

**MINUTES OF DUBLIN BOROUGH
COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2021**

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The February 22, 2021 meeting of Borough Council, which was advertised to the public on the Borough's website with instructions to join the meeting by telephone or by Zoom, and posted on the front door of Borough Hall, was 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

2. **Pledge of Allegiance:** President Sharer led Council and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

4. **Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items:** None.

5. **Approval of Minutes:**

- 5.1. **Minutes of Meeting of February 8, 2021:**

MOTION: A Motion to approve the Minutes of the February 8, 2021 meeting was made by Mr. Olsen and seconded by Mr. Benonis. The motion unanimously carried.

6. **Payment of Bills:**

- 6.1. **Bills List dated February 19, 2021 in the amount of \$54,643.30 (all funds):**

MOTION: A Motion was made to approve the Bill Lists dated February 19, 2021, in the amount of \$54,643.30 for all funds by Mr. Mast, seconded by Mr. Smith, and unanimously carried.

7. **Discussion Items:** None.

8. **Committee Reports:** There were no committee reports currently.

9. **Other Business:** None.

10. Public Comments: None.**11. Comments from Council Members:**

President Sharer opened a discussion regarding snow clearing and enforcement. Mrs. Hagey reported that after the first major snowstorm property owners who failed to clear their sidewalks were issued letters to remove snow and mentioned the policy states it must be removed within 24 hours after the snowfall ends. If there is no action and no reply from the homeowner, the police department can cite the property owner. Mr. Mayes complained about the pile of snow that the plows pushed onto his sidewalk, which he had to remove after they plowed it on. Mrs. Hagey informed Mr. Mayes he is not responsible to remove a large snow pile if it were from the snowplow, and the contractor normally would not pile snow like that but there was nowhere to put it. President Sharer also stated Mr. Mayes did not have to move the snow piled from the plowing contractor. Mr. Mayes claimed he will get yelled at by neighbors if he does not move it. Mrs. Hagey suggested concerned neighbors call her if they have a problem with the snow being there. Mr. Smith suggested to the Chief of Police that he should use discretion with who removes the snow from their property. Mr. Mast stated it is the same situation as those people who do not pay their utility bills. Mayor Hayes asked what the process is for informing residents they need to clear their snow, and he was informed about the letters the Borough hands out and the citations issued for failure to comply.

A major concern was the pile of snow and ice from the plows at the school bus stops. Mayor Hayes stated there is snow covering the corners at the bus stop and handicap ramp, and children waiting for the school bus must do so in the street. President Sharer stated if the Borough causes the snow pile, there is not going to be enforcement to move it. The Mayor replied, "if we are not going to enforce it, why have it?". President Sharer replied, "if property owners communicate with the Borough, we can work with them, but if they don't cooperate, a citation will be issued". Mayor Hayes stated that first you should identify those in violation and then enforce it, with the Borough sending a letter before the citation. Mayor Hayes believes the police department should only be involved in enforcement, not in the surveillance. He stated the police should not be going around checking sidewalks for compliance. Mr. Mast believes it is the same as giving out parking tickets.

Mayor Hayes mentioned the prior contractor pushed the snow from the street on the curb and on the resident's lawn, by doing that they plowed people's sidewalks over and they were passable, and he thinks that contractor went out and shoveled the sidewalks and fixed all the areas where they covered with snow. Mayor Hayes asked if the Borough is going to clear the sidewalks if they get covered with snow. President Sharer stated they would not, they would let them be. Mayor Hayes said children would have to wait in the streets if the sidewalks are not cleared. President Sharer replied that if you want to go out and clear the snow, then go ahead. Mayor Hayes stated that there are two issues, people that don't comply and then the problem created by the plows. President Sharer stated that we have a problem as to where we can put the snow. People that do not try to give any effort, they are the ones that we will go after. Mayor Hayes asked how you would know who shoveled versus the plow pushing all the snow on the sidewalk. Mr. Smith stated if they want the crew that plows the snow off the road to come back and clear it off the sidewalk, they will have to budget more money for that. Last week they did come back and hauled the snow away. Mr. Mast reminded everyone that you may have already shoveled your driveway when the plow comes back and plows in your driveway and you have to go back out and shovel. He stated, "you just do it, no need to complain." Mayor Hayes stated when the plow pushes the snow from the road onto the lawns, it's a big sheet of ice you cannot shovel. Mr. Mast asked Mr. Mayes and Mayor Hayes, "do you have different snow in The Orchards then in the rest of Dublin?". Mr. Mayes stated they are talking about a lot of snow on the sidewalk. President Sharer said he realizes there is a lot of snow and they will not do anything about that, they will not enforce it. Mayor Hayes said, "oh, that is a great response". President Sharer added, "glad you agree". Mayor Hayes mentioned the bus stop situation forcing the children to wait in the street and Mr. Mast suggested they could wait in a driveway. Mr. Smith said, "I agree that the bus stops should be cleared". President Sharer stated this kind of snowstorm happens every 5 years and there is no place to put the snow. Mayor Hayes

said, "when people ask what you are going to do about it, I will answer 'nothing'". President Sharer replied, "that is correct". Mr. Mayes requested no snow be put on his sidewalk because he had severe damage from the snow contractor the last time they put it there. President Sharer asked when this incident happened, and Mr. Mayes replied it was five years ago. President Sharer indicated that the contractor would fix damages in the spring if you let them know right away and do not wait 5 years. Mr. Smith stated he appreciates the discussion, and they should discuss how much they want to spend to do the removal, and that the bus stops do have to be cleared in his opinion and identify the bus stops to the contractor. He also suggested the Borough have a 3-5-year budget for when these storms come. Mayor Hayes suggested we communicate with the plow contractor what they should and should not do. There was a discussion about how the Dublin Town Center snow removal will be handled in the future. Mrs. Hagey indicated she will relay to the snow contractor the location of the bus stops to ensure they are not plowed over going forward.

Mr. Olsen asked what the Borough could do to help the residents find information to get the vaccine in Bucks County. Mrs. Hagey reported the link to the County sign-up system is on the Borough website. The County sends updates and encourages residents to sign up for the vaccine, but to be patient. Mr. Olsen suggested a letter be drafted and sent to Bucks County on behalf of Council asking for more communication and help with the vaccination information and updates, and to ask if the Borough can do anything to help. Mayor Hayes stated that the vaccination process is handled through the County. Mr. Kracht listed private sectors that carry the vaccine.

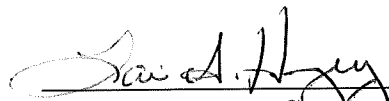
Mayor Hayes stated he would like to see an increased level of communication to Council from the Borough, going forward. There is a major development going on in Dublin, there was a public water issue in his development and two major storms. He stated he and Council receive little information and they need to know what is going on in so they can answer questions asked by residents. With his role as Mayor, he should be able to answer questions if people ask him what is going on in town. President Sharer stated that last year everything was shut down, there really has not been a lot going on besides the development and the storms. The pandemic slowed everything down, so there has not been a lot. Mrs. Hagey stated she would send out more emails as to what is happening in the Borough. Mayor Hayes stated that there was always a lot of communication several times a week in years before. President Sharer stated that there was always a lot going on in Dublin the last couple years. Mr. Mast stated that there were a lot of discussions, like delinquent billing and personnel issues which caused executive sessions, which are no longer an issue.

Mr. Mayes would like to know when we can return to in-person Council Meetings. President Sharer stated that until the State changes the public meeting capacity rules, the meetings will continue to be held virtually via Zoom. Mr. Mayes asked Mr. Kracht if they could hold a public meeting. Mr. Kracht stated that he will investigate it.

12. Adjournment: Mr. Smith motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:31 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date Approved: 3/22/2021



Laurie A. Hagey, Secretary