



The Borough of Elverson
101 South Chestnut Street
P.O. Box 206
Elverson, PA 19520
Phone (610) 286-6420
Fax (610) 286-5950

January 7, 2025

The monthly meeting of the Elverson Borough Council was held on January 7, 2025, and called to order at 7:00 PM by Council President, Merle Stoltzfus who led the Pledge of Allegiance, and Prayer.

ATTENDANCE:

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

Also in attendance: Mark Stabilepszy, SSM Group, Greg Phillips, YDASP, Greg Gehman, and Tim Kurtz.

MINUTES:

Motion made by Dennis Kurtz and seconded by Tom Feeley to accept the December 3, 2024, Council meeting minutes as submitted. Motion carried by all.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Greg Gehman asked if the flag could be flown at half-mast. Tom Feeley explained that the flag at Livingood Park is stuck, but we can certainly lower the flag at Borough Hall.

TREASURERS REPORT:

Motion made by Dennis Kurtz and seconded by Julie Duffy to accept the Treasurer's Report and pay bills as presented. Motion carried by all.

REVIEW OF RESTRICTED FUNDS:

Merle discussed that Council at their December meeting agreed to pay the 2025 TVFD contract with the remaining ARPA funds.

COMMUNICATION:

Merle Stoltzfus discussed the Anaerobic Digester that is being proposed in Caernarvon Township, Berks County. Merle reminded Council that at their December meeting Council made a motion to send Borough Solicitor Greg Phillips to the Public Hearing to represent and speak on behalf of the Borough. Greg Phillips stated this is a Conditional Use Hearing that is before the Caernarvon Township Board of Supervisors. Greg stated the Caernarvon Township Board of Supervisors changed their Zoning to allow the applicant to use their property for this use. Greg discussed the Borough's rights and stated the Borough had asked to be a Partying Neighbor; however, the applicant's attorney denied that request. We will have to provide Caernarvon Township Board of Supervisors with a letter requesting standing. Greg advised Council that they can go individually but instructed them not to say they are a Council Member. Greg stated it is more important for the Borough to go before the Board. Merle stated he would like each Council Member to consider how they want to proceed. Merle encouraged Council to have an open mind towards this project and consider what the benefits to the Borough will be. Esther asked if Council decides to oppose the project would it have to be a unanimous vote; Merle replied stating no. Tom Feeley stated Council needs to protect our constituents, he stated Council needs to be informed regardless of how they feel. Esther stated she invited Tim Kurtz to the meeting tonight and turned the discussion over to him.

Tim Kurtz thanked the members of Council for attending the meeting at French Creek Golf Club Monday night and asked Council if they had any questions. Julie Duffy asked if the Kurtz family pursued Vanguard or if Vanguard reached out to them; Tim stated Vanguard reached out to them. Julie Duffy asked why Vanguard chose the Kurtz farm; Tim stated Vanguard looks for the farm that fits their size, and accessibility. Esther stated Jared Kurtz has traveled around to the other farms that have these digesters and Esther feels that Jared would not put his family in harm's way. Greg Phillips questioned Vanguard's reputation. Tim stated he could not speak about that. Tim stated that he and Jared would like to form a Community Advisory Team representing the Borough, school district, and community. Tim stated there are big opportunities with benefits for the Borough if this project goes through. John Scalia asked what would stop the Kurtz' from leasing the land and moving away; Tim reassured Council that would not happen. Merle Stoltzfus thanked Tim for coming to the meeting and speaking to Council. Merle asked Council to educate themselves along with the residents.

PRESIDENTS REPORT:

Merle Stoltzfus stated this is not a reorganization meeting; however, the committees are filled every year. Merle went through the list of Committees and Commissions and discussed which Committees and Commissions have openings and asked the Council members which Committee or Commission they would like to be on.

Motion made by Dennis Kurtz seconded by John Scalia to approve the 2025 Committees. Motion carried by all.

Motion made by Dennis Kurtz, seconded by Julie Duffy to approve the list of Commissions. Motion carried by all.

Merle asked all Council members to complete the Ethics form and return to Lorrie Stolz as soon as possible.

Merle discussed the Urban Center Projects list. Dennis Kurtz agreed to work with Merle on the list.

MAYORS REPORT:

Esther Prosser discussed discontinuing the Borough newsletter at this time. She is having a hard time finding help with the newsletter. Laura recommended posting articles on the Borough website; Esther stated we already do that. Merle suggested the Savvy Citizen App. Esther stated she had a conversation with Lorrie about this option. Merle suggested discussing this further at the February meeting.

Esther stated the next Neighborhood watch Block Captain meeting will be held on last Thursday of the month.

Esther mentioned that she spoke with the resident on Main Street regarding his flag; she said he was nice and removed it immediately.

BUILDING, GROUNDS STREETS AND LIGHTS:

Tom Feeley stated everything has been winterized. Tom mentioned that Shawn had surgery and is feeling better. Tom stated the flag at Livingood Park is stuck, the fire department will help with taking the flag down. Tom stated the flag at Borough Hall will be dropped to half-mast. Tom stated we will be replacing the carpet at Borough Hall and adding a dehumidifier.

STATE POLICE:

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

ENGINEERING:

Mark Stabolepsky discussed his report. He stated the Blue Rock Development has installed two (2) speed limit signs and that the height needs to be adjusted on those signs. Mark anticipates the Blue Rock Development should be closed out by the Spring/ Summer.

Mark discussed the Act 537 Plan Update. He stated Systems Design Engineering should have the

basic work done for their internal review by the end of next week.

BUILDING AND ZONING:

Merle Stoltzfus discussed the Kraft Municipal Group 2025 Fee Schedule.

Motion made by Julie Duffy and seconded by Tom Feeley to approve Resolution Number 2025-01, to adopt the 2025 Permit Fee Schedule from Kraft Municipal Group, and the Borough's 2025 Subdivision and Land Development Fee Schedule. Motion carried by all.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion made by Julie Duffy and seconded by Dennis Kurtz to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 PM.

Respectfully,

Lorrie Stolz
Secretary Treasurer