

Borough of Carlisle
Workshop Meeting Minutes
November 4, 2020

This meeting was held via Zoom due to the restrictions of social distancing put in place do to Covid-19.

Present at the meeting: Councilors Crampsie, Fulham-Winston, Hicks, Landis, Deputy Mayor Shultz, Mayor Scott and Stuby. Also present were: Borough Manager Armstrong, Assistant Borough Manager Snyder, Water Resources Director Malarich, Community Development Manager Skelly, Parks & Recreation Director Crouse, Police Chief Landis, Fire Chief Snyder, Human Resource Supervisor Hamilton, Public Information Coordinator Taylor, Dickinson Law Student Ambassador Speer, Dickinson College Student Ambassador DelMain and Borough Secretary Stone.

I. Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Scott Called the Workshop Meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

II. Citizens to be Heard

No Citizens were heard

III. Meeting Minutes:

- A. Borough Council voted 7-0 to approve the September 30, 2020 Workshop Meeting Minutes. (Shultz/Fulham-Winston)

IV. Mayor's Report:

- A. Lincoln Cemetery Resolution

Borough Council voted 7-0 to adopt a resolution acknowledging and apologizing for any and all past participation in the sanctioning of segregation and systemic racism toward African-Americans and other people of color, particular in relation to the events that led to the removal of all grave markers and headstones, except for one, in the Lincoln Cemetery in 1972 and acknowledging the suffering and pain caused by centuries of discrimination and racial inequity in Borough government and the auspices over which she has jurisdiction. (Scott/Landis/Shultz)

Councilor Landis noted she was a member of the Lincoln Cemetery Committee that worked with the Army War College Class of 2019 in collaboration with the installation of the new cemetery archway. She recognized Ms. TaWanda Stallworth for her perseverance in advancing the resolution that reflects the importance of honoring the descendants and the cemetery. Councilor Landis mentioned the Historical Society obtained a grant and with the help of Create-A-Palooza, an art project has been created honoring those buried in Lincoln Cemetery. Also acknowledged were Borough staff for quickly refurbishing the Lincoln Cemetery flagpole. Councilor Landis stated this is a work in progress and the space will continued to be honored and cared for.

Deputy Mayor Shultz recognized that TaWanda Stallworth had asked for the proposed resolution a year ago and offered an apology for not responding sooner. He also noted the planning for a Town Hall meeting to address racism is still underway.

Ms. TaWanda Stallworth expressed her appreciation to Borough Council for their transparency, for their accountability and for their commitment to this item. She remarked, "It is not important how we got here but that we've arrived". Ms. Stallworth also mentioned other inequities taking place in the country and applauded Council for taking a bold step in moving this community into a direction that is so desperately needed.

B. Wardecker Mayoral Proclamation

Mayor Scott presented a proclamation honoring Mr. Fred Wardecker's retirement and the closing off Wardecker's Men's Wear business. He remarked that this closing truly marks an end of an era. Mayor Scott stated that during Mr. Wardecker's years in business, his focus was on customer service and always having the time to make sure everything was a perfect fit.

C. Warm Handoff Project Letter of Support

Borough Council voted 7-0 to ratify a letter of support to Cumberland-Perry Drug and Alcohol Commission in their pursuit of grant funding for the proposed Cumberland County Police Warm Handoff Program. Approval is retroactive to October 22, 2020, the date of execution by Mayor Scott. (Scott/Shultz)

Borough Manager Armstrong explained that the County had an interest in applying for the Warm Handoff Grant and contacted the Borough. The vision is to use the money in connection with the JFT Recovery & Veteran Support Services to advance the program with our local police departments.

V. Public Safety Committee:

A. Decriminalization of Cannabis:

Councilor Stuby provided a summary of a draft ordinance for consideration by Borough Council. He remarked that if approved the ordinance would make the possession of a small amount of cannabis, possession of cannabis related paraphernalia and smoking cannabis in a public location all summary offenses under the Borough's Code. Councilor Stuby explained there would be penalty fines attached for the two possession offenses of twenty-five dollars each and one hundred dollars for smoking cannabis in a public location. He recommended a one-year pilot program and then reevaluating the data related to the implementation. Council would then decide to move forward by extending the program based on that data.

Councilor Hicks inquired what information would be tracked in order to make an educated assessment at the end of the pilot process. Councilor Stuby responded there is a reporting feature requirement in the ordinance. The data to be collected would include the total number of citations issued with a breakdown by gender, race, total number of repeat offenders cited and any challenges encountered during the course of the implementation. Deputy Mayor Shultz expressed concerns with dealing with a symptom of systemic racism by creating another layer of crime. He noted he would like updates that are more frequent because summary offenses are easier to write and the potential ramifications are not as severe as a misdemeanor but the imposed fines could have a negative financial impact on individuals living on a limited income. He also noted concerns of secondary effects this change would have in our community, which will be hard to measure.

Councilor Crampsie suggested that Council write a letter to the Governor once there is an approved ordinance, asking to for lawmakers to come together for a solution on a criminal justice component to decriminalize or legalize, along with record expungements.

There was a discussion regarding the need for public education on the new ordinance and the option of using the monies received from citations to be used for public education. Mayor Scott recommended making that wording part of the motion when brought back to Council for consideration.

Councilor Stuby made the recommendation to revise the draft ordinance for Council to receive citation updates on a monthly basis.

There was consensus among Council to revise the ordinance and advertise for the December Council meeting.

VI. Public Works Committee:

A. Permit Fees:

Water Resources Director Mark Malarich provided an overview of the present Borough utility permit fees and the recommended fee increases. It was noted that the majority of these fees have not been increased since 1987. The recommended increases were calculated using the amount of staff time spent on the activity and the related expenses to the Borough. A comparison of like fees charged by local municipalities showed the Borough's fees are currently underpriced. Mr. Malarich noted other municipalities require financial security be placed up front to a project equal to the cost of what staff would estimate to make the repair. There was consensus among Council to move forward with the fee increases and to reevaluate fees on an annual basis.

VII. Budget and Finance Committee:

A. Amendment to 2020-24 Capital Budget

Borough Council voted 7-0 to adopt a resolution taking action to amend the 2020-2024 budget to delete a disc mower and procure a leaf vacuum for use in borough parks and facilities. (Shultz/Crampsie)

B. Town Hall Upgrades

Borough Council voted 7-0 to authorize the use of CARES funds issued by the County of Cumberland through its "Renew Cumberland County Relief Block Grant Program" for the execution of a contract with Illuminated Integration (COSTARS vendor contract #034-085) for the purchase and installation of equipment needed to improve the Borough of Carlisle's virtual public meetings in an amount not to exceed \$68,000 (sixty-eight thousand dollars) contingent upon the Borough Solicitor's satisfactory review and approval of said contract. (Shultz/Crampsie)

Deputy Mayor Shultz commented that use of Zoom and live streaming has had increased in public participation. He noted the improved use of social media has also done a great service for our community.

VIII. New Business

IX. Adjournment

There being no further business or public comment, the meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Timothy A. Scott
Mayor

Joyce E. Stone, Borough Secretary