

**Red Lion Borough Council
Meeting Minutes
Monday, November 14th, 2022**

Members present

Amy Lau
Cindy Barley
Tina Frutiger
Muriel Slenker
Chris Minnich
Dennis Klinedinst
Tony Musso

Others present

Dianne Price, Borough Manager
Dan Shaw, Codes/Zoning
Jeff Shue, Engineer
Mike Craley, Solicitor
Samantha Craley, Solicitor
Mayor Gene Lau
Stacy Myers, Recording Sec'y

Visitors

Bob Frutiger
Shaunta Phillips
Bradley Ream
Trooper Marquis, PSP

John Brownlee
Michelle Sherman
John Krantz

Pastor Kathy Kuehl
Scott Gingrich
Ashley Ziegler

1. The meeting was called to order @ 6:55p.m. Pastor Kathy Kuehl offered a prayer, followed by the pledge to the flag.
2. **Approval of Meeting Minutes**
 - Mrs. Frutiger made a motion to approve the October 3rd, 2022 Work Session Minutes; Mr. Minnich seconded. All were in favor; motion carried.
 - Mrs. Frutiger made a motion to approve the October 10th, 2022 Meeting Minutes; Mrs. Slenker seconded. All were in favor; motion carried.
3. **Visitors & Public Comment**— the following were present to address Council:
 - **PSP Trooper Marquis** gave Council an update on incidents in the Borough from August 1st to present. There were 1,069 calls that ranged from domestic calls to traffic incidents. A few years ago, Borough Council was told that a State Trooper was always nearby (in one of the quadrants), if needed for a call. Mrs. Barley asked if that's still the case. Trooper Marquis said it depends on the day, the shift, or the hour. Typically, there are 6 troopers + a corporal on duty at any given time; however, they cover the interstate, northern Pennsylvania, Delta, or another service area, so they're all over. There was a recent traffic incident in which there was a long response time for PSP's arrival. The troopers are coming out of Jacobus, so their response time depends on where they are at the time.
Trooper Marquis stated criminal activity of all types is on the rise. Recently, there were 3 overdoses at one location, but PSP is busy with all types of calls. Homeless are showing up in Red Lion Borough with some setting up shelters/structures in certain areas. Trooper Marquis said they can push them along because it's up to Council to create Ordinances, which PSP can't/won't enforce. Mrs. Price said the zoning violation for a shelter/structure can be imposed upon the property owner.
Resident Ashley Ziegler asked if PSP is having any problems with the Youth Center (18 N. Main). Trooper Marquis was unsure how many calls PSP had from there in the past year, but to his knowledge, there have been more criminal incidents at Fairmount Park than the Youth Center.
Resident Shaunta Phillips recently had her vehicle broken into in front of her West Broadway residence. Trooper Marquis said there's a whole investigation being conducted regarding recent vehicle break-ins & thefts. He said the best defense is to keep your vehicle locked; most vandals just walk past to see if the cars are locked, resulting in theft of whatever is inside.

- **Ashley Ziegler, 105 W. Broadway** was present to discuss the Youth Center, 18 N. Main Street. She is interested in starting a petition to have it closed. Recently, two youth rolled tires in front of her in-laws' vehicle that was traveling in the alley. She has witnessed youths outside of the center smoking pot & taking part in lewd behavior. She doesn't see any control of this behavior being enforced. In the warm summer months, it was worse because a lot of the youth hung outside near the sidewalk. She & her family were harassed, so she no longer walks past the center.

Council President Musso disagreed, stating if the youth aren't at the center, they would most likely be in the park or somewhere else in town causing trouble. Most of those attending the Center don't have safe home environments; that's why they go there. He believes 95-98% of the youth going there do behave. They are required to sign in when they arrive & sign out when they leave. Once signed out, the Youth Center Director can't control what they do.

The Center is understaffed & looking for adult volunteers to supervise.

Mrs. Lau said Chris, the Center's Director seemed very open to suggestions & help when he attended a recent Council meeting. She also has had run-ins with some of the youth, but she doesn't hold it against the whole Center, nor the Director. She feels the more the youths see adults around, the less likely they are to act out. Mayor Lau believes Chris & his wife are doing a good job operating the Center. The behavior outside cannot be controlled by them. Once her health improves, Ashley said she would be willing to volunteer at the Center, and Mrs. Slenker will give Ashley's contact information to Chris for discussion of her complaint. In the meantime, Mr. Craley suggested Ashley keep a log of incidents & occurrences (dates/times), if action needs to be taken or charges need to be filed.

- **Shaunta Phillips, 633 W. Broadway** was present to discuss her handicapped parking space request which was recently denied because there is already one in her block. This is Council's rule, one for every 25 parking spaces. If she parks in the rear of her residence, Ms. Phillips cannot navigate the steps as she is on oxygen (due to lung damage/Covid), in addition to going through breast cancer treatments. Mr. Klinedinst said she is on the list, should the resident who currently applied for the handicapped space in her block ever moves or no longer needs it. Council said, when the handicapped spaces are installed, anyone with a handicapped placard (or license plate) can use the space. They don't belong solely to the person who applied for it; however, Ms. Phillips said her neighbor told her differently and got irate when she parked there. The reminder of the fact that "no one owns the space" should be stressed when people apply for the permits, as well as being placed in the Borough newsletter.

After some more ideas & suggestions, Mr. Musso relinquished the Chair to Mrs. Barley, after which he made a motion to approve a handicapped parking space be installed at 633 W.

Broadway due to the special exception of Covid complications & ongoing cancer treatments.

Mrs. Slenker seconded. All were in favor; motion carried.

At this time, Mrs. Barley gave the Chair back to Mr. Musso.

- **Michelle Sherman, 116 W. Lancaster Street** was present to discuss her handicapped parking space request which was recently denied because there is already one in her block. She suffers from Parkinson's disease, recently had a knee replacement, and needs the other knee replaced as well, so she's unable to walk long distances. There are technically two parking spaces out back, but her mother parks in one and her neighbor parks in the other. The tenants of the apartment building also use available spaces on Lancaster Street, The other handicapped parking space is on the same side of the street as Ms. Sherman's residence but it's at the bottom of the hill, which is hard for her to navigate, should she park there. The other resident who uses the existing handicapped space also has a garage at her residence. Being that this is a special circumstance too, Mrs. Barley made a motion to grant a handicapped space on the other side of Lancaster Street from 116 W. Lancaster (north side); Mr. Musso seconded. All were in favor; motion carried.

4. **Mayor Lau's Remarks & Recommendations**—Mayor Lau would like to suspend the parking meters from November 24th, 2022 through January 2nd, 2023.
5. **Public Safety**—Mrs. Slenker stated the EMA, Ambulance & Fire Company Reports have been distributed.
 - **Fire Company**—Chief Gingrich reported:
 - o The recent fundraiser (drag show) went well, although Alliance received a lot of complaints about it. It was the 3rd such event that Alliance held, but there were a lot more protests & complaints this time.
 - o Responded to a major fire call on Linden Avenue in which ½ of the house was a complete loss. The other ½ of the house was saved which Chief credits to two trucks responding to the call within a 3-minute period. The fire is being investigated.
 - o New members are joining each month. He's hoping to spark the interest of some more young adults to volunteer.
 - **Ambulance**— Brad Ream, Director of the Red Lion Area Ambulance Association was present & reported:
 - o They had experienced some staffing difficulties in their staff of 7 people. One of them was going through the Sheriff's Academy, one was going through the Fire Academy, one was going through a Leadership Academy, but he said they have gained two new volunteers, in addition to hiring four part-time employees. The Ambulance Association serves 7 municipalities & is quite busy.
 - o Staff plans on being back in full operation within a week, and plan to staff a "peak truck" (a 2nd unit available during daytime hours)
 - o Brad is currently working on grant funding
6. **Solicitor's Report**—Mike Craley reported:
 - Ordinance 13-101— to amend this Ordinance to include " the insertion or use of any device or form of profit including, but not limited to"; this will cover all forms of amusement devices, Mr. Craley explained.
Mrs. Barley made a motion to authorize advertising this amendment to the Ordinance; Mr. Minnich seconded. All were in favor; motion carried.
 - Ordinance Chapter 15-909— to amend this Ordinance to allow a 4-way stop at Linden & Boundary Avenues. A traffic study has been completed & a copy will be on file with the amended Ordinance.
Mrs. Barley made a motion to authorize advertising this amendment to the Ordinance; Mrs. Frutiger seconded. All were in favor; motion carried.
Mr. Klinedinst suggested putting the portable flashing speed sign in the area to get people to, hopefully slow down as they approach the 4-way stop. Brett Patterson said, this was considered, but they didn't want to take up a parking space with the sign. He said the new Stop signs will have flashing lights on the top to get the attention of motorists.
7. **Engineer's Report**— Jeff Shue had nothing new to report since last week's Work Session. He said he's waiting for the 2023 Street Project List to pull bids together. Streets & Roads need to discuss & visit Chestnut Street in regard to proposed sidewalk/street work. They agreed to meet Friday, November 18th @ 8:30am.
8. **Parks & Recreation**— Mrs. Lau reported:
 - Halloween Parade went well, despite two judges not showing up.
 - Holiday Decorating Contest—December 12th @ 6pm. Registration closes on December 2nd
 - November 26th—Tree lighting in Fairmount Park, 7pm.
 - December 3rd—Breakfast with Santa from 8:30-10:30am at the Community Building. Letters to Santa can be dropped off during this time.

- Santa's Shanty will be in the Municipal Parking Lot (33 W. Broadway)— December 9th, 10th, 16th & 17th from 6-8pm. Letters to Santa can be dropped off during these times. All letters will be answered.
 - November 29th— Park & Recreation meeting
9. **Municipal Services**—Mr. Minnich reported:
 - Camp Street Water Main Replacement Project is now complete
 - November 15th—RLMA Meeting, 2023 Budget to be discussed.
 - Lead sampling was completed recently.
 - Skip Missimer is resigning from the Municipal Authority as of 12/31/2022, so a replacement will need to be found.
 10. **Public Works**—Mr. Klinedinst reported:
 - JVI final invoice payment approval for the Rt. 74 widening project— Mr. Klinedinst made a motion to approve the payment in the amount of \$165,658.34; Mr. Minnich seconded. All were in favor; motion carried.
 11. **Planning, Zoning & Economic Development**—Mrs. Barley & Dan Shaw reported:
 - No Planning Commission meeting this month
 - No Zoning Hearing this month
 - Economic Development Meeting to be held, Tues, November 29 @ 7pm
 12. **Administration**—Mrs. Frutiger & Mrs. Price reported:
 - 2023 Budget advertisement— Mrs. Frutiger made a motion to advertise the budget; Mrs. Barley seconded. All were in favor; motion carried.
Of note, Mrs. Price will have the Park & Recreation Budget available to Council next week. Since the tax milage rate for 2023 is not increasing, Mr. Craley will prepare a Tax Resolution for the December Council meeting.
 - Donation of \$2,000 to 18 South Youth Center— Mr. Klinedinst made a motion to approve the \$2,000 donation; Mrs. Barley seconded. Motion carried with Mr. Musso abstaining because he owns the building, and the Youth Center is his tenant.
 13. **Communication**—nothing further
 14. **Approval of bills**—Mrs. Frutiger made a motion to approve the bills; Mrs. Barley seconded. All were in favor; motion carried.
 15. **Council recessed to Executive Session @ 8:14p.m.** to discuss litigation involving Arthurlee & personnel matters.
 16. **Council reconvened @ 8:44p.m.** Mrs. Barley made a motion to authorize the Borough Manager to request a fee agreement from Attorney Eric Brown from Siana Law offices and to pursue mediation on the Arthuelee case. Mrs. Slenker seconded. All were in favor; motion carried.
 17. **Adjournment**—Council adjourned @ 8:45p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Stacy Myers, Recording Secretary