Pennington Borough Council Work Session Meeting – April 29, 2024

Mayor Davy called the Work Session Meeting of the Borough Council to order at 7:00 pm. The meeting was held via Zoom. Borough Clerk Betty Sterling called the roll with Council Members Angarone, Chandler, Marciante, Stern and Valenza in attendance. Mr. Valenza arrived just after the roll call.

Also present were Borough Clerk Betty Sterling, Borough Attorney Walter Bliss, Borough Administrator GP Caminiti, Public Works Superintendent Rick Smith and Police Chief Doug Pinelli.

Mayor Davy announced that notice of this meeting has been given to the Hopewell Valley News, Trenton Times and was posted on the door at Borough Hall and on the Borough web-site according to the regulations of the Open Public Meetings Act.

Open to the Public

Mayor Davy read the following statement.

The meeting is now open to the public for comments. In an effort to provide everyone interested an opportunity to address his or her comments to the Governing Body, a public comment time limit has been instituted for each speaker. Please raise your hand and when the Borough Administrator acknowledges you state your name and address for the record. Please limit comments to the Governing Body to a maximum of 2 minutes.

There were no comments from the public.

Work Session Discussion Items

Dedication of Arboretum – Mrs. Chandler stated that the Arboretum Committee is proposing the dedication of the Arboretum as the Eileen M. Heinzel Memorial Arboretum. Mrs. Chandler stated that Eileen Heinzel served as a Council Member and then Borough Administrator for many years and she was instrumental in getting the Arboretum project going. Mrs. Chandler stated that she would like to request a resolution at the next meeting and then in the spring of 2025 a formal dedication ceremony will take place at the Arboretum.

Proclamation – Mom's Demand Action for Gun Sense in America – Mayor Davy stated that there will be a Proclamation on the May agenda to proclaim a date in June as National Gun Violence Awareness Day.

Review of Tentative Council Regular Agenda

Mayor Davy asked if there was any discussion on the following items which will be on the Agenda for the Regular Meeting on May 6, 2024. Mayor Davy stated that Rosetta Treece will be making a presentation on the proposed Bond Referendum and Steve Papenberg will be presenting for the Board of Health. Ms. Stern stated that the public should be made aware of the School presentation so that the public will have the opportunity to hear the presentation since their taxes will be impacted. Some discussion took place with regard to noticing the School Board meetings on the Bond Referendum but also their budget discussions.

Mayor Davy asked for an explanation on the Resolution to purchase meters. Mr. Smith explained that this is part of the ARP funding that we need to allocate before year end.

Ms. Angarone asked about changing the Finance and Technology Committee to just Finance. Mrs. Chandler stated that several years ago Technology was added to the Finance Committee but now that we have a full time administrator technology decisions should be handled operationally. Mr. Caminiti stated that he will be the first review and then things related to policy and procedure will come to Council as needed.

Mayor Davy asked for an explanation on the Employee Assistance Program which Mrs. Sterling explained is a program for employees and members of their household to assist with dealing with difficult situations in their lives.

Mr. Marciante asked about N-Coded Radios for the Police Department. Chief Pinelli explained that they have been transitioning to N-Coded Radios which are compatible with the radios used by Hopewell Township. Chief Pinelli was experiencing technical difficulties with his connection so was unable to comment further.

There were no further comments on the agenda items.

Ordinance 2024-8 - W/S Rate Ordinance - Public Hearing and Adoption

- Ordinance 2024-9 Concerning Animal Bites Public Hearing and Adoption
- Ordinance 2024-10 Gazebo Donation Public Hearing and Adoption
- Resolution Raffle Trenton Cyrus Lodge
- Resolution Raffle Pennington Fire Ladies Auxiliary
- Resolution Raffle Pennington Fire Co. Ladies Auxiliary
- Resolution Amending Council Committees (Eliminate Technology from Finance Committee)
- Resolution Outdoor Dining Emily's Cafe
- Resolution Purchase of Remote Read Meters
- Resolution Chapter 159 Recycling Tonnage Grant
- Resolution Penn Medicine Employee Assistance Program (EAP)

Public Comment

Mayor Davy asked that anyone wishing to speak, please raise your hand so the Borough Clerk can acknowledge you, please state your name and address for the record and limit comments to the Governing Body to a maximum of 3 minutes.

There were no comments from the public.

At: 7:18 PM, Council Member Chandler made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting and convene in Closed Session, second by Council Member Gnatt with all members present voting in favor.

Litigation – Public Safety Update on Bias Investigation Attorney/Client – Update on Hopewell Township PILOT Litigation Attorney/Client – Update on Litigation – Police Personnel Matter Potential Litigation – Pure Blossom Negotiations – PFAS Building

Mayor and Council did not return to open session.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Sterling Borough Clerk