

March 7, 2023

Mr. Smock, President of the Board, convened the work session at 7:00 PM on the above date. Also present were Commissioners Milazzo, Eckles, Pavone and Miller, as well as: Jason M. Bobst; Colleen Marsini, Esquire; Kathy Frederick; Michael Kelly; Stephen Morris; Donna Horn; Michael Valyo; and Jon Dzedzy. After reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, the meeting proceeded.

Presentation *Naomi Crimm of the Montgomery County Planning Commission prepared and presented a power point presentation of the Planning Commission's work on the Main Street Corridor, which is the portion of W. Main Street between Trooper Road & Forrest Avenue. Ms. Crimm outlined the vision of the Corridor, it's uses, including retail, restaurants and offices, and described the look, including depth of lots and design standards, including frontage and streetscape. In response to an inquiry by Mr. Smock regarding when changes are to go into effect, Ms. Crimm replied when the property is demoed. In response to an inquiry by Ms. Milazzo regarding signs, Ms. Crimm noted that same would be in accordance with the recent Sign Ordinance of 2021. Per Mr. Bobst, the next steps are preparation of the Ordinances, map and text amendments, advertising of the Ordinances (three times) and a hearing thereon at the end of 30 days.*

**Discussion/
Status Update** *Discussion/Status Updates were given by Mr. Bobst as follows:*

A. The request for rezoning of the property at 450 S. Trooper Road (Plaza Flowers) from mixed zoning to C – Commercial will be included in the map amendment with the W. Main Street Corridor.

B. Sherry Johnson mentioned the homeless issue and presented a YouTube video of the homeless encampment on The Schuylkill River Trail in Norristown. Ms. Johnson expressed her concern for the homeless residing on the Trail which, according to Ms. Johnson, has been exacerbated since the closing of the 50 bed shelter @ Norristown State Hospital, but also for the theft of property and safety of the residents of West Norriton Township residing near the encampment. According to Mr. Johnson, there are 568 homeless people in Montgomery County and that something should be done to house them, perhaps in palette homes/shelters. It was also mentioned by Ms. Johnson that she is organizing a clean-up of the area on Earth Day, April 28th. Mr. Bobst mentioned that the County Managers are joining together to work on this issue as it is larger than we are aware of since many are living in their cars. Per Mr. Bobst, the County has "dropped this at our feet" by distributing sleeping bags and tents to the homeless, but nothing else, and that the County should take this on because they have COVID funding. Mr. Bobst added that he applauds the residents who want to get involved and bring about the conversation that needs to be had.

Resident Peter Moore commented that “we have no defense against these people” and that he is concerned about the homeless, but that he is more concerned about his family’s safety. Chief Kelly stated that there are two separate issues here: how to keep law and how to help not break the law. Mr. Bobst stated that he will work with Chief Kelly and Deputy Chief Morris on increasing patrols of the bike trail utilizing opioid funds to cover costs, and that he will also work with them and Ms. Pavone and Ms. Eckles on a mission statement on this issue to be presented at the next meeting. It was explained by Mr. Miller that the opioid funds came from litigation against opioid manufacturers to reimburse costs for battling opioid overdoses (Narcan) and addiction.

C. The HRC will be presenting a draft ordinance at the Board’s March work session banning conversion therapy.

D. Officer Alexis Nagel volunteered to be the police liaison for the HRC, as she was in a similar position at Drexel University, and Mr. Bobst is the public liaison. These positions are a general point of contact and complaints are still lodged with the HRC.

E. Also, with regard to the status of the American Rescue Funds, \$1.4M is available for use among the following projects/proposed projects: \$40,000.00 for the Stonybrook cleanup, sewer credits to homeowners, a home renovation project and stormwater upgrade. Mr. Smock mentioned that he was in favor of this stormwater upgrade and suggested that Center Avenue be an area of focus. Ms. Milazzo inquired if we should focus on one area of a number of them. It was added by Mr. Bobst that the goal of the home renovation program is to assist homeowners with improvements to keep them in their homes and would be allocated at \$10,000.00 per home. Mr. Bobst noted that he would work with Ms. Milazzo on this program and that perhaps we could get matching government funding.

According to Mr. Bobst, the following items would be considered for adoption and/or action thereon at the next Board meeting:

Manager

- A. Adopting Resolution #23-1698 Sale of Personal Property for the sale of a vehicle on Municibid;*
- B. Appointments to the Township’s Boards and Commissions;*
- C. Adopting Resolution #23-1699 Appointing Residents to Boards and Commissions, specifically the Township’s Zoning Hearing Board; and*

D. Approval of the 2022 Fire Call Credit List for Jefferson Fire Company No. 1 for 18 firefighters @ \$500.00 each for a total of \$9,000.00.

**Liaison
Committee
Reports**

Per Mr. Smock, the Board members attended the Zoning Hearing to celebrate Ed Lincul for his years of dedication to the Township.

It was stated by Ms. Milazzo that the Parks & Recreation committee is busy planning events for 2023.

Ms. Eckles mentioned that the Civil Service Commission met and reviewed test scores of applicants for police officer position, and that no women or minorities applied.

Ms. Pavone commented that the HRC is continuing its work on an Ordinance banning conversion therapy and is planning a movie event for April.

It was noted by Mr. Miller that the EAC met to discuss the plastic bag ban, and the he attended the Planning Commission meeting to speak as a private citizen against TLC's proposed car wash on Main Street.

**Public
Comment**

Jeffrey Stillings

Sherry Johnson

Randy Lamb

Leroy James Watters, III. of 1 E. Indian Lane

Upon motion of Mr. Miller, seconded by Ms. Pavone and unanimously agreed, the public comment portion of the meeting was closed.

According to Mr. Bobst, the following is the upcoming schedule of meetings: Environmental Advisory Council – April 5th @ 7:00 PM; Recreation Committee – March 8th @ 7:00 PM; Planning Commission – March 20th @ 7:00 PM; Zoning Hearing Board – None; and Human Relations Commission – March 23rd @ 7:00 PM.

There being no further items on the agenda, upon motion of Mr. Milazzo, seconded by Mr. Miller and unanimously approved, the work session was adjourned at 9:12 PM.

Kathy K. Frederick

Assistant Secretary

***Upcoming
Meeting Dates***

Adjournment