

**MINUTES OF DUBLIN BOROUGH  
COUNCIL MEETING  
MONDAY, MARCH 8, 2021**

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The March 8, 2021 meeting of Borough Council was advertised and held via Zoom. Council President, Jeffrey Sharer, called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

**ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT:**

Mayor:	Chris Hayes	
Council:	Jeffrey Sharer	Brent Smith
	Matthew Mayes	Gary Mast
	William Benonis	Robert Olsen
	Timothy Hayes	

**APPOINTED OFFICIALS PRESENT:**

Borough Manager:	Laurie A. Hagey
Borough Solicitor:	Michael Kracht, Esq.
Borough Engineer:	Thomas F. Zarko, P.E.
Police Chief:	Michael Regan
Fire Chief:	Kevin Nugent*
Emergency Management Coordinator:	M. Philip Myers*

\*Not Present

\*\*Late Arrival

2. **Pledge of Allegiance:** Mr. Sharer lead Council and the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. **Council President Announcements:** None.

4. **Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items:** There was no public comment.

5. **Approval of Minutes:**

- 5.1. **Minutes of Meeting of February 22, 2021:**

**MOTION:** A Motion was made by Mr. Mast to table the approval of the Minutes of February 22, 2021, at this time. The Motion was seconded by Mr. Mayes. President Sharer voted against the motion. The motion carried 6-1.

6. **Payment of Bills:**

- 6.1. **Bills List dated March 4, 2021 for \$96,823.96 (all funds):**

**MOTION:** Mr. Smith made a motion, seconded by Mr. Mast, and unanimously carried, to approve the Bill Lists dated March 4, 2021 in the amount of \$96,823.96.

7. **Borough Official Reports:**

- 7.1. **Dublin Fire Company:** A written report was provided to Council prior to the meeting.

- 7.2. **Mayor:** No report at this time.

**7.3. Borough Manager:** Mrs. Hagey had nothing to add to her written report, but verbally updated Council on the status of the utility payments.

**7.4. Chief of Police:** Chief Regan provided the Police Report for February 2021. There was a total of 90 incidents. The officers started a training program which addresses mental health issues, de-escalation, duty to intervene, and other law enforcement issues. Chief Regan also discussed the possibility of starting a program for residents to register their outdoor cameras with the police department.

Sergeant Kirk is out on medical leave and may return to work in May. Officer Samantha Hall submitted her resignation after 2 ½ years with Dublin Borough Police Department.

**7.5. Borough Engineer:** Mr. Zarko updated Council on the Water Tank Painting Project. He reported the last cell carrier has relocated their equipment back to the tank. The contractors are scheduled to come out within the next week to complete any remaining work.

The 2021 Paving Project bid will go out to bid soon, and Mr. Zarko will provide a recommendation to Council to award the bid sometime in April. President Sharer inquired if the driveway to the water tower was included in the 2021 paving contract. Mr. Zarko stated the contractor from last year will complete this work when the weather permits. Mayor Hayes asked how the street and sidewalk repairs are being handled. Mr. Zarko stated the notices were sent to property owners with necessary repairs. If the repairs are not completed by the date set in the letter, then the Borough contractor will complete the repairs and the property owners will be billed by the Borough for the contractor's cost. Mr. Zarko reported an additional letter will be mailed to residents who do not complete the repairs informing them what the cost will be after the bid is awarded and final costs are known. Mr. Smith mentioned if residents approach the Mayor or Council, they should encourage the residents to call the Borough and request someone from CKS Engineers to meet with them to understand exactly what is required and why.

Mr. Mayes asked if Rickerts Road would be separate from the 2021 Paving Project. Mr. Zarko stated Rickerts Road is not part of the 2021 Project; however, it will be a future project and there are several spots that do need repair which will be included. The roads included in this project are the uncompleted section of Saddlebrook Drive, which extends between Maple Avenue and Trotters Way, Applewood Lane, and Trotters Way. Mr. Mayes mentioned he remembers Rickerts Road being one of the roads in need of repair and paving. Mr. Zarko stated the budget could not support the necessary repaving, and Council directed him to prioritize the roadways of which needed repairs and should be completed first.

President Sharer asked about the progress of the Lagoon Re-Lining Project and if there were concerns with snow melt and rain in the forecast. Mr. Zarko reported there are no issues with the melt and/or rain at this time, but the project has been delayed due to the weather. The contractor cannot access the liner due to the snow and freezing because they do not want to damage the liner. When the weather is more favorable, they will get back on track and finish the project, but it must remain above freezing for this to occur.

Mr. Mast inquired about the status of the removal of the Twin Oaks Pumping Station. Mr. Zarko reported we are still in need of the necessary Easements from two Bedminster property owners. Once this issue is resolved, the project can move forward.

**7.6. Borough Solicitor:** Mr. Kracht reported as a follow up to prior conversations about snow removal, that there is a snow policy and it should be followed or changed, if desired. Mr. Mayes mentioned he would like to edit the policy to include where the snow should be piled. Mr. Smith

agreed with potentially making edits to the current policy to include outlining where the school bus stops are located so those areas can be cleared and if the snow is plowed/piled on a residential property which exceeds a certain height, the property owner would be exempt from having to move it within the current 24 hours, or perhaps it will be moved by the snow contractor later. Mr. Mast suggested that different locations should be known to the snow contractor for snow piling. President Sharer recommended the committee meet to discuss these edits.

## 8. Discussion Items:

**8.1. Approve Pay Estimate No. 6 for Contract No. 1441-7B in the amount of \$13,833.90 payable to Eastern Environmental Contractors, Inc. for the Lagoon Liner Replacement Project:** Mr. Zarko recommended approval of Pay Estimate No. 6 in the amount of \$13,833.90 payable to Eastern Environmental Contractors, Inc., for work on the Lagoon Relining Project.

**MOTION: A Motion was made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Mr. Mast to approve Pay Estimate No. 6 of Contract No. 1441-7B, in the amount of \$13,833.90, payable to Eastern Environmental, Incorporated for the Lagoon Liner Replacement Project. The Motion unanimously carried.**

**8.2. Grand View Hospital Sign Permits for 145 N. Main Street (Dublin Town Center):** Mrs. Hagey presented the sign permit application from Reed Signs on behalf of Grand View Health for their new building located at 145 North Main Street (within the Dublin Town Center site). Grand View Health is requesting Council's approval for the proposed signs, despite their failure to completely comply with the current Sign Ordinance. The permits have been reviewed by the Borough Zoning Officer and her recommendations were made to Reed Sign, who is making minor adjustments to the plans. Mrs. Hagey mentioned the proposed signage will blend nicely with Dublin Town Center project. Mr. Zarko explained one issue is the site distance at the Road A entrance, but if this is addressed to not impact the site distance, then it will not be an issue. The main issue is the size of the signs. Mr. Mayes asked if in the new Sign Ordinance size parameters would change. Mrs. Hagey would like to see the size parameters adjusted to fit the needs of the individual zoning districts. Mr. Smith mentioned the proposed signs seem appropriate for the size of the project, and we most certainly want to be sure that anything Dublin Borough approves for either the Dublin Town Center or Grand View Health projects is incorporated as an approvable specification in the new Sign Ordinance for an appropriate size, building or project.

Mayor Hayes asked what the next step would be for the revision of the Sign Ordinance. Mrs. Hagey stated she will continue to work with CKS Engineers to make the necessary updates and changes to the current sign ordinance. Mr. Smith indicated the need for the new ordinance to address the growth in the Borough. Mayor Hayes would like to have the new Sign Ordinance as soon as possible.

**MOTION: A Motion was made by Mr. Smith to approve this exception as a variance to the Sign Ordinance as it presently stands, for Permits for the proposed signs within the TC-1 District for Grand View Health, as submitted by Reed Signs. The Motion was seconded by Mr. Olsen and unanimously carried.**

**9. Committee Reports:** There were no committee reports at this time.

**10. Other Business:** None.

**11. Public Comment:** None.

**12. Comments from Council Members:** Mr. Smith asked Mrs. Hagey to pass along his thanks to Patti Kerr for her notarizing efforts.

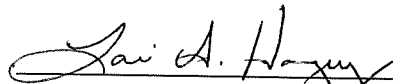
Mayor Hayes reported that behind the homes along Saddlebrook Drive there is a large pile of logs/trees sitting on the border of the property owners and the owner of the property in Hilltown Township that is storing the logs. Mayor Hayes mentioned the pile appears to be approximately three stories high, is unsightly and potentially unsafe. Mrs. Hagey reported she did reach out to the Hilltown Township Manager for assistance with the concerns at this property. Hilltown indicated their inspector did visit the property and did cite the owner. There is not much more the Borough can do in this situation and it was recommended the Dublin property owners should call Hilltown Township directly to try and resolve the problem.

President Sharer opened a discussion regarding the *Future of Fire Fighting Report* received from Bucks County. There was a suggestion to implement a Fire Tax, which has a maximum of 3 mills; however, it was noted only 1 mill is approved to go directly toward paid firefighting, with the other 2 having the ability to be used only for other things, such as equipment. Mr. Mast mentioned there was a lot of information contained in the report, which everyone should read, and he is interested in everyone's opinion. Mr. Kracht believes there is going to be an affordable solution that may involve regionalization. Mrs. Hagey reported there is a Zoom meeting scheduled with the Bucks County Commissioners very soon and the issue of Fire Fighting is on the Agenda. Mr. Mast asked Mr. Kracht his opinion on how the Borough should proceed. Mr. Kracht suggested the Bucks County Consortium may be the place for this conversation to continue and giving the Managers the ability to work together to come up with solutions to the problems created from the lack of volunteers. Mayor Hayes suggested offering a stipend to volunteers to encourage them to respond to calls. There was an extensive discussion regarding possible ideas and solutions to this dire problem. Mr. Smith suggested Council continues to discuss this issue as there have been some good ideas mentioned. Mr. Mast suggested we get the word out to the residents in town about this issue, especially if there will be some financial implication. Mr. Olsen stated that there are 85 stations in Bucks County and only 6 of them currently have paid firefighters. Mr. Olsen added he is hopeful there will be aid offered or a program to provide income to support compensating the firefighters in some way. Mr. Kracht suggested the tech school could have a program for kids 18 and over interested in firefighting. Mr. Mast suggested the Police Department could possibly also act as firefighters to assist with increasing the number of people responding to a call. President Sharer stated there are a lot of ideas and Council should continue discussions and consider ideas while moving forward.

**13. Adjournment:** Upon motion by Mr. Smith, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date Approved: 3/22/2021

  
Laurie A. Hagey, Manager/Secretary