

HATFIELD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES October 9, 2024

I. CALL TO ORDER

President Tom Zipfel called the October 9, 2024 Workshop Meeting of the Hatfield Township Board of Commissioners to order at 7:30 pm.

II. ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken by Aaron Bibro, Township Manager. Present at the meeting were President Tom Zipfel, Vice President Bob Rodgers, Commissioner Jerry Andris, Commissioner Jennifer LoStracco and Commissioner Shahidul Partha. In addition to Township Manager Aaron Bibro, also in attendance were Solicitor John Iannozzi, Assistant Township Manager Scott Hutt, Township Engineer Bryan McAdam and Chief of Police William Tierney.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Partha. President Zipfel congratulated the Partha's on the birth of their daughter.

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Vice President Rodgers motioned to approve the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Partha. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

V. CITIZENS' COMMENTS – AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

There were no citizens comments.

VI. CONSENT ITEMS

Motion to Enter Items A-F into the Record

- A. Police Report – *October*
- B. Hatfield Volunteer Fire Company Report – *3rd Quarter*
- C. NPWA Meeting Minutes - *August 27*
- D. HTMA Meeting Minutes – *August 13*
- E. VMSC Monthly Report – *August*
- F. HTMA Monthly Budget Report – *July*

Commissioner Andris motioned to move the Consent Items into record, seconded by Commissioner LoStracco. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Planning and Zoning Committee – Vice President Rodgers

1. Zoning Ordinance: Minor Housekeeping Updates

Mr. Bibro said any time a zoning ordinance is changed, it has to go through a public hearing process. The ordinance has been advertised and we will have a hearing at the next meeting where residents can ask questions or make comments. The proposed changes are to clarify some text within the code. This was reviewed by the Planning & Zoning Committee, the Planning Commission and the Montgomery County Planning Commission where all recommended approval of the proposed changes to the Zoning Ordinance. Some of the changes include; definition of family, daycare facility and no impact home business as well as referencing previous sections for consistency throughout the code. The updated ordinance gives specifics for set backs in the Townhome District, and allows daycare facilities in the Commercial District and repair garages in the Light Industrial District, provides digital sign regulations and provides clarity in other sections.

B. Public Works Committee

There was no report.

C. Parks and Recreation Committee – Commissioner LoStracco

Commissioner LoStracco reported on the upcoming Parks and Recreation programming and events.

D. Public Safety Committee – Commissioner Partha

President Zipfel reported on the recent events the Police Department participated in. He also announced the reaccreditation of the Police Department. Only 10% of all police departments in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania are accredited. This thorough review occurs every three (3) years and involves the policies and practices of the police department, individual interviews, document review and site inspection. The examiners were impressed by the collegiality between departments and that the residents recognize the police force in a very positive light. He thanked Chief Tierney for his leadership.

E. Finance Committee – Commissioner Andris

1. Budget Workshop Notice – October 16th, 6pm

Commissioner Andris announced the above Budget Workshop session. He also announced the three (3) winners of the pool photo contest where each receive a 2025 pool membership which were selected by the Pool Board, the Public and the Board of Commissioners.

VIII. TOWNSHIP STAFF REPORTS

A. Township Manager's Report

1. Leaf Pickup Reminder

Leaf pick ups will be held the weeks of November 4, November 18 and December 2. Residents are to have the bagged leaves ready on Monday morning on the above weeks as pick up could occur anytime that week.

2. Project Updates – Police Station, Clemens Park

The new entrance to Clemens Park is now apparent as well as the parking area. Installation of the playground is near completion and the bathroom will be delivered in November with a soft opening planned around Thanksgiving.

The footprint of the new police station is laid out. Concrete footers will be completed next week and underground work will be completed soon. Steel work will begin in November and interior masonry to begin in late November.

3. Grant Application – Welsh and Orvilla Construction

The design of the new proposed intersection at Welsh and Orvilla has been completed which reflects a dedicated turn lane at every approach. We applied for a grant six months ago, but were denied so we are trying for another grant to help fund the project. Both are state roads in Hatfield and Towamencin Townships which will share the expense of the improvements. We are applying for 80% of the funding. The total cost of the project is \$4 M with a 20% match of which Hatfield is responsible for 10%.

IX. SOLICITOR'S REPORT

There was no report.

X. CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Lyna Nguyen of 2300 Stratford Avenue said the road in front of her house is the entry/exit for Hatfield Village. She and her neighbors have reached out to the police to patrol and reduce the speed on the street. Ms. Nguyen said there was a car accident last week where an infant was a passenger in the back seat. She is asking for a speed bump or a stop sign. She was directed by the police officers she spoke with to request a speed study at a public meeting. Ms. Nguyen is concerned about the safety of children as there is a bus stop directly in front of her house. She reported that drivers speed passed the busses when stopped to pick up or drop off students. The intersection is Stratford Avenue and Wellington Way. President Zipfel assured Ms. Nguyen that they will look into this issue.

Tai Nguyen of 2371 Cambridge Circle which is in the same neighborhood as Ms. Nguyen. He said he has lived there for the past twenty-two (22) years but has seen an increase in accidents in the last five (5) years. He took pictures of the most recent accident and sent them to the Hatfield Police. Mr. Nguyen said many of the incidents don't get reported to the police such as the car driving on Ms. Nguyen's yard so the accident reports are not a clear indicator of what is really happening in his neighborhood. He also said many of the incidents are near miss accidents that

are also not reported and he is very concerned about safety. Mr. Bibro responded and said the traffic engineer is doing a study of the intersection based on an email he received from Mr. Nguyen.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner LoStracco motioned for adjournment, seconded by Vice President Rodgers. The motion carried 5-0 and the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.