

COLUMBIA BOROUGH COUNCIL – WORK SESSION

April 2, 2019 | 6:00 PM

Paul W. Myers Council Chambers

MINUTES

1. Council President Murphy called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Councilpersons present: Berntheizel, Burgard, Fitzgerald, Kress-Hartman, Murphy, Novak, Williams and Mayor Lutz.

Junior Councilpersons present: Misciagna. Cover, Black and Simpson were absent.

2. A moment of silence was observed. Councilwoman Williams led the pledge to the flag.

3. Presentation

- a. Planning/Zoning Manager Jeff Helm presented an update of Columbia 2040 Comprehensive Plan. The first public engagement was April 1st, which was well attended and resulted in 10 pages of notes. Two additional meetings will be held in April and a meeting will be convened in early May for the business community. Councilperson Novak stated that he was present at the kickoff, it was well organized and a nice presentation. Resident Frank Doutrich (1001 Ironville Pike) inquired on the “end result” of the plan. Mr. Helm responded that the data assimilated will assist in shaping and drafting the comprehensive plan. Borough Manager Denlinger also responded that the work sessions will build upon the framework developed earlier by the Planning Commission to move forward and allow the community opportunity to give input.

4. Public Safety

- a. Steve Henry submitted the March 2019 report from Columbia EMS (CEMS/CQRS). A request is being made that the Borough consider assisting in fuel cost. Currently CEMS has a balance in their escrow at approximately \$2,000. They are asking when that diminishes that it be permitted that they continue to utilize Borough gas cards, not to exceed \$3,000 in the remaining 2019 budget year. Councilman Novak asked that the fuel cost assistance request be added to the April 9th Borough Council meeting agenda.

Henry acknowledged Clyde “Tim” Brown for 50 years of service to Columbia Borough. Henry spoke of the CEMS/CQRS restructure and recruitment of new volunteers. Councilpersons Burgard and Novak commended Henry and the emergency services for their dedication, service and growth. Mayor Lutz and Resident Frank Doutrich (1001 Ironville Pike) inquired as to why EMS is seventh in line on the call list. An explanation was given by Henry and further explained by Councilman Burgard. Mayor Lutz inquired on accountability in using the Borough fuel cards by non-borough employees. Councilman Novak suggested conferring with the solicitor in regards to a protocol being established.

Henry also spoke of a newer program focused on the installation of a coordinator for CEMS to oversee programs relating directly to pediatric care. The position is currently being worked on, and a volunteer to be implemented in working directly with agencies within the Borough.

- b. Councilman Burgard acknowledged and commended Chief Kemmerly and the Fire Dept. volunteers in the 709 volunteer hours given in the month of March.

5. Personnel

- a. Council President Murphy suggested additional statements to resolution 2019-19 (1.B) Councilperson participation in community activities on behalf of Borough Council (1.C) Speaking to the media (2.B) Guidelines for ethical conduct (5.B) Oversight of the Police Department

Councilman Novak suggested using the same terminology throughout the resolution; changing "councilperson" and "mayor" to "elected officials" for the purpose of simplicity and continuity. Councilwoman Kress-Hartman stated that she did not think those changes were necessary. Resident, Mary Wickenheiser (620 Chestnut Street) expressed concern in changing titles. Borough Manager Denlinger will seek the Borough Solicitors assistance in considering those revisions. Resident Frank Doutrich (1001 Ironville Pike) questioned protocols for the reimbursement of council and mayor expenses. Borough Manager Denlinger and Councilman Novak responded.

6. Legislation

- a. Councilman Novak lead a discussion on the proposed Abandoned and/or Hazardous Vehicle draft Ordinance. He inquired on any changes or questions with Interim Code Compliance Manager, Paul Paulsen, regarding these regulations. Paulsen stated that Codes will not be going on private property. Paulsen would like to change the language of the proposed ordinance to remove "police, fire or similar officer" and replace with "designee" as persons enforcing the ordinance. Novak asked that this draft document be revised by staff, forward on to the Borough Solicitor for review and comment and then added to the May 2019 Borough Council Work Session agenda. Resident Denny Wolpert (1019 Manor St) expressed concern that this ordinance will not be move the borough forward. Resident Frank Doutrich (1001 Ironville Pike) inquired on quick tickets and Paulsen responded.
- b. Councilman Novak lead a discussion on the proposed Short Term Rental (STR) draft Ordinance. Junior Councilperson Misciagna questioned as to why the AirBnB was considered a short-term rental. Helm explained that the owner not occupying the property constitutes the STR. Councilwoman Kress-Hartman suggested adding code inspector to 13.H. It was also suggested that Borough Council should consider adding penalties to the draft ordinance. Suggestions were to add a three strike approach, meaning after 2 violations of the ordinance, the STR license could be revoked. Novak asked that this draft document be revised by staff, forward on to the Borough Solicitor for review and comment and then added to the May 2019 Borough Council Work Session agenda.
- c. Councilman Novak lead a discussion on the proposed HARB Expansion. Resident Mary Wickenheiser (620 Chestnut St) expressed her unhappiness with the expansion and feels as though it is a waste of Borough resources. Councilperson Berntheizel also expressed his concern with moving forward with the process. The addition would add an estimated 500 dwellings to the existing historic district. Councilperson Novak requested the matter be place on the April 9, 2019 Borough Council agenda for consideration of moving forward with the work to document the expansion and seek review and approval from the PA Historic and Museum Commission.

7. Announcements

- a. Councilman Novak requested an update on communications with Comcast, the status of the next edition of the Borough Newsletter, and feedback on the Borough’s Facebook page. Borough Manager Denlinger responded. Borough Manager Denlinger also gave updates on the Borough joining the School District in their alert notification system. Also, the Borough continues in its negotiation efforts with KT Graham to secure the 101 S. Front Street parcel via lease from Norfolk Southern for parking.
- b. Council President Murphy announced the next meeting will be held at 6:00 PM on April 9, 2019 when Council will hold an information session to receive information from its Borough Manager and Solicitor.

8. Motion to adjourn the meeting at 09:33 PM.

Motion by:	Second by:	Voice Vote:
J. Novak	T. Burgard	All Favored – Motion Carried

MOTIONED AND APPROVED this 9th day of April 2019, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Columbia, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, in lawful session duly assembled.

BOROUGH OF COLUMBIA, LANCASTER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

By:



Kelly Murphy, Council President

ATTEST:



Rebecca S. Denlinger, Secretary/Treasurer