Trafford Borough
Discussion Meeting Minutes- April 20, 2021

The Trafford Borough Council held its monthly business meeting on Tuesday, April 20, 2021, at 6:00 p.m., in the Manchester Room.

Council President, Kris Cardiff, called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence.

Roll Call of Attendance by Borough Manager Ashley Stack:

(Present) Kris Cardiff, Council President
Steven Perovich, Council Vice-President
Christopher Corrales, Councilmember
Casey Shoub, Councilmember
Ralph Deabner, Councilmember
Ashley Stack, Borough Manager

(Absent) Zack Cole, Councilmember
Leslie Peters, Councilmember
Ed Llewellyn, Mayor

Councilman Cardiff mentioned that Mayor Llewellyn did send a notification that he would be late.

Councilman Cardiff explained the general purpose of discussion meetings; they are more of an open discussion.

The first item brought forward was by Manager Stack. Manager Stack explained summer of 2020; the borough did not open the restrooms at BY Park. Port-A-John's were rented to comply with COVID19 sanitation guidelines. We again have Port-A-John's at BY Park through April. Manager Stack questioned the council for their opinion on whether to re-open the restrooms or keep the Port-A-John's throughout the summer.

Councilman Deabner questioned if they are only rented on a month-to-month basis. Manager Stack replied, no. The customer service representative did mention there would be an increase in cost for the extra cleanings. Before COVID19, we hired a part-time public works staff member for a flat rate to clean the pavilions and restrooms on the weekend when rentals were scheduled. Manager Stack questioned if the council would be interested in finding an individual to come and clean for a flat rate and, if so, how soon.

Councilman Cardiff stated having an assigned individual to clean seemed to have worked out well in the past.

Councilman Perovich stated opening the bathrooms would be more beneficial due to the influx of rentals.

Councilman Cardiff believes that people would prefer the restrooms over a Port-A-John. Councilman Cardiff stated he is for opening the bathrooms. Councilman Corrales concurred with Councilman Cardiff. Councilman Perovich and Councilman Shoub also agreed to open the restrooms.

Mayor Llewellyn entered the meeting at 6:04 p.m.

The second item brought before the council by Manager Stack addressed if a Memorial Day Parade would be permitted this year. Manager Stack stated the event is hosted by the Trafford American Legion and Larry George. The police department is the only department involved to help with traffic during the event. Manager Stack stated she received notification that Monroeville canceled their Memorial Day event. Pitcairn also reached out to Manager Stack to question if Trafford was still planning on allowing one.

Councilman Cardiff provided his opinion to allow the Legion to host a Memorial Day Parade if they adhere to the COVID19 guidelines. Councilman Deabner and Councilman Corrales both agreed with Councilman Cardiff.

A member of the audience questioned what the guidelines were. Councilman Shoub stated this is an outdoor event that stretches over a large area; there is no way to measure.

Manager Stack stated she would reach out to the Legion to coordinate with the Mayor on behalf of the police department.

The third item brought before the council by Manager Stack was information regarding the Boy Scouts Flag Retirement Ceremony. The ceremony will be held Wednesday, May 5, 2021, at BY Park starting at 6:30 p.m. The Legion will also be participating in the ceremony by burning the flags.

The last item brought before the council by Manager Stack was an email received from a resident regarding a shredding event. The resident provided information regarding a community shredding event held by a company named Shred-It. The rate for a minimum three-hour event is $350.00/hr. The resident suggested possibly hosting such an event during clean-up days.

Councilman Cardiff stated local state representatives sponsor similar events. Councilman Cardiff said he would reach out to Representative Dunbar's Chief of Staff.

Councilman Cardiff brought up an issue from Facebook regarding parking issues and littering from All American patrons. Councilman Cardiff questioned if the police are actively patrolling the area. Mayor Llewellyn stated it is not only All American; it is also North Folk Southern.

Councilman Deabner stated if you were to go down there right now, there is an abundance of railroad ties and spikes.

Mayor Llewellyn stated there are several garbage bags full of trash.

Councilman Cardiff stated they are littering on their property. There isn't anything we can do about that, as we have no authority over them.

Councilman Deabner questioned if we could require them to throw stone down on the grassy areas because they drag mud into the roadway when it rains.

Mayor Llewellyn questioned what the difference was between a resident is trashing their property vs the railroad.

Manager Stack stated we could have code enforcement cite them; however, they have not responded to our other correspondence.

Regarding All American, it has already been addressed with Dan Ninemire.

A member of the audience questioned if the borough-owned the grassy area that the patrons of All American are parking on. Councilman Shoub replied no.

A member of the audience questioned what the borough gains by having the baseball fields here. Manager Stack stated they do pay taxes. The audience member asked if we knew how much the patrons of All American frequent our businesses. Manager Stack said she has met with All American's owner numerous times and supports providing local businesses business. The audience feels that All American should be more sensitive to the Borough's needs as they do not offer many services to our residents. The lease they could do is ensure the parking and trash situations are taken care of.

Councilman Perovich mentioned a meeting with All American's owner a few weeks ago to try to formulate some agreement regarding the borough receiving something.

A different audience member questioned if the owner of All American has encouraged other businesses to come to Trafford. Manager Stack stated he has on multiple occasions. The owner lives locally.

Manager Stack stated the Solicitor is drafting up a Memorandum of Understanding to help the community.

Councilman Cardiff commended the Trafford Business Association. They have done a tremendous amount of work to actively bring in businesses in their short few years of existence.

Members of the audience suggested the police perform foot patrolling again. It gives a chance for the community to get to know the officers, which sets precedence.

Mayor Llewellyn stated a problem we are facing along with others is finding part-time police officers. Mayor Llewellyn suggested adding a full-time patrolman that way; we could rely less on finding part-time help.

Members of the audience complained about rental properties along Sixth Street.

A member of the audience questioned if the three-strike rule is still valid.

Mayor Llewellyn and Manager Stack simultaneously stated yes, it is still active. Mayor Llewellyn said COVID19 presented complications with scheduling at the magistrate.

Manager Stack also stated domestic calls do not count towards the nuisance ordinance. As some may or not be aware, there was a moratorium on evictions due to the pandemic. Code enforcement does keep in frequent contact with property owners and property management.

A member of the audience questioned what the three-strike rule was. Mayor Llewellyn stated that the property owner would be taken to the magistrate anytime the police are called to a residence within three times in a 90-day window. Again, this does not include domestic calls.

There was additional discussion from the audience regarding this matter; however, the recording could not be transcribed.

Councilman Perovich questioned aren't the landlords supposed to provide the borough with a list of tenant names.

Manager Stack stated they are supposed to apply for an occupancy inspection. The code enforcement officer performs this inspection to ensure the safety of the tenants. During the application process, the property owner or management company must list all tenants over 18.

Manager Stack also stated the council recently passed a Quality-of-Life Ordinance, which does help individuals to understand the expectation we have here in Trafford. The ordinance provides the tenant or the owner a fine up to three times before heading to the magistrate. The purpose is to get the issue resolved more quickly. The ordinance covers trash/debris, high grass, junk cars, etc.

A member of the audience brought a parking issue before the council on the corner of Fairmont Avenue and Sixth Street. The audience member stated years ago, there were signs on both sides of Fairmont Avenue that said no parking here to corner. The purpose was so that the fire trucks could get onto the street. When the borough painted the yellow no-parking lines, they made one side short and the other sidelong. Cars are now parking further back on the shorter yellow line, prohibiting emergency vehicles from entering Fairmont Avenue.

Manager Stack stated she would speak with the police department and public works.

The same audience member complained about the discontinuation of the leaf vacuum service and the leaf fence at Memorial Park. The audience member stated Trafford has an abundance of trees. He noted the service made the town look so much nicer.

Manager Stack stated we still have the leaf vac. It was broken and then repaired. It is ancient. The service was discontinued due to the Waste Management contract. They provide five days of leaf and yard waste collection.

The public works department collects leaves on the borough-owned property and maintains the catch basins. The fencing was removed due to resident complaints about the aesthetics. The fence was discussed at a meeting, and most people were against it. So, we did remove the fencing.

A member of the audience stated just one week of leaf vacuuming would make a big difference.

Manager Stack stated the only way for the council to know what the public would like to see is by coming and voicing their opinions and thoughts at the public meetings.

A member of the audience questioned the status of the intersection of Fourth Street and Viaduct Way. The member asked when all the large trucks would stop.

Mayor Llewellyn stated that once the road is repaired, there will be a weight limit prohibiting vehicles over a certain weight.

Councilman Deabner stated the trucker's GPS is taking them that way.

The audience member stated it is ridiculous and all hours of the night.

Councilman Perovich stated; hopefully, Forbes Road will be completed within the next few weeks and alleviate most of that traffic.

Councilman Perovich also stated that once the roadway is repaved, the busses will no longer be permitted to layover in that area.

Manager Stack stated she would contact the Trafford Commerce Center to make them aware of the changes.

A member of the audience stated she read in the paper that Trafford would be receiving $289,000.00 due to COVID19. She questioned what the plans are for the money?

Manager Stack stated it is part of The American Rescue Plan. Manager Stack said it is very vague. Her immediate thought was for the money to go towards street paving. We should receive a few guidelines in mid-May. In June, they plan to release a check for half of the total awarded and the remaining portion within a year. The infrastructure that was released stated sewer, water, and broadband. Once the funding is received, it would be discussed under new business at a public meeting on our plans.

A member of the audience questioned if the potholes in the alley between Edgewood Avenue and Fairmont Avenue could be filled.

Another audience member questioned if the potholes in the alley behind First Street could also be filled.

A different member of the audience stated the alleyways had been destroyed due to the garbage trucks.

Manager Stack stated she would relay the message to public works.

Councilman Shoub stated during the next garbage collection contract; the borough plans to investigate moving all the trash collection to the fronts of homes versus the alleyways.

Manager Stack mentioned she forgot to mention this during the three-strike rule conversation. For the three-strike rule to be applied, people need to call the police, so there is documentation.

Manager Stack stated another tool the borough has are code complaint forms. The paper trail is best if the issue would need to be taken to the magistrate. We have them available online, or if you call the office, we can mail them to you.

A member of the audience requested a one-way sign be placed at Fifth Street and Fairmont Avenue. She stated there have been multiple cars going down Fairmont Avenue in the wrong direction and is fearful there will soon be a collision.

A member of the audience questioned what the plans were for Hillcrest Drive. Manager Stack stated paving project 2022. The audience member said he understands why it is on hold; however, something needs to be done in the meantime for the section from Route 130 to Bradford Square. He questioned if we could mil the road in the meantime.

Manager Stack stated she would speak to the engineer for his opinion. Manager Stack stated we are holding off on paving the roadway until the construction of Ridgecrest Court is complete.

Secondly, the audience member questioned the four-way stop signs on Hillcrest Drive, Bradford Square Drive, and Coventry Court.

Councilman Shoub stated the stop signs were placed there to slow down the people traveling on Hillcrest Drive.

Manager Stack stated we also received resident complaints regarding the intersection and requested the stop signs for child traffic safety.

The audience member questioned if the engineer performed a traffic study for the four-way stop signs on Hillcrest Drive, Bradford Square Drive, and Coventry Court.

Manager Stack stated she would contact the engineer for his opinion.

Councilman Perovich stated a few of his neighbors approached him, and they are requesting a sign be placed along Wallace Avenue coming from the ball fields that says something like children at play.

Manager Stack stated she would discuss this with public works.

Councilman Shuob stated he put together an additional 28 streetlights to be converted to LED. Councilman Shoub requested permission to send the list to Duquesne Light for ratification at the next meeting. If for any reason, it does not get ratified, we can pull the request. Councilman Cardiff questioned how much it was per light. Councilman Shuob stated $109.00 per light for a total cost of $3,052.00. Councilman Cardiff asked if this was budgeted. Manager Stack said yes, it would fall under streetlights. No member of the council objected to the submission.

A member of the audience questioned if the money the borough would be receiving from the government could be used towards streetlights and signs. Councilman Cardiff stated we are unsure at this time.

Councilman Corrales stated he plans to investigate any possible grants for signage.

Mayor Llewellyn stated some issues are happening down at the ball fields. Residents take their animals over to the ballfields to use the bathroom, and the remnants are not being picked up. Secondly, they allow their animals to run through the infield while it is wet and is causing a safety hazard for the kids. Mayor Llewellyn questioned who should be following up on this matter.

Manager Stack stated that it is a police matter. Councilman Deabner concurred with Manager Stack.

Mayor Llewellyn also stated there are individuals who have not rented the fields and are using them during the times that other rented parties are scheduled for. Mayor Llewellyn questioned how this should be handled.

Councilman Cardiff questioned if this was an organized team and was it one time or if this a frequent event. If they are an organized team and frequent, they would need to rent the fields, which would also constitute a police matter.

Manager Stack thanked all of those in attendance tonight. She stated this had been the most productive discussion meeting she had attended since her employment with the borough. Councilman Cardiff concurred.

A member of the audience brought up one additional issue. She feels there should be no parking allowed along Route 130 near Fifth Street and Cavitt Avenue. Manager Stack stated it is a State Route, so she would need to follow up with PennDOT.

Councilman Cardiff announced the next regular council meeting scheduled for May 4, 2021, at 7:00 p.m.

A motion “to adjourn” was made by Councilman Shoub and seconded by Councilman Corrales.