



**The Borough of Elverson
101 South Chestnut Street**

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December 3, 2024

The monthly meeting of the Elverson Borough Council was held on December 3, 2024, and called to order at 7:00 PM by Council Vice President, Tom Feeley, Mike Trojecki who led the Pledge of Allegiance and Julie Duffy who led in Prayer.

ATTENDANCE:

Council Members, Merle Stoltzfus, Thomas Feeley, Mike Trojecki, Dennis Kurtz, Julie Duffy, John Scalia; Mayor Esther Prosser and Secretary/Treasurer, Lorrie Stolz; Absent: Laura Pennza

Also in attendance: Mark Stabolepszy, SSM Group, Greg Phillips, YDASP, Lisa Palser, Parks, Rec, and Trails, Gregory Siwik, Jared Seiders, Wendy Walsh, Mark Walsh, and Kelly Frizen

APPOINTMENT OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT:

Motion made by Dennis Kurtz to nominate Merle Stoltzfus as Council President seconded by John Scalia.

Motion made by Mike Trojecki and seconded by Julie Duffy to nominate Tom Feeley as Council President.

Solicitor Phillips opened the vote up for discussion. Merle stated that he is willing to serve as Council President. He stated 2025 will be his last year on Council, at this time he not considering running again and he would like to finish out his term as President; he stated during this time it would give him the opportunity to prepare Tom for the position for next year. Tom Feeley stated he would be willing to withdraw his nomination and remain Vice President.

Motion carried to appoint Merle Stoltzfus as Council President.

Tom Feeley turned the meeting over to Council President Merle Stoltzfus.

MINUTES:

Motion made by Dennis Kurtz and seconded by Julie Duffy to accept the November 6, 2024, Council meeting minutes as submitted. Motion carried by all.

TREASURERS REPORT:

Motion made by Tom Feeley and seconded by Dennis Kurtz to accept the Treasurers Report and pay bills as presented. Motion carried by all.

Motion made by Mike Trojecki and seconded by Dennis Kurtz to approve the 2025 Elverson Borough Budget as advertised. Motion carried by all.

Motion made by Dennis Kurtz and seconded by Mike Trojecki, to approve Resolution Number 2024-08, to appoint George Firrantello, as Volunteer Secretary/Treasurer, effective January 1, 2025, and authorize the purchase of a corresponding annual bond. Motion carried by all.

Motion made by Julie Duffy and seconded by Mike Trojecki to approve the remaining ARPA funds to be used to pay a portion of the 2025 Twin Valley Fire Department Contract. Motion carried by all.

PRESIDENTS REPORT:

Merle Stoltzfus stated that Council makes all appointments at the January meeting; Merle recommended Council make the appointments next month including appointing Gregory Siwik to the Municipal Authority's Board. Council concurred.

MAYORS REPORT:

Esther Prosser stated the Elverson Christmas caroling event will be held on Sunday, December 22nd at 5:30pm at the Elverson Methodist Church.

Esther stated she spoke to a trooper from the State Police regarding car burglaries and the theft of two cars that occurred on November 18th in the Borough. Unfortunately, the trooper stated that at this time they have not been able to find the people responsible for the thefts, however; one of the cars has been recovered.

Esther mentioned she would like to replace two Pedestrian signs; she received an estimate of \$800.00 for each sign. Esther stated she found them online for less money and asked Lorrie Stolz to order them online.

BUILDING, GROUNDS STREETS AND LIGHTS:

Tom Feeley stated the electrical wire at Livingood Park has been repaired and the light at the flagpole is working again. The mailbox cluster at Borough Hall has been installed, we are just waiting on the post office to install the locks. The gutters at Borough Hall have been cleaned and the roof looks good. Tom stated the buildings and grounds are ready for winter.

STATE POLICE:

Merle Stoltzfus reviewed the State Police report; there were no concerns.

2025 TWIN VALLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT CONTRACT:

Merle Stoltzfus discussed the Twin Valley Fire Department contract and explained how they determine the percentage that each municipality pays to the fire department. Merle stated that he feels this process is fair.

Motion made by Tom Feeley and seconded by Julie Duffy to accept the 2025 Twin Valley Fire Department Contract. Motion carried by all.

ENGINEERING:

Mark Stabolepsky stated Blue Rock is almost finished; there is not much left to be done to close out the project.

BUILDING AND ZONING:

Merle Stoltzfus discussed the Kraft Municipal Group 2025 Fee Schedule; Merle stated Council would discuss this further next month.

MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY:

Merle Stoltzfus asked Mark Stabolepsky how the Act 537 Plan Update is going; Mark stated SSM did their part and handed it off to the Municipal Authority's engineer about 2 months ago. Mark stated he had not heard anything from the Municipal Authority's engineer.

NEW BUSINESS:

Julie Duffy asked when the trees in Parkside will be trimmed; Esther Prosser stated tree trimming in Parkside will occur in 2025.

Merle Stoltzfus discussed the Anaerobic Digester that is being proposed by Kirkland Farm in Caernarvon Township, Berks County. Merle stated there will be a Public Hearing at the Caernarvon Township Building on Wednesday, December 4th at 6:30pm.

Jared Seiders spoke about the Anaerobic Digester; he is a microbiologist and has researched Vanguard Renewables. He stated Vanguard Renewables has received numerous fines from DEP and he believes this if this is approved it will be a problem for the area.

Mark Walsh stated the digester will bring twenty-five tanker trucks a day every 10 minutes.

Kelly Frizen stated she has researched Anaerobic Digestors since learning about this. She stated her understanding is that the smell from this is going to be exponentially worse than just the typical smell of a farm. Kelly stated the proposed driveway for this is on Rt 23 (Main Street) across from the Twin Valley Fire Department's entrance and feels that it could cause issues for the emergency vehicles leaving the fire department.

Merle Stoltzfus encouraged Council and residents to go to the public hearing.

Motion made by Julie Duffy, seconded by Tom Feeley to have Solicitor Phillips send a letter to Caernarvon Township on behalf of the Borough, have Council Member, Julie Duffy go to the hearing to represent the Borough, and have Solicitor, Greg Phillips attend the hearing to represent and speak at the public hearing on behalf of the Borough. Motion carried by all.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion made by Mike Trojecki and seconded by Tom Feeley to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully,

Lorrie Stolz
Secretary Treasurer