

Mt. Holly Springs Borough Council Meeting Minutes-December 11, 2023

Call to Order – Mr. Collins called the December 11, 2023, meeting of the Borough Council to order at 7:00 p.m.

Attendance– The following members of the Borough Council were present; James Collins II, Gay Bowman, Lois Stoner, Debra Halpin-Brophy, Cindy Goshorn, and Sherry Boyles. Also present, Mayor Dr. Brian Robertson and Borough Manager, Thomas Day. Cathy Neff was absent.

Pledge of Allegiance – Jim Collins II led the Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes - The minutes of the Borough Committee on November 30, 2023 were approved as presented. The motion was made by Mrs. Brophy and seconded by Mrs. Stoner. The motion passed unanimously

Approval of November 2023 Bill List and Payment - Approval and payment of the bills for November as presented. Motion was made Mrs. Boyles and seconded by Mrs. Goshorn. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment – Pam Still of 18 S. Baltimore Ave., Mount Holly Springs came before council to thank Chairman Collins for his service and to thank Mayor Robertson for everything they have done for the borough since they have been a part of the community.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Robertson would like to read the Proclamation in Honor of James Collins II:

Whereas: Let it be known that James Collins II has served the Borough of Mount Holly Springs for over 40 years.

Whereas: He has served as Borough Councilman for 10 years and has served as Borough Council President for over 30 years.

Whereas: He has lent consistency of leadership through the many changes the Borough has seen over the years.

Whereas: He has seen the Borough transition from mainly manufacturing to a more bedroom community.

Whereas: Jim was instrumental in the Borough becoming more professional, with a Borough Manager, multiple secretaries, an expanded police force, and public works department.

Whereas: He oversaw the Borough getting improved infrastructure with new freshwater pipes, new sidewalks along N. Baltimore Ave., as well as natural gas service to the Borough. The sewer plant was expanded and improved and N. Baltimore Ave. was resurfaced.

Whereas: For the youth, Jim Collins was instrumental in re-establishing the boy scout program in Mount Holly Springs and served in many of its positions over the years.

Whereas: The public parks have expanded and improved during Jim's time in office.

Whereas: Be it resolved that I, Dr. Brian Robertson, as Mayor of the Borough of Mount Holly Springs, along with the approval of the Borough Council of Mount Holly Springs, do hereby proclaim that Monday, December 11, 2023, be designated James Collins II Day in honor of his long tenure of the service to the Borough of Mount Holly Springs and to the youth of said Borough.

A plaque was presented to Jim Collins II for his services.

Mayor Robertson also wanted to make another presentation: Dear Lois, as the sesquicentennial year draws to a close, I as Mayor would like to recognize your long selfless service to the Borough of Mount Holly Springs. Your business, Delene Beauty Shop has served as a location from which you have been able to feel the pulse of the community. With your servant's heart, you have been able to implement many positive changes and activities through multiple organizations in which you are involved. You have worked with the church, as a member of the Borough Council, as a member of the Parks and Rec and as a member of the Lions Club for the good of the community. Your commitment to the democratic process is exemplified by your faithful service at the polling stations during elections, your actions in so many areas have made Mount Holly Springs a better place in which to live and have been a blessing to all. A plaque was presented to Lois Stoner.

Mayor Robertson also wanted to make another presentation to Chief Thomas L. Day, Jr.: Dear Tom, as the sesquicentennial year draws to a close, I as Mayor, wish to recognize the exemplary job that you, Thomas L. Day, Jr. have done for the Borough of Mount Holly Springs. Tom has been blessed with a fortitude to wear many hats. As Chief of Police, Chief Day has strived to keep our Borough police force manned and up-to-date. We are thankful that they are available to enforce the law and to maintain the borough's safety. As Borough Manager, Tom has a vision for the Borough and has worked to implement that vision. It is exemplified in part by the transformation of Trine Park into one of the county's premier parks. His leadership by example inspires the public works crew to do their best whether constructing, repairing or maintaining various projects in the borough. Tom has spent many hours on our Borough's aging water and sewer system. He has saved the borough money by outsourcing the sewer plants maintenance, he has provided for the future of a secondary water source at the Shetter property. His work with the budget has been with an eye to the future and a desire to get the most out of every tax dollar and to seek grants for major improvement projects. We are blessed that Tom has used his many talents for the benefit of our Borough.

Mayor Robertson presented his letter of resignation: Let it be known that I Brian H. Robertson, resign my office as mayor Mount Holly Springs, PA effective 11:59 PM New Year's Eve, December 31, 2023. It has been a pleasure and an honor to serve this Borough, especially with our current staff and employees. Our borough secretaries may work in the background, but they are the ones that keep our borough functioning.

Tom Day has assembled a great public works crew and police force who are fully dedicated to do their best for our community. Tom Day's management of our Borough and police force made my job easy. I appreciate his total commitment to our Borough's success and improvement.

The Borough council is made of citizens who all want to make Mount Holly Springs a better place to live and have worked diligently towards that goal.

We will miss Jim Collins' long and steady hand as borough council president but look forward to Sherry Boyles' upcoming leadership. Deborah Halpin-Brophy brings years of borough council experience to the job of Mayor and I wish her and the Borough every success in the future. Ms. Bowman made a motion to accept the resignation of Brian H. Robertson as Mayor of Mount Holly Springs Borough and the motion was seconded by Mrs. Boyles. All are in favor.

The mayor will give his report on the police department for the month we had a few traffic citations and the main report was a dog attack on a couple people. The woman that was attacked worked at Sheetz. She had just gotten off her shift and was coming home when a rottweiler came around one of the other homes and got her between her car and her front porch. She was torn up pretty bad. A neighbor heard her scream and tried to help and he suffered some serious bite wounds to his arm and his chest. The father of the owner that was not home, was able to hold the dog down to let Corporal Carver and the woman to get inside and the medic units. She was taken into surgery, the dog is under quarantine for 10 days in the home and the owner is having the dog put down on December 18, 2023 at the end of the 10-day mark. The state dog warden was involved but there were numerous citations to the owner of the dog for no rabies vaccination, licensing, harboring dangerous dog, and confinement of dog. If it had not been for the neighbor, she probably would not have survived the attack. She is still in the hospital. The neighbor had some stitches and is now back to work. We were informed that this wasn't the first attack of this dog, he had gotten a little girl this past summer but we were not informed of that situation.

Planning & Zoning Report – Chairman Collins asked Pam Still if there was anything to report. The engineer wants to move the line six foot. They are making new plans and asking for an extension until January. Have not received HRG's recommendation. There are a couple conditions that the county had on their review. This would all come back to the planning commission for review.

Committee Reports – Mrs. Boyles made a motion to accept the resignation of Deborah Halpin-Brophy as councilwoman for the Borough of Mount Holly Springs effective December 31, 2023. The motion was seconded by Ms. Bowman and all are in favor.

Mrs. Brophy made a motion to provisionally appoint Tracy Winton as tax collector for the Borough of Mount Holly Springs to begin January 1, 2024 and it will be a 2-year term and the motion was seconded by Mrs. Stoner. All are in favor.

Mrs. Stoner mentioned that Parks and Rec has a lot going on this week. Wednesday, the officers will be reading books for the kids and they will be doing Christmas caroling on Baltimore Avenue and to bring a flashlight. Saturday, December 16th we are having breakfast with Santa at the firehouse. It will be held from 8:00 -10:00 am and again at 10:00 -12:00. This will be for all kids under the age of 12. Mrs. Stoner also mentioned that there is a Christmas decorating contest going on and the judging will be on December 20, 2023. Mrs. Goshorn had heard that the cookie sale at the library went very well they had made \$4200.

Borough Manager's Report – Chief Tom Day mentioned that Daniel Baur has applied for the academy for the police department. The academy starts January 8, 2024. Mrs. Goshorn made a motion to hire Daniel Baur effective January 1, 2024 as a police officer for Mount Holly Springs Borough and the motion was seconded by Ms. Bowman. All are in favor. Mrs. Boyles had asked if the Borough is paying for the schooling and will they be signing a three-year contract. Chief Tom Day stated yes there is a contract and we will be paying for the academy.

Chief Day had mentioned that we had received the retainer agreement for the second phase of the crosswalks is \$19,900. This includes labor and consultant fees for the project. Mrs. Boyles made a motion to continue with the work of the decorative crosswalks and the motion was seconded by Mrs. Goshorn. All are in favor.

Chief Day mentioned to council that we had received an invoice for the Western Council of Governments for the annual fee of \$203.68 for 2024 membership. Mrs. Boyles made a motion to pay the invoice to the Western Council of Governments in the amount of \$203.68 and it was seconded by Mrs. Stoner. All are in favor.

Chief Day informed council about Ridge Road. All the information has been forwarded to the solicitor with the names of the landowners. There are seven property owners. Anita and Jay Reigns own two tracts with one just on the outskirts. We need to get signatures from all property owners for a commitment. Tom will take the forms around personally to the individuals for signature.

Any Other Business to Come Before Council: There was no other business to be Brought to council.

Adjourn – Mrs. Brophy made a motion to adjourn that was seconded by Ms. Bowman. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nanette Dusharm
Borough Secretary/Treasurer