

Howard Borough Council Minutes of September 9, 2024, Meeting

Howard Borough Council met September 9, 2024.

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

Council members absent: Lydia Watters

Guests present: Zach Worth, Cody Strouse, Linda Hanley, Josh Collins, Colin Alterio, Patti Long, April Romine, Melissa Moyer, Felicia Lewis, Jonathan Long, Tyler Penland

Philip Winchell called the meeting to order.

Moved by Autumn Hanley, Andy Kotzur seconded, approving minutes from the August 12, 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.)

Patti Long was in attendance to update the council on the food distribution and the Little Free Pantry by the Howard Methodist Church. The Pantry is being abused and the distribution continues to have issues even after the church has tried many things to alleviate the problems. Many suggestions are given although not practical. She is looking for ideas from the council. Cameras may be a solution for the Pantry.

April Romine was in attendance to ask about future plans for the Borough Building and about junk in yards around the borough. Donna Benner reported that another letter will be sent to the occupants of 395 Walnut Street and the owner.

Tyler Penland was in attendance to ask about the new drop-off for the school parking and drop off and if the council was ok with it. The school indicated it was the council that addressed his concerns. Tyler reported a child almost getting hit by a bus. Bobby and Deb spoke with Mr. Pighetti about a solution. The school went with coordinating with HCC and using their parking lot. Deb spoke to Mr. Pighetti again and he would like to keep the current change in place for now. There are no "no parking" signs in front of the school. Was a safety plan done before the change? Lines should be painted on the driveway between the church and the school. This is the school's responsibility.

Jonathan Long was in attendance to ask permission for two scouts to complete their Life project in the borough. His son would like to replace the brick and bench at the volleyball court. Council agreed to the project. Looking for ideas for the second project.

Josh Collins, Howard Fire Company, was in attendance to ask for approval for an LSA Grant to replace the Special Unit. Moved by Andy Kotzur, Donna Benner seconded, approving the Howard Fire Company applying for the LSA Grant. Motion passed.

Josh Collins was in attendance to speak to the council about his Home Occupancy Permit, for which he applied. There were complaints about deliveries, water runoff and noise. After a lengthy discussion it was determined that if the delivery truck situation is resolved the application will be approved. Josh will provide a letter from the HFC about deliveries. Josh also provided email information.

Linda Hanley/Howard Fire Company was in attendance to receive approval for a LSA grant for a new sign. This grant is for wants and not needs. Moved by Andy Kotzur, Donna Benner seconded, approving as long as the sign meets zoning restrictions. Motion passed.

Mayor

Moved by Andy Kotzur, Autumn Hanley seconded, approving the new Pet Ordinance #71-1. Motion passed. Deb presented a letter that will go out with the water bills asking the borough their thoughts on the borough building and what the wants and needs are. The Council will have final approval. A concern about the articles stored at the museum was raised.

Treasurer's Report

Moved by Autumn Hanley seconded by Donna Benner, to approve the August Treasurer Report as presented. Motion Passed.

Correspondences

Outgoing –

Incoming–HFC/changeable sign -Moved by Andy Kotzur seconded by Autumn Hanley, to approve the the borough employees to transport the sign from Ferguson township for use at Punkin Chunkin. Motion Passed., HFC/Fire Police-Moved by Andy Kotzur seconded by Donna Benner, to approve the use of Howard Fire Police at the Punkin Chunkin on October 19, 2024. Motion Passed., Autumn Hanley email/invite to Sustainability week, CC Library/donation thank you, CC Board of Commissioners/ 2025 Liquid Fuels Program, CC Tax Collection/Sample bill.

Committee Reports

Water- Andy Kotzur reported the new CD will be receiving 5% for 6 months. Water usage was up a little, but the leak was found and will be fixed.

Streets – Bobby Yearick reported that the employees put the signs up and lines painted on Mill Street.

Streetlights –No report.

Refuse– Autumn reported that everything is good, but she did find glass and nails.

Property- Donna reported that a letter will be sent to 395 Walnut Street. New garage doors are needed. Moved by Andy Kotzur seconded by Donna Benner, to approve \$4,274.27 to replace both garage doors. Motion Passed.

Zoning Officer – Josh Collins HOP

Operations and Maintenance Report – Cody Strouse reported that they have been working on the brush pile and cutting grass.

Old Business

New Business

Budget meeting is scheduled for October 28, 2024, at 7:30 pm.

Moved by Autumn Hanley seconded by Andy Kotzur, to accept removing Betsy Snyder as Borough Auditor. Motion Passed.

Moved by Autumn Hanley seconded by Andy Kotzur, to accept removing Betsy Snyder as Borough Auditor. Motion Passed.

Moved by Andy Kotzur, Autumn Hanley seconded, appointing Emily Herr to Borough Council to fill the vacated Council seat of John Gribble. Motion Passed.

Moved by Andy Kotzur to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned

Nancy Fishburn
Secretary-Treasurer