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Public Works Committee

Date: March 10, 2026 @ 5:30 PM

Committee Members Present: Bernie Flynn – 6th Ward (Chair)
Bryan Travis – 2nd Ward
Brian McGinnis – 3rd Ward (absent)
Lisa Kearns – 7th Ward

Department Heads Present:
Don Anderson, Interim Director Public Works
Sean Mitchell, Wastewater Director
Ramsey Reiner, Assistant Borough Manager
Keith Kurowski, Director Parks & Recreation

Borough Manager: Sean Metrick

1. Call to Order - meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM
2. Announcements
 - none
3. Comments, suggestions, petitions by residents in attendance regarding items not on the agenda.
 - Anne Carroll, S. Franklin Street, speaking on behalf of CASE. As you all know, we had an illicit discharge in Goose Creek over the weekend. It is a source of wildlife, and we have worked since the 1980s to keep this creek viable and beautiful. Ms. Carroll thanked the people that were responsive. We now know the discharge was from West Goshen and I wanted to point out we lost fish and eels. She asked why the Emergency Manager didn't alert Ready Chesco. Residents did not receive notification until the following day, and pets and children play in the creek. Courtney Finneran from S. Maryland Avenue spoke about the illicit discharge.
 - Ms. Finneran stated she is a board member with the Goose Creek Alliance as well as a resident. She thanked Public Works and Wastewater for how quickly they responded. She was grateful for such a community effort. She stated the clean-up is scheduled and will be rebranded as a litter clean-up along the streambank. She wanted to make sure Council was okay with the change because they don't recommend going into water at this time. Mr. Flynn said this has prompted us to take some action. Mr. Metrick said we are fortunate that people know each other and worked quickly to respond, but the quickest way to get a response is to call 911.

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4. Departmental Reports

a) Traffic & Engineering Reports

- Kelly Goff, RVE, stated that for the gay Street Project the work has started beyond the curblineline. This work will continue for the next month with partial intermittent lane closures. Under the High and Linden Streets Bus Shelter project the No Turn on Red permit was approved which was a requirement by PennDOT to install the bus shelter. For the Gay and High Street improvements we took core samples and we were able to determine the subbase was of poor quality. Public Works confirmed the utility infrastructure under the roadway was in good condition. The next step is to do full depth reconstruction of the intersection. On the MS4 permit, the borough is required to do outfall inspections once every five years and every year on ones that had an illicit discharge in the past. We have 72 hours after a snow melt or rainfall. We plan on starting shortly as long as the weather cooperates.
- Mr. McGinnis asked regarding the Gay Street Closure and the High and Gay Street intersections, when will we do other intersections. Ms. Goff said she was going to talk to the staff about grant opportunities. Mr. McGinnis said Gay and Church and Gay and Darlington intersections need some work. Ms. Kearns asked how we ended up with the poor subbase and Ms. Goff said usually concrete is used as the subbase and you can see where poor quality materials were used. Mr. Flynn said yes and unfortunately a good learning experience for the Borough. The contractor won't be doing any work here anymore. We revised the bid specifications for bid proposals. It was an arduous process, and I will go over with you some other time. Mr. Flynn asked Ms. Goff what type of material was decided on for the project and Ms. Goff said stamped asphalt. Mr. Flynn said anyone interested can look at the crosswalk at the Justice Center on Market Street. Mr. Flynn also said the source for the West Goshen illicit discharge needs to be investigated and they need to be cited. Courtney Finneran, S. Maryland Avenue, if you are doing dry weather outfall inspections every five years, if there is a trickle that needs to be investigated. Also, the West Goshen outfall is private, so that is an issue. Ms. Scimone, Ward 4, asked if other sidewalks in town could be stamped and Mr. Flynn said yes but we would need a large grant since business owners are responsible for their sidewalks.

b) Public Works

- Don Anderson, Interim Director, stated we are working on the library elevator that has been having issues. The relay board is bad, so it was sent out for repair, and we hope to have it back next week. Last week we had a field trip to East Bradford to check out their Public Works facility. We plan on visiting other facilities to get ideas to fit our needs for the new Public Works facility. As Ms. Goff explained we did core sampling at Gay and High Street. As

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you can see from the photos, the materials under the bricks failed. The Cartegraph are in the agenda packet for your review. Mr. Flynn said now that the weather is breaking, we're starting to see a lot of damaged roads, what is the ETA for road paving. Mr. Anderson stated that two years ago we put together a plan for the next four years that will need resurfacing. We now need to revisit that list and see what revisions to the list are needed. Ms. Kearns asked when contractors open the road and patch how long until they do a full repair because some patches are really bad. Mr. Anderson stated the PECO and AQUA do the final restorations, but you have to wait a few months for the trenchwork to settle. They are starting restorations now in the SW and SE quadrants and they will be working their way over to the NE and NW quadrants.

- Wastewater

- Sean Mitchell, Wastewater Director, both plants removed all the snow from the driveways, tanks and pump stations. The headwork building had all the old pipe and hangers replaced with stainless steel. Goose Creek was out of compliance for eight days due to the weather and partial shutdown of one of the tanks. We immediately contacted Maryland Biochemical and we purchased some dehydrated bugs. When you throw the bugs into the tanks it starts to rejuvenate. Concord Township also brought up 48-60,000 gallons of mixed liquor to aid us in getting Goose Creek compliant. We are now complaint for ammonia. We notified the DEP and they are okay with what we did. Apparently other plants in the area experienced similar issues due to the cold weather. The average flow was 0.911 mgd. Taylor Run's tertiary systems were cleaned; they rebuilt a border sludge pump. The soda ash and aluminum sulfate bids will be opened on Thursday and Don Anderson will present since I won't be at the worksession meeting. The average flow was 0.766.
- The pump stations had their monthly cleaning and inspections. College Avenue had another SSO (sanitary sewer overflow) the same day as the milky substance in Goose Creek. The influent pipe coming into the pump station was affecting the floats. We ordered a new system to operate the floats. For the capital projects, the electrical substation is underway. We received a defective part, and the company is sending out a repair person within the next two weeks. We have an emergency change order because the transformer that was installed in 2020 was crackling. Moisture was getting in and corroded the wires. The back-up pumps were ordered for College Avenue and New Street pump stations. We are testing door access for the IT Department. If everything goes smoothly with the test, IT will roll out to other departments. The Taylor Run driveway replacement is set for 2Q-3Q26. Mr. Flynn asked when Maple Alley residents will be notified. Mr. Mitchell stated that we are waiting to hear comments from the DEP about the permit. We are not anticipating any delays. If we do the award in April, we will notify property owners with a note in their mailbox about phase one from Linden to Lacey.

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- Parks and Recreation
 - Keith Kurowski, Parks & Recreation Director, stated that the Horace Pippin playground equipment has been installed, we just need to install EWF and do a final inspection. We have been working on the John O'Green water park since last Summer. We were trying to work around the covenant with a modified footer that would fit the new water play features. After a meeting today it was decided we cannot go that route. We need to need seven footers and our engineer for the project will be contacting the DEP. It will cost approximately \$5-6,000 to get the clearance. We can move ahead and start ordering parts. Since this is a significant upgrade, we will be applying for grants for phase 2 as well as with the DCD and DCNR. For Hoopes Park, there are a significant number of trees that need to be removed. I am meeting with the tree commission and arborist so we can plan the layout. This playground will be an inclusive playground to encompass all disabilities, and we are applying for grants as well.
 - In early August, we will be hosting an America 250 event. Seven municipalities in and around the borough will be participating. Since we are the county seat, we were asked to host the event. I applied for a grant to help offset some of the costs. We were awarded two grants, one for \$2,500 and another for \$5,000. The police and council have been made aware of the event. The Pros Plan has been adopted, so we are going to apply for a TCDI grant through the Delaware Valley Planning Commission (DBRPC) for a feasibility study to put trails along the SEPTA line. It would be a nine-mile trail from the borough down to Wawa. While it is a lengthy project, the feasibility study is the first step. Ms. Kearns asked who was leading the Turks Head Trail. Mr. Kurowski said the borough is leading it with an advocacy group; however, the borough is responsible for submitting the grant application. We are hoping for a \$150,000 grant. Mr. Flynn asked about the reporting of the John O'Green covenant #7. Mr. Kurowski said he has not been tasked with that reporting. He went on to say that we follow the covenant by making sure nothing goes below two feet. Mr. Flynn stated that is why we haven't been able to put a bathroom in the park.
- Public Works Chair Report
 - Mr. Flynn stated that his two projects are the new Public Works building which we discussed earlier and looking at DEP covenant properties. We paid \$1.00 to PECO for John O'Green Park years ago. We will keep reviewing these properties.

5. Old Business

- a) Approve the February 2026 meeting minutes
 - Approve 3 - 0

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- b) Motion to direct the solicitor to prepare an amendment to Ordinance 104-32 to add street sweeping zones.
 - Tabled because we are looking to add additional streets

- c) Discuss Downtown West Chester and West Chester partnership – tree wells and planting proposal
 - Mr. Flynn stated that BID expanded their footprint and has agreed to pay for some new tree wells. Chip Horne, President of the Tree Commission explained that All Seasons Landscaping will be adding nine tree wells on High Street and three on Market Street at \$260 per well for a total of \$3,120. The Borough will pay for the trees.
 - Approve 3 - 0

- d) Discuss enforcement for Chapter 62 Garbage, Rubbish and Refuse tote quantities
 - Mr. Flynn stated council redefined Chapter 62 for private haulers. The property is permitted four 96-gallon totes and if they have more, they need to get a dumpster. What council didn't account for was recycling totes. Mr. Flynn stated that Public Works checked approximately 70 properties. Mr. Anderson said only three were out of compliance. Mr. Flynn stated that we will ask the solicitor to write up an amendment to the ordinance. We will need a public hearing too. They can have multiple pick-ups in a week but anything over 4 totes, including recycling, they will need a screened dumpster. For every two 96-gallon tote the property can have one recycling toe. Mr. McGinniss asked how that works for restaurants. Mr. Flynn and Mr. Anderson said this applies to private residential hauling.

- e) Discuss the progress of the new Public Works building
 - Mr. Metrick reiterated what Mr. Anderson said about the visit to the Public Works site in East Bradford. He said it was a good lesson for him because he learned the value of keeping the vehicles under cover and out of the elements. He explained they also had radiant heat and a fully contained wash facility with a closed loop water system, so it manages its own industrial discharge. We want to follow up with their engineers and their as-built plans. Mr. McGinniss asked what the next step is: a feasibility study, grants, basically what is the timeline. Mr. Metrick said we are creating a timeline, and the plan is by 3Q26 to put out to bid a feasibility study. In 2027 we will test sites, decide if we move to another location, what to do with the existing site. If we decide to build at the current site a decision needs to be made where to set up to continue operating. Once all of that is decided we will start the process of securing grant funding through RACP and possibly through PA federal senators' office. Mr. McGinniss asked who was going to write those grants and Mr. Metrick stated it would be a combined effort. Mr. Flynn said we spent money on Mr. Cherry's firm Architectural Concept,

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what was that exactly for? Mr. Metrick explained it was to give us a general idea of costs.

6. New Business

- Motion to approve the Friends of Marshall Park (FOMSP) request to install a lockable, frost proof yard hydrant adjacent to the Lafayette Street steps.
 - Jeff Beitel, President of Marshall Squar Park and resident of E Biddle Street, introduced another board member Anne Walters. They came up with a proposal to install a hydrant for a water source at that end of the park. They are working with AQUA and Battavio Plumbing for the meter pit and connections. They are doing everything pro-bono. It will have a threaded hose connection. We have a landscape maintenance contractor to help with the watering. Courtney Finenran, S Maryland Avenue, asked what the distance from the water main to the hydrant connection was. Mr. Beitel said that all of the work would be under the sidewalk and if any of the street is disturbed it will be patched. Dalke McClure, W Marshall Street, thinks it is a great idea but asked if it will be a public or private hydrant. Mr. Beitel stated it is private but Borough property. Mr. McClure asked if it broke who would pay for it. Mr. Beitel stated that FOMSP would pay for maintenance as well as the yearly backflow preventor testing.
 - Approve 3 – 0
- Discuss John O’Green Park contamination
 - Mr. Flynn stated that it was discussed earlier.

Adjourn – 6:38 PM