

A regular meeting of the Borough Council of Quakertown was held June 7, 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, Borough Manager Scott McElree and Asst. Borough Secretary Kris Barndt.

RESOLVED, That, the following Resolution 58-23, approval of Justin Grotz as Probationary Police Officer, be adopted:

RESOLUTION 58-23

WHEREAS, on February 1, 2023 Borough Council of the Borough of Quakertown had authorized the Borough Manager to initiate the selection process for the position of Police Officer; and

WHEREAS, Justin Grotz has successfully completed the selection process for the position of Probationary Police Officer; and

WHEREAS, Justin Grotz has accepted the offer for the position of Probationary Police Officer as established by the Civil Service Rules and Procedures.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLEVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Quakertown, Pennsylvania, that effective June 12, 2023, Justin Grotz be appointed as a Probationary Police Officer with the Quakertown Borough Police Department.

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

Councilman Johnson read a short biography on Justin Grotz. District Justice Lisa Gaier administered the Police Officer Oath of Office for Justin Grotz.

District Justice Lisa Gaier administered the Fire Police Oath of Office for Kira Acker and Russell Yerger.

Councilman Propst presented President Donald Rosenberger the Certified Borough Officials Program award through the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs which was given at the annual Boroughs Conference.

RESOLVED, That, the Council Minutes of May 3, 2023 and Work Session Minutes of April 24, 2023 be approved as written. Motion of Vice President Roberts, seconded by Councilman Johnson.

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

April	28,	2023	\$	199,288.27
May	5,	2023		9,795.65
May	12,	2023		41,883.48
May	18,	2023		458,464.25
May	25,	2023		81,097.64
June	2,	2023		204,413.10
June	2,	2023		4,816.02
June	2,	2023		1,090,003.33

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 Propst. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was unanimously carried.

Visitors:

Lisa Gaier, wanted to speak regarding the Police Department.

PLANNING & ZONING COMMITTEE

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

Vice President Roberts asked regarding last month's visitor, what would need to be changed to allow the resident to keep her four pet chickens. Code Officer Wilhelm stated under the Zoning Ordinance, Accessory Uses, "keeping of animals or fowl", the distance of any building housing fowl would have to be made less than 100 feet of any lot line. Currently the Ordinance reads fowl must be housed in a building at least 100 feet from any lot line. Also Mr. Wilhelm mentioned no roosters permitted should be added to the Ordinance, as well as, lessening the amount of chickens permitted.

Vice President Roberts asked if these changes could be presented at the next Work Session. President Rosenberger asked if Solicitor Nelson would present proposed language next month. Solicitor Nelson stated once the Ordinance is finalized it has to be sent to the Quakertown Borough and Bucks County Planning Commissions for review. Then notice of the proposed Ordinance will be advertised in the newspaper.

REVENUE & FINANCE COMMITTEE

Vice President Roberts stated that there are not any items under the Revenue & Finance Committee.

HEALTH, SAFETY & WELFARE COMMITTEE

RESOLVED, That, the following Resolution 52-23, Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church's request to close Erie Avenue for their Peach Festival, be adopted:

RESOLUTION 52-23

WHEREAS, a request was received from Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church to close Erie Avenue for their annual Peach Festival on August 12, 2023.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council of the Borough of Quakertown grants the request of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church to close Erie Avenue from Hellertown Avenue to the entrance of the church parking lot on Saturday, August 12, 2023 from 3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. for their Peach Festival.

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

RESOLVED, That, the following Resolution 57-23, install raised crosswalk on 600 block of Mill Street, be adopted:

RESOLUTION 57-23

WHEREAS, the Borough Council of the Borough of Quakertown would like to install a raised crosswalk in the 600 block of Mill Street to accommodate pedestrians using handicap assistive devices, as well as, to aid with the busy pedestrian crossing.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council of the Borough of Quakertown authorizes the Borough Manager to proceed with the installation of a raised pedestrian crosswalk at the proposed area on Mill Street.

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

Councilman Johnson indicated that Ms. Gaier could speak at this time. Ms. Gaier wanted to thank the Borough's Police Department for doing a great job and she appreciates them.

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMITTEE

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

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

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

PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE

RESOLVED, That, the following Resolution 54-23, the Bucks County Opportunity Council's request to hold a Farmer's Market in the baseball stadium lot every Wednesday, be adopted:

RESOLUTION 54-23

WHEREAS, a request was received from Elizabeth Zbinden of the Bucks County Opportunity Council to hold a free Farmer's Market distributing free food to low income families, every Wednesday in 2023 from 10:30 am to 1:30 pm in the baseball stadium parking lot.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council of the Borough of Quakertown grants the request of the Bucks County Opportunity Council to distribute free food every Wednesday in 2023 from 10:30 am to 1:30 pm in the baseball stadium parking lot.

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 56-23, QNB Bank's request to hold their annual Founder's Day in Memorial Park, be adopted:

RESOLUTION 56-23

WHEREAS, QNB Bank would like to celebrate their annual Founder's Day and has applied for a public gathering permit to set their event up on the basketball courts in Memorial Park by QuiNBY's playground on July 19, 2023 from 7:00 pm to 8:45 pm.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That, the Council of the Borough of Quakertown grants the public gathering permit to QNB Bank for use of the basketball courts on Wednesday, July 19, 2023 from 7:00 pm to 8:45 pm.

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 53-23, RASA's request to use the softball field on various weekends, be adopted:

RESOLUTION 53-23

WHEREAS, a request was received from RASA Softball to use the softball field in Memorial Park on various weekends in 2023.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That, the Council of the Borough of Quakertown grants the request of RASA Softball to use the softball field in Memorial Park on June 10 & 11, June 24 & 25 and June 29 through July 1, 2023 from 7:00 am to 4:00 pm. Insurance certificates have already been received from each team naming 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 55-23, United Friends School's request to hold a 5K event in the Park at 4th, be adopted:

RESOLUTION 55-23

WHEREAS, United Friends School has applied for a public gathering permit to hold a 5K event through the Park @ 4th on October 28, 2023.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That, the Council of the Borough of Quakertown grants the public gathering permit request of the United Friends School for a 5K event on October 28, 2023, from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm provided the Borough is 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.

Manager McElree mentioned next week the Memorial Park Baseball Stadium will be demolished. The depiction of what the new stadium will look like has the letters QUAKERTOWN in the color green on the entrance wall coming into the stadium. There was a suggestion that those letters be changed to the color blue since blue is Quakertown School's color. The majority of Council agreed the QUAKERTOWN letters entering the stadium should be changed to the color blue and keep the rest of the stadium the green color.

Councilman Sell suggested coming up with a call system to check up on elderly or sick people. Solicitor Nelson said that Bedminster is setting up a program like that and expressed Manager McElree get in touch with Bedminster.

President Rosenberger declared the meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

BOROUGH OF QUAKERTOWN

Donald E. Rosenberger
President of Council

Attest:

Scott C. McElree
Borough Secretary