

WRIGHTSVILLE

YORK COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

WRIGHTSVILLE BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING

MONDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2024

Borough Chambers
601 Water Street
Wrightsville, PA

In attendance: President Giandalia, Vice President Lyle, Councilwoman Barrett, Councilwoman Ferrari, Councilman White, Mayor Slenker, Solicitor Ruth, Treasurer Sahd, Engineer McCoy, Secretary Hoff

On phone: Councilman Gromling

President Giandalia called the Regular Meeting of the Wrightsville Borough governing body to order at 6:30pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Edward Ritter:

Mr. Ritter relayed to those in attendance that he recently attended the PA 462 Bridge Project Open House event hosted by PennDOT on September 17, 2024, and wanted to share a record of questions asked to PennDOT officials and responses provided, if any. Questions asked along with responses are as follows:

1. What studies have been done regarding the financial impact of a 3-year bridge closure to the economies of Columbia and Wrightsville?
2. Has there been any consideration to installing a new bridge vs rehabilitating the existing span? It seems like this could potentially maintain PA-462 access throughout the construction period. (I realize the historic nature of the existing bridge.) [A rough estimate of a new span was twice the budgeted cost of the rehab project. {Over \\$500 million for new vs budget of \\$225.48 million for renovations.}](#)
3. Are there grants available to support these communities during the construction period?
4. Will the bridge refurbishment facilitate the return of the annual Bridge Bust event? [Technically, yes. This would be up to the affected municipalities.](#)
5. What contractual points will be included to incentivize / penalize the selected contractor to maintain the stated schedule? Are there any potential bidders that would otherwise be excluded due to poor performance on prior projects? (I am thinking here of the 1-83 project from Leader Heights to Market Street performed by Cherry Hill Construction owned by California-based Tutor Perini Corp.)
6. Is construction expected to continue through the winter seasons? What impacts would severe river icing have on the schedule? If winter work is not anticipated, is it possible to establish access through the non-construction seasons? [Work is anticipated to go year-round during the project. Winter work has been projected to continue at lower productivity rates.](#)

7. Are the planned construction causeways designed for heavy rains/ tropical storms? **Yes. An extreme weather event that compromises either causeway would have negative impact on the budget and schedule.**
8. Has there been any consideration to establishing ferry service during the construction period - passenger or vehicle? **Penn DOT has no plans to implement ferry service. Private operators may explore this possibility.**
9. What is the design life span of the planned refurbishments/ repairs? **At least 75 years.**

**Mr. Ritter supplied a written document of these questions and answers to all Borough Council members. Text in blue is Mr. Ritter's personal record of conversation with project staff during the Open House event on September 17, 2024. **

Mel McDonald:

Mrs. McDonald asked VP Lyle "why did you take Tayne's job from her?"

Mrs. McDonald asked President Giandalia "why was Ms. Siksa aloud to speak for 45 minutes at a previous meeting and others were only given 3 minutes?"

Mrs. McDonald asked, "who is paying for Brian's retirement party?" Solicitor Ruth advised Mrs. McDonald that this is a public comment period and not a question-and-answer period.

Mrs. McDonald relayed to members of council and those in attendance that Councilwomen Barrett and Ferrari are "awesome and we need more like them in town".

Abby Duncan:

Ms. Duncan relayed the following to members of council-

"I'd like to start with the last meeting. Public comments were supposed to be limited to three (3) minutes, but that rule was broken with the first comment from Mary Ellen (Siksa). She spoke for what seemed to be forever. At one point, I thought she may be on council! It was very disrespectful to the other speakers who were held at three minutes and frankly everyone in the room. This time let's keep it fair fellas! Now let's talk about the wards. Not sure why you fellas are still trying to do away with our wards when your townspeople have clearly spoken against that. We do not have to abolish the wards. The next step to take to stay in compliance would be simply reapportion the wards. So why are we not going ahead with that? Why are you fellas so hell bent on abolishing the wards? Here is my take on that – it's Eric's poor attempt to stay on council. The people in Eric's ward (my ward) voted him out at the last election, but after some questionable moves he is back here again. Maybe he thinks if the wards are abolished, he could gain enough supporters in other parts of town to remain on council. Either way, let me remind you fellas again that your job is to listen to and serve the residents of Wrightsville. We have spoken up time and again, yet you fail to listen. Do better fellas!"

Sandra Dosch:

Ms. Dosch relayed to members of council that the abolishment of the wards should have been presented to the residents in a different way and maybe the constituents of the town should have been asked what they want.

Faye Raffensberger:

Ms. Raffensberger asked members of council if the directional sign alerting motorists to Route 462 located near her home in the 300 block of S. Front Street can be moved. Ms. Raffensberger believes the signs are incorrectly placed because motorists are trying to turn or are turning on the road beside her home to access Route 462. Engineer McCoy replied that he would look at placement of signs along the state road.

Amy Schnader:

Ms. Schnader relayed those in attendance “I am sick and tired of hearing that the majority of town wants to abolish the wards and this (referring to the 20-30 people in attendance during the meeting) is not the majority”.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Fire:

No report was provided with meeting materials.

Police:

No report was provided with meeting materials.

Emergency Management Coordinator:

No report was provided with meeting materials.

Ambulance:

No report was provided with meeting materials.

Zoning:

The property maintenance complaint report was provided with meeting materials.

Streets & Parks:

Report was provided with monthly meeting materials.

Engineer:

Report was provided with the monthly meeting materials. Engineer McCoy relayed report highlights to those in attendance.

Engineer McCoy relayed to council that during the most recent audit for 2023 with the borough auditors it had been discovered that approximately \$203,000 of grant funds allocated for the South Front Greenscape Project are un-used. Engineer McCoy noted that he is currently coordinating with DCED (Department of Community & Economic Development) for authorization to utilize remaining grant funds towards Lemon Street parking/dog park area. President Giandalia asked Engineer McCoy if the un-used funds would cover the cost to complete the parking area. Engineer McCoy replied “I don’t know. It would depend on who is contracted to do the work.”

Treasurer:

Treasurer Sahd provided monthly reports with meeting materials and relayed report highlights to those in attendance.

Treasurer Sahd relayed to members of council that the financial report and check register reflect usual and customary expenses for September.

Treasurer Sahd provided council with a preliminary budget and noted that the budget is detailed and comparable to the 2024 budget. Councilwoman Ferrari asked Treasurer Sahd when submitting budget requests, should an item be presented or item and cost. Treasurer Sahd replied, both item and cost.

Councilman White made a motion to approve the September check register as presented by the treasurer. Councilwoman Ferrari seconded the motion. All in favor. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Councilman White made a motion to approve the September financial report as presented by the treasurer. Councilwoman Ferrari seconded the motion. All in favor. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Mayor:

Mayor Slenker relayed to those in attendance that she recently attended the preservation celebration and groundbreaking ceremony at the Mifflin House & Farm noting that the event was amazing and will be a great thing for Wrightsville Borough.

Mayor Slenker relayed to those in attendance that she knows the town is looking shabby. Mayor Slenker noted that “Councilwoman Barrett is working hard to set up a program to have all council view complaints and actions being taken on complaints”.

Mayor Slenker thinks that a different code enforcement firm is needed.

Sheila O’Rourke, Partner with Gibbel Kraybill & Hess, Attorneys & Counselors at Law introduced herself to members of council and those in attendance. Ms. O’Rourke relayed to those in attendance that she has been retained by Mayor Slenker to assist her in exercising her authority to veto Ordinance 2024-4. Ms. O’Rourke noted that there is a provision in the Borough Code that permits the mayor to employ outside counsel in case of a legal dispute between the mayor and council which would/could create a conflict of interest for the borough solicitor. Ms. O’Rourke noted that Mayor Slenker submitted her veto and objections to Wrightsville Borough on September 18, 2024. Ms. O’Rourke also noted that Mayor Slenker is in possession of a written petition signed by over 100 individuals in opposition of abolishing the wards.

Solicitor:

Report was provided with meeting materials.

ACTION ITEMS:

Councilwoman Ferrari relayed to those in attendance that she asked that a ward discussion be added to the meeting agenda to continue discussion on reapportioning the wards in the borough. Councilwoman Ferrari noted that she and Councilwoman Barrett reached out to a former Borough Manager Samuel Sulkosky from Mt. Joy Borough to speak with council, public patrons and answer any questions as Mt. Joy Borough recently completed reapportionment of wards in their borough in 2019. Councilwoman Barrett conferenced Mr. Sulkosky via phone to participate in public discussion with council and public patrons in attendance. Mr. Sulkosky

provided a brief explanation of how the process was completed for Mt. Joy Borough. Mr. Sulkosky stated that the process began in 2018 when a resident wrote a letter to the council stating that the wards were unbalanced in terms in the number of voters in each ward. Councilwoman Ferrari provided members of council with a press release from Mt. Joy Borough dated January 2, 2019.

Press release supplied to council:

MOUNTJOYBOROUGH

PRESS RELEASE

TO: Mount Joy Borough Residents

FROM: Samuel Sulkosky, Borough Manager

DATE: January 02, 2019

RE: Reapportionment of Borough Wards; Ordinance No. 4-18 (Adopted on June 4, 2018)

Mount Joy Borough currently has a three-voting ward system known as the East Ward, West Ward and Florin Ward. Voters elect three Councilors from each of the three wards for a total of nine Councilors. In 2018, Borough Council reviewed the Borough's ward system and decided to reapportion the Borough's Wards.

The primary reason that the ward system is being reviewed is the population numbers per ward is very unequal. Based on the 2010 US Census, the residents per ward is as follows:

Pre-reapportionment population per ward: Florin Ward: 3,404

West Ward: 2,151

East Ward: 1,855

Post-reapportionment population per ward:

Florin Ward 2,409

West Ward 2,507

East Ward 2,494

The Pennsylvania Borough Code § 601 (d) Composition states "All wards in the borough shall be numbered and composed of compact and contiguous territory as nearly equal in population as practicable as officially and finally reported in the latest official census".

The Borough Council adopted Ordinance No. 4-18 on June 4, 2018 that will redraw the Borough ward boundaries with an effective date of January 1, 2019. The Lancaster County Voter Registration Office will notify any Borough voter that is affected by this change by the first week of January 2019 by sending a new voter registration cards to those residents that will be moved to new ward. If you have questions on ward reapportionment, you can send an email to Borough@mountjoy.org. The new Ward Map is available on the Borough's website at <http://mountjoyborough.com>.

President Giandalia asked how many people live in Mt. Joy Borough. Response provided was approximately 8300.

Councilwoman Ferrari relayed to those in attendance and members of council that during the last meeting a split vote, 4-2, to approve Ordinance to abolish the wards was vetoed by Mayor Slenker. Councilwoman Ferrari thinks the next logical step would be to reapportion the wards which would be based solely on census data, borough population, and not based on the number of registered voters per ward. Councilwoman Ferrari noted that York County Planning

Commission (YCPC) – GIS (Geographic Information System) department can redraw new voting districts within the borough for \$25.00 per hour and \$7.50 per map.

Councilman White relayed to those in attendance that the ward discussion handout that was distributed during the August 5, 2024 outlining examples from other PA Municipalities is not a true comparison to that of Wrightsville Borough. Councilman White noted the following (in red font):

Examples From Other PA Municipalities

Municipality	Ward- Related Information
Greensburg (Pop. 14,796) (1) This is a city	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 wards • Some wards are much larger than others (1.6k more in one ward)Wards • Wards have never been reapportioned
Conshohocken (Pop. 9,255) (2) Philadelphia Suburb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently reapportioning their wards • Working with their Engineer to redraw boundary lines
Mount Joy (Pop. 8,346) (3) Lancaster County – all wards larger than our town	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2018, a resident wrote a letter to council stating wards were unbalanced in terms of the number of registered voters in each. • Borough Manager and Borough Council discussed abolishing or reapportioning. Council members gathered feedback from residents and based on this, decided to reapportion the wards. • Borough Manager contacted Lancaster County GIS (Geographic Information Systems) Three different options for redrawn maps were provided the the Borough at no cost.

Councilman White noted without change regarding the unbalance of wards any one elector in any ward can challenge the municipal election going forward.

Councilman White believes that the York County Planning Commission will not assist the borough as Councilwomen Barrett and Ferrari have said they would for \$25.00 per hour.

Councilwoman Ferrari noted that her concern is what the resident want.

President Giandalia noted that Councilwoman Barrett and Ferrari have misrepresented information provided to the residents as to how the process works and costs associated with the process.

Ms. Barrett responded that she has not misrepresented any information, adding that she asked the York County Planning Commission if they could assist in drafting maps that would reflect balanced wards with the idea that these drafted maps would then be shared with the Wrightsville

Borough Council for consideration and potential adoption. The York County Plannign Commission said they could draft these maps.

Solicitor Ruth relayed to those in attendance that during the September 9, 2024 Borough Council Regular Meeting an Ordinance of the Borough of Wrightsville, York County, Pennsylvania, abolishing all wards with the Borough in accordance with Sexction 601 (A) (6) of the Pennsylvania Borough Code was veteod by Mayor Slenker. Mayor Slenker's veto was received on September 18, 2024. Solicitor Ruth noted that council shall reconsider the ordinance either at the meeting where the veood ordinance is returned by the mayor or at a meeting held no later than 10 days after that meeting therefore the Ordinance is being reconsidered and another roll call vote will be recorded.

Mayor Slenkers's objections for veteoing Ordinance 2024-4 is noted as follows:

Sept 8, 2024.

Ordinance 2024-4:

To the Wrightsville Borough Council.

The reasons why I elected to veto the ordinance to abolish wards.

1) The majority of voters were against it. They showed up and voiced there opinion as well as signed petitions. I heard only 2 voters speak at beginning of meeting for it. I also had 1 voter pm me about it.

2) There was another option to reapportion the wards but was not pushed or discussed. This way there would be no cost to taxpayers.

Mayor Tayne Michelle Slenker
Wrightsville Borough

RECEIVED
9/18/24
4:19pm-

A roll call vote was taken to reconsider approving Ordinance 2024-4 and recorded as follows:
Per Borough Code, a majority of elected council members plus one vote is needed to override the mayor's veto

Councilwoman Barrett – nay

Councilman White – aye

Vice President Lyle – aye

President Giandalia – aye

Councilwoman Ferrari – nay

Councilman Gromling – aye

Vote: 4-2. The vote did not pass.

President Giandalia proposed pursuing voting at large and petitioning York County Courts to keep our 3 polling locations in the borough.

Councilwoman Ferrari would like council to have a discussion (in the future) to discuss how to move forward and listen to what the residents want.

Vice President Lyle made a motion to approve the 2025 Klugh Animal Control Contract.

Councilman White seconded the motion. All in favor. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Councilwoman Ferrari made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-22, a resolution designating the Borough of Wrightsville's intent to erect Christmas decorations across State Road 462/Local Road Hellam Street. Councilwoman Barrett seconded the motion. All in favor. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Councilman White made a motion to approve expenditure of \$166.60 to replace the location map, wayfinding signage on the kiosk in Riverfront Park. VP Lyle seconded the motion. All in favor. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Councilman White made a motion to approve C.S. Davidson, Inc. to proceed with the NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) permit renewal process to fill in floodplain at Lemon Street ballfield area. VP Lyle seconded the motion. All in favor. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Councilwoman Barrett asked Engineer McCoy if there is a backup plan if the NPDES permit application is not approved. Engineer McCoy replied that he strongly believes the proposed work will be approved with no issues.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

Councilwoman Ferrari made a motion to approve the August 5, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes. Councilwoman Barrett seconded the motion. All in favor. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

The September 9, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes were not approved. Councilwoman Ferrari noted that she would like some edits made.

No September Planning Meeting was held. No minutes to approve.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE:

President Giandalia relayed to members of council and those in attendance that the finance committee members are continuing to work with Treasurer Sahd in preparing the 2025 Borough Budget.

PUBLIC WORKS:

No report.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

Councilman White relayed to those in attendance that bi-laws conversations are continuing with the Fire Commission.

COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

No report.

PARKS & RECREATION:

No report.

COMPLAINT:

VP Lyle announced that some residents have expressed that Mayor Slenker should be able to do her job the way she wants; therefore, he will no longer be the chair of the complaint committee and will no longer be on committee.

Councilwoman Barrett relayed to members of council that she reached out to personnel at Marietta Borough to share any resources they could share with Wrightsville in hiring a part-time zoning and code enforcement officer. Councilwoman Barrett shared the hiring ad and job description with members of council for consideration.

PERSONNEL:

No report.

OUTREACH:

Councilwoman Ferrari relayed to those in attendance that the community yard sale that was postponed earlier this year will be held on Saturday, October 26, 2024 from 8am-1pm.

Councilwoman Ferrari relayed to those in attendance and members of council that she will be meeting with Corina Mann, Hellan Township Manager, on October 8th to discuss what types of live streaming equipment they use for their meetings.

Councilwoman Ferrari relayed to those in attendance that the Borough Christmas decorations look good. Councilwoman noted that pre-installed lights will be purchased to replace lights that may need replaced from last year.

Councilwoman Ferrari relayed to those in attendance an invitation to join Wrightsville Presbyterian Church at the Fight Hunger Fall Fest on Saturday, November 9, 2024 from 11am-2pm, noting that non-perishable food and hygiene products donations are being accepted to benefit the Eastern York Food Pantry & The Giving Table.

Councilwoman Ferrari relayed to those in attendance of an upcoming event to be held in January 2025. Councilwoman Ferrari announced that the “Talk About Safety” public event with Scott Palermo with the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children will be held on Monday, January 20, 2025 at 6:30pm with follow-up training on Monday, February 10, 2025 at 6:30pm. Both events will be held inside Fellowship Hall at Wrightsville Presbyterian Church.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS:

President Giandalia announced that no October Planning Meeting will be held. Council will reconvene on Monday, November 4, 2024.

ADJOURNEMENT:

Councilman White made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 8:33pm. Councilwoman Ferrari seconded the motion. All in favor. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,
Tammie Hoff
Borough Secretary