

**IVYLAND BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING**

**February 8, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER: 7:30PM

PRESENT: Sal DiPaolo, President, Christina Finello, Vice President, Bill Linwood, Todd Savarese, Chris Branchide, Chuck Bristow and Matt Piotrowski

OTHERS PRESENT AT MEETING: Anthony Judice, Mayor, Chris Peterson, Borough Engineer, Greg Sturn, Borough Solicitor, Janet Pacchioli, Treasurer/Secretary, Danielle Turner, Recording Secretary

PUBLIC COMMENT/VISITORS: Zachery Sivertsen, Sharon and Douglas Hamilton, Kristin Holmes, Nestor Martinez, Cindy and Tom Knotts, Rebekah Chenworth, David Sharp, Mr. Goodz

**ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE WAS FOLLOWED BY A MOMENT OF SILENCE**

**MINUTES APPROVAL of January 11, 2023**

*Motion to approve the January 11, 2023 minutes was made by Mr. Linwood and seconded by Mr. Branchide. Motion approved and passed unanimously 4-0. Two abstentions by Mr. Piotrowski and Mr. Bristow.*

**TREASURER’S REPORT**

The January treasurer’s report was provided by Mrs. Pacchioli. The general fund sits at \$675,757.42 the Capital Reserve is \$288,181.17, Liquid Fuel is \$81,015.76 and the Fire Company account balance is \$64,765.30. The total funds are \$1,109,719.65

Mr. Savarese asked for the fire company balance to be reviewed as it appears there may be a discrepancy. He also asked about the \$10,000 for the charge for AGILITY and Mrs. Pacchioli reported the company had changed its name.

The report was accepted and subject to audit.

**BILLS LIST**

Mrs. Pacchioli reported that the prepaid bills listed totaled \$39,745.34. The unpaid bills are \$8,299.25.

*A motion to pay all outstanding invoices was made by Mr. Linwood and seconded by Mr. Bristow. Motion approved and passed unanimously 6-0.*

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

Financial Interest Forms must be returned to Janet so the Borough has a copy. These forms are due by May 1, 2023.

Thank You Notes: Warminster Library Director sent a thank you card for the Borough's donation. Liz Vile thanks the Borough for a gift certificate. Ben Wilson Senior Center thanks the borough for the \$250 donation. Mr. and Mrs. Rosati 236 West Bristol wrote a letter stating the good relationship between their family and the Chenworth family.

## **GEFF RAPP: 150th ANNIVERSARY UPDATE**

Ivyland Heritage received their 501C Status and is now a community charity. Congratulations on this accomplishment! Five music acts are reserved for entertainment. Food trucks, antique automobiles, and children's activities are being planned for the event. Fundraising has been continuing successfully. TD Bank is the \$2500 founding sponsor and PECO is donating \$1000. Fundraising goal is for \$6000 for total sponsorship revenue.

Scheduled to do a "Loudspeaker" publish date around March 7, 2023. Website dedicated to 150th Anniversary for updates for those not on Facebook.

Signage and brackets will be put up on the light posts.

## **KRISTIN HOLMES/1120 Jacksonville Road**

Zachary Sivertsen, Esq. provided an update on the property of Douglas Hamilton the owner of 1120 Jacksonville Road which is currently a vacant small scale industrial facility. Proposing to change it into a pediatric dental office. Obtained special exception for the lighting and asked for a variance for the impervious coverage. The group presented before the Ivyland Borough Planning Commission, provided a detailed plan and were willing to make changes. The Planning Commission reviewed their plans The Bucks County Planning Commission and The Bucks County Conservation District have sent review letters.

Kristin Holmes reviewed the details of the plan provided for the Council. The driveway site all along Jacksonville will be closed and the frontage will be replaced by foliage on Jacksonville Road. The driveway moved to the side of the street. Twenty parking spots will be installed in the back with proper foliage planted near residential houses.

Waiver Request is being made. These waivers include for curbing on Lincoln and Jacksonville, frontage on Jacksonville Road and the third is a partial waiver for street trees. Bucks County is not recommending the waiver for curbing at this time. Dentist hours would generally function 9-5pm and one night until 7pm. Mr. Bristow brought up the concern of safety when the paving gets completed and the new landscape gets put in. Kristin explained that Jacksonville Road would not need to be shut down and they would work with PennDot to minimize traffic disturbance and ensure safety standards.



Prior to signing the final plan, they will prepare a resolution that will be presented prior to acceptance. Do we need financial security and land development? What is the extent of the public approval? Portion of sidewalk and some improvements are in the public right away. We may want to get escrow money to guarantee the improvement.

*Mr. Saverese made a motion to grant the two waivers and partial waiver for the project on 1120 Jacksonville Road and Mr. Linwood seconded the motion. Motion Approved 6-0.*

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Rebecca Chenworth, 232 West Bristol Road, spoke regarding her driveway and their plans to move in seven days. Permit for the second driveway provided which will bring the house up to code. Appreciate everyone's help so they can move. Proposals given to council. Goal is to be compliant with Borough Code.

Mr. DiPaolo appreciates the paperwork as the Borough is trying to satisfy what they can act upon. Impervious coverage amount needs to be complied with. Borough Solicitor cannot find a state statute or limitation for a property that is fronting on a state road to have two driveways.

Mr. Goodz responded that without knowing the proposal, he cannot respond. If you exceed 600 feet, Penndot may give two driveways. Mr. Goodz presented an email about the old driveway being removed once the new one was built.

Mr. Tweed's letter was incorrect. Mr. Tweed decided to sign off and he did not have the authority to provide a waiver for the impervious surface.

Clearly the property owner was supposed to remove the driveway. Since that time, there has been sign offs, inspections, but the removal of the initial driveway was for reducing the impervious surface of the driveway. This was a situation that was not policed. Council is obligated to follow the advice of the solicitor if the property owner removed 325 feet of impervious surface this would satisfy the intention of the permit.

Point of Order by Sal Dipaolo to encourage the neighbors to work together and Mr. Goodz to speak to the new owners of the house moving forward.

Mrs. Chenworth stated she had the Penndot permit.

Mr. Sturn asked the Council if the consensus provides the impervious surface problem is resolved the Borough Council will put this issue to rest.

Resolution is compliance with the impervious service Mrs. Chenworth will improve the impervious surface but does not need to remove the driveway.

Mr. DiPaolo made the motion, seconded by Mr. Linwood to resolve the enforcement action by allowing the property owners to remove the impervious service without removing the driveway. Motion approved 4-2.

#### **CODE ENFORCEMENT/ZONING REPORT**

Hotel drawings were dropped off yesterday and will be viewed by Mr. Ware on Thursday. Mr. DiPaolo requested Mr. Ware contact him after reviewing.

Bank will come into compliance with the property next to the firehouse.

*Mr. Branchilde made a motion, seconded by Mr. Savarse, to approve the zoning officer report. Motion approved 6-0.*

#### **REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT- No Report**

#### **ENGINEER**

Important date is the pre-bid meeting for March 15, 2023. This is a mandatory meeting so they can give the contractor the opportunity to look at the site. Buildings are unstable so Mr. Peterson is looking for direction with having folks come into the buildings. Discussion regarding if we need a waiver for contractors if they want to come visit the site. Mr. Sturn stated this would be a good idea.

Mr. Piotrowski expressed concern regarding how the Borough will fund this project. Point of order by Dr. Finello. Reference to the issue at hand is that we have to figure out how to fund this project to get the issue resolved. Mr. Savarese stated his opinion that we need to resolve this issue as they are a blight for the area and we should take on debt if we have to in order to take care of this ongoing issue. Cost of this project is estimated around \$200K.

Current plan includes starting April 24, 2023 with a 60-90 day contract ready to make payment by July 24, 2023.

Sub-committee to find some alternative funds and look at the budget excess or financial funding by Dr. Finello, Janet Pacchioli, Todd Savarese and Sal DiPaolo Mr. Sturn instructed the committee to look at the local government unit Debt Act which is required for Boroughs incurring debt for projects. Subcommittee created to investigate funding and grants.

Dr. Finello sent a list of grants to explore and the Greenways Grant that will need to be renewed.

#### **SOLICITOR**

No report or action needed at this time.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS- No report**

#### **MAYOR**

State Senator Farry's office is scheduled to meet with Mr. Dipaolo and Mr. Judice on Feb 17, 2023. This will be a good time to speak about grant opportunities and invite Senator Farry to come to the meetings and introduce themselves and meet the Council.

Mayor Judice reported the Police report in the month of January. There were 24 traffic citations, 1 written warning, 1 non-reportable. The check received from the District Court was \$806.03.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### Parks and Recreation:

- Gearing up for the Easter Egg Hunt which will be held April 8, 2023.

### Finance:

- Dr. Finello requested that Janet reach out to TD bank to meet with various entities to present Council with facts and figures to see how to best invest the money.

### Public Safety:

- Two meetings with Warminster Township in last 6 weeks about our Fire Company helping them out during the daytime hours. Unfortunately, the details did not work out but they were grateful for our offer to help.

Borough Property: No report

Streets and Walks: No Report

Planning Commission: No Report

### Fire Company:

- There were 7 calls this month, 1 fire and 6 EMS/other.
- Fire Company has been in contact with Ray Foisy for the lock boxes, fire company is informed and can be reviewed.
- Fire Company is working on mutual aid with Hatboro Station 95 and doing training with them
- Warwick and Northampton both have new fire chiefs and are willing to do mutual training.
- Centennial School District Fire Company Meeting
  - Mutual requirement for Police, Fire, EMS and we could require for the local fire companies to do recruitment at the high school in May focusing on volunteers or students interested.
- Next event pancake breakfast May 7, 2023.
- Mr. DiPaolo asked for investigation into IT for the video and wifi for live streaming meetings of the borough.
  - Do we need coverage for the public meeting, just the council, public comment or and presentations? Discussion. Including the council and public comment and possibly Mr. Judice would be ideal.



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT: No report

NEW BUSINESS

Chuck Bristow was in contact with Ashley from Frank Farry's office in regard to the railroad crossing.

PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE

Geff Rapp wanted to make the Council aware there is a sound issue as well as video for the facebook feed.

ADJOURNMENT: 9:04pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Danielle Turner, Minutes Secretary

Minutes Approved by Borough Council March 8, 2023.  
*As presented.*