

REGULAR MEETING

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MALVERN BOROUGH
1 East First Avenue
Malvern, PA 19355

April 18, 2023
7:30 PM

PRESIDING: Amy Finkbiner, Ph.D., President

INVOCATION: Zeyn B. Uzman, Mayor

1. ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Council President Finkbiner
Council Vice-President Bones
Council Member Laney
Council Member Niemiec
Council Member Phillips
Council Member Riccetti
Zeyn B. Uzman, Mayor

ABSENT:

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Council President Finkbiner asked in accordance with Resolution No. 840 if any member of the audience was recording the meeting. Mr. Danny Fruchter and Mr. Hugo Schmitt recorded the meeting.

Council President Finkbiner requested as a courtesy, if you are participating via ZOOM, please turn on your camera while speaking.

Council President Finkbiner announced that Borough Council met in executive session on April 18, 2023 prior to this evening's meeting discuss matters related to collective bargaining, personnel and legal matters of the Borough..

Council President Finkbiner announced that the Parks & Recreation Committee had a wonderful successful Egg Hunt Event on Saturday, April 8, 2023.

Council President Finkbiner announced Public Works has been working hard around town. They recently painted the Rubino Park Pavilion. Please make sure to thank them for all that they do for Malvern Borough.

Mayor Uzman announced that the he and Council Members Laney and Frederick, including Mr. Hugo Schmitt, welcomed the First Baptist Church merging their congregation with Valley Creek Church on Sunday, April 16, 2023.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Council Vice President Bones, seconded by Council Member Niemiec, carried by a vote of 7-0, to approve the agenda for the April 18, 2023 meeting as presented.

4. MINUTES & REPORTS

a. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Council Member Laney, seconded by Council Member Riccetti, and carried by a vote of 7-0, to approve the minutes from the Tuesday, April 4, 2023 regular meeting of Borough Council as presented.

b. APPROVAL OF REPORTS

A motion was made by Council Vice President Bones, seconded by Council Member Phillips, and carried by a vote of 7-0, to approve the Treasurer's Report, the Sub-Committee Reports for Finance and Administration, Public Safety, Public Works, the Chief of Police Report, the Code Enforcement Department Reports, the Superintendent of Public Works Report, the Assistant Manager's Report, and the Manager's Report for the month of March 2023, as submitted.

c. BOROUGH COUNCIL SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Finance & Administration Sub-Committee met on April 12, 2023 and discussed the following:

- Body and Car Cameras for the MBPD
- Main Street Revitalization Initiative
- Rate of Return Opportunities regarding Borough Funds

The Public Works Sub-Committee met on April 11, 2023 and discussed the following:

- Road Paving Program
- Old Lincoln Highway Infrastructure Improvement Project
- Jennings Lane Bid
- North Warren Avenue Streambank Stabilization Project
- Malvern Prep Trail
- Randolph Woods Nature Preserve Project – Phases I, IA, and 2
- EV Charging Station Grant Opportunity through PennDot
- Everett's Alley

The Public Safety Sub-Committee has not met since the last Borough Council meeting and is scheduled to meet on May 1, 2023.

5. SPECIAL BUSINESS

a. MALVERN BOROUGH POLICE DEPARTMENT CAPITAL RESERVE BUDGET AMENDMENT FOR BODY AND POLICE CAR CAMERAS - HEARING

Council President Finkbiner explained in accordance with the Malvern Borough Home Rule Charter, Borough Council will conduct a public hearing this evening to consider adoption of the proposed Capital Reserve Budget Amendment regarding the purchase of body and police car cameras for the Malvern Borough Police Department.

Mayor Uzman gave a presentation and breakdown of the costs regarding this purchase. The presentation has been posted on the Borough website.

Assistant Manager Badman explained how grants may be obtained to support this initiative on an annual basis.

The Borough Council inquired if the Police Department's policies required body and dashboard cameras.

Mayor Uzman and Assistant Manager Badman explained that this is a policy requirement and other municipalities are experiencing the same issues in having to purchase new equipment with a secure provider.

Borough Solicitor Yaw explained that there is no bidding requirement due to this purchase being completed through CO-STARS.

Mayor Uzman explained it would take six (6) to (8) eight weeks to install the dash cameras.

Mr. John Buckley commented on the number of police vehicles currently in use by the Police Department and inquired what will happen to the existing technology.

Mayor Uzman explained he is looking into if the existing technology can be sold.

Mr. Dave Knies, Ph.D. inquired if this is the same manufacture as now and is the Borough has a current service contract.

Mayor Uzman explained there is not a current service contract and this is not the same manufacture.

Mr. Danny Fruchter commented on the police budget.

A motion was made by Council Member Laney, seconded by Council Member Niemiec, and carried by a vote of 7-0, to adopt the proposed Capital Reserve Budget Amendment not to exceed fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) in additional funds to purchase the equipment as presented.

b. MALVERN HISTORICAL COMMISSION APPOINTMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Council President Finkbiner explained that the Malvern Historical Commission met on April 11, 2023 and recommended:

- Hugo Schmitt be re-appointed to a five (5) year term, motioned by Lynne Frederick, seconded by Barbara Rutz, passed 5-0 unanimously.
- Barbara Rutz be re-appointed to a five (5) year term, motioned by Lynne Frederick, seconded by Cathy Raymond, passed 5-0 unanimously.

Borough Council is in support of these re-appointments to the Malvern Historical Commission.

A motion was made by Council Vice President Bones, seconded by Council Member Riccetti, and carried by a vote of 7-0, to reappoint Mr. Hugo Schmitt and Mrs. Barbara Rutz to the Malvern Historical Commission for a (five) 5 year term to expire on January 1, 2028.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. ZONING HEARING BOARD

Council President Finkbiner explained that there are no new Zoning Hearing Board applications before the Zoning Hearing Board.

7. NEW BUSINESS

a. MAIN STREET REVITALIZATION INITIATIVE

Council Member Frederick gave a presentation on the Main Street Revitalization Initiative based on research that was performed with the Borough Management Team. The presentation is posted on the Borough website.

Borough Council discussed that the main street manager/ executive director not be a Borough Employee.

Assistant Manager Badman explained the grant process for a Main Street Manager.

Mr. Bill Arrowood with the PA Downtown Center explained the BID process and overall processes that communities have enacted to create a successful downtown.

Mr. Mark Evans with Durkin Edison recommended that a committee and/or committees be formed to further advise on this process.

Ms. Christy Campli inquired as to the timeline and hiring process, as well as who would appoint the management position.

Borough Council explained that initially they would have a decision in this matter and the American Rescue Planning Act funds are required to be spent by December 31, 2024.

Mr. Gary Kochanski commented on new signage, cross walk lights be in working order, infrastructure improvement upgrades to Main Street, and a survey being conducted as to what the Community needs regarding responding to this process.

Council Member Frederick explained that process of the Malvern Business Professional Association and Malvern business requesting that a management system be implemented to support business on King Street and in Malvern Borough.

Mr. Eli Kahn commented on eliminating parking requirements on King Street and restricting first floor office space to the second floor

Ms. Barbara Casey supports first floor office space being restricted and expressed the need for a full time person for this position.

Mr. John Buckley commented on the Holiday Lights and requested a better solution for next year.

Ms. Cathy Raymond suggested to continue research this matter and hiring a strategic planner.

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Mr. Ryan Miller commented on creating a Borough Committee to address this matter and starting off with a part-time executive director.

Mr. David Campli commented on the structure of the management process being proposed and is in support of a Main Street Manager.

Mrs. Sid Baglini commented that parking meters discourage shopping and restaurant activity.

Mr. Danny Fruchter commented on the 2022 Comprehensive Plan update and that the Borough needs to implement a vision to figure out who we are. He then suggested hiring a consultant.

Mr. Eric Rea commented on creating an Economic Development Committee and offered to be on the Committee.

Borough Council discussed the timeline to get something of this nature off the ground and directed the Borough Solicitor to create a Resolution for a five (5) person Steering Committee to make recommendations to Borough Council by early September of this year. The resolution will be prepared for approval at the Tuesday, May 2, 2023 Borough Council meeting.

Borough Council further discussed that anyone may apply to be appointed to the Steering Committee and that there is not a resident requirement. Borough Council was in agreement with this approach as well as the Community in attendance

8. PUBLIC FORUM

Mr. John Buckley commented on road condition of Everett's Alley, the Malvern Prep Trail, and road projects through the Borough.

Ms. Barbara Casey commented on obtaining more art themed venues permanently for Malvern Borough, including music venues.

Council Member Riccetti explained that PorchFest is held annually and Council Member Frederick explained there is a jam band that plays in town on Tuesday nights.

Ms. Cynthia Ercole commented on Malvern Borough's strong sense of community.

Mrs. Jennifer Chomko complimented the Police Department on catching vandals in the Community and Borough Council Members conduct in previous meetings.

9. ADJOURNMENT

All business having been discussed, a motion was made by Council Vice President Bones, seconded by Council Member Phillips, and carried by a vote of 7-0, to adjourn the meeting at 10:07PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Tiffany M. Loomis Borough
Manager/Secretary