

**BOROUGH OF YEADON  
DELAWARE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA  
MINUTES OF SPECIAL BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING  
JANUARY 27, 2014, 7:00 PM**

The Yeadon Borough Council met at Yeadon Borough Hall on the above date. President Sharon Council called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**2. ROLL CALL**

The following members were present: President Sharon Council, Vice-President Nelva Wright, and councilors Clara Johnson, Learin Johnson, Rosalind Jones Johnson, Dr. Dolores McCabe and Gracie Snead. Also present were Mayor Rohan Hepkins, Borough Manager Larry Healy, Solicitor Raymond Santarelli, Engineer Eileen Mulvena, Finance Director, Joseph Possenti and Police Chief Donald Molineaux.

Before Public Comment and the transaction of business, President Council discussed presenting a Power Point presentation regarding the firm, Possenti and Associates, and the Borough Solicitor, which will last approximately 10 minutes and will be narrated by Councilor Dolores McCabe. Councilor Rosalind Johnson challenged the Agenda and Power Point presentation.

President Council reminded the residents that there is a 30 minute comment period at the beginning of the meeting to address agenda items only and a 30 minute comment period at the end of the meeting to address non-agenda items. Any one that wishes may write their message down and submit it for a response.

Councilor Dolores McCabe presented the Power Point presentation, a copy of which is attached. President Council proceeded to read a letter of from the Darby President, Janice Davis regarding Possenti and Associates. See attached letter

Isaac Dotson asked that the meeting be moved downstairs to accommodate more residents. President Council said in the interest of the Borough, they must keep to the scheduled and will continue the meeting in chambers, and then called for residents to speak with a time of three minutes each.

### **3. CITIZENS FORUM, AGENDA ITEMS ONLY**

Maxine Brown – 825 Myra Avenue – Discussed her family safety regarding robberies and holdups, asking if there are enough officers to protect the borough, with the Mayor responding that the borough does not have enough police that the borough is down four full time officers and ask that council put more money in the budget for more officers.

Maxine Veasy – Questioning the appointment of the Borough Secretary and if the Borough secretary was being dismissed. Answer - yes

Penny MacDonald – Church Lane – Encourage new council members and shared her experience as a former council member.

President Council – Spoke about being all neighbors and respects one another.

Isaac Dotson – Redwood Avenue –Relating to 4.1 – Regarding the appointment of Solicitor Santarelli was an illegal agenda. Solicitor Raymond Santarelli responded that said motion was not illegal. President Council reminded Mr. Dotson to control himself.

Ricardo Bostic – Yeadon resident for 35 years – Comments regarding his 2 ½ years working in borough hall and what went on.

Jacquiline Puriefoy Brinkley – Elder Ave – Commented on Judge Kenney’s remarks and stated that a firm cannot represent the Borough.

Dr. Carolyn Harris – Rose Street – continuing where Ms. Brinkley left off, and what the Possenti Firm is making.

Denise Stenson – Former Council President - Asking what the Possenti plan is and that is the Delta Plan is still in effect.

President Council indicated that hand raises will replace roll call votes.

### **4. APPOINTMENTS**

#### **4.1 SOLICITOR**

Motion to appoint Solicitor Raymond Santarelli. Motion was made by Vice President Wright, seconded by Councilor Dolores McCabe.

Councilor Jones-Johnson stated an amendment to agenda requires a 2/3 votes per Roberts Rules of Order. Solicitor Santarelli addressed Councilor Jones-Johnson comment. Councilor G. Snead expressed that you cannot vote if a salary is not stated. Councilor Jones-Johnson commented on the Possenti Firm hiring and firing employees. Councilor Jones Johnson asked for a roll call vote. President Council reiterated that recording of votes would be by show of hands.

Motion carries 4-3. Voting yes: Councilors L. Johnson and D. McCabe, Vice President Wright, and President Council. Voting no: Councilors Johnson, R. Jones-Johnson, and G. Snead.

#### **4.2 MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Motion to adopt Possenti Management Plan. Motion was made by Vice President Wright, seconded by Councilor Dolores McCabe.

Motion carries 4-3. Voting yes: Councilors L. Johnson and D. McCabe, Vice President Wright, and President Council. Voting no: Councilors Johnson, R. Jones-Johnson, and G. Snead.

#### **4.3 MANAGEMENT FIRM**

Motion to approve management firm, Joseph P. Possenti Firm, as outlined in the Possenti Firm's proposal. Motion was made by VP Nelva Wright, seconded by Councilor Dolores McCabe.

Councilor Jones-Johnson questioned whether Possenti's Firm had a contract. President Council stated that Mr. Possenti's Firm is on a month to month 30 day contract.

Motion carries 4-3. Voting yes: Councilors L. Johnson and D. McCabe, Vice President Wright, and President Council. Voting no: Councilors Johnson, R. Jones-Johnson, and G. Snead.

#### **4.4 BOROUGH MANAGER**

Motion to appoint Lawrence Healy as Borough Manager, pursuant to terms of Possenti Firm proposal. Motion was made by Vice President Wright, seconded by Councilor Dolores McCabe.

Councilor Jones-Johnson commented on Mr. Healy's resume. Councilor C. Johnson stated that President Council was being evasive. Vice President Wright expressed Mr. Healy's experience and that should be under the review of the Management Firm.

Motion carries 4-3. Voting yes: Councilors L. Johnson and D. McCabe, Vice President Wright, and President Council. Voting no: Councilors Johnson, R. Jones-Johnson, and G. Snead.

#### **4.5 BOROUGH SECRETARY**

Motion to appoint Lawrence Healy as Borough Secretary, pursuant to terms of Possenti Firm proposal. Motion was made by Vice President Wright, seconded by Councilor Dolores McCabe.

Councilor Jones-Johnson questioned the termination of African American employees and replacement by white people, stating the Borough may be faced with civil rights lawsuits.

Motion carries 4-3. Voting yes: Councilors L. Johnson and D. McCabe, Vice President Wright, and President Council. Voting no: Councilors Johnson, R. Jones-Johnson, and G. Snead.

#### **4.6 FINANCE DIRECTOR**

Motion to appoint Joseph Possenti as Finance Director pursuant to the terms of the Possenti Firm proposal. Motion was made by Vice President Wright, seconded by Councilor Dolores McCabe.

Motion carries 4-3. Voting yes: Councilors L. Johnson and D. McCabe, Vice President Wright, and President Council. Voting no: Councilors Johnson, R. Jones-Johnson, and G. Snead.

#### **4.7 ENGINEER**

Motion to appoint NDI Engineering as Borough Engineer. Motion was made by Vice President Wright, seconded by Councilor L. Johnson.

Motion carries 4-3. Voting yes: Councilors L. Johnson and D. McCabe, Vice President Wright, and President Council. Voting no: Councilors Johnson, R. Jones-Johnson, and G. Snead.

#### **4.8 SIGNATORIES OF ALL BANK ACCOUNTS**

Motion to appoint Vice President Wright, Lawrence Healy and Joseph Possenti, signatories of all bank accounts. Motion made by Vice President Wright, seconded by Councilor D. McCabe.

Motion carries 4-3. Voting yes: Councilors L. Johnson and D. McCabe, Vice President Wright, and President Council. Voting no: Councilors Johnson, R. Jones-Johnson, and G. Snead.

#### **4.9 RIGHT TO KNOW**

Motion to appoint Lawrence Healy Right to Know Officer. Motion was made by Councilor Learn Johnson, seconded by Vice President Wright.

Motion carries 4-3. Voting yes: Councilors L. Johnson and D. McCabe, Vice President Wright, and President Council. Voting no: Councilors Johnson, R. Jones-Johnson, and G. Snead.

### **5. APPROVED MINUTES**

Motion to accept the Minutes for 12/16/13 & 12/23/13. Motion was made by Vice President Wright, seconded by Councilor D. McCabe. Motion carries 4-0. Voting yes: Councilors L. Johnson and D. McCabe, Vice President Wright, and President Council. Not voting and asking to be registered as abstaining, but without explanation: Councilors C. Johnson, R. Jones-Johnson and G. Snead.

Motion to adopt the Minutes for 01/06/14 and 01/07/14. Motion was made by Vice President Wright, seconded by Councilor D. McCabe. Motion carries 4-1. Voting yes: Councilors L. Johnson, D. McCabe, Vice President Wright and President Council. Voting no: Councilor C. Johnson. Not voting and asking to be registered as abstaining, but without explanation: Councilors R. Jones-Johnson and G. Snead.

### **6. MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Rohan Hepkins expresses a problem with dissension on Council and disagrees with the decision process. Disapproves of Solicitor Raymond Santarelli, discussed how crime is increasing and for council to appoint four full time police officers. He also stated power comes from the people and to pray on the Agenda. He vetoed all appointments made. In response, Solicitor Santarelli informed Mayor Hepkins that he only has the power to veto ordinances and resolutions of a legislative nature, not motions and appointments.

Police Chief Don Molineaux stated there is a shortage of staff, that more than 12 officers are needed. He also has stated that he answers calls alone since the detective in charge retired and that there has been no additional officers hired since 2009. He has an eligible list regarding the hiring of three full time officers that will meet their budget.

## **7. PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

### **7.1 ANNOUNCEMENT OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Committee Meetings are scheduled on the first Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. – 7:50 p.m. in the Auditorium – Table and chairs to be setup.

The Workshop Meeting is scheduled for 7:50 p.m. on the first Monday of each month, and will be held in Council Chambers.

Disagreement with the President's setting of Committees and meetings was stated. Councilor C. Johnson wants the Executive Session to discuss Committees.

## **8. ENGINEER'S REPORT**

The Borough Engineer's complete report is attached for the record.

Engineer Eileen Mulvena explains that she recommends rebidding the portion of the Yeadon Swim Club contract that was awarded to BRB Contracting. The Engineer's recommendation was acted upon and a Motion to rebid contract at Yeadon Swim Club was made by Councilor L. Johnson, seconded by Councilor D. McCabe. Motion carries 4-2. Voting Yes: Councilors L. Johnson, G. McCabe, Vice President Wright and President Council. Voting no: Councilor C. Johnson and G. Snead. No response was offered by Councilor Jones-Johnson.

Engineer Eileen Mulvena recommends to award contract to Mara Restoration, low bidder on Yeadon Borough façade. The Engineer's recommendation was acted upon and a motion to award a contract to Mara Restoration per the Engineer's recommendation was made by Councilor Nelva Wright, seconded by Councilor Dolores McCabe. Motion carries 5-1. Voting yes: Councilors L. Johnson, D. McCabe, G. Snead, Vice President Wright and President Council. Voting no: Councilor C. Johnson. Not voting and asking to be registered as abstaining, but without explanation: Councilor Jones-Johnson.

Engineer Eileen Mulvena stated that there will be a flyer distributed with the tax bills regarding illicit discharge which meets efforts to educate residents;

Engineer Eileen. Mulvena recommends extending the 2013 contracts for ordinary street and sewer maintenance that were previously awarded to JMC and AF Damon until April 15, 2014 to allow for advertising and bidding for 2014 contracts. The Engineer's recommendation was acted upon and a motion to extend the 2013 contracts for ordinary street and sewer maintenance that were previously awarded to JMC & AF Damon until April 15, 2014 was made by Vice President Wright, seconded by Councilor Dolores McCabe. Motion carries 5-1. Voting yes: Councilors C. Johnson, L. Johnson, G. McCabe, Vice President Wright and President Council. Voting No: Councilor G. Snead. Not voting and asking to be registered as abstaining, but without explanation: Councilor Jones-Johnson.

## **9. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT**

Lawrence Healy, Borough Manager, stated when there is a snow emergency and that the residents may park in the Borough parking lots for free.

## **10. TREASURE'S REPORT**

Joseph Possenti stated he is reviewing all finances.

Councilor Jones-Johnson offered comment on the former Finance Director.

## **11. TAX REPORTS**

Attached

## **12. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Meetings will be scheduled on the first Monday of the month.

**12.1** – Motion to approve AP List made by Vice President Wright, seconded by Councilor D. McCabe. Motioned carries 4-1. Voting yes: Councilors L. Johnson, D. McCabe, Vice President Wright and President Council. Voting no: Councilor C. Johnson. Abstaining without explanation: Councilors Jones-Johnson and Snead

**12.1.2** – Motion to authorize advertising of the availability of the revised preliminary budget, budget meetings and a special council meeting for consideration and adoption of a 2014 amended made by Vice President Wright, seconded by Councilor D. McCabe. Motion carries 4-3. Voting yes: Councilors L. Johnson, D. McCabe, Vice President Wright and President S. Council. Voting no: Councilors C. Johnson, Jones-Johnson, and Snead

## **13. SOLICITOR**

Solicitor Santarelli recommended rescheduling the February 10, 2014 Arbitration involving the Nile Swim Club that is currently scheduled for February 10, 2014. The Solicitor's recommendation was acted upon and motion to authorize the request for continuance of the

February 10, 2014 Nile Swim Club arbitration to a later date was made by Councilor D. McCabe, seconded by Vice President Wright. Motion carries 4-0. Voting yes: Councilor L. Johnson, D. McCabe, Vice President Wright and President Council. Not voting and asking to be registered as abstaining, but without explanation: Councilor R. Jones-Johnson, G. Snead and C. Johnson.

Solicitor Santarelli will send a termination letter to Yeadon Swim Club contractor BRB. Mr. Santarelli informed council that he will report to Judge Proud on February 3, 2014 concerning the lawsuit involving Foxcroft Apartments.

## **14. NEW BUSINESS**

### **14.1 SEPARATION OF EMPLOYEES**

Motion to approve separation of Angelic Jones. Motion was made by Vice President Wright, seconded by Councilor D. McCabe. Motion carries 4-3. Voting yes: Councilors L. Johnson, D. McCabe, Vice President Wright and President Council. Voting no: Councilors R. Jones-Johnson, C. Johnson and G. Snead. Councilor Jones-Johnson stated that in her opinion this motion may be considered malicious conduct.

Motion to approve separation of Tyrone Bullock. Motion was made by Councilor L. Johnson, seconded by Vice President Wright. Motion carries 4-2. Voting yes: Councilors L. Johnson, D. McCabe, Vice President Wright and President S. Council. Voting no: Councilors C. Johnson and G. Snead. Councilor Jones-Johnson did not vote. Mayor Rohan Hepkins stated that he is against Yeadonites' dismissal.

Motion to appoint Rosemary Radziak as administrative assistant and Ginger Nicholson as reception person pursuant to the terms of the Possenti Firm proposal. Motion was made by Councilor L. Johnson and seconded by Vice President Wright. Motion carries 4-3. Voting yes: Councilors L. Johnson, D. McCabe, Vice President Wright and President Council. Voting no: Councilors R. Jones-Johnson, C. Johnson and G. Snead. Councilor Jones-Johnson objects to Ginger Nicholson, stating that Ms. Nicholson "snatched" a microphone from Marcia Hinton

Motion to approve the separation of Marcia Hinton. Motion was made by Vice President Wright seconded by Councilor L. Johnson. Motion carries 4-3. Voting yes: Councilors L. Johnson, D. McCabe, Vice President Wright and President S. Council. Voting no: Councilors C. Johnson, R. Jones-Johnson and G. Snead. Councilor Jones-Johnson stated that in her opinion this motion may be considered malicious conduct. Mayor Rohan Hepkins objected to Marcia Hinton's separation.

## **15. OLD BUSINESS - None**

## **16. CITIZEN'S FORM**

Isaac Dotson apologized for being disrespectful; stated he experienced the same venom at the Yeadon Economic Development Corporation – Building Census. Mr. Dotson also expressed that Council members should act like leaders and their decisions impact everyone.

Dr. Harris noted the African/Caribe Pac and stated that council would function.

Robin Defrites expressed no envy for Council, that she has worked with Joe Possenti in Darby and can attest to the quality of his work that Council needs to pull together and give Joe a chance. Ms. Defrites also stated that Darby Borough now is getting a Recreation Center and a new Borough Building.

Ricardo Bostic stated that Mr. Dotson was eloquent and didn't think Mr. Dotson stood up for him, he expressed that he wants to be on the Personnel Committee.

Cliff Brock agrees with previous comments and will be a witness in the lawsuit.

Linda Mack stated comments made by Judge regarding Manager personnel is not appointed by a firm and she states her dislike for the new regime and is against terminating employees.

## **17. ADJOURNMENT**

Motioned to adjourn was made by: Councilor D. McCabe, seconded by Vice President Wright

Motion carries. Meeting was adjourned at 11:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lawrence Healy  
Borough Secretary