

**BOROUGH OF YEADON
DELAWARE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
BOROUGH COUNCIL LEGISLATIVE MEETING
May 27, 2015 at 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 7:35 P.M.

1. THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

2. ROLL CALL

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

3. CITIZEN'S FORUM – Agenda Items Only

Richard Ashby – Library Director – Spoke poor behavior of some young people. President Council-Harris advised this is a non-agenda item and should be discussed at the later forum. Denise Wortham of On Stage Productions was also advised to hold her comments to later.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilwoman L. Johnson moved to approve April 9 minutes. Motion seconded by Vice President Nelva Wright. Motion approved 4-3. Voting yes: President Council-Harris, Vice President Wright, Councilors L. Johnson and Dolores McCabe. Voting no: Councilors C. Johnson, Jones-Johnson and Gracie Snead.

Vice President Wright moved to approve April 16 Minutes. Motion seconded by Councilwoman L. Johnson. Councilor Jones-Johnson said minutes reflected an incorrect number attributed to her. The sentence is removed. Motion approved 4-3. Voting yes: President Council-Harris, Vice President Wright, Councilors L. Johnson and Dolores McCabe. Voting no: Councilors C. Johnson, Jones-Johnson and G. Snead.

5. ENGINEER'S REPORT

Ms. Mulvena was not present. Larry Healy read the Stormwater Tip of the month.

6. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Hepkins discussed Delco Councils' award of \$64,800.00 CDBG Grant, the NAACP All Lives Matter Forum, the May 23 Veterans Meet the Mayor, his upcoming meeting with Governor Wolf regarding

building One PA, Senator Toomey's visit, the District Attorney's Straw Purchase of Illegal Guns Program, and the next Mayor's Forum is June 4, 2015.

7. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

7.1 Councilor McCabe moved to send a letter of intent to participate in the Pennsylvania sustainable energy finance program, seconded by Councilwoman L. Johnson. This will keep the Borough involved in the multi County purchase of LED lighting. Motion approved 6-0. Councilor Jones-Johnson abstained as she could not hear the discussion.

7.2 Raymond Santarelli said the proposed ordinance to establish a historical commission had been properly advertised and advised the chair to take comment from the public. Donna Samuel said she has been part of the task force and asked how members will be appointed. Raymond Santarelli said Council appoints members to staggered terms. Donna Samuel recommended Kelli Cave be appointed. Councilor Jones-Johnson asked about communication from the commission to council. Raymond Santarelli read from page 2 subsection B which states that the commission meets quarterly and submits minutes to the borough. Motion to Adopt the Ordinance made by Vice President Wright, seconded by Councilor D. McCabe. Motion approved 6-1. Voting yes: President Council-Harris, Vice President Wright, Councilors L. Johnson, Jones-Johnson, D. McCabe and G. Snead. Voting no: Councilor C. Johnson.

7.3 Raymond Santarelli said an ordinance to provide for neighborhood reclamation and revitalization had been properly advertised and asked for public comment. He also explained that act 90 of 2010 gives towns' authority to address problem properties. Permits can be denied for unpaid taxes, not up to code and addresses Blight. Present Council-Harris asked for public comment. Councilor C. Johnson said public should have copies of ordinance. Raymond Santarelli said it was available for inspection in compliance with the law.

Motion to Adopt made by Vice President Wright, seconded by Councilwoman L. Johnson. Motion approved 5-2. Voting yes: President Council-Harris, Vice President Wright, Councilors L. Johnson, Jones-Johnson and D. McCabe. Voting no: Councilors C. Johnson and G. Snead.

Councilor Jones-Johnson expressed concern for people who are behind in taxes for years while the house is in disrepair and if they try to do repairs they will be denied permits. Raymond Santarelli said there are provisions to address this situation and the ordinance can be amended.

7.4 Raymond Santarelli said that an ordinance establishing a procedure for civil code enforcement had been properly advertised and asked for public comment. Councilor Jones-Johnson agrees with code officers writing tickets but disagrees with reducing the fine by 50% if paid on time. Raymond Santarelli advised it is an incentive to correct and pay quickly. Councilor Jones-Johnson said Section D needs work. Raymond Santarelli advised that Council can adopt now and amend next month.

Motion to Adopt made by Councilwoman L. Johnson, seconded by Councilor D. McCabe. Motion approved 7-0.

7.5 Motion to Approve 2013 Audit made by Vice President Nelva Wright, seconded by Councilor D. McCabe.

Councilors G. Snead and Jones-Johnson said more time is needed for discussion. Joseph Possenti said that the DCED Report was filed with the state and there can be discussion at the Caucus Workshop. Raymond Santarelli advised a motion be made to table 7.5 and 7.6. Motion made by Councilor Jones-Johnson, seconded Councilwoman L. Johnson. Motion approved 7-0.

7.7 Motion to Hire Vendor to Update Borough Code. Larry Healy said there are two proposals to consider from General Code and American Legal Publishing. Prices are about the same and he recommended General Code as their representative has come to the Borough and scanned documents through January 2015.

Motion to Hire General Code made by Councilwoman L. Johnson, seconded by Vice President Wright. Motion approved 7-0.

7.8 Resolution concerning establishment of a code of conduct and decorum for Borough officials during meeting; with each other; with the public; with borough staff; and in public places and media. President Council-Harris said all are aware of meetings being contentious. Council should lead by example and spoke of Yeadon's history.

Motion to Adopt Resolution made by Councilor McCabe, seconded by Councilwoman L. Johnson. There were discussions about the code of conduct and Robert's Rules of order, criticism of the chair setting the tone and need for change in leadership. Councilor Jones-Johnson took issue with the change of the meeting date. President Council-Harris said the chair set the meetings, and the resolution is about respect. Vice President Wright said the fighting on council gives a negative perception and residents don't come back. At 9:05 PM the meeting was recessed as Dr. McCabe became ill. It reconvened at 9:12 PM with Dr. McCabe sitting in the hall. Miles Fields said the code of conduct is a step in the right direction and applauds council and encourages approval. There was discussion of campaign literature, financial situation and where borough was distressed, and ways the Borough is now saving money.

Motion to Approved 5-2. Voting yes: President Council-Harris, Vice President Wright, Councilors C. Johnson, L. Johnson and McCabe. Voting No: Councilors Jones-Johnson and G. Snead.

8. Finance – Joseph Possenti read cash balance reports. Said the auditors will be in to work on 2014 Audit. Larry Healy read the tax collectors report. Councilor Jones-Johnson asked Joseph Possenti if the firm had found funds missing from the bond fund and that the previous solicitor had said \$60,000 was mis-spent on Church Lane and \$60,000.00 was mis-spent on equipment and this needs to be answered. Joseph Possenti said no funds were mis-spent and there needs to be transfers made.

Motion to approve accounts payable list made by Vice President Wright, seconded by Councilwoman L. Johnson. Councilor Jones-Johnson said there is not a description of work performed by the Possenti Firm and will not vote for it. Motion approved 4-3. Voting yes: President Council-Harris, Vice President

Wright, Councilors L. Johnson and D. McCabe. Voting no: Councilors C. Johnson, Jones-Johnson and G. Snead.

10. SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Raymond Santarelli said he will discuss legal matters in Executive Session.

11. NO OLD BUSINESS

12. NEW BUSINESS

Vice President Wright asked Council and the public to look at renditions of proposed playground equipment. Councilor Jones-Johnson said there are grants available for up to \$250,000 for Greenway Trails. Councilwoman L. Johnson asked for a resolution for Yeadon's More Beautiful Program. Councilor Jones-Johnson suggested tabling until next month. Councilor C. Johnson moved to return standing committee meetings to the way they were in 2013, seconded by Councilor Jones-Johnson. Voting yes: Councilors C. Johnson, G. Snead and Jones-Johnson. Voting no: President Council-Harris, Vice president Wright and Councilwoman L. Johnson. Dr. McCabe had gone home. Raymond Santarelli advised the Mayor that he can break the tie now or at a later date. Arguing ensued.

Motion to table made by Vice President Wright, seconded by Councilwoman L. Johnson. Voting yes President Council-Harris, Vice President Wright and Councilwoman L. Johnson. Voting no: Councilors C. Johnson, Jones-Johnson and G. Snead. Mayor Hepkins voted to break the tie. Motion to table fails 3-4. Mayor Hepkins voted yes to break the tie on the Motion to Return Standing Committees to 2013. Format. Motion approved 4-3. Voting yes: Councilors C. Johnson, Jones-Johnson, G. Snead and Mayor Hepkins. Voting no: President Council-Harris, Vice President Wright and Councilwoman L. Johnson.

Councilwoman L. Johnson asked for a motion to approve handicap parking spots at 427 Bonsall, 525 Rose and 1016 Whitby. Councilor G. Snead motioned to table however there was no second. Lynn White of 525 Rose said she had submitted paperwork properly and should not have to wait. Raymond Santarelli advised that separate motions be made for each address.

Motion to approve handicap spot at 525 Rose made by Vice President Wright, seconded by Council G. Snead. Motion approved 6-0.

Motion to approve handicap spot at 427 Bonsall made by Vice President Wright, seconded by Councilwoman L. Johnson. Voting yes: President Council-Harris, Vice President Wright and Councilwoman L. Johnson. Voting no Councilors C. Johnson, Jones-Johnson and G. Snead. Mayor Hepkins voted yes to break the tie. Motion approved 4-3.

Motion to approve handicap spot at 1016 Whitby by Vice President Wright, seconded by Councilwoman L. Johnson. Voting yes: President Council-Harris, Vice President Wright and Councilwoman L. Johnson. Voting no: Councilor C. Johnson, Jones-Johnson and G. Snead. Mayor Hepkins voted yes to break the tie. Motion approved 4-3.

14. CITIZEN'S FORUM

Denise Wortham of "On Stage Productions" spoke about a summer workshop for youth performing arts. The Borough has supported her program in the past and she asked for use of the hall as the school is not available this year. President Council-Harris asked for a proposal and referred the matter to Learn Johnson, who said a performance is part of Flag Day activities. Councilor G. Snead questioned spending \$2000.00 on the car show. Councilor C. Johnson asked why she has not received her business cards. Larry Healy will check the next day and advise.

President Council-Harris announced that there is an executive session on personnel and legal issues following adjournment.

Vice President moved to adjourn.

ADJOURNMENT AT 10:17 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Lawrence W. Healy
Borough Secretary