

FLEETWOOD BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES

 X BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

 BOROUGH COUNCIL WORKSHOP

Date: May 11, 2020 – Council Conference via Zoom with public phone-in

Roll Call:

 x Suzanne Pittella Touch
 x Pete Merkel
 x Jim Meals
 x Mark Watkins
 x Ralph Touch
 x Colin Boyer
 x John Rothenberger

 x Tammy Gore, Mayor
 x Chris Young, Borough Manager
 x Doreen O'Neil, Recording Secretary
 x Andy George, Esq.

Also Present:

 x Craig Conrad, Public Works Director
 Robert Weidner, Highway Commissioner
 x Steve Stinsky, Police Chief
 John Manmiller, Fleetwood Fire Company Chief
 x Brad Smith, Arro
 x Ryan Kern, Barry Isett & Associates
 x Jim Smith, Smith Law Group
 _____, Reading Eagle
 _____, Patriot

The borough council meeting was held via a Zoom meeting due to COVID-19 restrictions. The meeting was called to order at 6:33pm by President, Suzanne Touch.

Guests:

There was one resident who had phoned-in to the Zoom meeting.

Recording of Borough Meeting

Chris Young stated that Colin Boyer had requested that tonight's Zoom meeting be recorded. Before starting recording of meeting there were discussions.

Andy George, Esq. mentioned that many municipalities record meetings for accuracy of the meeting minutes.

Colin Boyer mentioned that with recording virtual meetings, they could be made available to the public and posted on social media.

Suzanne Touch questioned who retains the recordings and for how long. Andy George, Esq. will check on this. Suzanne was okay with recording the meeting, with the written minutes posted to website. Awareness to the public that meeting was recorded and could be obtained at borough office.

Mayor Tammy Gore was fine with recording the meeting, but not posted to social media. Once the meeting minutes are approved, those are posted to the borough website.

Colin stated that he also wanted to record the meeting on his own.

Further discussions among Council members.

Motion to adjourn the May 11th meeting until a physical meeting can occur.

Made by: Ralph Touch

Seconded by: Pete Merkel

Additional discussions prior to taking vote:

Andy George Esq. inquired with Council if there were any essential items on the agenda that needed to be addressed before adjournment. These items are noted below on page 2.

Discussion that Chris Young as the host of the Zoom meeting could control who could record the meeting, however it was mentioned that other recording devices/applications could be used by other attendees. Mayor Tammy Gore stated that the Fleetwood Borough does not have a policy for posting meeting recordings on social media. Andy George, Esq. noted that some municipalities have resolution of how recording of meetings are held, posting recordings on social media and even time limits for residents to state their questions/concerns. Suzanne expressed concern of the affect it may have on meetings.

Andy George, Esq. will provide information to Council with answers and direction of what other municipalities are using as rules for their council meetings.

During discussion of said motion, and prior to taking a vote, council asked for Jim Smith to discuss his reason for being at council meeting:

43-45 West Main Street – James Smith, Smith Law Group

Jim Smith will be at the next in-person public borough council meeting (tentative Monday, June 8th). At that meeting he will discuss the good things planned for the property at 43-45 West Main Street to enhance the Fleetwood Main Street corridor. Jim stated that at the next meeting, he will be asking Fleetwood Borough for a waiver of the development plan process. These two properties will be merged to one deed. Chris Young mentioned that Harry Weaver (BIA) will be contacting Jim on May 12th.

Motion for Fleetwood Borough to provide waiver of the Land Development Plan that would be required for combining the parcels into one deed of 43 and 45 West Main Street provided there are no dimension or exterior changes that will occur.

Made by: Pete Merkel

Seconded by: Ralph Touch

Motion Carried

Motion Failed

Verbal Acknowledgement from each Council member via phone/audio during Zoom meeting.

Arro Engineering – Brad Smith

Locust Street Project

Council questioned Brad if the bids for the Locust Street water project are not approved at tonight’s meeting is there still time to approve/award bid at the June 8th meeting? Brad said the bids are valid for 60 days, so this can wait for the June 8th borough council meeting.

Bills

Approval of bills will be ratified at the next borough council meeting. Chris Young mentioned that Council member had the chance to review. Prior to the meeting, Colin had questions which Chris Young had answered.

Tax Grace Period Resolution

Andy George, Esq. stated that the deadline to have the resolution filed is May 20th. There was discussion on needing a ruling on this. Mayor Tammy Gore questioned if we could have an emergency meeting once more information is known. Chris Young said that an emergency meeting could be held and the meeting would need to be advertised.

President Suzanne Touch stated that if there were no further discussion, votes would be taken regarding the motion made by Ralph Touch and seconded by Pete Merkel to adjourn the May 11th meeting until a physical meeting can occur. Votes were taken.

Motion Carried

Motion Failed

Colin Boyer - Opposed

Verbal Acknowledgement from each Council member via phone/audio during Zoom meeting.

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn meeting at 7:08pm.

Made by: Ralph Touch

Seconded by: John Rothenberger

Colin Boyer - Opposed

Motion Carried

Motion Failed

Verbal Acknowledgement from each Council member present via phone/audio during Zoom meeting.

Submitted by:

Doreen O’Neil, Borough Recording Secretary