

Valencia Borough Planning Commission

Meeting Minutes

11-4-2021

Commissioners Present: Torey Verts; Julie Himmelstein, John Mullins

Guests: Brian Himmelstein

Call to order:

The meeting of the Valencia Borough Planning Commission was called to order at 5:31 p.m.

Agenda Changes

No changes were made to the agenda.

Amend/Approve Minutes:

No changes were made to the meeting minutes from 10-7-2021.

Decision: Commissioner Himmelstein made the motion to accept the minutes. Commissioner Mullins seconded.

Vote: 3.0.0

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

New business:

Borough Updates

Council President Himmelstein gave updates on the borough. There was a construction meeting regarding the turnback of Three Degree Road. Shields Paving will not be paving the road this winter as asphalt plants usually open back up in the spring. Storm water improvements will be worked on and hopefully will be completed by the spring. Mr. Himmelstein is applying for a county use grant for \$50,000 that would go toward the balance of the turnback of Three Degree Road. This money would come out of the county's liquid fuels fund. Ron Olsen will be writing the narrative for the grant.

Mr. Himmelstein reported that Valencia Borough will be proposing raising the Local Services Tax (LST) for 2022. This increase in the LST will generate another \$5000 for the borough for the first year and \$6500 for the following year. Since the LST has a minimum use of at least 25% towards emergency services, the increase will help fund Valencia Borough's police payment.

Peoples Gas will be back in the borough on Monday and Tuesday to do the final paving for the gas line restoration. Next year, the gas company will be restoring the gas lines on Sterrett and Railroad streets.

County Municipality Meeting

Commissioner Verts sent out an email update for the monthly County Municipality meeting.

ARPA Funds

Commissioner Verts sent emails requesting sources and processes for ARPA funding to Jen Lassler of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission (SPC), Johnna Pro of the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED), and Chris Casper of the Economic Development Administration (EDA). She has not received a response from any of these people. She will follow up with phone calls.

5G Technology

Chris Rearick has been out sick and was unable to give an update on the progress of the potential 5G ordinance.

MS4

Mr. Himmelstein gave an update on the MS4 project. Mars has been in cooperation with Chatham University and has gotten the college kids involved in the project. Mars has opted out of the regional program with Adams Township. There will be a meeting regarding the MS4 project at the Brew House next week and a meeting at the library the following week.

Trick or Treat

Commissioners gave feedback on having Trick or Treat on Saturday October 30th instead of Sunday October 31st. The overall feedback was positive. Commissioner Himmelstein reported seeing a lot of new people that she hadn't seen before. Commissioner Verts commented that there were at least 3 times the people from the previous year and that some of the families came from Mars. Commissioner Verts stated that she thought it would be a good idea to do a Saturday night Trick or Treat again in the future.

Elections

A discussion was had about the elections that were held on November 2nd. There were write in votes for the tax collector position even though Valencia Borough currently uses Berkheimer for tax collecting. This is an issue because the position cannot be taken off the election roll, and people who are written in typically do not have the skills or a basic understanding of what the position requires. Council will need to ask the solicitor if Valencia Borough is legally bound by this vote should a person get enough votes to be elected.

Next meeting:

The next meeting will be Thursday, December 2, 2021 at 5:30.

Agenda items for next meeting:

- Amend/approve minutes
- Amend agenda if needed
- Borough updates

This month's assignments:

Commissioner Verts – December agenda; minutes; set up Zoom meeting
Commissioner Himmelstein –
Commissioner Mullins –

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 6:08 p.m.

Decision: Commissioner Mullins made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Himmelstein seconded.

Vote: 3.0.0