

A regular meeting of the Borough Council of Quakertown was held February 7, 2024, 7:32 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, Borough Manager Scott McElree, Solicitor Peter Nelson. Absent Asst. Borough Secretary Kris Barndt.

RESOLVED, That, the Council Minutes of January 2, 2024 and Work Session Minutes of November 27, 2023 be approved as written. Motion of Vice President Roberts, seconded by Councilwoman Wear. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was unanimously carried.

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

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|----------|----------|---------------|
| December | 29, 2023 | \$ 137,735.92 |
| January | 4, 2024 | 248,304.36 |
| January | 12, 2024 | 1,818,819.84 |
| January | 18, 2024 | 564,834.18 |
| January | 26, 2024 | 383,191.49 |
| January | 31, 2024 | 780,620.48 |

Motion of Councilman Propst, seconded by Councilman Johnson. 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:

Wyatt Powell, 1270 Wright Road would like to speak regarding his request to hold a chili cook off.

Tim Ritter, 26 N. Penrose Street has a Public Works question.

Charles Crossan, 203 S. 10th Street would like to speak regarding bike lanes.

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 10-24, John Rivers Memorial VFW request for funding 2024, be adopted:

RESOLUTION 10-24

WHEREAS, a request for financial support was received from John Rivers Memorial VFW Post 11322.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That, the Borough Council of the Borough of Quakertown grants the VFW's request to contribute \$500.00 for the year 2024, to be used towards their rent expenses.

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 12-24, Tax Settlement Stipulations between Quakertown Community School District, the Borough, Bucks County Board of Assessment and Revision of Taxes and Quakertown West, Inc. on their properties on Tenth Street, Ninth Street and Constitution Drive, be adopted:

QUAKERTOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL
RESOLUTION 12-24

WHEREAS, in 2020, the Quakertown Community School District filed a Petition for Appeal from Real Estate Assessment regarding three properties in Quakertown Borough owned by Quakertown West, Inc., namely 451 So. Tenth Street, 461 So. Ninth Street, and Constitution Drive, seeking a reassessment of these properties; and

WHEREAS, Quakertown Community School District has negotiated Settlement Stipulations with Quakertown West concern the tax assessments of these three properties for the years 2021 through 2026; and

WHEREAS, Quakertown Community School District is seeking approval of these Settlement Stipulations from all the relevant taxing authorities, including Quakertown Borough.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is hereby RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of Quakertown that the three Settlement Stipulations between the Borough, Quakertown Community School District, Bucks County Board of Assessment and Revision of Taxes, and Quakertown West, Inc. concerning the tax assessments of Quakertown West's properties located at 451 So. Tenth Street, 461 So. Ninth Street, and Constitution Drive are approved.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Borough Solicitor is hereby authorized to execute the said Stipulations on behalf of the Borough of Quakertown.

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

Vice President Roberts pointed out there will be some very small number changes under the calculated New Assessment amounts. Solicitor Nelson stated if the number changes are significant this item will be brought back to Council next month.

HEALTH, SAFETY & WELFARE COMMITTEE

Councilman Johnson indicated that Mr. Crossan could speak at this time. Mr. Crossan wanted to let Council know that he is in favor of temporary bike lanes which he heard will be coming in the near future.

RESOLVED, That, reading of Ordinance #1244, amending paid parking regulations, be waived. Motion of Councilman Johnson, seconded by Vice President Roberts. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was unanimously carried.

RESOLVED, That, Ordinance #1244, an Ordinance of Quakertown Borough, Bucks County, Pennsylvania, amending Part 5 of Chapter 15 of the Quakertown Borough Code amending Paid Parking Regulations, be passed finally. Motion of Councilman Johnson, seconded by Vice President Roberts. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was unanimously carried.

Councilman Johnson said some parking lots have been added for paid parking mainly for special events. Borough concerts will use the following lots: baseball stadium, skate shelter, Electric Department, 4th Street stone lot, Bucks County Transport, Borough Hall south and north lots, Cleveland Steel and the car show lot which the Park Mobile app will apply. When parked in these spots the vehicles will have to pull in so the police LPR readers can read the license plates to see if they paid through the Park Mobile app. Parking is still free on Sundays, holidays from the Friday after Thanksgiving til either January 2nd or 3rd. Signs will be installed with usage information for the Park Mobile app. The triangle will have up to (2) hours free parking.

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.

Councilwoman Wear indicated that Mr. Ritter could speak. Mr. Ritter said his backyard on N. Penrose Street gets flooded from the added gravel materials the Borough lays down to fill in the alley. Mr. Ritter asked if there was something that could be done to prevent the significant stormwater runoff. Manager McElree replied that the Borough will take a look at that situation and see what can be done.

PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE

Councilman Propst indicated that Mr. Howell could speak at this time. Mr. Howell would like to hold an official chili cook off competition and an American Cornhole League tournament on Saturday, May 25, 2024 in the Park at 4th. Mr. Howell is requesting fencing around the park for his event similar to a Borough concert to maximize fundraising efforts by controlling and monitoring admission at the entrance. Mr. Howell is requesting fencing be installed one month prior to Borough concerts. Manager McElree stated it takes days to put up the fencing and there are events in between the date Mr. Howell is requesting and the Borough's concert series which the fencing would be in the way and would have to be taken down. Putting up and down the fence would be extremely time consuming for the Public Works Department and expensive. Mr. Howell mentioned he wanted to hold the event around the last week of May to utilize students from the high school before they end school for the year. Manager McElree said he would check between the different Borough departments if there would be a remedy for this situation.

RESOLVED, That, the following Resolution 11-24, Brickside, LLC's request to extend their Food Concession Stand Contract for one year, be adopted:

RESOLUTION 11-24

WHEREAS, on March 2, 2022 the Council of the Borough of Quakertown awarded a one year bid for the lease of two concession stands including the facility at the Park at 4th and the swimming pool stand to Brickside, LLC, Sellersville, PA; and

WHEREAS, the 2022 contract provided for (two) one year extensions; and

WHEREAS, Brickside, LLC. is requesting to use its last extension of the contract in year 2024.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the Borough of Quakertown, that, the one year lease extension be accepted for year 2024. The Borough Manager is hereby authorized to execute the necessary documents on behalf of the Borough of Quakertown.

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

President Rosenberger announced this meeting is adjourned until the next Work Session on Monday, February 26, 2024 at 7:30 pm to re-visit the adjusted Tax Settlement Stipulations if needed.

President Rosenberger concluded the meeting at 8:12 p.m.

BOROUGH OF QUAKERTOWN

Donald E. Rosenberger
President of Council

Attest:

Scott C. McElree
Borough Secretary