

**Policy Committee Meeting
Tuesday, August 22, 2023
7:00 pm**

MINUTES

Committee: Chairman, Mr. Kirkner, Ms. Burckley, and Mr. Ewald
Staff: Mr. Krack and Mr. Boelker

I. Call to Order at 7:10 pm.

II. Public Participation

Mr. Kirkner provided the public with updates on the changes the committee recognized in the ordinance specifically the fee for bags and doing away with the need for the imprint on the bags.

Paul Scanlan, resident. He spoke about his disagreement with the plastic bag ban and cited the many reuses for the single use plastic bags.

Becky McCarron, resident. She read aloud articles suggesting that plastic bag bans are not necessary and that reusable bags are not necessarily the best replacement for plastic bags.

Brian Howell, resident and Senior Center employee. He expressed his concerns with the lack of use of the Church Street lot during the day and asked for employees of the Senior Center and the other non- profits to be allowed permits for the lot during the day.

William Wettstein, resident. He expressed his continued concerns with Zone A Parking in the unit blocks of Walnut and Hall Street. He read aloud some of the issues he wishes to see addressed and stated he would send them to Ms. Burckley.

Tom Duffy, owner House of Jerky. He stated his opposition to the bag ban and stated the Ordinance puts an undue additional expense on small businesses in Phoenixville.

Lucy Graham, ReReRe Plastics. She provided additional information on biodegradable bags and examples of green uses as it relates to plastic bag alternatives.

Julie Gaudan, Senior Center. She expressed her concerns with parking at the Senior Center and on Church Street. She is requesting that we allow the purchase of permits for employees so that it is easier for Seniors and visitors to the various non-profits to find parking. Many utilizing the Clinic and Senior Center can not afford to pay to park.

Cameron Peters, Cameron Peters Floral Design. She expressed her concerns on fines in the Plastic Bag Ordinance. She feels they are set too high for non-compliance.

Dave Meadows, resident. He expressed his concerns with the use of the Parking lot on Church Street. He stated the Volunteer Fire gave the property to the Borough and he feels it should be for the communities use.

Gail Warner, Business Owner. She expressed her concern on the plastic bag ban and stated she feels it is governmental over reach. She feels more business community input is needed.

Jeff Kline, Owner Maddie's Castle. He stated he has issues with the plastic bag ban and agrees it is governmental over reach.

Dave Saneck, resident. He thanked Borough Staff for getting the light behind the 500 Block of Fillmore Street repaired and working again.

Ed Bush, Owner Twisted Cog. He stated he is here in support of the business and their concerns on the plastic bag ban. He also stated the continued closure of Bridge Street is harming the small businesses and asked if it could be just one weekend a month to make it more of a special event.

Susan Meadows, resident and business owner. She thanked the committee for listening to the concerns of the downtown businesses and hopes the Borough and the businesses can come to an agreement on an appropriate Ordinance for plastic bags.

Rodney Platt, resident. He expressed his support of the plastics Ordinance. He feels it will help generations that have been taught bad habits to break them.

David Lutzker, resident and President of the Green Team. He expressed his desire to see the bag ban and he explained his original vision for the ban would be geared more toward big box store and groceries more than the small business community.

III. Presentations - None.

IV. Committee Member Updates/Discussions – None.

V. New Business

A. Motion to recommend Borough Council schedule and advertise an Ordinance amending Chapter 10, Health and Safety, by adding a new Part 5 Plastics.

Ms. Burckley made a Motion to recommend. Seconded by Mr. Ewald.

On the Question: Mr. Ewald noted several changes that he had made as a redline document he would give to Staff to amend the existing draft ordinance. Questions were asked and answered.

Ms. Burckley withdrew her Motion as did Mr. Ewald.

- B. Motion to recommend Borough Council schedule and advertise an Ordinance Redistricting of Wards/Precincts.

Mr. Krack provided information on the three map recommendations. He provided a proposed timeline for bringing the needed Ordinance to the Committee.

- C. Motion to recommend Borough Council adopt a Resolution establishing the Borough's Flag Policy.

Mr. Krack provided background on the proposed Resolution.

Questions were asked and answered.

VI. Current Focus Business

- A. Enforcement of bans on reproductive health services.

Nothing new to report.

- B. Zone "A" parking regulations.

Ms. Burckley provided on information she had discussed with William Wettstein a resident of E. Walnut Street. Staff will continue looking into potential recommendations.

VII Adjournment at 8:45 by Mr. Ewald.

Next Meeting Date: Tuesday, September 26, 2023 at 7:00 pm.