

HATFIELD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES October 23, 2024

I. CALL TO ORDER

President Tom Zipfel called the October 23, 2024 Regular 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 Carol Bauer, of Garden of Health Food Bank.

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

V. CONSENT ITEMS

Motion to Enter Items 1 – 3 into the Record

- 1. Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes – September 25, 2024**
- 2. Treasurer's Report – October**
- 3. Bills Payable:**
 - A. Paid Bills – \$62,206.94
 - B. Unpaid Bills – \$2,557,228.39

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

VI. CITIZENS' COMMENTS -- AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

There were no citizens comments.

VII. SPECIAL ITEM

- Hatfield Hero Recognition
 - Carol Bauer, Founder and Chief Operating Officer
Garden of Health Inc. Food Bank

President Zipfel and the Board of Commissioners is honoring Ms. Bauer with a Hatfield Hero Recognition. He said Ms. Bauer began the Garden of Health in 2015 with the goal of having community gardeners help grow food for low-income families. Currently, the Garden of Health operates 8 acres of land in Clemens Park. President Zipfel encouraged residents to volunteer to help during the growing season but also to donate food to the Food Bank all year round. In PA, there are more than 1.1M people who are food insecure with over 80,000 of them in living in Montgomery County.

Ms. Bauer thanked the Board for the honor and thanked her volunteers. She said she began her mission with fresh produce and foods for special needs diets but has expanded to include all foods including those for people with dietary restrictions. Garden of Health is both a food pantry and food bank which serves individuals and families as well as relief agencies. Ms. Bauer said they have tripled the amount of food given out in the past year. Last year they gave out 576,000 pounds of food and so far in 2024, 1.6M pounds. She said donations are down and often, local food pantries call the Garden of Health for help in stocking their pantries. She encouraged everyone to donate to pantries to help with food insecurities in Montgomery County.

VIII. ACTION ITEMS

1. Zoning Ordinance Amendments – Minor Updates

A. Public Hearing

Solicitor Iannozzi suspended the public meeting and opened the public hearing. He entered the following exhibits into record.

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| T1 | Proof of Publication |
| T2 | Legal Notice |
| T3 | Letter to Montgomery County Law Library |
| T4 | Letter to The Reporter |
| T5 | Ordinance No. 706 |
| T6 | Transmittal to Montgomery County Planning Commission |
| T7 | Minutes from Hatfield Township Planning Commission |

Mr. Bibro said this ordinance amends the zoning code to offer clarification and updated language to provide consistency in the code and to make sure it is compliant with the Federal Housing law. It also modernizes the zoning code to include electric charging stations.

Solicitor Iannozzi asked for questions from the Board and public to which there were none. He then closed the public hearing and resumed the public meeting.

B. Ordinance Consideration

Motion to approve Ordinance No. 706

Vice President Rodgers motioned to approve Ordinance No. 706, seconded by Commissioner LoStracco. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

IX. CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Mr. Bibro read comments from Patricia Houston-Martinez regarding the property the North Penn School District (NPSD) has sold to Pulte Homes. She offered proof that the pesticide the farmer uses on the NPSD field land is making her and her family sick which can continue up to twenty (20) years after exposure. She wants the farmer to stop using synthetic pesticides on the fields and to prohibit the new owner from using same pesticides. Ms. Houston-Martinez also said the survey company shortened her yard so she is unable to park and said the paper streets should consider how we have been living and work around that. She added, the gravel road is a clear sign of the property line. Ms. Houston-Martinez proposed another solution and requested the Township leave the movie lots as agricultural and imagine the open space that would offer a return on environment grant. She said this is the last farm in Hatfield Township. She presented the Township with a proposed map showing the co-op and a trail going around the farm. Her proposal is for a food co-op to help combat food shortages and inflation. Mr. Bibro distributed her pesticide information and proposal to the Board.

Dean Mininger, President of the Hatfield Fire Company advised the Board that they purchased a truck, but it will not be ready until 2028 at a cost of \$1,190,000 which they are locked into that price. This purchase is in the capital plan.

John Sperling of 1701 Welsh Road where he has lived there for fifty (50) years. He said he doesn't feel Pulte should be using Third St. as an access to their proposed development. He requested his share of the paper street (20 feet) if the Township grants the developer access.

President Zipfel said the Township has not received a proposal from Pulte regarding the discussed property.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Andris motioned for adjournment, seconded by Commissioner LoStracco. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote and the meeting was adjourned at 7:59 pm.