

**BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2024
7:00 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

CALL TO ORDER: This meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Vice President Leahey.

PRESENT: A quorum was present including members of Council as follows: Vice President Brady Leahey; Jeffrey Ketner; David Jacobs; Clay Gingrich; Walter Kalista, III, and William Kitt. Also participating: Borough Manager Ethan Imhoff; Borough Secretary Patricia J. Duron; Solicitor Nathan Karn; Attorney Calvin Webb; Mayor Joseph Dodson; Director of Community Development Andrew Holodnik; Director of Community Relations and Events Melanie Ramsey; and Chief Christopher Storm. Absent: Fire Marshal Amy Hazlett

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Vice President Leahey led the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Vice President Leahey announced that an Executive Session had been held following the regular meeting on October 10, 2024. The purpose of the session was to discuss real estate.

MINUTES: The minutes from the meeting held on October 10, 2024 were presented for Council's review and approval. A motion to approve these minutes was made by Mr. Kalista and was seconded by Mr. Gingrich. A vote was taken and the minutes were approved unanimously with six votes in favor.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

A. GREAT COMMISSION SCHOOL CONDITIONAL USE HEARING

Attorney Calvin Webb conducted a conditional use hearing to consider a request from the Great Commission School to establish a school on Bedford Street. The property that they own is zoned Conservation/Recreation and a school is permitted as a conditional use in that zoning district. All persons wishing to provide testimony were sworn in by Attorney Webb.

Director of Community Development Andrew Holodnik provided testimony relevant to the application.

Laura Wray, representing the Great Commission School, presented their application.

Elda Boose, 141 Bedford Street, spoke in favor of granting the conditional use.

No other testimony from the public was provided. Following discussion; the Borough Council

Members directed Attorney Webb to prepare a resolution to grant the conditional use to the great Commission School. The resolution will be presented for adoption at the December 12th Borough Council Meeting.

PROCLAMATION: Mayor Dodson presented a proclamation to Donna Malone, Hollidaysburg Women's Club; PA State President of the General Federation of Women's Clubs.

MANAGER'S REPORT: Mr. Imhoff introduced Eric Schmitt, PVFD. Eric discussed an application for a Local Share Account Grant Program for a grant to make building improvements at the PVFD Station. He requested that the Borough submit the grant on the fire department's behalf. Mr. Schmitt also advised that the department had obtained a loan to purchase a fire engine with the help of a grant from the Borough and that this loan had recently been paid off. Following his discussion, Mr. Kalista made a motion that Borough Council support the application for a Local Shares Assessment Grant and submit on behalf of the PVFD. Mr. Ketner seconded the motion and a vote was taken. The motion passed with six votes in favor to zero votes against.

Mr. Imhoff discussed the Stowell Farm Stormwater Project advising that Stiffler McGraw and the Borough met with property owners and that easements were signed between the Borough and the property owners. A final meeting will be held on 11-21-2024 at the Knights of Columbus Hall from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. The bids for the project will be opened on 12-3-2024.

Manager Imhoff announced that Director of Public Works Rick Pope will retire at the end of December this year.

He also advised that the remedial work at 401 Garber Street is underway.

FINANCE DIRECTOR REPORT: Ms. Wert advised that the monthly reports were in Council's packet and were in a new format at this time.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REPORT: Mr. Holodnik presented his department's October report.

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY RELATIONS & EVENTS REPORT: Ms. Ramsey presented her monthly report and highlighted the upcoming Winterfest Parade on 11-24 and Light Up Night on 11-29.

CHIEF OF POLICE REPORT: Chief Storm presented the department's October report. He advised that Trick or Treat Night was a big success. He advised that Officer Michael Faussette resigned his position with the Hollidaysburg Police Department.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Dodson presented a \$1000.00 donation to Winterfest on behalf of the American Legion Post 516. He reported that he had received a \$1700.00 donation toward an electric bike for the police.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Shawn Leydig, 407 Beaver Street: Acknowledged that the Winterfest Tree was up on the Diamond. He also requested that the Borough Manager consider the purchase of a job trailer.

OPEN AGENDA:

Mr. Kitt: East side stormwater mitigation project.

Mr. Gingrich: Update following the Stowell Farm Stormwater project meeting that will take place on 11-21-24.

Mr. Kalista: *Thanked staff, etc. for all of their work on the comp plan update.*

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-32: CONSENT AGENDA:

- a.) Resolution No. 2024-32 for bill list number 11
- b.) Contract with Servpro for remedial work at 401 Garber Street

A motion was made by Mr. Kalista and was seconded by Mr. Gingrich to approve Resolution No. 2024-32. A vote was taken with the motion carrying, six votes to zero votes.

BOROUGH SIDEWALKS GRANT PROGRAM: The Borough is continuing to accept grant applications and the grant monies will continue to be available in 2025.

BLIGHT COMMITTEE: A resolution to name the members will be presented for adoption at the December Borough Council Meeting.

2025 BUDGET: Ms. Wert discussed the 2025 Budget with Borough Council.

STREET LIGHT ON BEDFORD STREET: The Borough is working with Penelec to adjust bulb and consider the options. *This will remain on the agenda for updates.*

HOLIDAY METER PROGRAM: A motion was made by Mr. Gingrich to initiate the Holiday Meter Program to begin on December 2 and run through January 1, 2025. Mr. Kitt seconded the motion and a vote of six to zero passed the motion.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-37 DENYING A COA FOR 601 ALLEGHENY STREET: A motion was made by Mr. Gingrich in favor of Resolution No. 2024-37. Mr. Ketner seconded the motion and a vote was taken. The motion passed with six votes in favor.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-38 DENYING A COA FOR 408 PENN STREET: A motion was made by Mr. Gingrich in favor of Resolution No. 2024-38 and Mr. Ketner seconded it. A vote was taken and the motion passed with six votes in favor to zero votes against.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-25 NAMING A STREET IN WARD SIX: A motion was made by Mr. Kalista to approve Resolution No. 2024-25 to name a street in ward six Hunt Club Drive. Mr. Kitt seconded the motion and it was passed with six votes in favor.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-34 APPROVING THE PURCHASE OF 521 WHITE STREET: Mr. Kitt made a motion to approve the purchase of 521 White Street. Mr. Kalista seconded the motion and a vote was taken. The motion passed with six votes in favor to zero votes against.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-35 RESCINDING A DELEGATE AND APPOINTING NEW DELEGATES TO THE BLAIR COUNTY TAX COMMITTEE: A motion to rescind James Gehret as a delegate to the Blair County Tax Committee representing the Borough of Hollidaysburg and appointing Stacy Wert as the delegate and Ethan Imhoff as the alternate delegate was made by Mr. Kalista. Mr. Kitt seconded the motion and a vote was taken. The motion was passed with six votes in favor to zero votes against.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-36 MAIN STREET MATTERS GRANT APPLICATION: A motion was made by Mr. Kalista to approve Resolution No. 2024-36 to submit a grant application to the Main Street Matters Grant program. Mr. Gingrich seconded the motion and a vote was taken. The motion was passed with six votes in favor to zero votes against.

Prior to adjourning the meeting; Mayor Dodson asked a question about Resolution No. 2024-25 to name a roadway in the sixth ward. He advised that he wished to change the resolution to name the roadway General Soyster Drive. Mr. Gingrich made a motion to amend Resolution No. 2024-25. Mr. Kalista seconded the motion to amend. All voted in favor to amend the resolution. Mr. Kalista made a motion to name the roadway General Soyster Drive. Mr. Gingrich seconded the motion and a vote was taken. The motion passed with six votes in favor to zero votes against and Resolution No. 2024-25 was changed to name the roadway General Soyster Drive.

ADJOURN: Mr. Kalsita made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Gingrich seconded the motion and all were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Patricia J. Duron, Borough Secretary