

**MINUTES
BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
MAY 4, 2016**

The Downingtown Borough Council met in regular session on May 4, 2016 at the Municipal Government Center, 4 W. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown, PA. Members present: President Gazzo, Vice President Rakoff, Councilors Dague, McGlone, Thomas and Feldman. Also attending were Mayor Maxwell, Solicitor Thompson and members of Borough staff.

President Gazzo called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The purpose of the Executive Session was to discuss legal matters.

Approval of Expenditures (Period Ending April 30, 2016) – Councilor McGlone made a motion to approve the expenditures for the period ending April 30, 2016, Councilor Thomas seconded; motion carried 5-1 (Councilor Feldman opposed).

Approval of Borough Council Minutes (April 20, 2016) – Councilor McGlone made a motion to approve the Borough Council minutes of April 20, 2016, with changes noted, Councilor Dague seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Citizens to be Heard – Refer to deferred business Downingtown Outdoor, LLC.

Deferred Business

Downingtown Outdoor, LLC (electronic billboard) – Senator Dinniman attended the meeting and reviewed legislation he is introducing requesting stronger guidelines needed to address digital billboards. He is also requesting local municipalities be involved in PennDOT's site review process and provide their input prior to issuing permits. Following are comments made pertaining to the electronic billboard:

- Paul Bane, 304 N. Lake Dr., commented on the brightness of the sign, planting trees will not shield the sign, property values will likely decrease.
- Kelly Bane, 304 N. Lake Dr., stated she did not respond to Mr. Sullins letter and does not want trees planted on their property which they would have to maintain, she asked if the Borough was going to compensate them for their decreased property value. Ms. Bane asked if residents could file an appeal, Solicitor Thompson responded they could.
- Bobbie Jo Broomell, 302 N. Lake Dr., commented on the size and brightness of the electronic billboard and potential for property values to decrease, she also requested better communication from the Borough.
- Sarah Peck, equitable owner of Kardon Ponds property, commented on the Borough being misled by the applicant pertaining to the sign. She suggested reducing display size of ads and the Borough using their advertising timeframe to state we were misled. Ms. Peck suggested residents file an appeal against Catalyst Outdoor.
- Ronnie Gilken, 305 N. Lake Dr., commented the billboard indirectly affects her; however, her property value will most likely decrease. The sign is to be turned off by 11:30 p.m., it was lit at 12:30 a.m. on Sunday morning.
- P.J. Paden, 302 N. Lake Dr., commented the tree buffer will not block the sign, he has concerns regarding decreased property values. He also commented on the misrepresentation by the sign company.

- Janie McMurray, 410 Farmhouse Rd., commented her house is located on higher ground and planting a tree buffer will not block their view of the sign, concerned with decreased property value.
- Keith Gilpin, 301 N. Lake Dr., suggested placing additional sound barrier panels to block the view.
- Shawna Kelly, 308 N. Lake Dr., asked if being able to see the sign from their home would have an impact on their property value. Ms. Peck responded the sign could have a negative impact on their property value.

Jefferson Ave. Borough Parking Lot – Deferred

Ordinance 2016-03 Alcoholic Beverages Amendments – Defer to May 18

New Business

118 Brandywine Ave. (Parking) – Perry Stathacos, Century 21 Absolute Realty, representing Vance Usher (property owner). He has an internet printing company interested in the property who needs 10-15 parking spaces for their employees. They are requesting to purchase permits in the Jefferson Ave. parking lot. Council agreed to review the parking ordinance and permit the proposed tenant and employees to temporarily park on the lot at 132 ½ Brandywine Ave. Mr. Malle and Mr. Pietrinferni commented they are glad to see new businesses moving into the Borough, it helps other businesses. Mr. Sullins suggested drafting parking agreements with business owners interested in parking at the Borough complex lot.

Borough Recycling/Shred Event – Mr. Sullins informed Council the Borough’s recycling and shred event is scheduled on Saturday, May 14 from 9 am to 1 pm, details are on the Borough’s website.

Mayor & Council Updates

Councilor McGlone reported the Parks & Rec Commission are teaming up with the school district to help build a new playground at East Ward Elementary School. A fundraising “Block Party for the Playground” barbeque is scheduled on June 4, details are available on the Borough website www.downingtown.org click “Upcoming Events”.

Councilor Dague reported a Christmas parade fundraiser “Nite at the Races” will be held at St. Anthony’s Lodge, Saturday, May 7, details are available on the Borough website www.downingtown.org click “Upcoming Events”.

President Gazzo reported the DMWA voted to keep the fluoride in the water, they are in the process of changing the meters and are handling the financing.

The next Borough Council meeting will be held on May 18, 2016 at 7 pm.

Adjournment

Councilor Thomas made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m., Vice President Rakoff seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Millie Byerly
Assistant Secretary