

NAZARETH BOROUGH COUNCIL--REGULAR MEETING--FEBRUARY 5, 2024

The regular monthly meeting of the Borough of Nazareth was held on Monday, February 5, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. at the Nazareth Borough Municipal Building. The meeting was called to order by the President, followed by the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Present were President Daniel Chiavaroli, Vice President Carl R. Strye Jr., Mayor Lance E. Colondo, Councilpersons Jeffrey Corpora, Carl A. Fischl, Laureen Pellegrino, Michael Kopach, Charles A. Donello, Kayla Green, and Christopher D. Crook, Solicitor Alfred S. Pierce, Borough Engineer Michael Schallock, Police Chief Randall Miller and Public Works Superintendent Keith Knecht.

Public Works: Christopher D. Crook moved and Jeffrey Corpora seconded a motion to approve Resolution No. 2 - 24 - A which honors Barbara Fischl for her sixteen years of volunteer service on the Library Board as follows:

WHEREAS, the Borough of Nazareth has, since its inception, been a contributing municipality for the Memorial Library of Nazareth and Vicinity, with representation on its Board of Directors,

WHEREAS, Barbara Fischl has retired from her service as Nazareth Borough representative on the Board of Directors of the Memorial Library of Nazareth and Vicinity,

WHEREAS, the Council of the Borough of Nazareth wishes to honor a person who has helped our Borough so very much in several volunteer positions,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED and it is hereby resolved by Borough Council assembled that Barbara Fischl be thanked and commended for her incredible devotion of time and energy for our Library. For the past sixteen years, Barbara Fischl has provided our Library with countless hours of volunteer service in so many roles. Barbara has helped with fundraising, book sales, initiatives to get extra funding and better maintenance and was instrumental in the Library's crowning achievement when it was named Pennsylvania Library of the Year in 2023. Barbara and her husband Councilman Carl Fischl, could be counted upon to play critical organizational roles with the annual Book Sale and Touch A Truck events while even doing outside landscaping and cleanup work to save the Library dollars that could be spent in other needed areas. Most importantly, her many years as Library Board President brought professionalism to the organization as she helped to solidify its financial standing, update its technology and bring the role of the Board itself into sharper focus. She leaves her position with our Library poised to continue its invaluable role in our community. Additionally, she continues to serve on the Borough's Planning Commission, currently is the head of the Borough Vacancy Board and has almost singlehandedly guided our Civil Service Commission through all of its hiring initiatives over the past decade. For that and all else that she has done on the Borough's behalf, Council again thanks and honors Barbara Fischl for all her many years of volunteerism and service to our Borough and directs the Secretary to memorialize this Resolution for preservation in the Borough's official Meeting Minutes.

The motion passed unanimously. There was one (1) abstention.

Mayor Colondo then called Barbara Fischl to the front of the Chamber and read the Resolution before presenting her with a copy. Applause followed along with Council's congratulatory handshakes and a number of picture opportunities. Ms. Fischl then graciously thanked everyone in attendance for their help and support over the last nearly sixteen years and wished everyone her very best. Barbara Fischl currently serves on the Borough's Planning Commission, Civil Service Commission and its Vacancy Board so her volunteerism continues unabated in other roles and positions.

Christopher D. Crook moved and Jeffrey Corpora seconded a motion to approve Resolution No. 2 - 24 - B which honors and thanks Mary Knecht following her volunteer service as a Borough representative on the Library Board as follows:

WHEREAS, the Borough of Nazareth has, since its inception, been a contributing municipality for the Memorial Library of Nazareth and Vicinity, with representation on its Board of Directors,

WHEREAS, Mary Knecht has retired from her service as a Nazareth Borough representative on the Board of Directors of the Memorial Library of Nazareth and Vicinity,

WHEREAS, the Council of the Borough of Nazareth wishes to honor a person who has helped our Borough so very much in a volunteer position,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED and it is hereby resolved by Borough Council assembled that Mary Knecht be thanked and commended for her sacrifices of time and energy for our Library. In addition to her contributions to the Borough's business community, for the past several years, Mary Knecht has provided our Library with volunteer service in a variety of roles, all for the betterment and advancement of the Library. Mary has helped with a number of initiatives and her contagious enthusiasm and devotion helped set the tone for the Library as it continues to be a hub for community activities. For that and all else that she has done on the Borough's behalf, Council again thanks and honors Mary Knecht for her years of volunteerism and her service to our Borough and directs the Secretary to memorialize this Resolution for preservation in the Borough's official Meeting Minutes.

The motion passed unanimously.

Recognition of Citizens From the Floor: Reed Grover of 547 Seip Avenue approached Council with thanks for its past approvals for Nazareth Blue Eagle Blast Girls Softball and for use of the field in the Park. Grover was also appreciative of the February motion on this evening's Agenda again granting the organization, permission for use of the field in 2024. Grover proudly presented the Borough with a \$200 check from the organization as a sign of their gratitude.

Kevin Adams of 401 W. Center Street told Council of his disappointment with the 39% rise in Refuse and Recycling prices. Adams stated that he only places a bag or two curbside each week and

feels that seniors are being billed unfairly and should be billed on a usage basis rather than with the same rates as all residents. He believes the new rates to be excessive and unfair to seniors in particular and asked that Council look into a way to cut back costs for seniors.

Anthony Barrow from Infradapt, the Borough's IT provider, entertained questions from Council about the surveillance camera proposal that his firm had presented calling for over \$119,000 in camera and deployment costs.

Communications: None.

The Secretary's minutes from the regular meeting of January 2, 2024 were approved as presented.

On a motion by Jeffrey Corpora, seconded by Christopher D. Crook, the Treasurer's Report for the month of January 2024 was approved as follows:

General Fund--Cash on Hand December 31, 2023	\$	34,256.84
Waste & Recycling Fund--Cash on Hand December 31, 2023	\$	277,275.61
General Fund--Total Receipts	\$	320,855.08
Waste & Recycling Fund--Total Receipts	\$	171,857.86
General Fund--Total Receipts & Cash	\$	355,111.92
Waste & Recycling Fund--Total Receipts & Cash	\$	449,133.47
General Fund--Total Disbursements	\$	307,423.31
Waste & Recycling Fund--Total Disbursements	\$	(107,271.15)
General Fund--Cash on Hand January 31, 2024	\$	47,688.61
Waste & Recycling Fund--Cash on Hand January 31, 2024	\$	341,862.32
ESSA Payroll Account	\$	2,202.14
Embassy Bank State Fund Checking Account	\$	230,377.28
Embassy Bank Park Account	\$	2,484.47
Embassy Bank - American Rescue Plan	\$	8,506.77
Embassy Bank Reserve Account	\$	32,934.43
Pennsylvania Investment Trust Fund (Amer Rescue Plan)	\$	1,923.89
Pennsylvania Investment Trust Fund (New Reserve Acct)	\$	1,166,774.94
Pennsylvania Investment Trust Fund (New Sanitation Acct)	\$	676,684.02
Pennsylvania Investment Trust Fund (Reg & Term Invstmt-Park)	\$	3,167.26
Pennsylvania Investment Trust Fund (Reg + Term Investment)	\$	27,468.08

Total of All Borough Funds..... \$ 2,542,074.21

Jeffrey Corpora moved and Christopher D. Crook seconded a motion to approve the payment of bills totaling \$360,777.47.

The motion passed unanimously.

Public Property: Carl R. Strye Jr. moved and Laureen Pellegrino seconded a motion to approve the request of Nazareth Junior Blue Eagles Softball for use of the softball field in the Park from the second week of March 2024 through the second week of November 2024.

The motion passed unanimously.

Carl R. Strye Jr. moved and Christopher D. Crook seconded a motion to approve the request of Kevin Pulli of Nazareth Middle School Baseball for use of the baseball field in the Park from March 2024 through the end of May 2024.

The motion passed unanimously.

Carl R. Strye Jr. moved and Laureen Pellegrino seconded a motion to grant permission for Holy Family School to place two signs in two locations within the Circle for a four week period from late February to late March for their Tricky Tray event.

The motion passed unanimously.

Carl R. Strye Jr. moved and Michael Kopach seconded a motion to approve the following 2024 Pool Party rates...Daytime 1:00 - 3:30 pm 25 people \$250...50 people \$300. Evening Pool Party rates...5:30 - 8:00 pm... 25 people \$300...50 people \$375...overages of stated limits for attendees are at \$3.00 additional per person. Discussion followed. Laureen Pellegrino asked for a breakdown of how many parties were held in 2023 and what were the operational costs of those parties. Her concerns were that the Borough was not charging enough for each party. Christopher D. Crook asked for the maximum amount of people that would be allowed at a party.

The motion passed. There was one (1) "No" vote.

Carl R. Strye Jr. moved and Laureen Pellegrino seconded a motion to officially open the Nazareth Borough Pool on Saturday, May 25, 2024 and remain open May 26th and May 27th, 2024 for the Memorial Day weekend. The Pool will re- open the following weekend and then open daily from 12 noon till 7:00 pm when school officially ends...pending the announcement of that date by the Nazareth Area School District. The Pool will close for the season after Labor Day, September 2, 2024.

The motion passed unanimously

Carl R. Strye Jr. moved and Kayla Green seconded a motion to authorize repairs to the walls of the Firehouse to replace existing panels. The work would be done by Borough Public Works. Cost of the materials is not to exceed \$7,500.00.

The motion passed unanimously.

Carl R. Strye Jr. moved and Carl A. Fischl seconded a motion to accept the COSTARS Contract with First Responders Flooring to install the epoxy flooring in the Firehouse. Completed cost of the work is \$38,480.00 under COSTARS Contract #354174. Discussion followed. Laureen Pellegrino told Council that she disagreed with the overall costs of the project. Kayla Green stated that the Fire Committee had deemed the Firehouse bathrooms to be more important than the epoxy flooring and that she would be voting "No". Michael Kopach commented that it was a cement floor that only sees vehicles parked on it and that the costs were excessive. A Roll Call vote was called for and followed. Councilperson Pellegrino wished it noted for the record that the entire Fire Committee would be voting "No" for the project. Voting "Yes" for passage were Councilpersons Strye, Corpora, Fischl, Crook and Chiavaroli. Five (5) voting "Yes". Voting "No" were Councilpersons Pellegrino, Kopach, Donello and Green...four (4) voting "No".

The motion passes.

Finance: Jeffrey Corpora moved and Carl R. Strye Jr. seconded a motion to bring in a consultant to review the construct, equipment and details of the Park Surveillance Camera initiative and provide the Borough with suggestions, ideas and a critique of our current plans and price proposal. Consulting fees are a "one time" event not to exceed \$250.00.

The motion passed unanimously.

Police: Carl A. Fischl moved and Kayla Green seconded a motion to approve the hiring of two part time police officers George Howe and Ryan Smith, following passage of all necessary certifications and required background checks.

The motion passed unanimously.

Carl A. Fischl moved and Charles A. Donello seconded a motion to authorize a complete engine and transmission rebuild to one of the Ford Police Interceptors at a cost of \$10,000.

The motion passed. There were two (2) "No" votes and both Councilperson Crook and Councilperson Fischl wished their "No" votes noted for the record.

Carl A. Fischl moved and Kayla Green seconded a motion to approve a Food Truck Permit for Fidelity Bank for a free food distribution event at the Arts Center, 30 Belvidere Street. Fidelity will still be required to fill out the permit but all fees for the permit will be waived.

The motion passed unanimously.

Technology: Laureen Pellegrino moved and Kayla Green seconded a motion to approve the 2023 End of Year NEDC Report.

The motion passed unanimously.

Laureen Pellegrino told Council that she was tabling a properly advertised motion that would have advanced for a vote, the purchase of new surveillance cameras, software and technical support for the Borough Park from Infradapt through Pennsylvania State approved PEPPM cooperative pricing. Cost of the purchase and installation, plus the needed software is included in the final price of \$119,627.33 which includes a \$20,000 charge for "configuration" and an additional \$20,000 charge for "deployment".

Laureen Pellegrino moved and Christopher D. Crook seconded a motion to schedule and advertise in a publication of general circulation, a "Special Meeting" to be held on Thursday, February 15, 2024 at 5:00 pm at Council Chambers, 159 West Center Street. Currently, there are two (2) Agenda items for that Special Meeting. The Special Meeting Agenda will be placed on the Borough website 24 hours prior to the Meeting and hard copies of the Agenda will be posted at 134 S. Main Street and at Council Chambers.

The motion passed unanimously.

Law: Michael Kopach moved and Jeffrey Corpora seconded a motion to approve the Zoning and Code Enforcement Reports for January 2024.

The motion passed unanimously.

Michael Kopach moved and Charles A. Donello seconded a motion to advertise for an ordinance revising the Borough's Parking Ordinance. The new ordinance will establish parking setbacks of 22 feet on each corner of Walnut Street at the Main Street intersection.

The motion passed unanimously.

Environmental Steering & Lighting: Charles A. Donello moved and Michael Kopach seconded a motion to accept the January 2024 Report of the Environmental Steering Committee as presented.

The motion passed unanimously.

Charles A. Donello moved and Laureen Pellegrino seconded a motion to appoint Becky Bartlett to a one (1 yr) term on the Nazareth Borough Municipal Authority as the Upper Nazareth Township representative. Bartlett fills the unexpired and vacated term of Brian DeMarco. Discussion followed. Carl R. Strye Jr. asked if anyone had received a Letter of Interest or a resume` from the

candidate. Charles A. Donello stated that he would approach Upper Nazareth about the appointee and get more information. Following agreement by all on Council, the motion was tabled.

Charles A. Donello moved and Carl A. Fischl seconded a motion to continue to employ Barton & Loguidice to continue to perform the preliminary phases of design and the permitting of a recycling center addition with an expense cap of an additional \$15,000 - \$20,000.00 for the new facility. Discussion followed. Christopher D. Crook stated that he would be a "No" vote until a grant was received to reimburse the Borough for prior expenses. Laureen Pellegrino asked for a timeline on future grants and for the length of the permits. A Roll Call vote was called. Voting "Yes" for passage were Councilpersons Strye, Corpora, Fischl, Donello and Chiavaroli. Five (5) voting "Yes". Voting "No" were Councilpersons Pellegrino, Kopach, Green and Crook. Four (4) voting "No".

The motion passed.

Fire: No report.

Public Works: Christopher D. Crook moved and Charles A. Donello seconded a motion to approve the Public Works Report for the month of January 2024.

The motion passed unanimously.

Christopher D. Crook moved and Jeffrey Corpora seconded a motion to advertise for bids following the receipt of bid specs for the ballistic door and office coverage at the entry to the Police Department.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor: Mayor Lance E. Colondo presented the Police Report and the Report of Police Overtime for January 2024.

Solicitor: No report.

Engineer: No report.

Police Chief: No report.

Old Business: Carl A. Fischl asked if the Law Committee could research and look into the possible addition of an ordinance which would properly address the barnyard animal situation regarding chickens, ducks and other farm animals which some residents are now keeping on their properties.

Jeffrey Corpora asked if the motion regarding the design firm for the new recycling center was also being tabled for further discussion at a future meeting or if the vote and passage made continuance of the project, permissible.

New Business: Carl R. Strye Jr. had questions about the Special Meeting passed by Council motion and scheduled for February 15, 2024 at 5:00 pm. Strye asked if the Agenda was limited to the two (2) items that had been discussed and would be presented for Council vote that evening. Strye was told by the Solicitor that additional motions could be added prior to the placing of the Agenda on the website and its physical posting at Council Chambers.

The Secretary/Treasurer distributed and then introduced Council to the new 2024 Borough Handbook while highlighting some of the new features he has included. Secretary/Treasurer Kokolus paid particular attention to the Borough's over \$3.2 million dollars of received Borough grants since 2009 and presented details of some of those grants. He then referenced the Census pages in the handbook which list the official 2020 population of the Borough at 6,053 residents.

There being no further business at 7:26pm, on a motion by Carl A. Fischl, seconded by Christopher D. Crook, the Meeting was adjourned.

Paul A. Kokolus, Secretary

Daniel Chiavaroli, President