

**MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP
MEETING MINUTES
November 16, 2021**

The monthly meeting of the Montgomery Township Business Development Partnership (BDP) was held at 8:30 A.M. at the Township Administration Building. The members of the BDP in attendance included Lisa Martin (Chair), JP Northrop (Vice Chair), Allen Nappen, Jay Haenn, Ryan Frazier, Jim Brusilovsky, and Troy Tradewell. Also present was Candyce Chimera, Board of Supervisors Liaison, Carolyn McCreary, Township Manager, Marianne McConnell, Deputy Zoning Office, Lt. William Peoples, Officer Robert Johnson, and Derek Muller, Public Information Coordinator. Additional attendees included Jacqui Baxter-Rollins, Richard Morello, and Lisa Morello.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 8:32 a.m.

Minutes: The October 2021 minutes were approved on a motion by Mr. Northrop and a second by Mr. Nappen.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Montgomery Township Police Department Report

- Lieutenant William Peoples & Officer Rob Johnson discussed the following topics:
 - The rise of employment fraud and counterfeit money
 - An uptick in retail theft **prosecutions**
 - The 26th Annual Lt. Patty Simons Food Drive, which is a Montgomery County-wide drive that serves 6 different local food pantries. Volunteers will be needed to help bag food closer to the holidays.
 - Holiday “Adopt-a-Senior” program
 - Information about the Citizens Police Academy, which will be held in March/April 2022.
 - Community engagement events, such as Coffee with a Cop, returning in 2022.
 - National Night Out – This year it was held at William F. Maule Park @ Windlestrae. Officer Johnson thanked Costco for providing and grilling the food.
 - The United States Police Canine Association Region 6 Police Dog-1 Field Trials were held this past weekend. MTPD placed second overall, and several officers received individual awards and certifications with their canine partners.
 - MTPD provides safety inspections and risk assessment services to nonretail businesses.
 - Child fingerprints can be done at the Police Department.
 - Lt. Peoples demonstrated the license plate reader software, which reports vehicle-related issues to local dispatch centers by cross-checking a State database.

Township Manager Update (Carolyn McCreary)

- The Board Conference Room and main Township Meeting Room are both being converted into “Teams Rooms,” which will increase community accessibility to public meetings via live streaming.
- At their meeting on Monday, November 8, 2021, the Board of Supervisors approved the 2022 Preliminary Budget and Capital Improvement Plan. The budget includes a tax increase of 1 mill and is the first increase since 2003. The document is available for review and comment and will be considered for final approval at the December 13, 2021 Board of Supervisors meeting after 7:00 p.m.
- Township staffing restructuring is almost complete. These adjustments are intended to increase the efficiency of staff in serving Township residents.
- PennDOT will be undertaking a road improvement project at 5 points. More details to come.
- The North Wales Water Authority continues to work toward its goal of having 3 water towers to serve the region. The new tower being constructed behind Airport Square is part of this initiative.
- There is a proposal for Shake Shack to occupy the previous space that Wendy’s occupied in Airport Square. Shake Shack will have a public hearing during the November 22, 2021 Board of Supervisors Meeting.
- Westrum will have their Conditional Use hearing at the Board of Supervisors meeting on November 22nd for their proposed Lifestyle Apartments on Bethlehem Pike.
- Higher Rock applied for a Conditional Use Hearing for the proposed Witchwood property, which the Board of Supervisors will vote on in December.
- New outdoor signage is being installed at the Township Building, Community & Recreation Center, and Battalions 1 & 2. These are intended to be more readable and increase communication to the community and people driving through.
- The Township recently hosted successful Electronic Recycling and Shredding Events.
- The Toys for Tots drive is currently underway.
- The Township held a well-attended Halloween Drive-Thru Experience on October 9th.
- The Montgomery Mall is in foreclosure, but is still open. It is currently managed by JLL Property Management.
- The transition to Berkheimer & Associates collecting business taxes has been successful.
- Several medical marijuana storefronts have opened in the Township recently. Laws governing these businesses are regulated by the State.

Old Business:

- **BDP Meeting Times in 2022:** Members of the BDP agreed to continue to evaluate the best meeting days and times for 2022. These will be determined before meetings need to be advertised publicly in January 2022.

New Business:

- Jacqui Baxter-Rollins from the Partnership TMA of Montgomery County shared that there is a proposed project to introduce new shuttle buses to the area. They are trying to secure AARPA funding for the project. A survey to provide input for this project and funding can be found at <https://www.montcopa.org/3821/Recovery-Office>

- Members of the BDP continue to face a common challenge: Supply chain issues.

Adjournment:

being no further business to come before the BDP, the meeting adjourned at 9:45am. The next meeting will be on Tuesday January 18, 2022 @ 8:30am Virtually via Microsoft Teams.