

MINUTES
BROOKVILLE BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday, December 5, 2023 @ 7:00 P.M.

The Brookville Borough Council met in the large conference room on Tuesday, December 5, 2023 at 7:00 P.M. with the following in attendance:

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mayor Richard Beck
Phil Hynes
Karen Allgeier
Randy Bartley
David Taylor
Lucy Ames
Sarah Gallagher

STAFF

Manager Dana Rooney
Police Chief Vince Markle
Code Enforcement Officer -
Vince Markle

VISITOR/MEDIA

Justin Felgar
Joy Norwood
Rick Park
Bob Lewis
Arthur McKinley
Carl Medsger
Bryce Rafferty

CALL TO ORDER:

President Phil Hynes called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M., and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag. Police Chief Vince Markle introduced two new officers; Carl Medsger and Bryce Rafferty.

CORRECTIONS/APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- A. **Minutes from November 7th Meeting and November 21st Special Meeting** - Member Sarah Gallagher moved to approve the minutes of the November 7th meeting and the November 21st special meeting as submitted; seconded by Member Lucy Ames. Motion carried 6-0.

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

- A. **Approval of Expenditures** – Vice-President Karen Allgeier moved to approve the accounts payables dated November 21st and December 5th as submitted; seconded by Member David Taylor. Motion carried 6-0.
- B. **Fund Level Financial Statements** – President Phil Hynes stated you have the Fund Level Financial Statement Summary, and if you have questions, we are here to answer them.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- A. **Arthur McKinley – Brookville Historic Church Tour** – Mr. Arthur McKinley stated he was there to invite everyone to the Brookville Historic Church Tour on Saturday. Mr. McKinley stated it starts at 1:00 P.M. at the Presbyterian Church. Mr. McKinley stated this is a souvenir program that David Taylor had designed, and it is full of historic artifacts from seven historic Brookville churches. Mr. McKinley stated the walking tour is great for the whole family, it is free, and this year they have the Chamber Singers from the Brookville High School. President

Phil Hynes thanked Mr. McKinley and stated that is a great event, and they appreciate all the work that goes into it.

REPORTS:

Chief of Police

- A. **Statistics** - Police Chief Vince Markle stated in November the Brookville Police Department had 134 calls for service, wrote 102 citations, 88 warnings, and 140 parking tickets. Police Chief Markle stated there were 18 misdemeanors, 17 felonies, 1 drug arrest, 3 summaries, and 2 PoliceOne trainings.
- B. **Events** – Police Chief Vince Markle stated they arrested two people with drug delivery resulting in death. Chief Markle stated those are very complicated cases to do, but they were able to arrest two of them from a drug overdose from about a year ago.
- C. **Grant Reimbursement** – Police Chief Vince Markle stated they received a grant reimbursement that they put in for back when some police officers went to class, and they are going to be receiving \$23,341.92 back through that grant.
- D. **Executive Session** – Police Chief Vince Markle requested an executive session for personnel with action expected.

Fire Chief – Fire Chief Chris Henry submitted a written report (attached).

Public Works – President Phil Hynes stated Public Works Director Jonathan Rhoades is not here, and read his written report. President Hynes stated we picked up sixty-four loads of leaves and hauled them away, and all the snow removal equipment is ready. President Hynes stated Allegheny Contracting should be finished up with the new gas main on South Pickering Street and Sayer Street. President Hynes stated they have a little tie-in to do between Barnett Street and Oak Street, and it should be done by the end of December, weather permitting.

Code Enforcement – Code Enforcement Officer Vince Markle read his written report (attached).

Zoning Officer – No Report

Committee Reports - None

Solicitor – No Report

Borough Manager

- A. **2024 Budget** – Manager Dana Rooney stated we have the proposed 2024 budget for you. Manager Rooney stated there is a two mil tax increase only in the General Fund. Manager Rooney stated with that, we are looking at a proposed balanced budget of \$2,922,135.00 with that tax increase. Manager Dana Rooney stated some of the big-ticket items in that include some major repairs for our elevators, we are looking at purchasing a new loader and a new pickup truck, and in general the cost of everything is going up. President Phil

Hynes stated, reporting from the Finance Committee, we did everything we could to try to avoid a tax increase, and it has been since 2016 that we have had a tax increase in the General Fund. President Hynes stated the budget will be on display, we welcome comments from anyone, and the public can look at it. President Hynes stated if there are any comments, we will take them under consideration, and the final vote on the 2024 budget will be at a special meeting on December 19th at 7:00 P.M. Manager Rooney stated she needs a motion to advertise that, if Council approves. Vice-President Karen Allgeier made a motion to advertise the 2024 budget; seconded by Member David Taylor. Motion carried 6-0.

- B. **Tax Ordinance** – Manager Dana Rooney stated she would like to authorize Solicitor Jim Dennison, and probably herself, to advertise the Tax Ordinance, if there are no comments on the budget, so we can approve that at our December 19th meeting as well. Vice-President Karen Allgeier made a motion to authorize Solicitor Jim Dennison and Manager Rooney to advertise the Tax Ordinance; seconded by Member Lucy Ames. Motion carried 6-0.
- C. **2022 Borough Audit** – Manager Dana Rooney stated we received back our 2022 Borough audit, and it is complete. Manager Rooney stated she is glad to report there were no findings, and zero journal entries. Manager Rooney stated she gives props to our Accountant Kerry Swineford for that. President Phil Hynes and Vice-President Karen Allgeier thanked Manager Rooney for doing a great job.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- A. **Madison Avenue – One Way Up or Down** – Mayor Richard Beck asked where we stand on Madison Avenue. Mayor Beck asked when we get something like this that is unfinished, instead of forgetting about it, why not table it until the next meeting, and bring it up? Street Committee Chair Randy Bartley stated we have not forgotten about this. Mr. Bartley stated on the recommendation of Police Chief Vince Markle we made that a four-way stop at the top of the street, and he asked Manager Rooney to get some ‘yield to oncoming traffic’ signs going down the hill, but he cannot see turning that into a one-way street. Mayor Beck stated he would just like to have a decision made on it one way or the other. Mr. Bartley stated they spent some time looking for traffic surveys, but they mysteriously disappeared. Mr. Bartley stated that would have been a good basis, but that is nothing he is prepared to rush into. President Phil Hynes stated he will take note of the Mayor’s comment that when we have something tabled, we will try to keep it on the agenda so it does not get lost.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. **Main Street Free Parking** – Second Vice-President Randy Bartley stated he asked Manager Dana Rooney to put Main Street free parking on the agenda because, as in every other year, it is being abused by employees. Mr. Bartley stated Manager Rooney sent out letters to the business owners, asking them to please keep the street clear so people coming into town can use it, but it is just

being abused, and it is getting to the point now where it is causing more hassle than it is benefit. Mr. Bartley stated Clarion does a two-hour free parking, but then how would we monitor that? Mr. Bartley stated it might come to the point where we just do not have free parking. Member David Taylor stated he would oppose doing away with free parking, and he thinks it is a nice Christmastime gesture on the part of the Borough. Manager Rooney stated she has gotten more phone calls this year from businesses who schedule appointments, and their customers cannot get to them because they cannot park close enough to them, especially elderly patients. Mr. Bartley stated obviously we will not be doing anything about this this year, but it might be something to keep in mind for next year. Member Sarah Gallagher asked if there was anything further about converting the extra end spots to handicap spots. Manager Rooney stated you can discuss that, but she held some items tonight, as January is reorganization, this Council has to watch what they bind future Councils to, and recommended tabling that until January. President Phil Hynes stated we will remember to put that on the agenda for next year.

- B. Games of Skill Ordinance** – Second Vice-President Randy Bartley stated you may have noticed we have quite a few vape shops and gaming parlors in town, and it has gotten completely out of hand. Mr. Bartley stated unfortunately, Brookville Borough by itself cannot ban these, but we can approve an ordinance to put a tax on the machines, which may tend to limit them somewhat. Mr. Bartley stated DuBois and New Castle have ordinances for this that charge a mechanical amusement devices licensing tax. Vice-President Karen Allgeier made a motion to task Solicitor Jim Dennison with looking into an ordinance regarding games of skill; seconded by Member Lucy Ames. Motion carried 6-0.

ELECTED OFFICIAL COMMENTS:

- A. Mayor Richard Beck** – Mayor Richard Beck stated the Brookville Police Department has done a great job with all the major things they have taken care of. Mayor Beck stated he thinks we have a very good Council, and they seem to work together.
- B. Member Sarah Gallagher** – Member Sarah Gallagher stated she enjoyed the Holiday Parade with her family, and thanked everyone that was involved with it for doing a great job. Mrs. Gallagher wished everyone a very merry and blessed Christmas.
- C. Member David Taylor** – Member David Taylor stated Light Up Night was fabulous. Mr. Taylor stated a number of months ago, Dave Afton came and talked about those short knee walls under the Jenks Street bridge. Mr. Taylor stated we had a meeting with PennDOT last week about the bridge project, and he brought it up. Mr. Taylor stated he asked them if they would, in their design, consider building higher knee walls. Mr. Taylor stated they said they would recontour the slope. Mr. Taylor stated he is just asking that Council keep an eye on this because he thinks it is a valid issue. Manager Dana Rooney stated several months ago when that was brought up, Council tasked her with contacting PennDOT, and she has it in an email that they will make

sure those are taller. Mr. Taylor stated great. Mr. Taylor stated another thing he wanted to bring up for discussion is we need to ask ourselves what do we have to show off about Brookville, and he would say the way it looks. Mr. Taylor stated in the downtown, when we redid the Zoning Ordinance back in 2006, we made some changes, and out of the Planning Commission came a recommendation that there be a section in the Zoning Ordinance prohibiting internally lit plastic signs within the historic overlay district. Mr. Taylor stated that was sent to Council from the Planning Commission, and it never made it into the final ordinance. Mr. Taylor stated we are going to end up with a plethora of noncompatible signs in the downtown. Mr. Taylor suggested bringing this up at the next Council meeting, and that Council direct the Solicitor to prepare an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance covering that kind of signage.

- D. **Member Lucy Ames** – Member Lucy Ames thanked Police Chief Vince Markle, Fire Chief Chris Henry, and Manager Dana Rooney for their continued good work, and wished everyone happy holidays.
- E. **Second Vice-President Randy Bartley** – Second Vice-President Randy Bartley stated hands down our Light Up Night was the best in the area. Mr. Bartley stated although we came up with a two mil tax increase, he commends the Budget Committee and Manager Dana Rooney for coming up with a really tight budget. Mr. Bartley commended the Brookville Police Department for diligent work in putting the death by drug delivery case together.
- F. **Vice-President Karen Allgeier** – Vice-President Karen Allgeier stated she echoes Mr. Bartley's comments, and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.
- G. **President Phil Hynes** – President Phil Hynes thanked Council for all the work they have done this year. Mr. Hynes stated he thinks we got a lot of things accomplished, and worked together. Mr. Hynes stated at the January reorganization meeting unfortunately he will be in Argentina, so Vice-President Karen Allgeier will be running the show. Mr. Hynes wished everyone happy holidays and a Merry Christmas. Mr. Hynes asked the media if they had any questions.

MEDIA COMMENTS/QUESTIONS/CLARIFICATION: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Brookville Borough Council entered an executive session at 7:35 P.M. to discuss a personnel matter with action expected. Executive session ended at 7:42 P.M. with the following action taken:

- A. **Rescind Offer to Chris Cella** - Personnel Committee Chair Lucy Ames made a motion from committee to rescind the offer to Chris Cella. President Phil Hynes stated since this motion is coming from committee, no second is needed. President Hynes asked all Council Members in favor of this motion coming from committee to say 'aye'. Motion carried 6-0.

- B. Hire Part-time Officer** – Personnel Committee Chair Lucy Ames made a motion from committee to hire a part-time officer, pending a background check. President Phil Hynes stated since this motion is coming from committee, no second is needed. President Hynes asked all Council Members in favor of this motion coming from committee to say ‘aye’. Motion carried 6-0.

ADJOURNMENT:

Member Sarah Gallagher moved to adjourn; seconded by Second Vice-President Randy Bartley. Motion carried 6-0 at 7:43 P.M.

Borough Manager