

BEFORE

NEW HOPE BOROUGH COUNCIL

In Re: Regular Meeting

- - - -

TUESDAY, AUGUST 20, 2019

- - - -

A public meeting was held at the Borough Municipal Building, 125 New Street, New Hope, Pennsylvania 18938, commencing at 7:00 p.m. on the day and date above set forth, before Tara Wilson, Professional Reporter in and for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

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BLUM-MOORE REPORTING SERVICES, INC.  
350 SOUTH MAIN STREET, SUITE 203  
DOYLESTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA 18901

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1 BOROUGH COUNCIL:

2 Mayor Laurence D. Keller

3 Connie Gering, President

4 Dan Dougherty, Vice-President

5 Tina Leifer Rettig, President Pro Tem

6 Alison Kingsley

7 Laurie McHugh

8 Peter Meyer

9 Ken Maisel

10

11 EJ Lee, Borough Manager

12 T.J. Walsh, Esquire, Solicitor

13

14 ALSO PRESENT:

15

16 Chief Michael Cummings

17 New Hope Police Department

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1 A G E N D A (Continued)

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3 6. Consent Agenda:

4 . Meeting Minutes: Consideration to

5 approve the minutes from the July 16,

6 2019 regular meeting and the August 5,

7 2019 workshop meeting.....24

8 . Approval of Accounts Payables: July

9 accounts payable in the amount of

10 \$230,545.46; July 17, July 31, and

11 August 14 payroll in the amounts of

12 \$60,726.22, \$62,429.81, and

13 \$68,969.38.....24-25

14

15 7. Council Member Reports on Committees:

16 . Parks and Recreation Board (T. Rettig).....25

17 . Shade Tree Commission (L. McHugh).....25

18 . Finance Committee (C. Gering,

19 D. Dougherty, T. Rettig).....25

20 . Land Use and Historic Preservation (HARB -

21 K. Maisel; ZHB - C. Gering; PC - P. Meyer)....26-27

22

23 8. Manager and Solicitor Reports.....27

24

25 9. Council Comment/Discussion.....27-30

10. Public Comment.....30-33

11. Adjournment.....33

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4 2. Announcements.....5

5 3. Mayor's Report.....6-8

6 . Resolution to establish the 2019 Police

7 Pension Contribution

8

9 4. Presentation

10 5. Council President's Report

11 . Announcements

12 . Council held executive session on

13 Tuesday, Aug. 6 after the workshop to

14 discuss personnel.....5

15 . Sept. workshop is scheduled for

16 Tuesday, Sept. 3 as the first Monday is

17 a holiday.....5

18 . Appointment of Peter Meyer to the Planning

19 Commission.....8

20

21 . Appointment of Tracy Tackett as the

22 Borough's Temporary Zoning Officer.....9

23 . Appointment of Keystone Municipal Services,

24 Inc. as the Borough's Code Enforcement

25 Officer.....11-13

. Special Events Permits:

. High Heel Drag Race.....13-16

. Turkey Trot.....16-17

. Kids Fest.....17-18

. Certificates of Appropriateness:

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. 15 W. Ferry - new sign.....19-20

. 9 S. Main - tent structure.....20-21

. 58 W. Ferry - door and exterior

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. 306-308 S. Main - demolition and

reconstruction.....21-22

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1 MS. GERING: I'd like to the call the

2 meeting to order. Stand up for the pledge of

3 allegiance.

4 (Pledge of allegiance was recited.)

5 MS. GERING: We have a couple of

6 announcements to start with. We had executive

7 session after the Tuesday, August 6th meeting for

8 personnel issues. And our workshop for September

9 will be changed to Tuesday instead of Monday. So

10 it will be September 3rd because of the holiday.

11 EJ, you want to do a roll call?

12 MS. LEE: Yes, I will take roll.

13 Vice-President Dougherty?

14 MR. DOUGHERTY: Here.

15 MS. LEE: President Pro Tem Rettig?

16 MS. RETTIG: Here.

17 MS. LEE: Ms. Kingsley?

18 MS. KINGSLEY: Here.

19 MS. LEE: Ms. McHugh?

20 MS. MCHUGH: Here.

21 MS. LEE: Mr. Maisel?

22 MR. MAISEL: Here.

23 MS. LEE: Mr. Meyer?

24 MR. MEYER: Here.

25 MS. LEE: President Gering?

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1 MS. GERING: Here.  
2 MS. LEE: Our Mayor Keller?  
3 MAYOR KELLER: Here.  
4 MS. LEE: Also we have our solicitor,  
5 T.J. Walsh, myself as the borough manager and  
6 chief of police, Chief Cummings, as well as  
7 several members of the public.  
8 MS. GERING: Thank you.  
9 Mayor's report.  
10 MAYOR KELLER: Yes. Just want to  
11 mention a resolution, which I guess we have to  
12 vote on that we have a police pension plan that  
13 requires the police officers to contribute to it.  
14 And at this point, it's at two and a half percent  
15 and per their collective bargaining agreement,  
16 which I presume will be in their recent four  
17 year, 'cause they're now six months, seven months  
18 in that. They will continue to contribute to two  
19 and a half percent towards their -- their police  
20 pension plan. So I think as a formality, we need  
21 to vote and approve that 2.5 percent contribution  
22 that they will provide.  
23 MS. LEE: Yes, this is strictly for  
24 housekeeping purposes.  
25 MAYOR KELLER: Yes, broom, dustpan;

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1 yes, housekeeping purposes.  
2 So if council would vote on that.  
3 MS. GERING: Can we have a motion?  
4 MR. MEYER: So moved.  
5 MS. GERING: Second?  
6 MS. McHUGH: Second.  
7 MS. GERING: Thank you.  
8 Any discussion from council?  
9 Any discussion from the public?  
10 All in favor?  
11 COUNCIL MEMBERS: Aye.  
12 MS. GERING: Thank you.  
13 MAYOR KELLER: Another thing during  
14 housekeeping we had -- chief had three police  
15 chiefs here yesterday morning and we did  
16 interviews with, I guess, maybe nine or ten --  
17 ten potential full-time police officers. One of  
18 them as a potential candidate to replace the --  
19 Matt Zimmerman. Corporal Zimmerman had retired  
20 and so the process has begun and at some point  
21 we'll be getting an opinion from the three  
22 interviewers and I'll keep you posted, chief and  
23 I will keep you posted on that.  
24 And that's about it.  
25 MS. GERING: Thank you.

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1 Next for the planning commission, we  
2 had one of the members Lou Saltrelli resign from  
3 the planning commission and we thank him for his  
4 service.  
5 At this point, we would like to appoint  
6 another member to this commission and we'd like  
7 to appoint Peter Meyer. Even though he sits on  
8 council, according to the guidelines, he can also  
9 serve on the commission.  
10 So can I have a motion to appoint Peter  
11 to the planning commission?  
12 MS. RETTIG: I'll make that motion.  
13 MS. GERING: Second?  
14 MR. DOUGHERTY: I'll second it.  
15 MS. GERING: Any discussion from  
16 council?  
17 Any from the public?  
18 MR. MEYER: I recuse myself.  
19 MS. GERING: Yes. Thank you.  
20 All in favor?  
21 MS. KINGSLEY: Aye.  
22 MS. McHUGH: Aye.  
23 MR. DOUGHERTY: Aye.  
24 MS. GERING: Aye.  
25 MS. RETTIG: Aye.

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1 MS. GERING: Opposed? Thank you.  
2 Peter, thank you.  
3 Next we have is our zoning officer, Jim  
4 Ennis resigned, so at this point we would like to  
5 nominate Tracy Tackett as the borough --  
6 temporary borough zoning officer. She has her  
7 own business and will be serving two days a week  
8 and as many other hours as we need her. So she  
9 will be temporary until we find a full-time  
10 zoning officer.  
11 Can I have a motion to appoint Tracy?  
12 MR. DOUGHERTY: I'll make that motion.  
13 MS. GERING: Second?  
14 MS. RETTIG: Second.  
15 MR. MEYER: Second.  
16 MS. GERING: Any discussion from  
17 council?  
18 MS. KINGSLEY: Do we have the rate?  
19 MR. MAISEL: The rate's on there, it's  
20 \$85.  
21 MS. GERING: Oh, I'm sorry. It's \$85  
22 an hour.  
23 MR. MAISEL: When we last talked about  
24 it, weren't we considering an outside service?  
25 MS. LEE: Yes, Tracy is an outside

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1 consultant services. There were three proposals  
2 that we received, two others were from  
3 engineering firms and having reviewed the resués  
4 and the credentials of the other two who were --  
5 who provided proposals for services as the  
6 temporary zoning officer, I found that Tracy had  
7 the most experience out of all of them,  
8 especially in a borough setting. And she is also  
9 -- she also serves as a zoning officer in  
10 Solebury and so is already familiar with this  
11 area.

12 So as a temporary means to be able to  
13 hop in and take over with very little notice or  
14 very little transition period, I -- I found her  
15 to be the most suitable for this temporary  
16 position until the borough is in a position to  
17 contract with a full-time person to take over the  
18 role.

19 MR. MAISEL: It was fairly clearly  
20 identified that the flexibility of having  
21 somebody for multiple days and, you know, not  
22 knowing the pulse of things, was an advantage to  
23 going to the outside versus she could only  
24 provide us with two days? Is that --

25 MS. LEE: Right now she's providing six

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1 hours on Fridays and Wednesdays and on Mondays as  
2 needed. So she's really available three days a  
3 week and at the moment, seeing the level of  
4 permits and applications that are coming in, it  
5 seems to be enough for her to be able to maintain  
6 everything at a status quo. We're -- yeah.

7 So I wasn't too concerned about the  
8 availability of her as much as I was concerned  
9 about her expertise in zoning especially in a  
10 borough setting such as ours.

11 MR. MAISEL: Okay. Thank you.

12 MS. GERING: Any other questions from  
13 council?

14 Any other questions from the public?  
15 All in favor?

16 COUNCIL MEMBERS: Aye.

17 MS. GERING: Thank you.

18 Next. Again, because Jim Ennis as our  
19 code enforcement officer, we would like to  
20 appoint Keystone Inspection Services to do the  
21 code enforcement at a rate of \$55 an hour. We  
22 will have someone on Mondays and Friday for four  
23 hours each day to do this services for us. I'm  
24 sorry, Keystone Municipal Services.

25 Can I have a motion to approve this?

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1 MS. RETTIG: I'll make that motion.

2 MS. GERING: Second.

3 MR. MEYER: Second?

4 MS. GERING: Any discussion from  
5 council?

6 Any discussion from the public?  
7 All in favor?

8 COUNCIL MEMBERS: Aye.

9 MS. GERING: Thank you.

10 MS. KINGSLEY: In the manager's report,  
11 it was mentioned that this code official has  
12 already been out and talking to businesses?

13 MS. LEE: Yes.

14 MS. KINGSLEY: What kind of feedback  
15 and which businesses have they gone to?

16 MS. LEE: So he actually started right  
17 along Main Street in the business district and so  
18 far he's just reviewing anything that's clearly  
19 visible from the public right-of-way. And for  
20 the most part, he's been well received by the  
21 majority of the people that he's spoken with in  
22 that, he's introduced himself as a representative  
23 of the borough and there really to help maintain  
24 a -- make sure that, you know, things are safe  
25 and that things look -- are up to code in terms

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1 of what the properties should be, what it should  
2 look like from the exterior. And so for the most  
3 part, the people he has spoken with were very  
4 receptive to him reviewing and providing feedback  
5 within the guidelines and what it is that they  
6 need to comply in order to make sure they're up  
7 to code.

8 MS. KINGSLEY: So which businesses did  
9 he talk with?

10 MS. LEE: I can't really tell you too  
11 many off the top of my head. I do have a -- he  
12 does have a running list that he provides to us,  
13 you know, I think he just started from one end,  
14 started probably from Ferry and Main because  
15 that's prob -- you know, one of the centers and  
16 just started making his way around and seeing,  
17 you know, where there were trash cans that were  
18 uncovered or just small minor -- overgrown weeds,  
19 and things of that nature.

20 MS. KINGSLEY: Thank you.

21 MS. GERING: Next, we have special  
22 events and first on the list is the High Heel  
23 Race.

24 Hello.

25 MATT HANSON: Hi. Matt Hanson,

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1 president of New Hope Celebrates and just we are  
 2 doing the High Heel Drag Race in October again  
 3 this year. We have all the paperwork in to --  
 4 for the event and then we spoke with Chief  
 5 Cummings, so we're all set there as well. So  
 6 we're just looking for approval for another fun  
 7 event this year. Okay?  
 8 MS. GERING: Thank you.  
 9 MATT HANSON: Thank you for your  
 10 support always. Thank you.  
 11 MR. WALSH: Before you get a motion on  
 12 that one, I don't think you ever called the que  
 13 --  
 14 MS. LEE: You didn't make a formal  
 15 motion on the Keystone.  
 16 MR. WALSH: Well, that made a motion on  
 17 Keystone --  
 18 MR. MEYER: Date on that.  
 19 MR. WALSH: -- but they didn't.  
 20 MATT HANSON: October 27th.  
 21 MR. MEYER: That's what I thought.  
 22 Thank you.  
 23 MS. GERING: Okay. We have to go back  
 24 --  
 25 MS. McHUGH: I love that race.

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1 ask you yet.  
 2 Any questions from council?  
 3 All right. From the public?  
 4 You can come up here, identify  
 5 yourself.  
 6 LAURA SACHS: My name is Laura Sachs.  
 7 And I think all the high heels should be the same  
 8 height because the ones that have flat ones --  
 9 MS. McHUGH: She's got a point.  
 10 MATT HANSON: We have a requirement  
 11 this year.  
 12 LAURA SACHS: How exciting. That's  
 13 all.  
 14 MS. GERING: Any other comments from  
 15 the public?  
 16 I guess as long as you get all your  
 17 paperwork in, you get your certificates.  
 18 And can I have a vote here, all in  
 19 favor?  
 20 COUNCIL MEMBERS: Aye.  
 21 MS. GERING: Opposed?  
 22 Congratulations. I love your high heel  
 23 race.  
 24 Next is the Turkey Trot. Is there  
 25 anyone here for them?

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1 MR. WALSH: No, I just -- I didn't want  
 2 a second motion to get on the floor. I'm not  
 3 trying to interrupt this gentleman, but the prior  
 4 motion was actually never voted on, we never  
 5 called the question.  
 6 MS. GERING: Oh, sorry there.  
 7 All right. We're going to go back to  
 8 Keystone Services.  
 9 MR. WALSH: Just call the question.  
 10 MS. GERING: Can we have all in favor?  
 11 COUNCIL MEMBERS: Aye.  
 12 MS. GERING: Opposed?  
 13 Thank you. All right.  
 14 MS. McHUGH: I thought we did that too.  
 15 Sorry, Matt. I thought we did it too,  
 16 but that's okay.  
 17 Can we have a motion to approve the  
 18 High Heel Drag Race?  
 19 MS. McHUGH: I'll make that motion.  
 20 MR. MAISEL: Second.  
 21 MS. RETTIG: I'll second.  
 22 MS. GERING: Thank you. Any discussion  
 23 or questions from council?  
 24 LAURA SACHS: I have a recommendation.  
 25 MS. GERING: Well, hold on. We didn't

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1 MS. LEE: That's actually by the  
 2 Delaware River Towns and they did notify me that  
 3 they were not available to attend today, but they  
 4 provided all the necessary applications and have  
 5 sent their regards that they were not able to be  
 6 here in person.  
 7 MATT HANSON: I am on the board.  
 8 MS. LEE: I was speaking with Nancy  
 9 about that, so --  
 10 MS. GERING: Can we have a motion to  
 11 approve the Turkey Trot, which is going to be on  
 12 November 28th?  
 13 MR. MAISEL: I make that motion.  
 14 MS. GERING: Second?  
 15 MR. DOUGHERTY: I'll second it.  
 16 MS. GERING: Any comments or questions  
 17 from the council?  
 18 Any from the public?  
 19 All in favor?  
 20 COUNCIL MEMBERS: Aye.  
 21 MS. GERING: Thank you.  
 22 Next is Kids Fest and that is --  
 23 MS. LEE: That's actually by State  
 24 Representative Wendi Thomas and she -- also I  
 25 spoke with her assistant today who was not able

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1 to make it to our meeting. The majority of this  
 2 event actually is taking place on private  
 3 property, but because it is drawing a larger than  
 4 usual crowd, it was recommended that they submit  
 5 the application and go through the necessary  
 6 paperwork and review by the chief of police and  
 7 our public works director.  
 8 MS. GERING: Can we have a motion to  
 9 approve the Kids Fest for Saturday, September  
 10 21st?  
 11 MR. DOUGHERTY: I'll make that motion.  
 12 MS. GERING: Second?  
 13 MR. MEYER: Second.  
 14 MS. GERING: Any questions or  
 15 discussion from council?  
 16 Any from the public?  
 17 All in favor?  
 18 COUNCIL MEMBERS: Aye.  
 19 MS. GERING: Thank you.  
 20 Next we have certificate of  
 21 appropriateness. The first one is 15 West Ferry  
 22 Street for a new sign. Laura was at our workshop  
 23 for her sign. There is a sample --  
 24 You want to put it up there --  
 25 -- on the thing.

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1 Inn for their tent. They were also at our  
 2 workshop.  
 3 Can we have a motion for approval?  
 4 MS. McHUGH: I'll make that motion.  
 5 MS. GERING: Second.  
 6 MS. RETTIG: I'll second.  
 7 MS. GERING: Any questions from  
 8 council?  
 9 The public?  
 10 All in favor?  
 11 COUNCIL MEMBERS: Aye.  
 12 MS. GERING: Next is 58 West Ferry  
 13 Street. This is for painting and the exterior  
 14 door.  
 15 Now, there's no changes made, right,  
 16 from the workshop? You didn't make any more  
 17 changes to it from the workshop, correct?  
 18 MS. LEE: No. So for this door, what  
 19 the preservation consultant had initially  
 20 recommended was a four over four window panel on  
 21 the door. The applicant had received quotes for  
 22 a three over three and had tried to get quotes  
 23 for a four over four, which was not available.  
 24 And when I spoke with the preservation  
 25 consultant, they did share with me that a four

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1 Do we have a motion for approval?  
 2 MR. DOUGHERTY: I'll make that motion.  
 3 MS. GERING: Second?  
 4 MS. RETTIG: I'll second it.  
 5 MS. GERING: Any questions from  
 6 council?  
 7 Any from the public?  
 8 MR. MEYER: Yeah, Laura, looking at  
 9 your face, is that still the sign?  
 10 LAURA SACHS: Yeah, that's -- that will  
 11 be the sign. That's fine.  
 12 MS. GERING: Peter has to recuse  
 13 himself.  
 14 All in favor?  
 15 MS. KINGSLEY: Aye.  
 16 MR. MAISEL: Aye.  
 17 MS. McHUGH: Aye.  
 18 MR. DOUGHERTY: Aye.  
 19 MS. GERING: Aye.  
 20 MS. RETTIG: Aye.  
 21 MS. GERING: Opposed?  
 22 Good luck, Laura.  
 23 LAURA SACHS: Thank you.  
 24 MS. GERING: Next for appropriateness  
 25 is 9 South Main Street and that is the Mansion

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1 over four would have to be a custom made door,  
 2 which would be very difficult to obtain. And so  
 3 the preservation consultant did review this and  
 4 considering that trying to get a four over four  
 5 window would be a much more difficult feat than  
 6 what's available as a three over three, he  
 7 recommended that that was a reasonable  
 8 substitution for the four over four to still keep  
 9 with the historic look and feel of what the  
 10 original door was originally there to present.  
 11 MS. GERING: Can we have a motion for  
 12 approval?  
 13 MR. DOUGHERTY: I'll make that motion.  
 14 MS. GERING: Second?  
 15 MS. McHUGH: I'll second.  
 16 MS. GERING: Any questions from  
 17 council?  
 18 Any comments from the public?  
 19 All in favor?  
 20 COUNCIL MEMBERS: Aye.  
 21 MS. GERING: Have fun.  
 22 SUSAN JOHNSON: Thank you.  
 23 MS. GERING: Next is 306 to 308 South  
 24 Main Street, this is for demolition and  
 25 reconstruction. They were at our workshop and

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1 did a presentation.  
 2 Can we have a motion for approval?  
 3 MS. RETTIG: I'll make that motion.  
 4 MR. MEYER: Second.  
 5 MS. GERING: Thank you.  
 6 Any questions or comments from council?  
 7 Any from the public?  
 8 All in favor?  
 9 COUNCIL MEMBERS: Aye.  
 10 MS. GERING: Good luck guys.  
 11 SUSAN JOHNSON: Just a question on  
 12 mine. I'm sorry. The paint's okay too, right?  
 13 MS. GERING: Correct.  
 14 MS. LEE: That was part of it, yes.  
 15 MS. GERING: Next is 18-20 West  
 16 Mechanic Street and that's going to be taken over  
 17 by T.J. here.  
 18 MR. WALSH: Okay. This is just a  
 19 follow up to the stipulation that the council  
 20 approved at their June meeting. The applicant,  
 21 as part of the stipulation, was required to  
 22 submit an amended or updated certificate of  
 23 appropriateness application, which they did,  
 24 which effectively had included plans that were  
 25 approved in the stipulation. And those are the

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1 MS. McHUGH: Aye.  
 2 MR. DOUGHERTY: Aye.  
 3 MS. GERING: Aye.  
 4 MS. RETTIG: Aye.  
 5 MS. GERING: Good luck.  
 6 MR. LABOSKI: Thank you, everyone.  
 7 MS. KINGSLEY: I'm recused on that.  
 8 MS. GERING: Yes. Alison is recused.  
 9 MR. MEYER: I should have been also,  
 10 excuse me.  
 11 MR. WALSH: It still carries.  
 12 MS. GERING: I'd like to get approval  
 13 of the meeting minutes from July 16th, regular  
 14 meeting and the August 5th workshop.  
 15 Can I have a motion for approval?  
 16 MS. McHUGH: I'll make that motion.  
 17 MS. GERING: Any questions?  
 18 Any from the public?  
 19 All in favor?  
 20 COUNCIL MEMBERS: Aye.  
 21 MS. GERING: Approval of accounts  
 22 payable, July accounts payable in \$230,545.46;  
 23 July 17th, July 31st and July 14th payroll in the  
 24 amounts of \$60,726.22; \$62,429.81; and  
 25 \$68,969.38.

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1 plans that are included in your packet. So part  
 2 of the stipulation was that they would come back  
 3 here for a formal COA approval and that's all  
 4 this is.  
 5 MS. GERING: Can we have a motion for  
 6 approval?  
 7 MR. DOUGHERTY: I'll make that motion.  
 8 MS. GERING: Second?  
 9 MR. MEYER: Second.  
 10 MS. GERING: All in favor?  
 11 COUNCIL MEMBERS: Aye.  
 12 MS. GERING: Oh, I'm sorry. Do you  
 13 have any questions?  
 14 MR. MAISEL: This rendition of it, is  
 15 consistent with what we last did with the stone  
 16 work being exactly the same?  
 17 MR. WALSH: Yes, it is. And Mr.  
 18 Laboski is here, if you have any questions of  
 19 him, but it is consistent.  
 20 That's the only question that I had.  
 21 Thank you.  
 22 MS. GERING: Any other questions?  
 23 Any from the public?  
 24 All in favor?  
 25 MR. MAISEL: Aye.

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1 Can I have motion for approval?  
 2 MR. MEYER: So moved.  
 3 MS. McHUGH: Second.  
 4 MS. GERING: Thank you.  
 5 All in favor?  
 6 COUNCIL MEMBERS: Aye.  
 7 MS. GERING: Council reports.  
 8 Park and rec?  
 9 MS. RETTIG: There was a meeting last  
 10 month, but there's nothing new to report.  
 11 MS. GERING: Thank you.  
 12 Shade tree?  
 13 MS. McHUGH: Shade tree's meeting for  
 14 tomorrow night has been moved to next Wednesday.  
 15 Nothing new to report, though.  
 16 MS. GERING: Thank you.  
 17 Finance committee, Dan?  
 18 MR. DOUGHERTY: No, nothing this time.  
 19 MS. GERING: HARB, Ken, do you have  
 20 anything?  
 21 MR. MAISEL: No report.  
 22 MS. GERING: Zoning has no report,  
 23 which would have been me.  
 24 And, Peter, do you have a report for  
 25 planning commission?

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1 MR. MEYER: I do have a report from the  
 2 planning commission and EJ may be able to help me  
 3 out with this a little bit more; but basically  
 4 they were reviewing Logan Square -- the Cannon  
 5 Square relocation, Logan Inn redevelopment  
 6 project and subject to a whole series of  
 7 stipulation the -- which I do not have a detailed  
 8 copy of and nobody else wants to read. They have  
 9 approved the provisions and they were provided  
 10 with a great deal of detail about what the  
 11 revisions are going to be.

12 There was a little bit of conflict over  
 13 whether we were replacing the tree or moving the  
 14 tree and we're moving the tree unless something  
 15 goes wrong and that did get approved.

16 MS. GERING: Great. Thank you so much.

17 MR. WALSH: So will that be on the  
 18 September agenda?

19 MS. LEE: Yeah, the planning commission  
 20 made a recommendation for the plans to be further  
 21 reviewed by council for formal approval. They  
 22 are actually going in front of the shade tree  
 23 commission to get their landscape plan reviewed  
 24 at the August 28th meeting and their originally  
 25 approved certificate of appropriateness that they

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1 duty, but there's no time frame, but you have to  
 2 keep it fresh. And if your comprehensive plan is  
 3 outdated, you sort of have an obligation to do  
 4 that and then you should follow, but there's  
 5 nothing -- that's no penalty if you don't.

6 MS. KINGSLEY: Right. The last time we  
 7 did the comprehensive plan?

8 MR. WALSH: It was probably 2010.

9 MS. LEE: 2010.

10 MR. WALSH: 2008, 2010, somewhere in  
 11 there.

12 MS. KINGSLEY: All right. So we have a  
 13 10 year old comprehensive plan and where are we  
 14 with -- based on the report that came out of the  
 15 Bucks County Planning Commission, where are we?  
 16 Has there been any movement, and this for the  
 17 rest of council, has there been any movement in  
 18 putting a committee together to start to address  
 19 this?

20 MS. LEE: Yeah. I mean, right now  
 21 because our zoning officer's currently temporary,  
 22 the zoning officer that would normally be  
 23 involved in this process is not available until  
 24 we fill that position more permanently. The  
 25 temporary zoning officer that was just appointed

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1 received back in 2017 is currently being compared  
 2 to their latest rendition to make sure that is  
 3 also consistent prior to the September 17th  
 4 meeting.

5 MR. WALSH: So that will be on your  
 6 agenda.

7 MS. LEE: For now, yes, it is currently  
 8 planned to be on the September meeting agenda.

9 MS. GERING: Do we have a manager's  
 10 report?

11 MS. LEE: I have nothing to report  
 12 today.

13 MS. GERING: Solicitor?

14 MR. WALSH: No, ma'am.

15 MS. GERING: Do we have any public  
 16 comments?

17 MS. KINGSLEY: I have a question. It's  
 18 a question for TJ. In the borough code, what is  
 19 the timing, my recollection was that there's  
 20 timing at which you must renew your zoning and  
 21 SALDO.

22 MR. WALSH: There's no mandatory time,  
 23 but you have a more or less duty to make sure  
 24 that your zoning ordinance at least follows your  
 25 comprehensive plans. I wouldn't even call it a

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1 this evening really is only available to review  
 2 plans and applications as they come through. The  
 3 zoning ordinance amendment would obviously  
 4 require a little bit more staff and zoning  
 5 officer involvement. So at this time,  
 6 unfortunately that's kind of on hold until the  
 7 zoning officer position is filled a little bit  
 8 more permanently.

9 MS. KINGSLEY: So suggestion now that  
 10 Peter is on the planning commission and Peter has  
 11 extensive planning background, perhaps there  
 12 could be some initiation of a committee put  
 13 together because, you know, zoning officers come  
 14 and go. There's already been three of them in  
 15 the last two and a half years now. And it seems  
 16 silly to put the town on hold for one position.

17 MR. MEYER: Alison --

18 MS. KINGSLEY: Just a suggestion.

19 MR. MEYER: -- If I may. That is  
 20 certainly my intent in joining the planning  
 21 commission is to start moving that process  
 22 forward as rapidly as I can consistent with the  
 23 resources that we have available of external  
 24 support and staff support; but that's certainly  
 25 my intent, that's why I wanted to be on the

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1 planning commission.  
 2 MS. KINGSLEY: Okay.  
 3 MS. GERING: Thank you.  
 4 Any other questions?  
 5 Any public -- any more public comments?  
 6 Yes, Joe. Come on up and identify  
 7 yourself.  
 8 JOE BALDERSTON: I think I have been  
 9 identified.  
 10 MS. GERING: Well, the stenographer  
 11 doesn't know you.  
 12 JOE BALDERSTON: Good evening. My name  
 13 is Joe Balderston, been in New Hope for a good  
 14 many years, but I don't live in New Hope at the  
 15 present time; but I do real estate. I have a  
 16 question in the ongoing legal situation with the  
 17 River Cat Cafe, if I may ask. And that question  
 18 is, is there another law firm that is being hired  
 19 to continue that litigation other than Mr. Walsh.  
 20 MR. WALSH: I'm not handling it.  
 21 JOE BALDERSTON: Pardon me?  
 22 MR. WALSH: I am not handling it.  
 23 JOE BALDERSTON: You are not handling  
 24 it?  
 25 MR. WALSH: That's correct.

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1 MS. LEE: It involves a sitting member  
 2 of council and so that a -- someone who hasn't  
 3 been involved with the borough in the last few  
 4 years, it was discussed that they would handle  
 5 that case separately and not involved. Our  
 6 current solicitor who's been involved with other  
 7 engagements with this council, as well as the  
 8 owner of the River Cat.  
 9 JOE BALDERSTON: When you go to hire  
 10 another law firm to represent the borough, does  
 11 that have to be advertised?  
 12 MS. LEE: It was publically discussed  
 13 at a council meeting and it did go through the  
 14 proper channels of doing that publically.  
 15 MR. WALSH: It does not have to be  
 16 publically adv -- professional service is not a  
 17 publically bid service.  
 18 JOE BALDERSTON: It doesn't have to be  
 19 advertised?  
 20 MR. WALSH: It does not, correct.  
 21 JOE BALDERSTON: Thank you. I believe  
 22 that's all the questions I have in regards to  
 23 that subject at the present time.  
 24 Thank you for giving me the opportunity  
 25 to address council.

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1 JOE BALDERSTON: Who is handling it?  
 2 MS. LEE: I can answer that. A couple  
 3 of months ago --  
 4 MR. WALSH: It's probably not  
 5 appropriate for me to --  
 6 MS. LEE: -- the council had appointed  
 7 a special legal advisor to handle that case  
 8 separately. The attorney involved in that is  
 9 Christen Pionzio and she's the special legal  
 10 advisor assigned only to that case to handle it.  
 11 JOE BALDERSTON: Why was it necessary  
 12 to hire another legal firm when Mr. Walsh handled  
 13 the three zoning hearing board hearings? And  
 14 what additional cost is this go to be to this  
 15 municipality?  
 16 MS. LEE: I can certainly provide you a  
 17 little bit more detail about the financial  
 18 impacts of it. I don't have that in front of me  
 19 right now. My understanding was part of the  
 20 reasoning was due to the level of time,  
 21 commitment that was involved with this, just so  
 22 that it's a separated -- because it's sensitive  
 23 as it involves --  
 24 JOE BALDERSTON: What do you mean it's  
 25 sensitive?

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1 MS. GERING: Thank you, Joe.  
 2 Any other comments?  
 3 With that, I'd like to have a motion to  
 4 adjourn?  
 5 MR. MEYER: So moved.  
 6 MS. GERING: Second?  
 7 MR. DOUGHERTY: I make that motion.  
 8 LAURA SACHS: I second.  
 9 MS. GERING: Meeting adjourned.  
 10 (Meeting concluded at 7:28 p.m.)  
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CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the proceedings and evidence are contained fully and accurately, to the best of my ability, in the notes taken by me at the meeting in the above matter; and that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the same.

TARA WILSON, C.R.

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