

**MINUTES OF PERKASIE BOROUGH
COUNCIL MEETING
NOVEMBER 21, 2022**

620 West Chestnut Street
Perkasie, Pennsylvania

ATTENDANCE:

Council Member:	Scott Bomboy Chuck Brooks Aaron Clark (Absent) Randy Faulkner Jim Purcell Steve Rose Jim Ryder Dave Weaver Dave Worthington Robin Reid (Absent)
Youth Councilor:	Andrea L. Coaxum
Borough Manager:	Rebecca Deemer
Finance Director:	Jeff Garton, Esq.
Borough Solicitor:	Jeff Hollenbach
Mayor:	Lauren Moll
Parks and Recreation Director:	Linda Reid (Absent)
Community Development Manager:	Doug Rossino
Borough Engineer:	Robert Schurr
Police Chief:	Harold Stone (Absent)
Electric Superintendent:	Jeff Tulone
Public Works Director:	

Borough Council President Jim Ryder convened the meeting at 7:00 PM. Mayor Hollenbach gave an invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC FORUM

Resident Jane Holland from 516 Hillcrest Drive stood and asked Council for clarification on what the proposed well ordinances mean, what they entail, and what goal the Borough is trying to achieve with implementing one of the ordinances. The Borough Solicitor provided an explanation of both ordinances and Council President Ryder stated that there will be a presentation by Penn E&R, a local environmental company, later in the meeting that will further explain things. He added that the Borough is trying to keep private wells from being contaminated and, by implementing one of these ordinances, if a resident's well would fail, the ordinance will require them to connect to public water. Ms. Holland asked if there is water available in the street if her well would run dry, would she have to pay to connect, and how much it would cost. The Borough Manager stated that the Borough has spoken to Perkasie Regional Authority (PRA) and they do have the ability to serve all of the residents in the Borough, adding that there are about a half a dozen houses where it would be a bit more difficult to connect, but she can find out what the tapping fee would be for those houses to connect to public water.

PRESENTATION OF MENLO AQUATIC CENTER COMMENDATIONS

Mayor Hollenbach presented five commendations to the following pool staff members and off-duty emergency responders in recognition of their courage and life-saving actions they demonstrated during an emergency event that occurred this July at Menlo Aquatic Center: Aidan McGinnis, Brett Musselman, David Yu, Perkasio Firefighter James Wielgus and Officer Brian Maloney from Doylestown Township. Mayor Hollenbach also recognized the wife and son of the gentleman whose life was saved, who were in the audience that evening.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Council President Ryder thanked the commendation recipients for their efforts, adding that these are people who make communities great.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon a motion by Faulkner, seconded by Purcell, Council unanimously approved the Special Finance Committee meeting minutes from October 12, 2022 and October 24, 2022. Upon a motion by Purcell, seconded by Faulkner, Council unanimously approved the Council meeting minutes from October 17, 2022. Upon a motion by Faulkner, seconded by Rose, Council unanimously approved the Council Committee meeting minutes from November 7, 2022.

CORRESPONDENCE AND REPORTS

Mayor's Report

Mayor Hollenbach thanked Council, the Administration and the Police & Fire Departments for everything that they do and wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Taxes Collected

Upon a motion by Rose, seconded by Faulkner, Council unanimously accepted the report of taxes collected for October, 2022.

Budget Status

Upon a motion by Purcell, seconded by Faulkner, Council unanimously accepted the budget status report for October, 2022.

Engineer's Report

Upon a motion by Purcell, seconded by Rose, Council unanimously accepted the Engineer's monthly report for the month of October, 2022.

Planning Commission Report

Council reviewed the approved meeting minutes from the September 28th Planning Commission meeting.

Zoning Hearing Board Report

Council reviewed approved meeting minutes from the September 26th Zoning Hearing Board

meeting and the Zoning Hearing Board decision pertaining to the Lenape Park electronic sign.

Police Report

Upon a motion by Purcell, seconded by Faulkner, Council unanimously accepted the Police Department report for October, 2022.

Fire Department Report

The Fire Department reports were received for the month of October, 2022.

NEW BUSINESS:

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Review of Superintendent's Report

The Committee reviewed and accepted the Public Works Superintendent's report for October, 2022. There was a brief report from the Public Works Director on leaf collection and the upcoming changes to the Recycling Center. He is currently working with the Community Development Manager on an education program about these changes. Councilman Rose thanked the Public Works crew for the great job they've been doing on leaf collection.

Consider Resolution #2022-57 – Request for Handicap Parking Space – 311 W. Walnut Street

Upon a motion by Faulkner, seconded by Rose, Council unanimously approved Resolution #2022-57, a resolution of the Borough of Perkasié for the creation of a parking space reserved for a handicapped person or disabled veteran in front of 311 West Walnut Street.

Consider Hiring a Permanent Part-Time Laborer

Upon a motion by Rose, seconded by Purcell, Council unanimously approved the hiring of Brendon Hughes as a permanent part-time Laborer at an hourly rate of \$17.82, conditioned upon the passing of his background checks, pre-employment physical, pre-employment drug test and reference checks.

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMITTEE

Review of Superintendent's Report

The Committee reviewed and accepted the Electric Superintendent's report for October, 2022.

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMITTEE

Code Enforcement Officer Report

The Committee reviewed and accepted the Code Enforcement Officer's monthly report for October, 2022.

Consider Ordinance for Well Restrictions

The Borough Manager gave an overview of the ordinances being considered and what led the Borough to move forward with implementing one of these them. Bill Ponticello from Penn E&R and Darryl Borrelli, a technical consultant from Manko, Gold, Katcher & Fox, LLP, introduced themselves and briefly provided some background information. Penn E&R got involved when the land development project for Delbar came to the Borough for approval. Mr. Ponticello explained that, through the course of history and the industrial use by the manufacturing facilities that have been operating in the Borough, multiple sources of contaminants have reached the Borough's groundwater, and adopting one of these ordinances adds a protective measure. He further stated that his opinion is that it would be best to implement the ordinance that would cover the entire Borough.

Councilman Purcell stated that Council is doing this for the health and safety of the residents, and that PRA tests the water system every day. Mr. Ponticello explained that this is not just exclusive to Perkasié Borough, but hundreds of sites in Pennsylvania are going through this as well. Councilman Brooks asked if neighboring municipalities have ordinances in place, and Mr. Ponticello stated that some have stringent restrictions for installing wells. Councilman Worthington asked how much the amount that a well draws affects the water system, and Mr. Ponticello stated that there is a minimal effect, it doesn't have a prolonged effect.

Resident Sally Carr from 502 South 12th Street asked for an explanation of the different areas for each of the proposed ordinances, and for clarification on what is being voted on. She also asked if the Borough would be making the well testing information available. Councilman Worthington clarified that the area highlighted in purple on the map is the most likely impacted area, and Mr. Ponticello listed seven local sites that have significant contamination.

Ms. Holland stated that she would like to find out what contaminants she needs to get tested for, where she can get the testing done, and how the wells are not being affected by the contaminants. Councilman Rose explained that PRA is testing the public water system, not the privately-owned wells. Ms. Holland asked for further clarification on what the water is being tested for, and the Borough Manager stated that she would see what list the Borough can get together.

Ms. Debbie Wurst from 1019 North Ridge Road asked about the water being drawn from the wells owned by PRA; she asked what PRA would do if the water would come up positive for contaminants, and how long it takes to test it. Councilman Rose stated that any contaminated water would be treated and would not go out to the rest of the system, and Councilman Purcell added that the particular well would be shut down if the testing showed contaminants in that well. Ms. Wurst added that her neighbor has been experiencing water pressure issues, and expressed concerns that the system couldn't handle it if all well owners had to hook up, further stating that she wants to be able to drill a new well if her well would fail.

Mr. Charles Rittenhouse from 609 North Ridge Road asked why the Borough is doing something now since they've known about these contaminants since the 1980s, adding that they're developing all of this Borough land, and asking if it's being done right. Mr. Rittenhouse further expressed his concerns about chromium and asked if the contaminants are getting into the water while the construction is going on. Mr. Borrelli explained that the Delbar project is under strict guidance from DEP and that the developer is addressing this as the project goes on.

Ms. Alicia Rebeck from 209 South Ridge Road asked Council to consider grandfathering in residents who currently have wells, adding that she gets her well tested every year; she asked Council to please consider that this could be a huge expense for people.

Ms. Jarrett from 601 North Ridge Road stood and informed Council that their dog passed away from cancer, and had been licking her paws all the time, so she and her husband aren't sure if the airport business park construction would've affected their well water or not.

Ms. Holland asked if the only way to get a site cleaned out is to stir up the soil that we're concerned about. The Borough Manager explained that a new owner does due diligence and a study that can investigate whether there are contaminants on the property or not. Ms. Holland then asked why there is a concern with not putting in basements in new homes. Mr. Borrelli explained how contaminants could get into a living space, but added that homes are protected since clean fill is put on the top of the site.

Mr. Fred Barndt from 321 East Market Street asked how this could affect him, how someone can test their home for contaminants and what are the symptoms of someone who has been affected by the contaminants. Mr. Borrelli stated that a homeowner can test the air quality in their home, and stated that contaminants can cause cancer and affect pregnant women.

Upon a motion by Rose, seconded by Faulkner, this matter was tabled to the December 5th Council meeting to investigate the possibility of grandfathering the current well owners, to investigate the language for a waiver, and also research language stating that, if the current well owner sells the property, the new owner will no longer be grandfathered from the ordinance.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Parks and Recreation Director Report

The Committee reviewed and accepted the Parks and Recreation Director's report for October, 2022.

Consider Event Application from Perkasio Rotary

Upon a motion by Worthington, seconded by Rose, Council approved the Event Application for the Perkasio Rotary to decorate the Twin Bridges for the holidays on Saturday, November 26, 2022 from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm.

PERSONNEL AND POLICY COMMITTEE

There was no business to come before the Personnel & Policy Committee.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Authorization to Pay Bills

Upon a motion by Rose, seconded by Purcell, Council unanimously authorized payment of the bills as presented.

Recommend Preliminary 2023 Budget

Upon a motion by Rose, seconded by Purcell, Council unanimously authorized the advertisement of the preliminary 2023 budget for inspection by the public in accordance with Borough Code requirements, and authorized the staff to take all steps necessary to prepare the budget for

adoption at the December 19th Council meeting.

Consider Resolution #2022-58 – Lease between Perkasio Borough & Edward Jones

Upon a motion by Brooks, seconded by Weaver, Council unanimously approved Resolution #2022-58, a resolution of the Council of the Borough of Perkasio approving the term lease agreement between the Borough of Perkasio and Edward D. Jones & Co., L.P., d/b/a Edward Jones, relating to the premises at 620 W. Chestnut Street, Suite 101, Perkasio, Pennsylvania, and authorizing the President of the Perkasio Borough Council and the Borough Manager to execute the term lease agreement on behalf of Perkasio Borough.

Amend Resolution #2022-45 – Act 57 of 2022

Upon a motion by Purcell, seconded by Rose, Council unanimously approved the amended Resolution #2022-45, pertaining to Act 57 of 2022, which now contains the following language: The tax collector, accepting a waiver and payment in good faith in accordance with the Resolution and Act 57, shall not be personally liable for any amount due or arising from the real estate tax that is subject to waiver.

Consider Resolution #2022-59 – Health Equity Agreement

Upon a motion by Faulkner, seconded by Weaver, Council unanimously approved Resolution #2022-59, a resolution of the Council of the Borough of Perkasio approving the contract, with appropriate schedules, between the Borough of Perkasio and HealthEquity, Inc. for the administration of flexible spending and health reimbursement accounts offered to Perkasio Borough employees, and authorizing the Borough Manager to execute the agreement on behalf of the Borough of Perkasio.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Community and Economic Development Director Report

The Committee reviewed and accepted the Community and Economic Development Director's report dated November 16, 2022.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Rachael Neff and Katie Marseglia from Bucks County Human Services spoke to Council about the Bucks County Co-Responder Program and reviewed the program's main goals. Several municipalities in the lower end of Bucks County are currently receiving the benefits of the program, which assists officers with the burden of social services on emergency calls. A Memo of Understanding (MOU) is currently being circulated to seven municipalities in upper Bucks County for their review and consideration.

Mayor Hollenbach asked where the program representatives would work, and what vehicle they would use. Chief Schurr stated that those details will need to be worked out, and he would like to present the MOU to the Borough Solicitor for review so the program can be implemented in January or February of 2023.

Councilman Weaver asked how the program is funded, and how much it currently costs. It was explained that the first two years are covered by grants, then the municipalities are being asked to

assume the costs for the 3rd year and forward. The current cost of the program is \$95,000, which would be divided equally among the municipalities that participate from the upper Bucks County region.

Councilman Brooks inquired about the liability involved with the program, and Ms. Neff explained that participation in the program will be covered by the County's insurance.

HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

There was no business to come before the Historical Committee.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS

Nothing at this time.

PUBLIC FORUM

Nothing at this time.

PRESS FORUM

Nothing at this time.

REPORT FROM YOUTH COUNCILOR

The youth delegate was absent from the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.



Andrea L. Coaxum
Borough Manager/Secretary