superior Holdings engineer at 79. The borough engineer does have a copy of the most recent plans and did not see any red flags, but they also stated that it would need to be officially documented before they could make any judgements on the number they have provided.
- Ratify Action Taken – Mr. Panzer recommended the council ratify actions taken during the February 2024 work session.

Motion made by Mr. Lodise and seconded by Mr. Gonzalez to ratify actions taken at the 2/20/24 work session; motion passed with all in favor 5-0-0.

Treasurer’s Report: Treasurer’s Report for March 4, 2024, was made available for inspection:

• General Fund Checking Balance as of February 1, 2024:	\$ 146,826.95
Expenses Totaled:	\$ -40,884.50
Income Totaled:	\$ 132,443.66
General Fund Checking Balance as February 29, 2024:	\$ 238,386.11
• Sewer Fund Checking Balance as of February 1, 2024:	\$ 85,307.06
Expenses Totaled:	\$ -22,719.57
Income Toted:	\$ 28,643.69
Sewer Fund Checking Balance as of February 29, 2024:	\$ 91,231.18
• Sewer Fund PLGIT Balance as of February 1, 2024:	\$ 257,431.26
Interest Totaled:	\$ 1,045.85
Deposit Totaled:	\$ 0
Expense	\$ 0
Sewer Fund PLGIT Balances as of February 29, 2024:	\$ 258,477.11
• Highway Aid PLGIT Balance as of February 1, 2024:	\$ 148,027.76
Interest Totaled:	\$ 591.36
Deposit Totaled:	\$ 0
Expense Totaled:	\$ -3,486.00
Highway Aid PLGIT Balances as of February 29, 2024:	\$ 145,133.12

- **General Fund PLGIT Balance as of February 1, 2024:** **\$ 1,245,623.71**
- Interest Totaled: \$ 4,790.00
- Deposit Totaled: \$ 0
- Expense Totaled: \$ - 72,555.06
- General Fund PLGIT Balances as of February 29, 2024:** **\$ 1,181,314.65**

Bills: A copy of the bill list dated February 29, 2024, was provided to Council and offered for review by the public.

- **General Fund** beginning balance as of February 29, 2024: \$ 231,685.03
- ending balance as of March 4, 2024: \$ 224,066.32

A motion made by Mr. Mandolesi seconded by Ms. Krause and carried unanimously to approve the bill list dated February 29, 2024; Motion carries 5-0-0.

Correspondence: none

New Business:

- Soap Box Derby – Ed Preston asked the council if he could host a soap box derby on Reetz Ave either the first week in May or June. COVID really hit the soap box derby community hard, and he is trying to help to bring the event back. For years the soap box derby was an event held on Reetz Ave. They will start at Lincoln. If he gets the council’s approval, he will go to each resident affected to explain the event to them. It will be a one-day race starting at 8am and ending no later than 2pm. He is anticipating 30 cars, and it is for kids only ages 7-18.

Motion made by Mr. Lodise and seconded by Mr. Mandolesi to allow Ed Preston to proceed with the soap box derby event this spring date to be determined; motion passed with all in favor 5-0-0.

- BCWSA Water Usage – Mr. Mandolesi wanted to bring to the attention of council water that is being taken by BCWSA. A BCWSA truck comes to the hydrant on Michelle Court to fill up. He is not sure how much water the truck holds or how often they fill up. He talked to the employee, and the employee thought the hydrant was in Middletown Township. Tom Wheeler reminded the council that BCWSA has always been good to Hulmeville Borough when we have needed help. The council all agreed to not make an issue out of it.

Unfinished Business:

- Tax Collector Electronic Equipment – Bill Wheeler talked to Valerie Meyers, and she will not be upset if she is not paid for the equipment. The council does need to work on an agreement with the tax collector before the next election. They need to adopt a rate for tax collection and a rate for trash collection as well as set limits for expenses. The agreement

should be in place by February of 2025. Mr. Panzer suggested completing it with the budget.

- Guest Speaker March Work Session – Judy Coleman has invited Pat Mervine from the Bucks County African American Museum to speak at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 pm; motion made by Mr. Lodise seconded by Mr. Gonzalez.

Respectfully Submitted

Dorothy Omietanski,
Hulmeville Borough Secretary