

**MINUTES**  
**NORTH YORK BOROUGH**  
**COUNCIL MEETING BY ZOOM**  
**January 12, 2021**  
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The Council Meeting was called to order at 7:24 pm by President Shank. A moment of silence was held for all those who have lost their lives this month. Council Members in attendance at this meeting were Seth Hightman, Tina Strine Vivian Amspacher, Gary Braham, Richard Shank, and Deb Smith. Mayor Brunk and Solicitor Walt Tilley were also in attendance. There was no Executive Session or Pledge of Allegiance this evening.

Roll Call of Officers

Resignation Letter: Councilwoman Jamie Moore submitted her resignation letter effective January 1, 2021. She has moved out of North York Borough. A motion was made by Seth Hightman, second by Tina Strine and unanimously carried to accept her resignation.

Vice President Vote: Seth Hightman was nominated for Vice President on a motion by Gary Braham, second by Deb Smith, and carried with no opposition. Seth Hightman is now the new Vice President of Council.

Approval of Council Meeting Minutes from December 8, 2020: The December meeting minutes were presented for approval. On a motion by Seth Hightman, second by Gary Braham, this motion carried with five (5) yes votes and (1) no vote from Vivian Amspacher.

Handicap Applications: The Romey application for 828 Latimer Street was presented to approve/deny this request. More information is required to approve/deny this request, so it was tabled until the February 2021 meeting.

Treasurer's Report: This report was presented by Treasurer, Sonya Grim. The information detailed expenditures during December 2020. Also, with budget information available currently. it shows that we have spent 90% of our 2020 Budget. This report was accepted on a motion by Vivian Amspacher, second by Seth Hightman and carried.

Poppy Lane Ventures: Representatives from Poppy Lane Ventures spoke to the Council about their request regarding the Mixed-Use District in North York Borough. Poppy Lane Ventures owns the "old" Central High School Football Field area. These representatives spoke about what they would like to build in this area, what estimated tax revenues have been lost because there is no building on this lot, traffic patterns that would be used, size of the building, other businesses in the mixed-use district, taxes they estimate will be paid to the Borough and school districts in the area, and items they can use to mediate the noise level. The request to the Council after this presentation is this:

Poppy Lane Ventures is asking for approval to add Warehouse Use to our Mixed-Use Zoning Ordinance so they can look into a development plan and then further approval would be required at a later date.

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The York County Planning Committee will be discussing these plans on January 19, 2021. On a motion by Seth Hightman, second by Gary Braham, and unanimously carried, the Council decided to have a Special Meeting at 7:00 pm on Thursday, January 21, 2021 to discuss this Poppy Lane Ventures request after the Planning Commission Meeting.

Correspondence: A thank you letter was presented for snow removal.

Tax Collector's Report: Information only

Mayor's Report: There was no police report available since there was no Northern York County Regional Police Meeting in December.

Engineer's Report: Block Grant was submitted for \$100,000 to replace and/or add sidewalks where needed in North York Borough. MS4 Permit was approved - received December 22, 2020. 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue Main Repair - getting bids. Ask Jeff to investigate 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Queen Street where there is no sidewalk.

Resolution #2021-01: Community Building Block Grant 2021-2023. This Resolution was approved on a motion by Gary Braham, second by Tina Strine and carried.

Zoning Officer's Report: Info only

Fire Chief's Report: DJ Abbott: 2020 had total of 60 calls within the Borough.

Fire Department Dissolution: DJ Abbott, Weston Teare, and Kerry Herman spoke to the Council about their Board's decision for the dissolution of the Liberty Fire Company. It was a hard decision for the Board to make but it had to be done. The letter to North York Borough Council was dated January 12, 2021 with a 30-day notice of dissolution. After 122 years of service, their last day of service will be February 11, 2021. Council members thanked the firefighters for their service!

Solicitor Tilley has the sealed bids. On a motion by Tina Strine, second by Seth Hightman, and unanimously carried the bids were opened. The bids are as follows:

All bids are for 24-7, 365-day service. The bids are available for viewing at the Borough Office.

York City Fire Department: \$70,000/year with 2% increase each year thereafter.

YAUFR: Option 1 - \$85,000/year with 5% increase second year of contract. Can become a Charter member if requested.

Keith Ramsey - Chief Salary: \$45,000/year, no benefits. Would need volunteers to run with him.

A lengthy discussion followed. Chief Deardorf - York City and Chief Hoff - YAUFR were available for questions. Keith Ramsey came into the meeting later to discuss discrepancies brought up during his bid. A motion was made by Tina Strine, second by Seth Hightman, and unanimously carried to table this decision until the Special Meeting planned for Thursday, January 21, 2021 at 7:00 pm.

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Solicitor's Report - Walt Tilley: Report was submitted to Council.

Recreation Report: Nothing to report.

Grant Report: Resolution #2021-02 to approved grant for \$250,000 for park. On a motion by Seth Hightman, second by Tina Strine, this Resolution was unanimously approved.

Grant Writer Contract Discussion: A discussion ensued with Council members and Joyce Salazar, our grant writer. One council member asked if the contract can be discontinued once signed. Answer was that is can be discontinued with 30-day notice. Grants that are/may be available was also discussed. A request was made for Ms. Salazar to lower her monthly cost from \$7,500 to \$5,000 per month. After Ms. Salazar agreed to this change, a motion was made by Gary Braham, second by Seth Hightman, and unanimously carried to change her monthly fee to \$5,000/month.

Personnel Committee: With the resignation of Jamie Moore, an opening has occurred on the Personnel Committee. Tina Strine has been appointed to this committee.

Public Works: Richard Shank reported that a plow needed to be replaced, the dump truck needs the oil pan fixed and will be out of commission for at least one week, and plow control(s) needed to be replaced at the cost of approximately \$1,300. The plow is fixed.

Finance: With the resignation of Jamie Moore, an opening has occurred on the Finance Committee. Tina Strine has been appointed to this committee.

2020 Financial Audit: Kochenour, Earnest, Smyser and Berg have been contacted about a date(s) for our audit.

Building and Grounds: Gary Braham stated that spouting will be repaired on pump station and garage at the park.

Sanitation: This extension was approved on a motion by Seth Hightman, second by Tina Strine, and unanimously carried.

Sewer - Final Approval/Deny Decision on Invoice for 118 West 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue: After some discussion, this issue was tabled.

Sewer - Blockage Policy: The Council will be looking into a Blockage Policy to be used in conjunction with current ordinance in effect for sewer blockages.

North York Borough Solicitor for 2021: A motion was made by Seth Hightman, second by Richard Shank, and carried with four (4) yes votes. Two (2) council members were not available for voting—Gary Braham and Vivian Amspacher.

Permission for 5-year Comprehensive Plan for North York Borough: The Council would like to start the grant process for a 5-year comprehensive plan for the borough. On a motion by Tina Strine, second by Deb Smith, this motion was unanimously carried. A resolution will have to be completed and approved.

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Outside Organizations/Public:

Resident asked why the Fire Company Audit is still not in the newspaper. The Solicitor took this question and let the resident(s) know that it cannot be in the newspaper because of "Protecting Audit for Evidentiary Safety". The District Attorney needs to make the decision to release the report.

Sewer Issue - will follow-up on the issue next month.

Why was Denny Brunk at the meeting? He was at the meeting because in is on the Planning Commission and Poppy Lane Ventures.

Respectfully submitted:

*Sonya J. Grim*