

BOROUGH OF YEADON
DELAWARE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
MINUTES OF BOROUGH COUNCIL
LEGISLATIVE MEETING
JULY 23, 2014 @ 7:30 p.m.

The Yeadon Borough Council met at Yeadon Borough Hall on the above date. President Sharon Council-Harris called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
2. ROLL CALL

The following members were present: President Sharon Council-Harris, Vice President Nelva Wright, Councilors Learn Johnson, Dolores McCabe, Gracie Snead and Mayor Rohan Hepkins. Absent were Councilors Clara Johnson and Rosalind Jones-Johnson. Also present were Borough Manager/Secretary Larry Healy, Solicitor Raymond Santarelli, Finance Director Joseph Possenti, Jr., Engineer Eileen Mulvena and Police Chief Donald Molineux.

3. CITIZEN'S FORUM

Leslie McGirth - Rader Ave: Spoke of issues on Connell and Rader Avenues with the PECO Contractors. Thanked Mayor Hepkins, Clara Johnson, Rosalind Jones-Johnson and Larry Healy for prompt attention and gave Larry Healy a Certificate of Appreciation signed by neighbors.

Cliff Brock – Guenther Ave: Questioned why hire more police; did not like how summer help was hired.

Maurice Toles – Connell Ave: Did not like the porta potty that PECO had placed in front of his house. Thanked Larry Healy for quick removal of it and heavy equipment.

Terry McGirth – Rader Ave: Presented Citations for Clara Johnson and Rosalind Jones-Johnson for their response on Connell and Rader Ave.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

4.1: Minutes for June 2, 2014: Motion to Approve made by Vice President Nelva Wright, seconded by Councilor Dolores McCabe. Motion carries 4-0. Councilor Snead abstained as she was not present at the meeting.

4.2: Minutes for June 19, 2014: Motion to Approve made by Vice President Wright, seconded by Councilor McCabe. Motion carries 4-0. Councilor Snead abstained as she left early.

5. MAYOR

Mayor Hepkins thanked Terry and Leslie for their attention to Connell and Rader Avenue said he attended Pennsylvania Mayors' Conference. He retired from SEPTA and will spend more time in Police Department. He stated he will hold quarterly forums on August 7th, October 2 and December 4, 2014. He also urged Council to hire additional Police Officers. He presented Certificate to acting Police Officer Sergeant Dan Criswell for 25 years of service. The Mayor asked for a moment of silence in memory of former Council President Stanley Lindner.

6. PRESIDENT

President Council-Harris asked for Committee Reports.

Councilor Learin Johnson: The YEDC is looking for members and said anyone who is interested should contact Earl Boyd. YEDC is planning a holiday event in December.

Councilor L. Johnson – *Code chair*– Resident Pamela Jackson took out a permit in 2009 and wants the \$64.00 fee back. Recommended handicap parking signs for 127 Elder, 805 Cypress and 502 Holly. Placards are pending for Elder and Holly.

Solicitor Santarelli advised Council to approve signs contingent on receipt of proper PennDOT documentation.

Councilor Snead asked that each request be voted upon individually.

Motion to Approve Sign at 127 Elder made by Councilor L. Johnson, seconded by Vice President Wright. Motion carries 5-0.

Motion to Approve Sign at 502 Holly made by Councilor L. Johnson, seconded by Councilor McCabe. Motion carries 4-1. Voting no: Councilor Snead.

Motion to Approve Sign at 835 Cypress made by Councilor L. Johnson, seconded by Vice President Wright. Motion carries 5-0.

Councilor McCabe: Asked why is the CART transcriber here is if Rosalind Johnson is not.

Manager Healy: CART service has rules for transcriber to wait thirty minutes for absent client. Also the Borough must give three business days' notice to cancel the service and advised the transcribe she can leave and get an early night.

Councilor L. Johnson – *Community Relations Chair*- Is scheduling luncheons for Seniors and Veterans and is looking for volunteers. Will be meeting with Cobbs Creek Golf Club to develop a golf program.

President Council-Harris: Asked if there is a survey showing Borough land next to Nile Swim Club.

Engineer Mulvena: No survey was done but she can check deeds.

President Council-Harris: Asked if Nile is using Borough Land.

Councilor McCabe – *Public Safety Chair*- Emergency Management coordinator has distributed a survey.

President Council-Harris: Asked the Mayor to include Councilor McCabe when meeting potential new police hires.

Councilor McCabe: Appreciates being included.

Vice President Wright – *Finance Chair* – Elm Street Project tis looking for another member from Yeadon. Deb Brodeur will attend the August Meeting. Elm Street has funds for a youth weekend job until December 31st. Led sign is in production. Sign requires a zoning hearing.

President Council-Harris: Happy to see so many residents in attendance. Thanked the residents on utility work. Code allows utility work, asked the solicitor to look into updating the Borough Code and Handbook. Stated that Committee and Workshop meetings were intended to be more accessible to the public and wants to improve on transparency by moving to a caucus format where the meetings will take place in Chambers with Department Heads present to give reports and field questions from Council and the residents.

Councilor Snead: Questioned President changing meetings without Council and Public discussion.

President Council-Harris: Chair sets meetings.

Councilor Snead: Wants to see the Ordinance saying that.

Solicitor Santarelli: Does not have Ordinances with him.

Councilor L. Johnson: Asked what time will residents arrive.

Motion to Set Caucus Meetings made by Councilor McCabe, seconded by Vice President Wright. Motion carries 4-0. Voting No: Councilor Snead.

Motion to Update Handbooks by Raymond Santarelli made by Councilor L. Johnson, seconded by Vice President Wright.

Councilor Snead: Asked why.

Solicitor Santarelli: There have been many changes in law in the last 10 years and handbooks should be reviewed for compliance.

Councilor Snead: Said at PSAB Conference there as such discussion and Borough needs to be compliant.

Solicitor Santarelli: Review will ensure compliance; it's been 10 years since review.

Motion carries 5-0.

President Council-Harris: Read the PECO letter that is being distributed informing residents of pending work on their streets.

President Council-Harris asked for Motion to Authorize Larry Healy to Set up Zoning Hearing for Electronic Sign: Motion made by Vice President Wright, seconded by Councilor L. Johnson. Motion carries 5-0.

7. ENGINEER

7.1: Engineer Mulvena asked for a Motion to Deem Bid by JMC for Curb Ramps as Non Responsive Due to Lack of a Required Form. Motion made by Councilor L. Johnson, seconded by Councilor Snead. Motion carries 5-0.

7.2: Motion to Award Contract for Curb Ramps To Apparent Lowest Responsible Bidder Ernel Co., Inc. for a not-to-exceed \$111,166.00 pending additional funds being made available. Additional funding is being requested from County Council. Once funds are approved the engineer and manager will meet with property owners regarding the installation and any changes required. If these ramps are not improved under this grant, then property owners will be responsible to bring them into compliance when their property is being sold.

Motion made by Councilor D. McCabe, seconded by Councilor L. Johnson. Motion carries 5-0.

Engineer Mulvena: Elm Street Program will review when they will install ramps. Library addition is done, and was inspected by Catania Engineering; there are some issues to be resolved. Mara is finished Borough Hall Façade Restoration, Mara said there was a lock of maintenance and there are issues with the roof which should be addressed for the 2015 Budget.

Councilor Snead: Asked didn't contractor go up and look before bidding.

Engineer Mulvena: Borough hired an outside consultant to get information on bid.

Engineer Mulvena: Last month Council was given a list of Street repairs needed. She asked for authorization for \$75,000.00 in Liquid Fuels Fund for repairs to submit to Penndot before time runs out as weather changes.

Motion made by Vice President Wright, seconded by Councilor L. Johnson. Motion carries 5-0.

7.3: Sewer repair – 100 Block of Providence Road. Asked for a Motion to Repair Sanitary Sewer. Past Practice is to repair Laterals, which are homeowners' responsibility, as discovered since potential street collapse is a safety issue. Discussion over the responsibility of homeowners to pay for laterals.

Solicitor Santarelli: There is a way to bill back for lateral repair.

Engineer Mulvena: There has been discussion to put a separate fee on sewer bills only for lateral repair, could be \$6.00 - \$10.00. Then Borough will take over laterals in the street.

Councilor L. Johnson: Aqua has insurance that covers from house to curb but not the lateral in the street.

Engineer Mulvena: Only covers property not street. Policy to repair street laterals can be effective now and set fees for next year.

Motion for Work on Providence Road made by Councilor McCabe, seconded by Councilor L. Johnson. Motion carries 5-0.

Motion to Fix Laterals made by Councilor McCabe, seconded by Councilor L. Johnson.

Councilor Snead: Wanted further discussion at next meeting.

Motion carries 4-1. Voting no: Councilor Snead.

Engineer Mulvena: Asked if Council wants to walk the town on August 2nd or August 9th.

Stormwater tip: No grass clippings in street.

8. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

8.1: Manager Healy asked for a Motion to Approve Hiring Richard Nixon as a Seasonal worker at \$10.00 hr. Motion made by Councilor McCabe, seconded by Vice President Wright.

Councilor Snead: Asked did Nixon work as crossing guard.

Motion carries 4-1. Voting no: Councilor Snead

8.2: Manager Healy asked to Approve Hiring Savon Davis as a Seasonal Worker at \$10.00 hr. Motion made by Vice President Wright, seconded by Councilor McCabe. Motion carries 5-0.

Manager Healy asked for Approval for 600 Fern Street Block Party. Motion made by Councilor McCabe voting No, seconded fails.

Resident Owen Wooten spoke about the fact that the block has had the block party for over a decade.

Manager Healy: Nile event was successful without problems.

Councilor Snead: Made a Motion to reconsider, seconded by Councilor Learn Johnson. Motion carries 4-1. Voting no: Vice President Wright.

9. FINANCE

9.1: Finance Director Possenti: Cash balance report submitted.

9.2: Finance Director Possenti: Asked for a Motion To Approve Accounts Payable. Motion made by Councilor L. Johnson, seconded by Vice President Wright.

Councilor Snead: Asked for total Flag Day expenditures. Motion carries 4-1. Voting no: Councilor Snead.

10. TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT – SUBMITTED

President Council-Harris – Said to go back to Mayor's request to hire Police Officers.

Mayor Hepkins: Has met to get proposals for cameras at key spots in Borough. National night out is August 5th between 6-8 p.m. at Church and Guenther to recruit block captains and heighten crime awareness.

Councilor Snead: Encourages residents to keep lights on.

5.1: Motion to Hire Phillip Stevens as a Full Time Police Officer With a Conditional Offer of Employment Pending Passing a Physical Examination, Polygraph, and Drug Test with one year Probationary Period. Motion made by Councilor L. Johnson, seconded by Councilor McCabe.

Councilor Snead: Asked why Borough doesn't hire a full time female police officer. Councilor L. Johnson agreed.

Mayor Hepkins would like to hire more African American Officers. Mayor Hepkins explained that full time officers must be in the top three on the certified civil service list. No female is on the top three.

Motion carries 4-1. Voting no: Councilor Snead.

5.2: Motion to Appoint Amanda Green as a Part time Officer. Motion made by Councilor Snead, seconded by Councilor L. Johnson. Motion carries 5-0.

5.3: Motion to Appoint Duncan Smith as a Part time Officer. Motion made by Vice President Wright, seconded by Councilor L. Johnson. Motion carries 4-1. Voting no: Councilor Snead.

5.4: Motion to Appoint Robert Wellbrock as a Part time Officer. Motion made by Councilor McCabe, seconded by Councilor L. Johnson. Motion carries 4-1. Voting no: Councilor Snead.

11. SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Solicitor Santarelli: Said 620 Church Lane is asking for lower tax assessment as house is in disrepair and is not selling. School District has already agreed and he advised that Council should adopt the resolution he prepared. Discussion ensued over how this will affect the properties on Church Lane. Solicitor Santarelli advised that if the Borough chooses not to adopt the resolution, then it will bear the entire cost to defend it in Court.

Motion To Adopt resolution To Lower the Assessment at 620 Church Lane to \$33,300.00 made by Councilor McCabe, seconded by Vice President Wright. Motion carries 4-1. Voting no: President Council-Harris.

Solicitor Santarelli: If a new structure is built assessment will increase.

Solicitor Santarelli: Reported there have been amendments to Pennsylvania Borough Code. PSAB has said changes are substantial and will be forwarding.

CITIZEN'S FORUM

Leslie McGirth: PECO contractor damaged 817 Connell's sidewalk. Also, not every home received a contractor letter

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 10:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lawrence W. Healy
Borough Secretary

