

# Abbottstown Borough Council Meeting September 21, 2023 - 6 PM

**CALL TO ORDER:** 6:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:** Frank Anderson, Laura Baker, April O'Brien, Dennis Posey, Dale Reichert, Mayor Dan Watkins, Chief James Graham, M/S/T Dr. David W. Bolton. Solicitor Tim Shultis, Esq., and Engineer Erik Vranich were excused.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Led by President Dennis Posey

**GUESTS:** Ron Stitt, Abbots Drive.  
Ron Arbogast, 114 E. King Street.

**PUBLIC COMMENT (on agenda items only):** None

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** *Motion made by Frank Anderson to accept minutes from August 17, 2023, as presented; Seconded by Laura Baker; Motion carried, 5 Ayes.*

**TREASURER REPORTS:** Dr. Bolton provided an update on the borough's fiscal status.

*Motion made by Frank Anderson to accept the Treasurer's Reports thru 8/30/23 Seconded by Dale Reichert; Motion carried, 5 Ayes.*

*Motion made by Frank Anderson to approve/ratify paying the bills as presented thru 9/21/2023; Seconded by Laura Baker; Motion carried, 5 Ayes.*

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:** Dr. Bolton updates Council on projects, current agreements, and other borough activity.

- ⇒ Rental Property Inspection Program – currently being reviewed by Solicitor.
- ⇒ Liquid Fuels Audit for 2022 completed – No major discrepancies.
- ⇒ Liquid Fuels Allocation for 2024 - \$32,857.56
- ⇒ Resolution for PennDOT and CC Rd. Bridge paperwork –

***Motion made by Frank Anderson to adopt resolution; 2<sup>nd</sup> by April O'Brien. Motion carried, 5 Ayes.***

- ⇒ Resolution naming Rec Park baseball practice field "Jerry Lillich Field" –
- Motion made by Frank Anderson to adopt resolution; 2<sup>nd</sup> by April O'Brien. Motion carried, 5 Ayes.***

**SOLICITOR:** Tim Shultis

- ⇒ 530 W. King Street rezoning, advertise Public Hearing (10-19) and enactment of ordinance as supported by Adams County Office of Planning and Development –
- Motion made by Frank Anderson to advertise; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Laura Baker. Motion carried, 5 Ayes.***
- ⇒ Affordable Pet Supply tree reduction plan – Zoning Hearing Board planned on November 1, 2023, at 6 pm at the borough office.

- ⇒ 13 E. King Street – Options are being reviewed, updates next month.
- ⇒ 312 Sutton Road – Authorize petition for disposition of confiscated trailer –  
***Motion made by Frank Anderson to authorize;  
2<sup>nd</sup> by Laura Baker. Motion carried, 5 Ayes.***

**ENGINEER:** Keller Engineers – Sutton Run development still pending reviews.

**MAYOR’S REPORT:** Honorable Daniel W. Watkins, Sr. – completed law enforcement course and Narcan administration course this past month.

**CODE ENFORCEMENT:** PMCA – 37 W. Water Street, new owners. 312 Sutton Road, no permits for improvements, new Notices of Violation, attorney involved.

**EMERGENCY SERVICES:** UH&L applied for fire/ems grant (\$20k), mergers of departments up to 20 years get up to \$80k. \$41k received last year.

**APJSA:** Substation work has been completed.

**EBACC:** Dr. Bolton proposes the borough donate ten long banquet tables that have sat in the garage over the years unused to EBACC. They will donate a round table for Council to use during Executive Sessions so people don’t have to wait in the lobby before meetings.

***Motion made by Frank Anderson to approve exchange;  
2<sup>nd</sup> by Laura Baker. Motion carried, 5 Ayes.***

**PERSONNEL:** Councilor Baker had suggested that the borough create a position and hire for an Administrative Assistant to cover the office hours when Dr. Bolton is not available due to meetings or other duties. Councilor Reichert states that Dr. Bolton should interview and hire the candidate to ensure qualifications needed.

***Motion made by Dale Reichert to authorize position;  
2<sup>nd</sup> by Frank Anderson. Motion carried, 5 Ayes.***

**BUDGET & FINANCE:** Dr. Bolton prepared and distributed the draft 2024 General Fund budget to Council and made adjustments based on feedback between meetings. No further issues are found with the budget. The capital and liquid fuels budgets will be available at the next meeting pending notice from PennDOT of funding amounts for next year.

***Motion made by Frank Anderson to cancel budget  
workshop scheduled for Thursday, October 5, 2023;  
2<sup>nd</sup> by Dale Reichert. Motion carried, 5 Ayes.***

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE:** Ron Arbogast reported that the borough received 120 native trees from Adams County Department of Conservation through a grant program. They will be planted in the park. Dr. Bolton relays that the borough was denied a grant application to South Mountain, but will try again next cycle.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS:** None

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Ron Stitt of Abbotts Drive reports that he has constant issues with his neighbor at 101 Abbotts Drive. Dr. Bolton and Mr. Graham explain the constant enforcement being pursued by the borough. Borough Council suggests that Mr. Graham confer with the

Solicitor to investigate an Administrative Search Warrant for the property to address the concerns.

***Motion made by Frank Anderson to authorize Mr. Graham pursue options with the Solicitor; 2<sup>nd</sup> by April O'Brien. Motion carried, 5 Ayes.***

**FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:** Councilor Anderson would like to have a small ceremony to honor Mr. Lillich by dedicating the field in his name prior to the next Council meeting. Thursday, October 19, 2023, at 5:30 pm.

Mayor Watkins announces the Constables' Association is having a pulled pork dinner later this month and gives a sign for the door. He would also like to honor Mrs. Shelva Meckley for her work in the borough. He would like to be involved with some interviews for a third officer for ABPD, and wants to be able to write tickets for dog law violations in the borough.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Next regular Council meeting is October 19, 2023, at 6 pm.

**ADJOURNMENT:** ***Motion made by Frank Anderson to adjourn at 7:13 pm; 2nd by Laura Baker; Motion carried, 5 Ayes.***