

A regular meeting of the Borough Council of Quakertown was held February 1, 2023, 7:30 p.m.

The following members and officers were present: President Donald Rosenberger, Vice President James Roberts, Councilmembers Jonathan Sell, Mae Wear, Michael Johnson, David Wilsey, Douglas Propst, Solicitor Peter Nelson, Acting Borough Manager Julie Bender, Asst. Borough Secretary Kristine Barndt.

RESOLVED, That, the Council Minutes of January 4, 2023 be approved as written. Motion of Vice President Roberts, seconded by Councilman Johnson. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was unanimously carried.

RESOLVED, That the following check registers be approved for payment:

January	6, 2023	\$ 245,667.18
January	13, 2023	89,315.80
January	20, 2023	2,491,760.13
January	26, 2023	4,843,816.60

Motion of Councilman Propst, seconded by Councilman Wilsey. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was unanimously carried. Vice President Roberts, abstained.

RESOLVED, That, the Financial Statements, Police Department, Zoning Administrator and Building Inspector reports be received and filed. Motion of Councilman Wilsey, seconded by Councilman Sell. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was unanimously carried.

No visitors wished to speak regarding any agenda items.

PLANNING & ZONING COMMITTEE

Councilman Sell stated that there are not any items under the Planning & Zoning Committee.

REVENUE & FINANCE COMMITTEE

RESOLVED, That, the following Resolution 15-23, Police Officer's contribution towards Police pension for 2023, be adopted:

RESOLUTION 15-23

A RESOLUTION ADDING POLICE OFFICERS' CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE POLICE PENSION PLAN FOR THE YEAR 2023.

WHEREAS, the Borough Council of the Borough of Quakertown has deemed contributions to the police pension plan are required in order to keep the fund actuarially sound;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That, all police officers will be required to contribute 2.25% of their annual salary to the Police Pension Plan for the year 2023.

Motion of Vice President Roberts, seconded by Councilman Propst. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was unanimously carried.

RESOLVED, That, the following Resolution 16-23, Non-Uniform contribution towards Non-Uniform pension plans for 2023, be adopted:

RESOLUTION 16-23

A RESOLUTION ADDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NON-UNIFORM DEFINED PENSION PLANS FOR THE YEAR 2023.

WHEREAS, Council has deemed contributions to the non-uniform defined pension plans are required in order to keep the fund actuarially sound;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED That, all non-uniform employees enrolled in the Defined Benefit Pension Plan will not be required to make a contribution for year 2023 and non-uniform employees enrolled in the 401a Defined Contribution Pension Plan will be required to contribute 1% of their annual salary for the year 2023.

Motion of Vice President Roberts, seconded by Councilman Propst. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was unanimously carried.

HEALTH, SAFETY & WELFARE COMMITTEE

RESOLVED, That, the following Resolution 8-23, Police testing for hiring of future vacant Police Officer positions, be adopted:

RESOLUTION 8-23

WHEREAS, the Borough Manager is expecting the retirement and resignation of Police Officers; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Police Department's active list of candidates is invalid; and

WHEREAS, Borough Council authorizes the Borough Manager to proceed with the Police Officer selection testing process to establish a valid list of candidates for Council's consideration.

Motion of Councilman Johnson, seconded by Vice President Roberts. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was unanimously carried.

Councilman Johnson mentioned Officer Mark Watkins retirement party was a nice event and he received comments from outside agencies saying the party was a very well done affair.

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMITTEE

Councilman Wilsey stated that there are not any items under the Public Utilities Committee.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Councilman Wear stated that there are not any items under the Public Works Committee.

PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE

RESOLVED, That, the following Resolution 9-23, Wayne Codner’s request to use the Univest Performance Center, be adopted:

RESOLUTION 9-23

WHEREAS, Wayne Codner from the organization “Cool Vet” of Richlandtown, PA has requested to use the Univest Performance Center to hold a concert event “Come Together” to benefit the food pantry on Saturday, June 3, 2023 and from 4:00 pm to 9:30 pm.

BE IT RESOLVED, That, the Council of the Borough of Quakertown grants Wayne Codner’s request for use of the Univest Performance Center on June 3, 2023 provided that the Borough is added as an additional insured on their insurance.

Motion of Councilman Propst, seconded by Vice President Roberts. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was unanimously carried.

RESOLVED, That, the following Resolution 10-23, Richard Baringer’s request to use the Univest Performance Center, be adopted:

RESOLUTION 10-23

WHEREAS, Richard Baringer of St. Paul’s Lutheran Church of Quakertown, PA has requested to use the Univest Performance Center for a fund raising concert “Joyful Noise 9” to benefit four Quakertown area food pantries on Saturday, June 17, 2023 from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm.

BE IT RESOLVED, That, the Council of the Borough of Quakertown grants Richard Baringer’s request to use the Univest Performance Center on June 17, 2023 provided that the Borough is added as an additional insured on their insurance.

Motion of Councilman Propst, seconded by Councilman Johnson. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was unanimously carried.

RESOLVED, That, the following Resolution 11-23, Quakertown Alive!s request to hold the annual Arts Alive Festival, be adopted:

RESOLUTION 11-23

WHEREAS, a request was received from Quakertown Alive! to hold their Arts Alive Street Festival on May 20, 2023 (rain date of May 21, 2023) from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, the use of the bandshell and to close Broad Street from Fourth Street to Hellertown Avenue including 3rd Street, Branch Street to Juniper Street and Front Street from Juniper Street to Broad Street from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm including set up.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED That the Council of the Borough of Quakertown grants the request of Quakertown Alive! to use the bandshell, waive the fee, close portions of West Broad Street provided approval is received from PennDOT and that they add the Borough as an additional insured on their insurance.

Motion of Councilman Propst, seconded by Vice President Roberts. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was unanimously carried.

RESOLVED, That, the following Resolution 13-23, Quakertown Alive!s request to hold the tree lighting ceremony, be adopted:

RESOLUTION 13-23

WHEREAS, a request was received from Quakertown Alive! to hold the annual Upper Bucks Brewfest on August 19, 2023 at the Park at 4th from 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm; and

WHEREAS, Quakertown Alive! is requesting use of the amphitheater; and

WHEREAS, Quakertown Alive! is requesting permission to allow smoking and drinking of alcohol at the Park at 4th for the Brewfest.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED That the Council of the Borough of Quakertown grants the request of Quakertown Alive! to hold a Brewfest at the Park at 4th on August 19, 2023 with use of the amphitheater provided the Borough is added as an additional insured on their insurance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That Council directs the Zoning Officer to issue the required permits allowing smoking, which the Clean Act allows for this type of use, and drinking of alcohol in a designated area of the park during the Brewfest.

Motion of Councilman Propst, seconded by Councilman Johnson. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was unanimously carried.

RESOLVED, That, the following Resolution 12-23, Quakertown Alive!s request to hold the annual Autumn Alive! Festival, be adopted:

RESOLUTION 12-23

WHEREAS, a request was received from Quakertown Alive! to hold their Autumn Alive Festival on October 21, 2023 (rain date October 28, 2023) from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., use of the bandshell and to close Broad Street from Fourth Street to Hellertown Avenue including 3rd Street, Branch Street to Juniper Street and Front Street from Juniper Street to Broad Street from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED That the Council of the Borough of Quakertown grants the request of Quakertown Alive! to hold their Autumn Alive Festival on October 21, 2023, use of the bandshell and waiving of the fee, closing of Broad Street provided approval is received from PennDOT and that the Borough is added as an additional insured on their insurance.

Motion of Councilman Propst, seconded by Councilman Wilsey. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was unanimously carried.

RESOLVED, That, the following Resolution 14-23, Quakertown Alive!s request to hold the Tree Lighting Ceremony, be adopted:

RESOLUTION 14-23

WHEREAS, a tree-lighting ceremony will be held on Friday, December 1, 2023, from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.; and

WHEREAS, in the interest of safety, portions of Broad Street from Fourth Street to Hellertown Avenue and Branch Street should be closed during the ceremony.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That, Council approves the closing of the above streets during the tree-lighting ceremony for the time needed to accommodate the ceremony provided and that they add the Borough as an additional insured on their insurance.

Motion of Councilman Propst, seconded by Councilman Sell. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was unanimously carried.

President Rosenberger announced there will be an Executive Session following this meeting for the purposes of a personnel issue and a potential litigation matter.

President Rosenberger declared the meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

BOROUGH OF QUAKERTOWN

Donald E. Rosenberger
President of Council

Attest:

Kristine D. Barndt
Assistant Borough Secretary