

WRIGHTSVILLE

YORK COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

WRIGHTSVILLE BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING

MONDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2024

Borough Chambers
601 Water Street
Wrightsville, PA

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

On phone: Councilwoman Ferrari

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:

Sharon Young:

Mrs. Young provided council with an update on the PPL pole matter near her home on Vine St. noting that the work has been completed and the individuals that completed the work did a very good job.

Mel McDonald:

Mrs. McDonald asked why so many people are taking meeting minutes.

Mrs. McDonald asked why the office was closed for 2 days for Thanksgiving.

Mrs. McDonald noted that borough Halloween date was not in newspaper again.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Fire:

Report was provided with meeting materials. Chief Livelsberger reported to those in attendance that the department responded to 78 calls in November. Chief Livelsberger noted that the department received a lot of medical calls for service in November.

Chief Livelsberger thanked council for their prompt assistance in approval of road closure for Fred Smeltzer's celebration of life. Chief Livelsberger relayed that over 300 individuals attended the event. VP Lyle noted that Mr. Smeltzer will definitely be missed.

Police:

No report was provided with meeting materials.

Emergency Management Coordinator:

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. VP Lyle relayed to those in attendance that Eliseo and Brock have been very busy with leaf collection and thanked everyone who assisted with leaf collection this year.

Engineer:

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

Treasurer:

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

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

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

Mayor:

Mayor Slenker relayed to those in attendance that and Councilwoman Barret will be meeting with Kevin from DCCS (Dependable Code Construction Services) on December 10th to discuss DCSS assisting the borough with property maintenance violations. Mayor Slenker noted that she feels that rental inspections should be completed, and a program needs to be implemented in the borough. Councilwoman Barrett noted that renters are complaining silently for fear of retaliation from landlord.

Mayor Slenker relayed to those in attendance that the Christmas Tree lighting ceremony was great, and the decorations looked beautiful.

Solicitor:

Report was provided with meeting materials.

ACTION ITEMS:

Councilman White made a motion to approve the 2025 Borough budget as presented. VP Lyle seconded the motion. All in favor. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Councilwoman Ferrari made a motion to approve no parking on south side of the 600 block of Hellam St. on Saturday, December 14, 2024, from 10am-1pm for Wreaths Across America

ceremony. Councilwoman Barrett seconded the motion. All in favor. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Vice President Lyle made a motion to approve the Special Handicap or Disabled Parking application and installation of markers at 328 S. Front St. Councilman Gromling seconded the motion. All in favor. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Councilman White made a motion to approve the Fire Commission By-Laws. VP Lyle seconded the motion. Councilman Gromling abstained from voting due to being a member of the fire department. Vote passed with a 5-1 vote.

Councilwoman Barrett made a motion to reappoint Rick McDonald as a Municipal Authority Board Member for another term. Councilwoman Ferrari seconded the motion. Councilman White abstained from voting. Vote passed with a 5-1-0 vote.

Councilman Gromling made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-25, a Resolution outlining the York County Hazard Mitigation Plan. Councilman White seconded the motion. All in favor. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Another discussion was held about the abolishment of wards in the borough. Mayor Slenker relayed to those in attendance that the discussion has been going on now for months, had a public meeting at John Wright's River Room and "no one has said that they are for it" adding "where are the people who are okay with ward abolishment."

Councilman White relayed to those in attendance that the abolishment of wards was first discussed in August 2021 and then again in May, June and July of 2024. Councilman White noted that it has already been noted in previous conversations and power point presentation presented at a previous meeting that there are 36 boroughs in York County with a total of 34 boroughs having an at will voting system- election at large system. Councilman White noted that only Hanover and Wrightsville Borough have an election by ward system. Councilman White read Mayor Slenker's reasons for vetoing the ordinance aloud to those in attendance:

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 their 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

After reading Mayor Slenker's reasoning for vetoing, Councilman White noted that during the public meeting of approximately 100 attendees only 11 individuals spoke noting that they are not in favor of an election at large voting system. Councilman White said that this is not the majority of the voters in town. Councilman White referenced the petition that has 123 signatures which reflects 5% of the town, again not a majority.

Councilman White noted that reason number 2 for vetoing is not a true statement, and it would cost to reapportion the wards in the borough.

Councilman White noted that one ulterior motive for reapportioning the wards may be gerrymandering.

Councilman White asked Councilwomen Barrett and Ferrari as to why their presentation was titled "Whack-a-mole"? No discussion was held.

Councilman White asked Councilwomen Barrett and Ferrari have they talked with the affected voters that would have their polling location changed as a result of reapportioning the wards. No further discussion or comments were made.

Councilman White said, "What would be the problem with making this change?" If the change is made, everybody can vote for everybody and keep the same polling location.

Following Councilman Whites comments public comment from some meeting attendees began. One attendee noted that having local representation close to where we live is important to us to have our values represented.

Mel McDonald: Listen to what the town wants. Not one person wants this.

Council President Giandalia stated, "I think the whole town should be able to vote for who they anyone they want not who lives in their ward."

Fred Smith: The closer to government the people are, the better for the town.

Randee Scritchfield: There is a small amount of people who want to be on council, if the wards are eliminated there would be a greater chance to find representation to fulfill council seats.

Jan Renga: Okay with ward abolishment.

Councilwoman Barrett relayed to those in attendance that the ulterior motive claim to gerrymander is disgusting, pathetic and insulting. Councilwoman Barrett noted that she wants a collaborative process.

Councilman White asked if Councilwoman Barrett if the 34 other boroughs are wrong for having election at large voting. Councilwoman Barrett replied, "I don't think the town is concerned with that."

Councilwoman Ferrari also relayed to those in attendance that gerrymandering comment is insulting and hilarious. The residents are largely in favor of not abolishing the wards and there is no guarantee that the 3 polling locations will remain the same.

Council President Giandalia called for a roll call vote to approve Ordinance 2024-4, an Ordinance of the Borough of Wrightsville, York County, Pennsylvania, abolishing all wards within the Borough in accordance with section 601 (A)(6) of the Pennsylvania Borough Code.

Roll call vote:

Councilwoman Barrett – nay

Councilman White – yea

VP Lyle – yea

President Giandalia- yea

Councilwoman Ferrari – nay

Councilman Gromling – yea

Vote passed with a 4-2 vote.

Mayor Slenker announced she will veto the ordinance again.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

Vice President Lyle made a motion to approve the October 7, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes.

Councilwoman Barrett seconded the motion. All in favor. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

The November 4, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes approval was tabled until the January Regular Meeting. Councilwoman Barrett noted that she needed more time to view the meeting minutes.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE:

President Giandalia announced that a proposal from WeeBee Audio & Visual should be received this week and will be shared with council when received. Approval will also be needed from the Municipal Authority due to equipment being installed in a building owned by them.

VP Lyle made a motion to amend the agenda to add expenditure item to the agenda for discussion. Councilwoman Ferrari seconded the motion. All in favor. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

VP Lyle made a conditional approval, pending approval from Municipal Authority, to authorize an expenditure of \$10,000 to install audio& visual equipment that will be outlined in quote

being received by WeeBee Audio & Video. Councilwoman Ferrari seconded the motion. All in favor. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

PUBLIC WORKS:

No report.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

No report.

COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

No report.

PARKS & RECREATION:

No report.

COMPLAINT:

No report.

PERSONNEL:

No report.

OUTREACH:

Councilwoman Ferrari relayed to those in attendance that the Fight Hunger Fall Fest event held on November 4, 2024 was a great success and over \$1,000 was raised and donated to the local food pantry.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS:

President Giandalia announced that no December Planning Meeting will be held. Council will reconvene on Monday, January 6, 2025.

ADJOURNMENT:

Vice President Lyle made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 9:14pm. Councilman Gromling seconded the motion. All in favor. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,
Tammie Hoff
Borough Secretary

