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Upper Darby Township Committee Meeting
June 2, 2021

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MINUTES FOR COMMITTEE MEETING OF JUNE 2, 2021

The video of this meeting can be viewed in its entirety on youtube.com/upperdarby.org

Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America

Moment of Silence

Opening of Meeting

Roll Call

Hafiz Tunis Jr. (HT), Bob Gwin (RG), Michelle Billups (MB), Matt Silva (MS), Danyelle Blackwell (DB), Brian K. Burke (BB), Sheikh Siddique (SS), Lisa Faraglia (LF), Donald P. Bonnet (DPB), Thomas P. Wagner (TW), Laura A. Wentz (LW)

Present at the Meeting

Mayor Barbarann Keffer
CAO Vincent A Rongione, Esq.
Deputy CAO Alison Dobbins
Alexis Cicchitti, Chief Municipal Clerk
Mike Galante, Township Engineer
Solicitor Sean Kilkenny
Solicitor Courtney Richardson

Rules for Meeting Decorum

“Upper Darby Township Council and Residents will maintain professional respect for each other. Council encourages free speech, however, civility is required which would prohibit threats, profanity, scandalous, impertinent and redundant comment or any comment the discernible purpose of which is to disrupt or prevent the conduct of the business of the meeting”

Public Forum

***No speakers**

The Honorable Mayor Barbarann Keffer

Good evening everyone,

A couple of updates...

A friendly reminder about weekly yard waste collection: Yard waste is defined as leaves, garden residues, shrubbery and tree trimmings (4 inches or less in diameter and less than 3 feet long), and similar material. Please note that grass clippings are NOT considered yard waste. Please do not use plastic bags to recycle yard waste or single-stream recycling; instead, place it in biodegradable paper bags, which are available at local hardware stores; Burhill Hardware on Burmont Road and the True Value Hardware on Marshall Road or, place the yard waste loosely in trashcans without bags.

This upcoming Monday, June 7, our sanitation crews will begin collecting trash twice a week. Trash in areas 1 and 2 will be collected on Tuesdays and Fridays. Trash in areas 3, 4, 5, and 6 will be collected on Mondays and Thursdays. Additional details about the revised schedule, including recycling pick up information can be found on the Township website at www.upperdarby.org/trash.

Residents are also welcome to call the Mayor's Request Line at 610-734-7625 with any questions.

We are also hiring seasonal employees to supplement our regular sanitation crews. If you and/or anyone you know is looking for a summer job making as much as \$15 per hour with the opportunity to earn a full time job in the future please have them apply ASAP through our website upperdarby.org. On the home page, scroll down and look for "Employment Opportunities". Seasonal jobs and other jobs are listed there.

Registration for the Township's Youth and Tot Lot programs is ongoing until Friday, June 11. The cost is still only \$20 per child. We are grateful to the Lansdowne YMCA for stepping in to ensure that these programs are able to happen this summer. The Y is also still hiring program staff members; applications are available online at www.cyedc.org/employment, or you can call 610-557-9622, extension #1, to request a paper copy. Special consideration would be given to individuals who have worked for the Township summer recreation program in previous years if they would like to apply again this year.

This Saturday, Habitat for Humanity is hosting a Rock the Block event in Upper Darby. The targeted areas are the 200 block of Chapman Avenue and the municipal parking lot on the 700 block of Long Lane. I am so grateful that Habitat has chosen Upper Darby as a focus municipality. This is our inaugural Habitat Rock the Block event, and we are looking for community members to participate as volunteers. To sign up, please visit www.habitatmontdelco.org/rock-the-block or call 610-278-7710. As a member of the Upper Darby team, we ask you to arrive at the Municipal Lot at the intersection of Long Lane and Clinton Road in Upper Darby, no later than 8:15 AM on this Saturday. Once you get there, members of the Habitat staff will check you in and will gather for opening remarks.

Last but certainly not least, it is my honor to issue a proclamation this evening in recognition of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ+) Pride Month.

WHEREAS, Pride Month is a celebration of the LGBTQ+ community. It was borne out of the gay rights movement that started in the 1940's and reached a pivotal moment at the Stonewall Inn in June of 1969, when a group of individuals who were being mistreated because of their gender and sexual identification stood up for what they believed in; and

WHEREAS, Pride Month is a time to reflect on the trials that the LGBTQ+ community has endured and to rejoice in the triumphs of the individuals who have bravely fought, and continue to fight, for full equality; and

WHEREAS, Despite all of the progress that has been made in recent years regarding LGBTQ+ rights, we acknowledge there are many states in which LGBTQ+ individuals still lack protections for fundamental rights and dignity in hospitals, schools, the workplace, public accommodations, and other spaces. We are committed to standing in solidarity with LGBTQ+ Americans in their ongoing struggle against discrimination and injustice; and

WHEREAS, LGBTQ+ individuals, especially children and adolescents, often face bullying and harassment in educational settings and are at a disproportionate risk of self-harm and death by suicide. It is imperative that families, school systems, mental health care providers, and the community at large work together to end the social stigma and bullying that can traumatize children and adolescents who identify as LGBTQ+; and

WHEREAS, Upper Darby Township has a diverse community that includes a proud contingent of LGBTQ+ individuals and allies, which is fostered in part by organizations such as Upper Darby Pride and UDTJ, among others.

NOW, THEREFORE I, Barbarann Keffer, Mayor, do hereby proclaim the month of June 2021 as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Pride Month in Upper Darby Township and encourage my fellow residents to recognize and participate in its observance.

Thank you and have a great evening.

President of Council, Laura A. Wentz

LW acknowledged the American Legion Post 214 and the Upper Darby Marine Corps League in recognition of our fallen troops in honor of Memorial Day.

LW announced that the Recreation Center provides seasonal tickets/passes for different types of amusement parks at a discounted price.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Safety Committee

Co-Chairs: Danyelle Blackwell & Brian K. Burke
Members: Hafiz Tunis Jr., Matt Silva

DB stated that she is corresponding with a business owner and one of our police officers about a *Gun Buy Back Program*.

BB announced that the Committee would schedule a meeting next week with Mayor Keffer, CAO Rongione and the Police about the parking of trucks and commercial vehicles.

TW inquired about the shooting that occurred on 69th Street the other day. CAO Rongione responded that it is an active police investigation to identify the shooter. The Police informed the CAO that there was a personal dispute, shots were fired, but no one was injured.

SS stated that the intersection of West Chester Pike and Court Avenue is dangerous. The auto body place is parking their damaged vehicles along West Chester Pike in front of meters. LW & RG both stated that this is an issue to be enforced by the Police.

LW reinforced that it is imperative that Council submit requests to the Request Department so that issues are addressed properly.

HT asked if the Township makes special exceptions for a handicapped parking spot for residents of a rental property that does not provide such a spot.

BB responded that this is something that the Committee should present to the Administration and the Solicitor for clarification.

Public Health and Environmental Affairs Committee

Co-Chairs: Hafiz Tunis Jr. & Matt Silva
Members: Michelle Billups, Sheikh M. Siddique

Introduction of Ordinance No. 3097, an Ordinance of Upper Darby Township amending Chapter 222, "Animals" The Upper Darby Township Code to add a new Article V entitled "domesticated chickens," allowing residents of Upper Darby Township to keep no more than four (4) female chickens, requiring residents to obtain a permit in order to keep said chickens, imposing certain regulations and requirements for keeping chickens and imposing penalties for violations of such regulations

Solicitor Richardson gave a brief on Ordinance No. 3097.

HT asked if the Committee would inform the public about the changes that they made to this Ordinance. MS responded that some of the changes were that the hen houses *must* be located in the backyard, *not* in the front yard or the inside of the home. The Committee also added a definitive measurement of the structure to be two feet by two feet.

LW stated that a resident expressed concerns about owners of chickens killing them for food. Therefore, LW asked if the Township could prevent this from occurring. Solicitor Richardson responded that she would have to look into this.

TW and HT had inquired about including provisions for residents within close proximity of chicken coops to include additional parameters that protect those who may object to chicken coops.

Solicitor Kilkenney stated that some municipalities include a notification to the neighbors by bringing this to the Zoning Board for approval. This would be a policy decision for Council to decide on whether or not to include a zoning variance for having chickens.

DPB suggested including the *permission* from the adjacent neighbors to this Ordinance.

Motion to introduce and advertise: RG/MB A roll call vote was taken. Eight in favor. Three opposed (DPB, TW, LF). Motion passes.

HT requested that Council continue to share vaccination sites with the residents on the Council Facebook Page.

MS asked if the Administration had a list of all of the vaccination sites. CAO Rongione responded that they do not have a comprehensive list. However, the Administration has been diligent with promoting organizations that offer vaccinations.

SS announced that his Mosque is offering vaccinations this Friday.

Law and Government & Rules and Procedures Committee

Co-Chairs: Michelle Billups & Matt Silva

Members: Sheikh M. Siddique, Danyelle Blackwell

***Nothing to report.**

Finance and Appropriations Committee

Co-Chairs: Robert S. Gwin Jr. & Matt Silva

Members: Danyelle Blackwell, Brian Burke

BB asked for an update for Capital Budget purchases. CAO Rongione stated that he was not prepared to share in detail. However, there has not been any significant material variation from the original plans with the listed items.

RG asked for an update with the Community Center. The CAO responded that the Administration has received bids from the RFP for the design work of the building and they have applied for more federal funding.

LW asked if the Township received any of the Covid Relief Funds. CAO Rongione responded that the Township has not received any funds. However, they were provided *new* information to apply for these funds. Therefore, they are re-applying for these funds.

Planning, Zoning and Building Code Committee

Co-Chairs: Robert S. Gwin Jr., & Michelle Billups

Members: Donald P. Bonnett, Hafiz Tunis Jr.

RG asked for an update with the construction of the Drexline Shopping Center and the 69th Street Parking Lot Project.

Mayor Keffer and CAO Rongione responded that the Township has everything required for the development of the Drexline Shopping Center. However, there are other requirements from other organizations that do not involve the Township.

Mayor Keffer deferred to CAO Rongione to respond to the 69th Street Project. The CAO stated that SEPTA has stalled this project to work on details for a *mixed-use* entity instead of a parking lot *only*.

SS inquired about the conversion of Minerva Court Apartments into a hotel. Mayor Keffer responded that the applicant has not applied for permits to do this work.

Municipal Services, Licensing and Public Works Committee

Co-Chairs: Sheikh M. Siddique & Hafiz Tunis Jr.

Members: Thomas P. Wagner, Brian K. Burke

***Nothing to report.**

Leisure Services Committee

Co-Chairs: Hafiz Tunis Jr. & Matt Silva

Members: Lisa Faraglia, Danyelle Blackwell

***Nothing to report.**

Event Planning Committee

Co-Chairs: Michelle Billups & Danyelle Blackwell

Members: Hafiz Tunis Jr., Matt Silva

DB announced that this Committee is promoting people to live, work and dine in Upper Darby Township.

DB reported that the Job Fair was a success and the Committee would be scheduling another event for the first week of October 2021.

LW added that she spoke to a person that is interested in hosting a community outreach at a laundromat for single mothers. She will elaborate once she receives all the details.

MB that they intend to host the next Job Fair outdoors with the hopes that vendors will conduct *on the spot* interviews. She will keep everyone posted.

RG asked about if there would be any events in honor of Juneteenth. LW responded that the Event Planning Committee is not planning anything *specifically*. However, they are promoting other organizations that are hosting events.

DPB announced that J.A.C.E. (Juneteenth Artistic Collaborative Experience) and the Taylor Made Vets are hosting their Second Annual Event at the DELCO Veteran's Memorial in Newtown Square on June 19th between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. DPB also recognized Richard Blye for informing Council about the importance of Juneteenth, a celebration of the end of slavery.

Solicitor

Solicitor Kilkenny stated that they are working on the Chicken Ordinance and numerous Right to Know Requests.

Old Business

MB asked if there was an update for the RFP for the Homeless Café. CAO Rongione responded that there is nothing new to report.

New Business

DB announced there would be an outdoor meeting for residents of South Cedar Lane and Parkview Avenue on June 7th at 6:30 p.m. Mayor Keffer and Engineer Mike Galante will discuss the proposed roundabout and other traffic calming measures in the area. Anyone interested, but unable to attend should contact the Request Department.

LW announced that there would be a Juneteenth Event and a Pride Festival Event at the Upper Darby High School.

HT announced that State Representative Davidson is hosting a drive-thru breakfast for our veterans on June 10th at 10:00 a.m. at Barclay Square Shopping Center.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn. Moved and seconded: RG/SS. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 9:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alexis Cicchitti

Alexis Cicchitti
Chief Municipal Clerk

The video of this meeting can be viewed in its entirety on youtube.com/upperdarby.org