

PARKESBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, January 16, 2025
7:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Council President Todd Brade at 7:01 p.m.

Roll call was held. Council Members present were Council President Todd Brade, Council Vice-President Sharon Wolf, Council Member Nick Ohar, Council Member Margaretta “Rhett” Lipscomb, Council Member David Mellema, and Mayor John P. Hagan, II. Also present were Police Chief Ryan Murtagh, Borough Solicitor John Carnes, and Borough Manager Rochelle Gresh. Council Members Mark Agen and Monique Baylor were absent.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

A **MOTION** to approve the agenda was made by Lipscomb and seconded by Wolf. All in favor.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A **MOTION** to approve the minutes of the December 5, 2024, Workshop Meeting was made by Lipscomb and seconded by Wolf. All in favor.

A **MOTION** to approve the minutes of the December 19, 2024, Regular Council Meeting was made by Lipscomb and seconded by Wolf. All in favor.

PRESENTATIONS:

Police Officer Award Ceremony- Due to the weather, the swearing in ceremony of new full-time police officer, James Grajewski, was not held this evening. Police Chief Murtagh addressed the council referencing the monthly and 2024 year-end police reports. He informed council members of the authorization of the 2025 agreement with Atglen, which was signed. Police Chief Murtagh also stated the budgeted maintenance issues are being addressed at the station.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Borough Solicitor John Carnes began the public hearing by informing council members and the public there were two phases of this hearing.

- 1- Zoning Ordinance Amendment to R-2 zoning district to provide TND option by conditional use. David Bashore (Chairman of the Planning Commission) provided background history of the property. Bashore stated the initial sketch for the property and provided the two revised plans. Kevin Myers (Chester County Planning Commission) addressed all in attendance and claimed the Ordinance provides guidance for the development.
- 2- SALDO Amendment to add design package for TND development to Parkesburg’s subdivision Ordinance. Borough Solicitor Carnes stated the purpose of the SALDO Amendment was to add a design package for the traditional neighborhood development (TND) to Parkesburg’s subdivision Ordinance. Carnes also provided a list of exhibits for the record.

A MOTION to move the exhibits into record was made by Wolf and seconded by Mellema. All in favor.

PUBLIC COMMENT (AGENDA ITEMS ONLY): None

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Engineer - Written report was submitted to council.

Police Chief Report- Written report was submitted to council.

Public Works Department- Written report was submitted to council.

Fire Chief Report – Written report was submitted to council. Fire Chief Marks mentioned the property loss on Second Ave due to a recent fire.

Fire District Administrator- Written Report was submitted to council.

Code Enforcement- No Report

Mayor- Mayor Hagan addressed the council about issuing a proclamation to recognize January 27, 2025, as International Holocaust Remembrance Day. Mayor Hagan suggested ringing bells at noon on this day. A copy of this proclamation is attached to this council meeting minutes as well as being posted on the borough's website and in the lobby of the borough office.

Borough Solicitor- No report

Treasurer's Report – Written report was submitted to council.

Borough Manager- Written report was submitted to council.

BUSINESS ITEMS:

a) **A MOTION** to approve the bill list as presented and payment of all recurring bills and payroll was made by Lipscomb and seconded by Ohar. All in favor.

b) The approval of the Treasurer's Report was tabled until February 6, 2025.

c) **A MOTION** to hire Kristen Hayen as administrative assistant/trash services representative effective February 3, 2025, at \$41,600.00 was made by Mellema and seconded by Lipscomb. All in favor.

d) **A MOTION** to accept the sponsorship of the traffic signal and approve the authorized signature TE-160 by Borough Manager /or Borough President was made by Mellema and seconded by Lipscomb. All in favor.

e) **A MOTION** to approve the Temporary Construction Easement Agreement covering small areas missed when the 2020 TCE was prepared was made by Mellema and seconded by

Lipscomb. All in favor.

- f) **A MOTION** to renew engineering contract for West and East Bridge Street was made by Lipscomb and seconded by Mellema. All in favor.
- g) **A MOTION** to approve engineering agreement with PENNDOT - (includes previously shared technical and price proposals for East and West Bridge) was made by Lipscomb and seconded by Mellema. All in favor.
- h) Borough Solicitor Carnes addressed the Resolution granting signature authority for the Eighth Amendment agreement for West Bridge. Carnes referenced the June 18th letter stating PennDOT and the project being 100% financed by federal funds. He informed council members that the borough would not have to advance money, and the borough would forward invoices to PennDOT to be paid. Amtrak wants the borough to put 30% down and then get the money back at the end.

A MOTION to approve Resolution granting signature authority for the Eighth Amendment agreement for West Bridge was made by Mellema and seconded by Ohar. All in favor. Borough Solicitor commented that PennDot is okay with the agreement.
- i) **A MOTION** to approve the PennDOT engineering agreement was made by Lipscomb and seconded by Mellema. All in favor.
- j) **A MOTION** to approve Zoning Ordinance Amendment was made by Lipscomb and seconded by Wolf. All in favor.
- k) **A MOTION** to approve SALDO Ordinance Amendment was made by Wolf and seconded by Lipscomb. All in favor.
- l) **A MOTION** to modify the Atglen police services contract was made by Lipscomb and seconded by Mellema. All in favor.
- m) **A MOTION** to approve the MS4 Stream Restoration Proposal for design was made by Lipscomb and seconded by Mellema. All in favor.
- n) Zoning appeals – Borough Solicitor Carnes informed council there are two zoning appeals scheduled for January 29, 2025. The first involves Crane car wash with a storage facility. The second is the property at 217-219 Chapel Ave and consolidating the lots. A discussion was held and council requested that Borough Solicitor attend the hearings. Council members expressed concern about the history of Mr. Crane still owing money to the borough.
- o) Minch Park Baseball agreements – Council Member Mellema stated still working on.
- p) **A MOTION** to approve Resolution for supporting the Pennsylvania Commission for the

United States Semiquincentennial was made by Lipscomb and seconded by Wolf. All in favor.

- q) A discussion was held in regard to a contractor's license. Council members pointed out the inconsistent licensing in Pennsylvania. Council stated there should be something in place to protect citizens from uninsured contractors.

PUBLIC COMMENTS - (Limited to Three Minutes) - David Bashore (Planning Commission Chairman) introduced Matt Marran, member of the Planning Commission.

COUNCIL COMMENTS- Council Member Lipscomb provided members of council with a PA State Borough calendar. Lipscomb informed council about the PSAB Service Award and Communication Contest nominations and the deadline for applications is February 14, 2025. The PSAB Annual Conference will be held at the Hershey Lodge from June 1-4, 2025. Council Member Mellema presented council members with a flier regarding the First Annual Parkesburg Waiter Race, which be held on March 22, 2025, from 2-4pm. President Brade informed council members that the Community Services Committee includes the police and public works vehicles. Also, Brade stated that a task force is being created for trash to determine if the borough wants to remain status quo or get quotes from outside sources. Council Member Mellema claimed he would be interested in joining.

ADJOURNMENT:

A MOTION to adjourn was made by Wolf and seconded by Mellema. All in favor. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:26p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Wanda Harner
Borough Secretary

2025 Council Meeting Schedule:
"3rd Thursday of each month"
Next Meeting: February 20, 2025



BOROUGH OF PARKESBURG

315 West First Avenue, Building 1 Parkesburg Pa 19365

610-857-2616 -- Fax 610-857-1102

A proclamation that the Borough of Parkesburg, Chester County, Pennsylvania, recognizes January 27, 2025, as International Holocaust Remembrance Day

This proclamation recognizes January 27, 2025, as "International Holocaust Remembrance Day" in Parkesburg Borough.

WHEREAS: The Holocaust was the state-sponsored, systematic persecution and murder of an estimated 17 million people by the German Nazi regime, under the leadership of Adolf Hitler, between 1933 and 1945; and

WHEREAS: German Nazis not only targeted the European Jewish population, but countless others, including Romani, mentally and physically disabled individuals, homosexuals, Poles, Communists, Soviet citizens, Socialists and Jehovah's Witnesses, due to perceived racial and biological inferiority and on political, ideological and behavioral grounds; and

WHEREAS: On January 27, 1945, Soviet soldiers opened the gates to Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest and deadliest concentration camp, and liberated more than 6,000 prisoners, most of whom were ill and dying due to the horrors they were subjected to by their captors; and

WHEREAS: In 2005, in commemoration of the importance and significance of that event, the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted a resolution establishing January 27 as "International Holocaust Remembrance Day"; and

WHEREAS: January 27 serves as both a day on which the lives of those who perished during the Holocaust are honored and on which a commitment to human rights is reasserted by rejecting any denial of the Holocaust as a historical event and educating new generations of the atrocities that transpired in an effort to prevent future acts of genocide from occurring; and

WHEREAS: The General Assembly of the United Nations also encourages, as part of its original declaration in 2005, that this day be used to condemn all manifestations of religious intolerance, incitement, harassment or violence against individuals or communities based on ethnic origin or religious belief, whenever they occur;

NOW THEREFORE, I, John P Hagan II, Mayor of the Borough of Parkesburg, Pennsylvania, with the support of members of Borough Council and the citizens of Parkesburg, do hereby proclaim January 27, 2025 as International Holocaust Remembrance Day in Parkesburg in memory of the victims of the Holocaust, and in honor of the survivors, as well as the rescuers and liberators, and further proclaim that we, as residents of Parkesburg Borough should strive to overcome intolerance and indifference through learning and remembrance.

PROCLAIMED by the Mayor of the Borough of Parkesburg on the 16th Day of January of the Year 2025.

X 

John P. Hagan II
Mayor, Borough of Parkesburg