



BRYN ATHYN BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL CHAMBER

September 9, 2024

The meeting was called to order by President Jeffrey Elsing at 7:00p.m. The following were present:

MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

Glenn Gurney
Ric Asplundh
Jeffrey Elsing

Duane D. Hyatt
Mark Pennink
Steven Huntzinger

ALSO: Victoria S. Trost, Mayor Ken Schauder, Solicitor R. Rex Herder. Councilman Brent McCurdy was excused.

MINUTES

On a motion by Glenn Gurney, seconded by Steven Huntzinger, Council voted unanimous approval of the August minutes.

TREASURER’S REPORT

General Fund Revenue for August was \$125,934.16. General Fund Expenses were \$121,130.6608. Net Income was \$4,804.08.

Sewer Fund Revenue for August was \$92,970.80. Sewer Fund Expenses were \$26,042.66. Net Income was \$66,928.14.

Today PLGIT paid 5.07%. PLGIT Prime paid 5.37%.

Included in the General Fund cash receipts were:

\$	10,061.36	in Real Estate Tax receipts
\$	61,084.99	in Earned Income Tax receipts
\$	11,844.91	in Local Services Tax receipts

\$	1,641.09	in Comcast Franchise Fee receipts
\$	2,620.03	in Verizon FIOS Franchise Fee receipts
\$	1,476.53	in Fines
\$	60.00	in Police Report receipts
\$	1,300.25	in Building Permit receipts
\$	33,733.00	in Contributions to Police Department
\$	2,080.00	in Fireworks Contributions

Included in the Sewer Fund Cash Receipts were:

\$	40,614.00	in Category 2 Usage receipts
\$	43,182.00	in Category 3 Usage receipts
\$	9,059.00	in Category 4 Usage receipts
\$	80.08	in Finance Charges
\$	35.00	in Sewer Certification Fees

TAX COLLECTOR

Tax Collector, Bradley Cranch reported \$9,146.69 in Real Estate Taxes collected in August; \$30,001.42 remains uncollected.

BILLS

GENERAL FUND BILLS

Arrowhead Forensics	\$99.76
Austin Rose	200.00
Auto Spa Xpress	35.00
Bryn Athyn Fire Company	439.43
Building Inspection Underwriters Inc.	2,100.00
Concours Automotive	95.00
Cranch Landscapers LLC	175.00
Davidheiser’s Inc.	60.00
DeLage Landen	175.00
Eastburn & Gray PC	1,627.50
Field Services LLC	1,665.06
HRMM & L	1,369.50
Independence Blue Cross	7,409.04
Kenneth J Schauder Incorporated	305.00
Kimberly Bursner	399.00
Kirsten Cranch	200.00
McDonald Uniform Company	229.96
NAPA Weldon Auto Parts	137.40
Peco Energy	246.67
Peter Sheedy	200.00

Petty Cash – Brigdon Odhner	158.97
Petty Cash – Victoria Trost	19.45
PSAB	150.00
QuickLot LLC	8,372.00
SM Electric LLC	495.00
Standard Insurance Company	1,344.55
T & G Industries Inc.	279.00
The Vanguard Group	31,335.01
Total Turf Landscape Services	1,700.00
Verizon Wireless	250.12
Victoria Trost	50.00
Wawa Wright Express	990.27
TOTAL	\$62,312.69

SEWER FUND BILLS

Academy of the New Church	\$721.48
Arnold’s Towing	144.25
EEMA	1,882.11
George Allen Wastewater Management	2,950.00
Home Depot	84.63
Independence Blue Cross	680.58
MJ Reider Associates Inc.	603.90
Mac Medical Gases Inc.	3.50
McGovern Environmental LLC	294.30
Mike Nelson Consulting Services	515.00
Paychex of New York LLC	24.31
Peco Energy	320.64
Schauder Incorporated	650.00
SCP Distributors LLC	2,612.50
Verizon	90.84
Verizon Wireless	82.53
Wawa Wright Express	125.15
TOTAL	\$11,785.71

GENERAL FUND BMO MASTERCARD

Google Workspace	\$136.80
Adobe AcroPro	19.99
21 Century Media	14.00
Staples	(.86)
Amazon.com	48.39
PSAB	190.00
CarCoverPlanet.com	209.99
Wix.com	454.50
PTC EZ Pass	78.75
Gannett Newspapers	14.99
TOTAL	\$1,166.55

SEWER FUND BMO MASTERCARD

Google Workspace	\$7.20
Amazon.com	.80
Acme	4.76
Mike’s Lock Shop	19.98
Kraft Tank Corp	327.81
EZ Pass	26.25
TOTAL	\$386.80

On a motion by Duane Hyatt, seconded by Glenn Gurney, Council unanimously voted to authorize payment of the bills as listed.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Resolution No. 2024-07 Pedestrian Crossing Signal on Masons Mill Road

President Jeff Elsing reported that the proposed pedestrian crossing traffic signal for Masons Mill Road as part of the Cross County Trail was introduced to Borough Council at the June meeting. Questions were raised by Council at the July meeting relating the to costs after installation. Mr. Elsing noted that the Borough has a signed Traffic Signal Maintenance Agreement with PennDOT in which the Borough agrees to be responsible for PennDOT approved traffic signals. Montgomery County will purchase and install the signal. Following installation, the Borough will add the signal to the insurance policy. Mr. Elsing noted that replacement and repair costs can be submitted to the County; electricity costs for the signal will be less than \$10 per year.

On a motion by Steven Huntzinger, seconded by Glenn Gurney, Council voted unanimously in favor to approve Resolution No. 2024-07 approving the submission of an application to PennDOT for traffic signal approval in connection with the Masons Mill Road and Cross County Trail and authorizing the President of Council to execute the application on behalf of the Borough of Bryn Athyn.

*Borough of Bryn Athyn
Montgomery County, Pennsylvania*

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-07

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF BRYN ATHYN APPROVING THE SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION FOR TRAFFIC SIGNAL APPROVAL IN CONNECTION WITH THE MASONS MILL ROAD AND CROSS COUNTY TRAIL; AND AUTHORIZING THE PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL TO EXECUTE THE APPLICATION ON BEHALF OF THE BOROUGH OF BRYN ATHYN

The Council of the Borough of Bryn Athyn does hereby resolve as follows:

RESOLVED, that the application for approval of the installation of a traffic signal on Masons Mill Road at its intersection with the Cross County Trail in the form circulated to Council and attached to this Resolution is hereby ***APPROVED***, and shall be submitted to the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (“PennDOT”); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the President of Council is hereby authorized to execute the aforementioned application on behalf of the Borough of Bryn Athyn, and is further authorized to execute any additional documents as PennDOT may require for the installation of the aforementioned traffic signal; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall be effective as of the date of its approval by Council of the Borough of Bryn Athyn.

RESOLVED and ADOPTED this ninth day of September, 2024.

BOROUGH OF BRYN ATHYN

PUBLIC HEARING Ordinance No. 709 Amending Section 1200.8 of the Bryn Athyn Zoning Ordinance

President Jeff Elsing opened the Public Hearing to consider proposed Ordinance No. 709.

Solicitor Rex Herder explained that the amending ordinance includes a new clause which permits churches in the Borough to allow guests to stay in residential buildings on the church property for events which are associated with the church or school.

Mr. Elsing reported that the proposed amending ordinance has been reviewed by both the Bryn Athyn Planning Commission and the Montgomery County Planning Commission. Both planning commissions have recommended adoption of the ordinance.

The hearing was opened to discussion by members of Borough Council. Mr. Gurney noted that this ordinance will simplify zoning questions for these properties.

Hearing no further discussion or comments, the hearing was opened to questions or comments from the public. Len Rose asked if this ordinance permits the church to rent apartments to employees. Solicitor Herder responded that this ordinance does not address employee housing. Mr. Elsing reiterated that the spirit of this ordinance applies only to guests staying in residential buildings on church property.

Hearing no questions or comments from the public in attendance, the public comment period was closed.

The hearing was redirected to comments or questions from members of Borough Council.

Hearing no further comments or questions from members of Borough Council, the Public Hearing was closed.

On a motion by Jeff Elsing, seconded by Glenn Gurney, Borough Council voted unanimously in favor by roll call vote to adopt Ordinance No. 709 amending section 1200.8 of the Bryn Athyn Zoning Ordinance pertaining to accessory uses in the IN Institutional District.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

- Glenn Gurney – Yes*
- Jeffrey Elsing – Yes*
- Duane Hyatt – Yes*
- Eric Asplundh – Yes*
- Steven Huntzinger – Yes*
- Mark Pennink – Yes*

**BOROUGH OF BRYN ATHYN
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
ORDINANCE NO. 709**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF BRYN ATHYN, MONTGOMERY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AMENDING SECTION 1200.8 OF THE BRYN ATHYN BOROUGH ZONING ORDINANCE, PERTAINING TO ACCESSORY USES IN THE IN INSTITUTIONAL ZONING DISTRICT

*The Borough Council of the Borough of Bryn Athyn, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, does hereby **ENACT** and **ORDAIN**:*

SECTION 1. *Amendment to Article 12 – “IN” – Institutional Districts. Section 1200.8, pertaining to accessory uses, is hereby amended by deleting its current language in its entirety, and replacing it with the following language:*

1200.8 a. Accessory uses customarily incidental to any of the above uses including but not limited to offices of staff, doctors, residences of institutional employees, recreational facilities and dormitories, thrift shops, art galleries and the like when affiliated with a school or church located in the Borough, and outpatient medical facilities that do not admit patients on an overnight basis and do not provide emergency medical care, provided that such outpatient medical facilities are affiliated with a school located in the Borough, rental of institutional facilities for uses similar to the use of the facility by the institution.

b. *In addition to those accessory uses identified in section 1200.8.a, above:*

i. *Schools in the Institutional District may allow individuals and/or groups attending functions at the school or in the Borough to stay in the school’s dormitories for not more than thirty (30) consecutive nights. Any dormitory to be used for this purpose must meet all applicable state and local laws, codes and regulations, including, without limitation, building codes and fire codes. School dormitories may not be utilized as apartment dwellings.*

ii. *Churches in the Institutional District may allow individuals and/or groups attending functions at the church or in the Borough to stay in the church’s residential buildings located on the church’s property and in the Institutional District, for not more than thirty (30) consecutive nights. Any structure to be used for this purpose must meet all applicable federal, state and local laws, including, without limitation, building codes and fire codes. The church’s residential properties may not be utilized as apartment dwellings.*

SECTION 2. Repealer. *All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent herewith or in conflict with any of the specific terms enacted hereby, to the extent of said inconsistencies or conflicts, are hereby specifically repealed.*

SECTION 3. Severability. *In the event that any section, sentence, clause or word of this Amendment shall be declared illegal, invalid or unconstitutional by any Court of competent jurisdiction, such declaration shall not prevent, preclude or otherwise foreclose the validity of the remaining portions of this Amendment.*

SECTION 4. Effective Date. *This Amendment shall take effect and be in force from and after the date of its approval and enactment by the Borough Council of the Borough of Bryn Athyn.*

ENACTED and ORDAINED *by the Borough Council of the Borough of Bryn Athyn, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, following a duly advertised public hearing at its regularly scheduled meeting held at Borough Hall, 2835 Buck Road, Bryn Athyn, Pennsylvania, this ninth day of September, 2024.*

BOROUGH OF BRYN ATHYN

Resolution No. 2024-06 Multi Modal Grant Application

President Jeff Elsing reported that the process for this grant application to the Multi Modal Transportation Fund began in April in order to fund the Alden Road Improvement project. Borough Council adopted Resolution No. 2024-05 on July 1, 2024 to request a grant in an undetermined amount to defray the costs of the Alden Road project. Mr. Elsing has been notified that the Borough may request a grant in the amount of \$1,457,462 with no funding match requirements. This amount is based on an estimated cost projection for the full build out option for Alden Road. The grant decision will be announced in early 2025. Mr. Elsing noted that the Borough can apply for additional funds, if needed, in July 2025.

On a motion by Steven Huntzinger, seconded by Mark Pennink, Council voted unanimously in favor to approve Resolution No. 2024-06 requesting a Multi Modal Transportation Fund Grant in the amount of \$1,457,462.00 and authorizing the President and Borough Secretary to execute all documents and agreements to facilitate obtaining said grant.

**BOROUGH OF BRYN ATHYN
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
RESOLUTION NO. 2024-06**

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF BRYN ATHYN REQUESTING A MULTIMODAL TRANSPORTATION FUND GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,457,462.00 TO DEFRAY THE COSTS OF MAKING IMPROVEMENTS TO ALDEN ROAD, AND AUTHORIZING THE PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL AND THE BOROUGH SECRETARY TO EXECUTE ALL DOCUMENTS AND AGREEMENTS TO FACILITATE AND ASSIST IN OBTAINING SAID GRANT

*Be it **RESOLVED**, that the Council of the Borough of Bryn Athyn Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, hereby requests a Multimodal Transportation Fund grant of \$1,457,462.00 from the Commonwealth Financing Authority to be used for defraying the costs of repaving and making associated improvements to Alden Road, located in the Borough of Bryn Athyn.*

*Be it **FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Applicant does hereby designate Jeffrey E. Elsing, President of Borough Council, Victoria S. Trost, Borough Secretary, as the officials to execute all documents and agreements between the Borough of Bryn Athyn and the Commonwealth Financing Authority to facilitate and assist in obtaining the requested grant.*

*And be it **FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this resolution shall supersede Resolution No. 2024-05.*

BOROUGH OF BRYN ATHYN

POLICE CHIEF’S REPORT

Chief Brigdon Odhner reported the following activity in August:

All Police Activities	1268
Alarms	17
Assist Bryn Athyn Fire / Ambulance	9
Assist Other Police Agencies	26
Public Service Calls / Assist Citizens	2
Special Traffic Details	9
Suspicious Circumstance Investigations	17
Traffic Citations	44
Vehicle Accidents	5
Animal Compl.	2
Traffic Stops	74
Theft	3
Domestic	1

- A male was discovered by officer Cricelli, living in the shed of the burned-down house behind the post office. In addition to trespassing, the male had a warrant and was arrested.
- We had three vehicles broken into overnight on the 11th. Various items stolen from a few different vehicles. These five thieves targeted many vehicles in Lower and Upper Moreland. Upper Moreland was able to arrest these individuals.
- BAPD attended a college orientation and talked about drugs and alcohol on campus.
- BAPD visited the first grade, coordinated by the two first-grade teachers, and it was a great success.

FIRE CHIEF’S REPORT

Chief Ken Schauder reported 39 Fire Calls in August, 33 in Lower Moreland, 5 in Bryn Athyn and 1 in Abington Township. There were 181 EMS Calls in August, 111 in Lower Moreland, 8 in Bryn Athyn and 62 in other municipalities. There were 105 Transports to the hospital, 72 in Lower Moreland, 4 in Bryn Athyn and 29 in other municipalities. Eight times during August the ambulance was unavailable in Bryn Athyn and Lower Moreland. Fourteen times the second ambulance covered the Borough and LM Township. There were 6 DUI Blood Draws in August.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORT

EM Coordinator Ken Schauder reported on the Eastern Montgomery County Emergency Management Group Agreement which was distributed last month to members of Council. Mr. Schauder noted that the Borough has signed the agreement in the past to share resources. The agreement is renewed every five years.

On a motion by Jeffrey Elsing, seconded by Duane Hyatt, Council voted unanimously in favor to approve the Eastern Montgomery County Emergency Management Group Agreement.

BRYN ATHYN/LOWER MORELAND EMERGENCY SERVICES

Chief Mark Showmaker submitted the following report for August:

A good portion of the month was utilized to explain the findings in then comprehensive emergency service analysis on the status of response and personnel to emergency incidents in Lower Moreland Township and Bryn Athyn Borough as well as finalizing the details of the new Tower Fire truck and preparing for the final inspection. The following will briefly cover my monthly activity

Weeks 1 and 2

- *I attended both the Bryn Athyn Borough Council meeting and Lower Moreland Township Commissioner meetings.*
- *Updated both Boards regarding the Fire Apparatus Purchase of a Pierce Mid Mount Tower Ladder.*
- *Updated Boards on the status of the name of the future organization*
- *Reviewed the monthly Bryn Athyn Fire Company Financial and response statistics.*
- *Reviewed the monthly Huntingdon Valley Fire Company financial and response statistics.*
- *Review and approve the Huntingdon Valley Fire Shift Program time sheets for the month*
- *Met with Officer Manager of BAFC on equipment orders*
- *Scheduled final Inspection trip to Pierce Manufacturing in Appleton Wisconsin for the new Tower*

Week 3 and 4

- *Reviewed and approved new name identification standard for BAFC and HVFC on Turn Out Gear*
- *Responded to numerous fire emergencies*

- *Attended Fire Marshals Meeting*
- *Met with BAFC Chief and President for update and briefing*
- *Attended HVFC Fire Company Officer Meeting*
- *Review HVFC Shift Program time sheets second half of month*
- *Continued review and information compilation of data from records regarding response*
- *Conducted consolidation and regionalization research*
- *Met with Upper Moreland Fire Chief and both Township Mangers for information sharing*
- *Meeting with Montco Communications Technology Department regarding MDT usage and set up*
- *Met with Montco 911 regarding questions pertaining to future consolidation requirements*
- *Met with HVFC president to update our status*
- *Reviewed with Manager comments received regarding Analysis*
- *Conducted Emergency Services meeting (Discussed Truck Lettering Layout)*
- *Responded to numerous emergency calls throughout month*
- *Reviewed final equipment orders for HVFC for approval*
- *Attended the HVFC Stipend crew meeting*
- *Career Staff Employment interviews BAFC*
- *Traveled to Pierce manufacturing to conduct Acceptance inspection on Tower Ladder*

Fire Calls of Interest:

Emergency Response Data for the month as of the date of this report:

<i>BAFC Emergency Medical Calls in BA</i>	<i>8</i>		
<i>BAFC Emergency Medical Calls in LM</i>	<i>107</i>		
<i>BAFC Emergency Medical Calls other</i>	<i>63</i>		
<i>BAFC Monthly total EMS Calls</i>	<i>178</i>		
<i>Year to date EMS Calls</i>	<i>1312</i>		
<i>BAFC Fire Calls in BA</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>HVFC Fire Calls in LM</i>	<i>35</i>
<i>BAFC Fire Calls IN LM</i>	<i>32</i>	<i>HVFC Fire Calls in BA</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>BAFC Fire Calls Other</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>HVFC Fire Calls Other</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>BAFC Monthly Fire Calls</i>	<i>38</i>	<i>HVFC Monthly Fire Calls</i>	<i>42</i>
<i>Year to Date Fire Calls</i>	<i>276</i>	<i>Year to Date Fire Calls</i>	<i>284</i>

Emergency Services Analysis

Chief Showmaker presented an Emergency Services Analysis to Borough Council outlining the history of various studies completed from 2008 to 2024 which have all pointed to a recommended merger of Bryn Athyn Fire Company and Huntingdon Valley Fire Company. Neither fire company at present meets the NFPA 1720 benchmark of 9 minutes response time, with 4 firefighting personnel for 90% of the time. BAFC Ambulance does meet the NFPA 1720 standard as well as USDOT standards all the time.

Chief Showmaker's recommendations are to consolidate Bryn Athyn and Huntingdon Valley operations effective January 1, 2025 under Station 19. Chief Showmaker also recommends:

- Add one person per each of 4 shifts at a cost of \$400,000
- Conduct joint training
- Standardize SOP
- Standardize purchases of equipment
- Reduce fleet of apparatus
- Enhance recruitment efforts both volunteer and paid
- Standardize reporting software
- End all duplication

The long-term recommendation for staffing is career staff augmented by volunteers. The full staffing buildout will be 5 firefighters and the EMS staff. Huntingdon Valley fire house must be replaced. Lower Moreland Township will engage a consultant and architect in 2025.

The projected budget for a career department is \$5,000,000 per year; it currently costs \$2,300,000. The projected cost for a new fire house is \$15,000,000 - \$20,000,000 which would result in annual debt service of \$1,500,000. The apparatus capital plan would cost \$300,000 to \$500,000 per year.

Councilman Huntzinger asked if we still have volunteers and will be able to retain them. Chief Showmaker replied that it is now more difficult to recruit volunteers, particularly since volunteers are required to have 180 hours of training.

Chief Showmaker explained that we do not have many alternatives; the current model will not meet the Borough's responsibility. President Elsing thanked Chief Showmaker for his presentation, noting that Council has a lot to think about.

MAYOR'S REPORT - None

SOLICITOR'S REPORT - None

BOROUGH MANAGER’S REPORT

2025 Minimum Municipal Obligation

The 2025 Minimum Municipal Obligation for the Police Pension Fund is \$0.

2024 Budget Requests

Department Heads should submit their 2025 budget requests to Vikki Trost by Tuesday, September 17 at noon.

Montgomery County Boroughs Associations

The next MCBA meeting will be held on Thursday, September 26 at the Tap Room in King of Prussia. The guest speaker will be Judy Trombetta, Montgomery County Intergovernmental Affairs Manager.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Offer of Employment to Full-Time Police Officer

Chairman Jeff Elsing reported that last month Borough Council approved the hiring of a fifth full-time officer. Mr. Elsing noted that the Borough will spend less money by hiring a 5th Full-Time Police Officer.

On a motion by Ric Asplundh, seconded by Duane Hyatt, Council voted unanimously in favor to make a conditional offer of employment to the top candidate on the current Civil Service List, Mr. Mitchell Meed.

Mr. Elsing noted that the current Civil Service List needs to be replaced as the other candidate on the list has withdrawn.

On a motion by Ric Asplundh, seconded by Glenn Gurney, Council voted unanimously in favor to request that the Civil Service Commission create a new Civil Service Candidate List.

Mr. Elsing thanked Reed Asplundh for his help with the Civil Service Commission administration over the years. Mr. Elsing explained the process for creating a civil service candidate list, noting that the Borough is required to always have an up to date list.

Bryn Athyn/Lower Moreland Emergency Services Committee

Mr. Elsing reported that the Committee has been discussing budgeting and will continue the discussion on the percentage split for costs for joint services. Mr. Elsing and Mrs. Trost will put together a budget with the assistance of the Bryn Athyn Fire Company.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEETomlinson Road Sidewalk Project

Chairman Mark Pennink reported that the Committee met twice last month to review the issues that were discovered as a result of the Tomlinson Road survey. These issues have not been resolved and Borough Council must decide to award the bid or reject all bids. If rejected, Mr. Pennink would like to put the project out to bid as soon as possible.

On a motion by Mark Pennink, seconded by Jeffrey Elsing, Council voted unanimously in favor to reject all bids due to unforeseen site conditions which require further engineering analysis and adjustments which may impact the scope and timing of the work. The project will be rebid upon completion of the additional analysis and adjustments.

Mr. Pennink reported that the Committee will meet on Thursday, September 12 to discuss changes to the Tomlinson Road Sidewalk plan. Mr. Gurney noted that it appears that all utility poles need to be relocated in addition to the pole that the new Bryn Athyn Church Elementary School will tie into. Mr. Pennink added that a slight re-design which slightly moves the road will make the plan work, noting that there was never a plan to move utility poles. The Tomlinson Road cartway is currently 21.5 feet wide; Mr. Pennink is hoping to widen to 24 feet wide. Chairman Pennink confirmed that safety is foremost. Mr. Pennink and Mr. Cranch were thanked for having the right-of-way along Tomlinson Road cleared out last week. Mr. Elsing noted that law enforcement is being stepped up along Tomlinson Road.

Public Works

Mr. Pennink reported that road lines are being painted on Borough roads; millings will be spread along Paper Mill Road. Speed humps on Alnwick Road and South Avenue will be reassessed when the Fetters Mill Bridge reopens.

School Crossing

Resident Ali Durand commented that an unsafe condition is occurring at the Bryn Athyn Church School parking lot after children are dropped off. This has been brought to the attention of the school principal, Kiri Rogers. Chief Odhner will meet with Principal Rogers.

Alden Road

Chairman Pennink reported that bids were solicited for this project two years ago with no significant improvements to the road other than asphalt and driveways. Those bids were rejected for several reasons foremost the Aqua PA water main replacement. Mr. Pennink would like to have the bid package active on PennBid by October 18. Mandatory Pre-Bid meetings and the opening calendar will be completed this week.

Chairman Pennink reported that there will be two options in the Bid Specifications:

Option 1 will restore Alden Road as-is with wider asphalt in the center of the roadway, upgrading of driveway entrances and no drainage improvements.

Option 2 will make Alden Road a more traditional road with a lower crown, curbing, sidewalks, and drainage which will be more expensive and safer.

Mr. Pennink acknowledged that it has taken a long time to get to this point. He hopes to have costs by March 2025 and a new road by the end of that year. Borough Council will decide on which option to accept in February 2025. President Elsing has been working on acquiring grant funding which will be announced by April 2025.

Brian Horner presented the plans to Council outlining both options. Test holes for utilities were done earlier this year. Stormwater inlets are designed every 15 to 18 feet along the south side of Alden Road. Option 2 revealed sidewalks along the entire length of the road, greatly improving safety for pedestrians. The road will continue to support two-way traffic and parking. All utility poles are on the south side of the road and will not impact the project. Retaining walls will be needed on some properties. Driveway access will be improved. There is currently no parking permitted on the south side of the road. Mr. Pennink noted that backflow preventers will be installed for properties with sump pumps.

It was noted that since the grant funding is based on Option 2, the allocation may be a lot less if Borough Council selects Option 1. Mr. Pennink added that there are reserve funds available to fund part of the project.

Resident Braden Bostock asked if the Borough would borrow funds in addition to the grant funding. Mr. Hyatt responded that the Borough does have enough borrowing capacity, along with cash reserves. The plan is to pay half with reserves and borrow whatever is needed. There is time to set up a bond issue for the project. Mr. Bostock noted that Borough residents have a low tax burden and that it may be necessary to increase Borough taxes to pay for the project. Mr. Hyatt noted that Borough Council anticipated having additional funds after the Sewer bonds were paid off, but it is now part of the budget, adding that a tax increase is inevitable. Mr. Bostock said that he appreciates Borough Council's managing of funds.

Chairman Pennink referred to the 2022 resident surveys noting that the survey was written with few options, but it is time to move forward. Doing nothing is not an option.

Resident Nina Finkeldey commented that Alden Road is a high-density area noting that parking is a problem, that people now have more cars and the Pennypack Trail users park along Alden Road and South Avenue. Ms. Finkeldey asked if parking could be restricted to residents only.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Chairman Duane Hyatt reported that the Finance Committee met in August; the Committee meets the third Tuesday every month. The Committee discussed financing the Alden Road project, noting that the Borough has a borrowing capacity of \$5million to \$7million.

2025 Budget

Mr. Hyatt announced the members of the 2025 Budget Committee: Duane Hyatt, Jeff Elsing, Glenn Gurney, and Vikki Trost. There is still a vacancy on the committee.

One year remains on the joint trash contract with Lower Moreland Township. The Committee will be discussing trash options.

Chairman Hyatt reported that fireworks donations were short this year, however, there were donated funds leftover from previous years which have been transferred to the Special Events Reserve fund.

Mr. Hyatt reported that the Minimum Municipal Obligation for the Police Pension Fund is zero dollars again this year. The Fund's investments are doing very well. Borough Council will continue to budget funds for the plan every year to avoid underfunding the Pension Plan.

LAND USE AND NATURAL RESOURCES/ SHADE TREE COMMITTEE - None

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE - None

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE - None

PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT - None

ZONING OFFICER

Vikki Trost reported that there were no (0) Zoning Permit applications approved in August. Seven (7) Building Permits were issued. No (0) Grading Permits were issued.

SEWER ADMINISTRATOR

Chairman Glenn Gurney reported that the generator bid project is active on PennBid. There is a mandatory pre-bid meeting scheduled for September 16. The bids will be opened on October 7. Keystone Engineering will supervise the project.

Mr. Gurney reported that a contract has been signed with PECO for a new natural gas line to power the new generator at the sewage treatment plant.

Mr. Gurney reported that Engineer Bill Brown will conduct a billing cost analysis to review our billing calculations

Chairman Gurney stated that sump pumps or condensate drains should not go into sewer lines. The Sewer Committee will meet during September.

BOROUGH ENGINEER - None

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Schauder noted that a letter was received from resident Dick Synnestvedt which will be reviewed by members of Council.

Lach Brown reported that a tree contractor is preparing to take down trees for the Fetters Mill Bridge Project. Bids for the bridge project will go live on PennBid tomorrow for a December bid opening.

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

Resident Nina Finkeldey suggested that blinkers be posted at the bridge.

Resident Ali Durand reported that cars are not slowing down on Huntingdon Pike at the school crossing, suggesting a blinking light at the crosswalk. Mr. Elsing noted that Huntingdon Pike is a state road and that this has been requested several times. PennDOT

has suggested that the crossers use the Alwick Road crossing at the traffic signal. Mr. Elsing will work with Chief Odhner on the problem.

ADJOURN

There being no further business presented, the meeting was adjourned at 9:24 pm.

Council's next regular meeting will be held on Monday, October 7, 2024 at 7:00pm in the Borough Hall.

Victoria S. Trost
Secretary