

Howard Borough Council Minutes of December 9, 2024, Meeting

Howard Borough Council met on December 9, 2024.

Council Members Present: Philip Winchell, Andrew Kotzur, Bobby Yearick, Mayor Deb Simoncek, Autumn Hanley, Donna Benner, Emily Herr, Lydia Watters

Council members absent:

Guests present: Zach Worth, Cody Strouse, Martin Brumbaugh, Brian Rippey, Edward Parker, Chris Aikins, Anne Messner, Bill Nearhoof, Josh Collins

Philip Winchell called the meeting to order.

Moved by Andy Kotzur, Donna Benner seconded, approving minutes from the December 9, 2024, Council Meeting. Motion passed.

Citizen/Guests

Citizens and guests were reminded about the time limit on comments.
(TIME LIMIT OF 4 MINUTES-Citizens present at any Borough Council Meeting or Committee Meetings have the option to speak at this time unless otherwise recognized by the presiding officer.)

Martin Brumbaugh, Brian Rippey, Edward Parker, Chris Aikins were in attendance to get the status of the stop sign installed on Graden Street. A stop sign was installed on private property. A stop sign was installed because of a safety issue brought to Zach. There is a tree that needs to be trimmed so that clear vision can be made. Those in attendance will speak to that neighbor about trimming the tree.

Bill Nearhoof, Howard Fire Company, was in attendance for Resolution 2024-2 Revised.

Josh Collins was in attendance to ask what was going to be done about the water ponding at the entrance to the fire station after the new paving was done. Donna reported that the borough guys will keep it salted, and that John Henry will look at it in the spring.

Anne Messner/CCMPO was in attendance to go over the Long-Range Transportation Plan. This is updated every 5 years. Anne will attend the January 13, 2024, meeting to get the answers to the five questions given to the council members on the plan.

Mayor

Deb has not heard from the Mini-STMP Program. The lease for WEP is still not received. Deb was asked to have the meetings advertised on the Howard Facebook page. Emily Herr will do that.

Treasurer's Report

Moved by Andy Kotzur seconded by Lydia Watters, to approve the November Treasurer Report as presented. Motion Passed.

Correspondence

Outgoing –Bellefonte Borough/LSA support, Rodney Weller, complaint

Incoming–Josh Collins, Email/Water ponding issue, CCMPO/Long Range Transportation Plan, Brian Rippey, email/stop sign complaint, Edward Parker, email/stop sign complaint, Ben Moyer/dog barking complaint, ARP/obligations, CC Library/Thank you

Committee Reports

Water- Andy Kotzur reported all is good.

Streets – Bobby Yearick reported roads were plowed and salted.

Streetlights – Lydia Watters reported there were no complaints.

Refuse– Autumn reported that there have been no complaints.

Property- Donna Benner reported that Rodney Weller reported to her that he is doing work on 378 & 380 Walnut Street.

Zoning Officer – Zach had nothing to report.

Operations and Maintenance Report – Cody reported that Christmas lights will be put up soon.

Old Business

New Business

Moved by Andy Kotzur, seconded by Donna Benner, to adopt the 2025 budget. Motion Passed.

Moved by Andy Kotzur, seconded by Lydia Watters to approve the Howard Borough Council to meet on the 2nd Monday of each month in 2025, at 7:30 p.m. Motion Passed. Nancy will contact the Express to advertise the meetings.

President Philip Winchell called for an Executive session of Council.

The purpose of the Executive Session was to discuss bonuses for Zach and Cody.

President Philip Winchell reconvened regular meeting.

Moved by Andy Kotzur, seconded by Lydia Watters, to approve a \$2,000.00 bonus for Cody Strouse and Zach Worth to be paid from the water account. Motion Passed.

Moved by Andy Kotzur seconded by Autumn Hanley, to pass Resolution 2024-2 Revised. Motion Passed.

Resolution No. 2024-2 Revised

Be it Resolved, that the Howard Borough of Centre County hereby request a Statewide Local Share Assessment Grant of \$321,579.00 from the Commonwealth Financing Authority to be used for a SU/Traffic Unit.

Be it FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Applicant does hereby designate Nancy Fishburn, Howard Borough Secretary-Treasurer and Deb Simoncek, Howard Borough Mayor and William Nearhoof, Howard Fire Company Fire Chief, as the officials to execute all documents and

agreements between the Howard Borough and the Commonwealth Financing Authority to facilitate and assist in obtaining the requested grant.

I, Nancy Fishburn, duly qualified Secretary of the Howard Borough, Centre County, Howard, PA, hereby certify that the forgoing is a true and correct copy of a Resolution duly adopted by a majority vote of the Howard Borough at a regular meeting held December 11, 2024, and said Resolution has been recorded in the Minutes of the Howard Borough and remains in effect as of this date.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I affix my hand and attach the seal of the Howard Borough, this 9 day of December, 2024.

Moved by Andy Kotzur to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned

Nancy Fishburn
Secretary-Treasurer