

New Hope Borough

August 18, 2020

Council Meeting

Minutes

Council President Gering called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM held via teleconference.

Present: Council Members, Connie Gering, Dan Dougherty, Tina Rettig, Laurie McHugh, Ken Maisel, Louise Feder, Peter Meyer. Also present were Mayor Keller, Borough Solicitor David Truelove, Chief Cummings, Zoning Officer Tracy Tackett and Borough Manager Peter Gray.

Mayor's Report

Consider proposal from Law Enforcement Accreditation Services for Police Department Accreditation

Mayor Keller announced a proposal for a \$30,000 cost which the money was put aside for years. It will be in 3 - \$10,000 increments. It will take about 12 to 18 months. I am asking Council to consider accepting this proposal and sign on with this so the Chief can get going with this as soon as possible. Ms. Gering can I have a motion to approve the proposal for law enforcement accreditation services? Mr. Truelove Sorry Ms. Gering, was another firm retained earlier for this? Mayor Keller yes. Mr. Truelove we need to make the record clear, a motion to rescind the appointment of the first company. Assuming that is successful, approve the retention of Law Enforcement Accreditation Services for \$30,000 as described by the Mayor. Ms. Gering can we have a motion to rescind the contract with the previous accreditation company? Ms. McHugh I will make that motion. Mr. Dougherty I will second that. Ms. Gering all in favor? ALL aye. Ms. Gering can we have a new motion to approve the proposal for Law Enforcement Accreditation Services in the amount of \$30,000. Mr. Meyer so moved. Ms. Feder I will second. Ms. Gering all in favor? ALL aye. Ms. Gering thank you.

Council President's Report

Consider Bids for the Sale of Borough Surplus Vehicles

Ms. Gering our Public Works has had an accumulation of old police vehicles storing on their premises. There are 6 that were put out to auction, for a total of \$5,205 for all 6 cars. Can I have a motion for the bids to be accepted for the surplus vehicles? Ms. McHugh I will make that motion. Ms. Rettig I will second it. Mr. Dougherty are we sure we want to do this? Ms. Gering all in favor? ALL aye.

Consider Certificates of Appropriateness

1. 28 West Bridge Street

Ms. Gering this is for replacing a patio and new pavers. Can I have a motion for approval. Mr. Maisel I will make that motion. Ms. McHugh I will second that. Ms. Gering any discussion from Council? All in favor? ALL aye Ms. Gering motion passes.

2. 7 East Bridge Street

Ms. Gering this is for exterior painting. Can I have a motion for approval? Mr. Dougherty I will make that motion. Mr. Meyer second. Ms. Gering thank you. Any discussion from Council? All in favor? ALL aye. Ms. Gering thank you motion passes.

3. 115 South Main Street (C-2)

Ms. Gering this installation of a sign and sign post. Can I have a motion for approval? Ms. McHugh I will make that motion. Ms. Rettig I will second it. Ms. Gering any discussion? Mr. Dougherty I just have one question. It wasn't quite clear to me. This is for Tracy, I guess. Maybe for you, there is some discussion about where the sign would hang down. This is the sign that is on the south side of the street, the circular sign. For the sidewalk people, there is a question about how tall and the maximum height. Do we have any confidence this is not going to be any impediment to the pedestrian traffic? Will it be hanging out into the sidewalk? How tall and where will the bottom of it be? I am sure it is fine. I am

just asking those questions. Ms. Tackett as you can see from the photo on the screen there is a landscape bed there. My understanding is it will be contained within there, so it should not conflict. I did notice HARB did recommend adjusting the height by 6 inches. I will double check that to make sure there is no issue. As you can see in the picture, there was a preexisting post that was rotting. They are going to replace that post. As we get close to issuing that permit, I will confirm that is not a problem. Mr. Dougherty so this sign is going to hang perpendicular, sort of like Fran's sign, to the sidewalk, correct? Mr. Maisel that is correct. It is going to be 2 faced, north facing and south facing, but mirrored. Right on top of each other. Ms. Tackett you can see the post there. There is a bit at the top that sticks out towards the sidewalk, so that is where the sign hangs down from. Just on a replaced post. Mr. Dougherty and it is circular, three feet wide and one-foot circle. All of it will exist, if you will, inside that bed. Is that what I am hearing? Ms. Tackett yes and that will be a requirement. If there is less than 3 feet between the post and the edge of that planter, they will have to move it back or reduce the sign slightly. Mr. Dougherty they are allowed to do up to 12 square feet, is that a fair statement? Ms. Tackett yes. Mr. Dougherty it is a little strange with this little strip of stores because they have upper and lower stores and each is 14 feet wide. If everyone wanted to put a 12 foot sign along that strip, it would be quite crazy. 3 foot round circle is not a small sign. We should be aware of that. It is not going to be small and it is going to be hanging from that spot. Ms. Tackett that is a good point. I can reach out to the applicant tomorrow and confirm there is no conflict with that. Mr. Dougherty ok, thank you. Ms. Gering any other questions or discussion from Council? All in Favor ALL aye. Ms. Gering motion passes.

4. 73 West Mechanic Street

Ms. Gering Tracy do you want to bring up for details? This is the small property that they are adding a large addition, that came to Council and got a variance from Zoning. Mr. Dougherty this is the COA for the addition, correct? Ms. Gering this is the HARB approval for the certificated of appropriateness. They already got variances from Zoning. Ms. Tackett If I may just add one note. HARB recommended the parking be gravel. I will double check the ordinance to see if that is permitted. If not, they may have to do pavers or pave it. Mr. Dougherty what I am being told through the permeability issue here in town, if they had said pavers, chances are they would have been told, no you are not allowed to do pavers. Many people have tried to do pavers in town and were told you can't do pavers, you have to do gravel. I don't know if that was right in the past, but that is what they were told. The gravel cannot be the red shale which grinds down to a fine powder and then becomes impermeable. This was in the past. These are things people told. In fact, don't do E.P. Henry type pavers at all. HARB does not like those as they are not natural stone. I am just putting that out there. Ms. Tackett that makes sense. I have not had a chance to see if the gravel is an acceptable option, if it is not, I don't know if Council wants it to come back. I am not sure how you want to handle that. Ms. Gering in my opinion that piece should have been addressed before it came to us, so we don't get put in a bind. Mr. Dougherty I kind of think it is unfair to the applicant, for us to keep peeling away from the onion. HARB says it should be gravel and Council says something else. What does the applicant want? Mr. Gray Carolee Hammond is here. Glenn is here as well and they should have access at this time. Mr. Stephan can you hear me. I am the agent for Carolee. We were considering gravel the entire time. That is what HARB recommended. There was no other discussion. This was our desire to do a gravel parking area. Ms. Gering thank you Glenn. Any questions from Council? All in Favor ALL aye. Ms. Gering opposed? Motion passes. Thank you Glenn.

5. 110 South Main Street

Ms. Gering this is for a certificate of appropriateness for a free standing sign, window sign and exterior paint. Ms. McHugh I have to recuse myself. Ms. Gering yes, thank you Laurie. Ms. Gering can I have a motion for approval? Mr. Dougherty I will make that motion. Ms. Gering second? Mr. Meyer second. Ms. Gering discussion from Council? All in favor? ALL aye Ms. Gering opposed? Motion passes, thank you everybody.

Consider appointment to the Historical Architectural Review Board

Ms. Gering I know Kevin Kester has been interviewed by the HARB board. They have been happy with him. He seems to meet the criteria with the credentials he has. Can I have a motion for approval? Mr. Maisel I will make that motion. Ms. Rettig I second it. Ms. Gering thank you. Any discussion from Council? All in favor? ALL aye.

Consideration to approve the minutes from the July 28, 2020 Council meetings.

Ms. Gering can I have a motion? Ms. McHugh I will make that motion. Ms. Gering second? Mr. Meyer second. Ms. Gering any questions? All in favor? ALL aye.

Approval of Accounts Payables: July accounts payable in the amount of \$ 110,510.94 and July 31, 2020 and August 14, 2020 payrolls in the amounts of \$ 69,342.60, and \$ 68,668.68.

Ms. Gering can I have a motion for approval? Ms. Rettig I will make that motion. Ms. Gering second? Mr. Dougherty I will second it. Ms. Gering thank you. Any questions or discussion? All in favor? ALL aye.

Council Member Reports on Committees

Parks and Recreation Board

Ms. Gering Parks and Rec, do you have a report? Ms. Feder we have been meeting Monday mornings to do some weeding in the parks in town. This includes the Lenape Park and the Cannon, in town. If anyone wants to help it is on Monday mornings at 8:30. Ms. Gering thank you Louise.

Shade Tree Commission

Ms. Gering, Shade Tree? Ms. McHugh, I have nothing to report but we do have a meeting tomorrow night. Ms. Gering thank you.

Finance Committee

Ms. Gering, Dan, Finance Committee? Mr. Dougherty no report.

HARB

Ms. Gering, Ken do you have a HARB report? Mr. Maisel, no report tonight.

Planning Commission

Ms. Gering Planning Commission, Peter? Mr. Meyer unless Tracy has anything, we didn't have a meeting this month.

Zoning

Ms. Gering has a meeting for 49 West Mechanic Street. It was given one variance for a 12-foot setback so they can build a house in the footprint. Gateway was there with their request and it was granted.

Manager Report

Ms. Gering, do we have a Manager's report? Mr. Gray, not at this time.

Solicitor Reports

Ms. Gering, do we have a Solicitor's report? Mr. Truelove very briefly, we have been involved with a lot of land development projects and we are still running.

Public Comment

Ms. Gering, do we have any public comment? Mr. Gray, no hands raised at this time.

Announcements

Ms. Gering any announcements?

Adjournment

Ms. Gering, can I have a motion to adjourn? Mr. Dougherty I will make that motion. Ms. Rettig second. Ms. Gering all in favor? ALL, aye. Ms. Gering, thank you everybody, it was nice seeing you. Stay safe out there. Meeting ended at 7:22 pm.