

**Ivyland Borough Council
Meeting Minutes
January 6, 2025**

CALL TO ORDER: 6:00 PM

ATTENDANCE: Chuck Bristow, Sal DiPaolo, Dr. Chris Finello, Bill Linwood, Jahangir Nasir, Matt Piotrowski, Todd Savarese

ABSENT: N/A

OTHERS PRESENT: Krista DiPaolo, Recorder, Mark Freed, Borough Solicitor, Mayor Tony Judice, Janet Pacchioli, Treasurer, Chris Peterson, Borough Engineer

Establishment of Quorum:

Pledge of Allegiance:

Moment of Silence:

Reorganization Meeting:

A motion was made for candidates for:

1. Borough Council President: Todd Savarese made a motion to nominate Mr. Salvatore DiPaolo. Mr. Nasir seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0-0.
2. Borough Council Vice President: Dr. Finello has completed her term as Borough Vice President. Mr. DiPaolo thanked Dr. Finello for her service to the Borough. He thanked her for all her work in getting funds for the Navy House project. Mr. DiPaolo nominated Mr. Bristow for Borough Vice President. Mr. Nasir seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0-0.
3. Chairman Pro Tem: Mr. DiPaolo stated the need for a Chairman Pro Tem. Mr. Savarese nominated Mr. ~~Lindwood~~^{Linwood}. Mr. DiPaolo seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0-0.
4. Vacancy Board Chair. Mr. Freed explained that this position is needed when a sudden vacancy becomes available and the board cannot fill it immediately. Mr. Linwood nominated Mr. Nasir. Mr. Bristow seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0-0.
5. Reappointment of the Borough Secretary and Treasurer.
6. Reappointment of solicitor, Mr. Mark Freed
7. Reappointment for borough engineer, Mr. Chris Peterson
8. Reappointment of Barry Isett and Associates. Mr. Linwood made a motion to reappoint. Mr. Bristow asked how the company was working out. Mr. DiPaolo shared that all is running smoothly. Mr. Bristow seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0-0.

Committee Assignments:

9. Mr. Jahangir Nasir was reassigned to the Park and Rec Board for the 2025-2027 term
10. Mr. Robert Scotese was reassigned to the Zoning Hearing Board for the 2025-2027 term. His term ended and he is being renewed.
11. Dr. Finello made a motion to appoint Mr. DiPaolo to the Finance Committee secondary to increased commitments to her work. Mr. DiPaolo, Mr. Bristow and Dr. Finello agreed to meet and discuss future funding for the Borough. Dr. Finello intends to stay on committee after her term is up (with the state).

Minutes of 12/11/24:

Mr. Savarese made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Bristow seconded the motion. Mr. Linwood and Dr. Finello abstained as they were not present at the last meeting. Motion passed 5-0-2.

● **Treasurer's Report:**

Mrs. Pacchioli read the January 6, 2025 Treasurer's report. The balances are as follows as of 12/31/24:

General Fund:	
Balance on Hand:	\$397,134.81
Capital Reserve Fund:	\$549,822.43
Liquid Fuel Tax Fund:	\$69,718.61
Fire Company Account:	\$73,647.91
Total Funds 12/31/24:	\$1,090,323.76

The

Treasurer's report was accepted, subject to audit. Budgeted funds for 2024 Capitol Accounts were transferred into them.

Discussion ensued about the Salary Waiver account and how to use the funds. Mr. Bristow asked if it was lumped into our bottom line. Mr. Bristow stated that the funds were used for items that public money was not used for. Mr. Bristow thinks it should be in a separate account but not included in our public funds. Mr. Linwood favors this because it is "gifted" back to the Borough. This is how it started per Mr. Linwood. Previously this money was used for park equipment and a grinder pump for the Fire Department early on with the account. If it was a separate account, the Borough could "gift" playground equipment, for example. Mr. Linwood said it would be the **Council** gifting not the Borough. Mr. Piotrowski commented to keep the account as is. Mr.

DiPaolo shared that anyone who opts into the salary waiver in giving it back to the community. Mr. Linwood said that based on how the account is set up, it is Council's discretion on how to spend it. Mrs. Pacchioli said there is about \$33,000 in the account. If they wanted to buy playground equipment, for example, they'd have to follow the process/guidelines of getting three bids, etc. Mr. Bristow said any funds in the public account would have to follow guidelines. Mrs. Pacchioli commented it has to stay in public money as there is no other way to document it. Mr. Savarese confirmed it is still taxpayer money. He likes how we are managing this account. Mr. Bristow said the discussion is good for now.

- **Bills List:**

Prepaid Bills List Total:	\$27,167.94
Unpaid Bills List Total	\$0.00

Mr. Bristow made a motion to pay the bills, Mr. Nasir seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0-0.

The Statement of Interest is due May 1, 2025. These were distributed to the Council. A calendar of meetings was sent via email to Council. A hard copy was distributed as well. Dr. Finello stated that those who are running this year, their Statement of Interest should be submitted before May 1, 2025.

- **Correspondence:**

- The Borough has received the bank debit card with Mrs. Pacchioli's name spelled incorrectly. The bank is making the correction. When the Borough moves over to the Zoom account, they will update passwords and emails, etc. In addition, the Borough's website will move away from Group G's account. Mr. Bristow stated that all the accounts can be tied to the bank account so anyone can address issues as they arise, even if Mr. Bristow is out of town.

- **Public Comment:**

- Public comment: Facebook had no sound for the first 16 minutes of the meeting. All participants checked that their microphones were on. Sound went out again at minute 17:31. Sound resumed at minute 19:16.

- **Code Enforcement/Zoning Report:**

- No report

- **Report of President:**

- Mr. DiPaolo shared that the Village's luminaries looked wonderful. He thanked Bonnie Roe and her family for continuing to provide the luminaries for over 35 years.

- b. Mr. DiPaolo said there are plans to revitalize the Christmas Card exchange starting next year.

- **Engineer:**

- a. Mr. Peterson presented his report:
 - i. PA Small Water and Sewer Project: He requested approval to start the surveying work. Mr. DiPaolo made a motion and Mr. Bristow seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0-0.
 - ii. Fire Lane Striking: Mr. Peterson is reaching out to Buxmont for pricing. It is in progress. He will have information soon. Mrs. Pacchioli shared that the new owners of the duplex put in for a gas hook up so may need to wait to move forward with the striking painting.
 - iii. Mr. Peterson will not be present at next month's meeting. Mr. DiPaolo stated that the Borough can forgo a substitution for February 2025.
 - iv. The Council Re-Opened the Hearing for the Stormwater Management Ordinance. **Mr. DiPaolo reopened the Hearing at 7:06 PM.** No comments from Facebook were submitted. Mr. Freed asked if the Council had any questions. Due to conflict with meeting start time, the hearing was reopened for the general public. **The Hearing was closed at 7:07 PM.**
 - v. Two documents were presented for signatures and circulated by Mrs. Pacchioli.

Solicitor:

- a. The Solicitor circulated a letter. The new owners of the Ivyland Hotel would like to meet with Council regarding changes. They want to make changes that restore the building to a more historic feel. As of December 27, 2024, there are no longer renters in the hotel. Mr. Bristow asked what the new owners wanted to discuss. Mr. Freed stated that they want to meet the new owners, discuss Zoning Ordinances, and any other information. The meeting is being facilitated by Mr. Vitalia. Mr. Bristow commented that, historically, things have not run smoothly with the hotel. Mr. Bristow feels better knowing the solicitor will attend the meeting.
- b. The Animal Control draft is being done now. Mayor Judice spoke with Mr. Mullens. It was confirmed that he has insurance and can add Ivyland Borough to that policy. Mayor Judice asked if Mr. Mullen will have the designation of an independent contractor (on call status) or an employee. Mr. Mullen would be considered an "Animal Control Officer." He

asked if Mr. Mullen will have any enforcement abilities. Mr. Freed stated he would serve to assist the actual representatives of the Borough. Mr. Piotrowski asked how to handle the situation where Mr. Mullen would not be available if an event occurs in the Borough. Mr. Freed stated that this is something to discuss with Mr. Mullen. There is an employee that Mr. Mullen does employ. A fee schedule has also been provided. Additionally, LLC information will be shared. Mr. Freed said we will also want to see Mr. Mullen's insurance policy. Mr. Mullen also has a relationship with a kennel. Mayor Judice stated that we used to utilize the SPCA when Warminster served the Borough. Some people were concerned because the SPCA euthanizes them. Mr. Mullen's kennel will hold the animal for a specified amount of time and then it is put up for adoption. Mayor Judice also stated that if we use Mr. Mullen's kennel, there is no kennel fee. Further, Mayor Judice relayed that Mr. Mullen is very interested in serving the Borough. Mr. Bristow commented that it appears we want to contract Mr. Mullen's company and have "Animal Control Services." Mayor Judice stated that we do not want Borough residents contacting Mr. Mullen's company. Mayor Judice asked how he would be notified if we needed his services? Mr. Mullen said he has an office number that is answered 24 hours per day. The Borough has to determine how reports are made to the Borough in the off hours (when no one is in the office). Mrs. Pacchioli stated that with previous service, calls would come into Warminster through the 911 line. If we did not have an officer on duty, the call would go to the Warminster Police. The 911 dispatch should send the call to Mr. Mullen directly. Mr. DiPaolo asked Mayor Judice to follow up with Chief Carey to ensure this process is worked out. If no one is in the office and a resident makes a call, we need a mechanism to get that information/call to Mr. Mullen. Mr. Bristow stated this is a process to be handled by Public Safety. Mr. Lindwood agreed. Further, Mr. Linwood is planning to call 911 dispatch to figure out if there is a certain number that residents can call that will get the call to Mr. Mullen, or at least Mr. Linwood. Mayor Judice suggested talking to Chief Carey first to figure out the non-emergency number. Mr. Bristow said the 911 Call Center can help the Borough come up with a call tree. Mr. DiPaolo agreed with Mr. Freed that we need to complete a draft.

- c. 21 Chase Avenue: A sketch plan came in. There will be a meeting at the end of month with the planning committee. The plan will come to Council next month. Mr. Piotrowski asked about what will occur in the upcoming meeting on January 23, 2025. The purpose of this meeting is for the land owner to get feedback from the Borough Council. Mr.

Freed stated that he or Mr. Peterson can reach out to the landowners' engineer and relay the importance of the owner attending.

d. Two action items for Council:

- i. First Item: The Hearing on the stormwater management ordinance amendment 2025-1. **Mr. DiPaolo opened the Hearing at 6:35 PM:** Mr. Freed stated that PA EEP periodically updates requirements for municipal stormwater management ordinances. The amendment being referred to tonight is between one to two years old. Mr. Peterson reviewed the ordinances and realized some items had been a part of the ordinance before that had been dropped out. Tonight, essentially, this amendment will include the newest changes from the PA EEP and Borough historical requirements:

1. Borough Exhibit 1: The Ordinance (circulated to Council previously)
2. Borough Exhibit 2: Public Notice
3. Borough Exhibit 3: Proof of Advertising of Public Notice (dated 12/27/24)
4. Borough Exhibit 4: Copy of the certification of posting that Mrs. Pacchioli posted on January 2, 2025. Mr. Linwood made a motion to approve the Ordinance. Mr. Piotrowski seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0-0.

Hearing closed at 6:38 PM.

- ii. Second Item: Engagement of Cohen Law Group for renewal of the Verizon Cable Franchise Agreement. This allows Verizon to come into the municipality, provide services, and the Borough gets a percentage of fees. Previously, the Borough had an agreement with Verizon that expired in 2019. It is not clear if it will be renewed. In any event, the renewal is coming due. The Bucks County Consortium has engaged services of the Cohen Law Group because there are between 12 and 16 municipalities in the Consortium that get a 15% discount. As we are a smaller Borough, they are proposing a flat fee of \$6,800. Mr. Freed suggested using this Group as they represent the other municipalities. Mr. DiPaolo commented that the project has a timeline and he is asked if the payment due date will be broken up into increments. Mr. Freed stated one payment at the beginning, midway and then when services are completed. Mr. Piotrowski asked if there is room for negotiation? Mr. Freed believes there is room. Mr. Savarese asked if there is exclusivity if joining this consortium. Mr. Freed said he does not think this is the case. The Borough uses Verizon and Comcast already so the provider is not exclusive. There is compensation back to

the Borough for residents who utilize Verizon services. Mr. Piotrowski asked if the Borough gets the \$6,800 in revenue. Mr. Pacchioli confirmed that in 2024, \$17,560.53 was received from Verizon and Comcast combined. Dr. Finello asked the length of the agreement. Mr. Freed stated the last cycle was a five year agreement. The Borough would negotiate the next cycle. Mr. Linwood made a motion to go with Cohen Law Group. Mr. Bristow seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0-0.

- **Unfinished Business:**

- a. Nothing to report

- **Mayor:**

- a. Police Report: The monthly police report for December 2024: One ordinance violation regarding open burning, 13 traffic citations, 1 written warning. The December 2024 court check has not been received yet. Mayor Judice hopes to have this information for the next meeting.

- **Committee Reports:**

- a. *Park and Recreation:*

- a. Mr. Nasir reported on the luminary event on Christmas Eve. He thanked the neighbors who helped put up all the luminaries in the common area: James McCullough, Mr. Bristow, Mr. Nasir's son and nephew, Zane, and Leo (aka Levon), Deb, and Mike. They got 100 luminaries set up in the Village.

- b. *Finance:* There has been a change to the position. Dr. Finello informed Mrs. Pacchioli that Mr. DiPaolo is the new Finance Chair. Regarding the calendar, the finance meeting day and time can be moved back to the original day.

- c. *Public Safety:* On February 19, 2025 from 11:00 AM until 11:00 PM there is a Tony's Fundraiser for the Fire Department.

- d. *Borough Property:* Nothing to report

- e. *Streets and Walks:* There have been a few snow events. Mr. Savarese stated that he received constructive feedback from residents about snow and ice removal. Mr. Kirkpatrick has taken over Gianieri. Mr. Savarese stated that we are spending a lot of money on salt. He feels we can get a better price with the Bucks County Consortium. He asked Mrs. Pachioli to see the contract before renewal to address the cost of salt. Mr.

DiPaolo asked if the consortium would allow a third party to pick up the salt or does the Borough need to purchase and store the salt? Mr. Savarese is not sure. Mr. Freed said we could have an agreement for storage that our contractor can access. Mr. Savarese said that the consortium does not typically want public officials at the meetings. Mr. Savarese feels it will be more cost effective to purchase the salt for our contractor.

- f. *Planning Commission*: January 23, 2025 meeting to discuss the sketch plan for 21 Chase Avenue.
- g. *Fire Company*: Not present but a report was emailed to the recorder. Ivyland Fire Company and Fire Company Monthly Report for January 6, 2025. Summary of actions and activities since the last monthly meeting:

- 1. Emergency Services Updates:

- a. In 2024 we had 121 calls (60 Fire and 61 EMS, Fire Police, Other Calls)
- b. In 2025 we have 2 calls year to date (1 Fire, 1 EMS).
- c. We have a busy year ahead with 14 instructor led training classes and other monthly drills.
- d. 6 members have also signed up for additional national certification training.
- e. Thanks to everyone who came to see Santa and we wish everyone a Healthy and Happy New Year!!

- 2. Membership:

- a. One new Firefighter has had his first reading

- 3. Ivyland Community Events 2025:

- a. February 19 – Tony's place fundraiser
- b. TBD – Easter Bunny in Ivyland
- c. June 7 Coin Toss (Rain Date 6/8)
- d. July 16 – Tony's place fundraiser
- e. May 8 – Tranquility fundraiser
- f. Aug TBD – Ivyland 5K Runners Breakfast
- g. Sep 13 - Coin Toss (Rain Date 9/14)
- h. Oct 19– Fire Prevention
- i. Oct 22 - Fund Drive Letter Start
- j. Nov 11 - Coin Toss (Rain Date 11/28)
- k. Dec 20 – Santa in Ivyland - TBD
- l. Dec 14 - Breakfast

- **Emergency Management:**

- a. Nothing to report

New Business:

- a. Mayor Judice asked about getting the flags placed at half staff for President Carter. Mr. DiPaolo stated that he will work with Mr. Nasir on how to order flags and related considerations at the next Park and Recreation Meeting.

- **Personnel:**

- a. Nothing to report

- **Public comment:**

- a. Facebook: No comment
 - b. Council: No comment

- **Adjournment:**

- a. Mr. DiPaolo made a motion to adjourn, Mr. Linwood seconded. Motion passed 7-0-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:11 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Krista DiPaolo, recorder

Minutes Approved by Borough Council February 12, 2025
As corrected p. 1