

BOROUGH OF YEADON

DELAWARE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

BOROUGH COUNCIL LEGISLATIVE MEETING

September 17, 2015

The Borough of Yeadon Council met on the above date at Borough Hall. President Sharon Council-Harris called the meeting to order at 7:32 PM.

1. 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, Clara Johnson, Learin Johnson, Rosalind Jones- Johnson, Dr. Dolores McCabe, Gracie Snead. Mayor Rohan Hepkins arrived at 9:43. Also present were Manager/ Secretary Larry Healy, Solicitor Charles Gibbs, Engineer Eileen Mulvena, Finance Director Joseph Possenti Jr, and Police Chief Donald Molineux.

3. CITIZEN'S FORUM

No comments on agenda items.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

4.1 Motion to approve August 20, 2015 minutes by Councilor McCabe, second by, Councilwoman Learin Johnson. Approved 5-1. Voting yes: Councilor C. Johnson, Councilwoman L. Johnson, Councilor Dr. McCabe, Vice- President Wright, and President Council- Harris. Voting no: Councilor G. Snead. Abstaining Councilor R. Jones- Johnson.

4.2 Motion to approve September 10, 2015 minutes by Councilor Dr. McCabe, seconded by Councilwoman L. Johnson. Councilor R. Jones-Johnson questioned why there were minutes, when there was not a Quorum present at the Caucus Meeting. Mr. Gibbs said that, as there were no votes taken a Quorum was not required. There was discussion about what a Caucus Meeting is, and whether there should be minutes for the committee meetings at 5:00 PM. Motion approved, 3-0. Voting yes: Councilwoman L. Johnson, Councilor Dr. McCabe, and President Council-Harris. Abstaining: Councilors C. Johnson, R. Jones-Johnson, G. Snead, and Vice-President Wright. Councilor R. Jones-Johnson questioned how a motion is approved with 3 votes when a majority is 4. Mr. Gibbs stated that an abstention is not voting and a motion approval requires a majority of those voting.

5. ENGINEER'S REPORT

Mrs. Mulvena reported that the 90 day resolution to permit parking on the North side of Cedar Avenue would be expiring. Mrs. Mulvena said residents had preferred the change and asked that the parking ordinance be amended to make the change permanent. Motion to amend the parking ordinance to permit parking on the South side by Vice-President Wright. Seconded by Councilwoman L. Johnson. Motion approved, 6-0. Councilor R. Jones-Johnson abstained. Mrs. Mulvena said that the County sent a letter stating that the Community Development Block Grant Funds for the Cedar Avenue Project were approved, and it will go out for bid. There was a discussion about adding a fifteen dollar lateral replacement fee to the 2016 sewer fee. A separate fund would accumulate to offset replacement of laterals from the curb to the sewer main. Councilor R. Jones-Johnson spoke about the already high sewer fees and that the Borough should reduce the rate and not raise it. In 2012 there was a \$500,000 deficit which required the doubling of the rate. President Council-Harris spoke of the aging infrastructure and asked Mrs. Mulvena to comment. Mrs. Mulvena stated there is probably \$2 million in sewer work, needed. The lateral fee would put about \$60,000 into the pot and over time the pot would grow. This program has been successful in other towns. Mrs. Mulvena read the monthly Storm Water Tip recommending that grass be

planted in the fall. She also said she looked at the deed for 972 MacDade to address the parking issues in the common driveway. The deed stipulates that a 12 foot clear right of way must be maintained. She will measure the driveway to determine if cars can park there. Councilor C. Johnson asked that the Fire Marshall and Solicitor be consulted.

6. The Mayor's report was deferred until later in the meeting.

7. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Mr. Healy said Council had information in their packet regarding pension consulting, including a report from the Auditor General, recommending that local government invest in index funds. He said of the firms that answered the RFP, InR has had successful results in neighboring towns by investing in index funds, and has reduced costs. If Council were to not go with InR, he recommended staying with Morgan Stanley.

7.1 Motion to appoint InR to be the Pension Consultant for the Police and the non-union, non-uniform pension plans by, Councilor R. Jones-Johnson. Seconded by, Vice-President Wright. Motion approved, 7-0.

7.2 Mr. Healy said that there is an inconsistency between a 2005 ordinance and the FOP Collective Bargaining Agreement pertaining to the Survivor's Benefit. The ordinance sets the benefit at 50% while the CBA states 75%. This came to light in October 2014, upon the death of a retired officer. Mr. Healy said, he and Mr. Santarelli had been working with Thomas Anderson Associates, our pension Actuary, and the best way to resolve the issue would be to amend the ordinance now, and look at changes when the FOP contract is negotiated in 2017. Motion to authorize the solicitor to amend then Police Pension ordinance revising the 50% Survivor's Benefit to 75% by Councilor Dr. McCabe. Seconded by Vice-President Wright. Motion approved, 7-0.

7.3 Motion to authorize advertising the Police Pension ordinance by Vice-President N. Wright. Seconded by Councilwoman L. Johnson. Motion approved, 7-0.

8. FINANCE REPORT

8.1 Joseph Possenti, Jr read the cash balance report. Mr. Possenti said he will email council date for budgets meetings. Vice-President N. Wright suggested a variety of times to get as many attendees as want to participate. Councilor R. Jones-Johnson said last year Council recommended changes that never happened, and asked if the same would happen this year. Vice-President N. Wright said Council must move the process forward, stay positive, and transparent. Mr. Possenti said the first meeting will be September 30, 2015.

8.2 Motion to approve the accounts payable list by Vice-President N. Wright. Seconded by Councilor Dr. McCabe. Councilors C. Johnson, and R. Jones-Johnson questioned the zero amount for youth employment. Mr. Possenti said it needs to be journalized. Motion approved 4-1. Voting yes: Councilors L. Johnson, Dr. McCabe, Vice President Wright, and President Council-Harris. Voting no, Councilor C. Johnson. Abstaining: Councilors G. Snead and R. Jones-Johnson, who questioned Public Works being \$200,000 over budget.

9. TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT

Read by Mr. Possenti.

10. SOLICITOR'S REPORT

President Council-Harris introduced Charles Gibbs as the new solicitor. Mr. Santarelli resigned after his accepting a position at the Delaware River Port Authority, and recommended Mr. Gibbs. After she appointed a committee to interview potential solicitors, it was determined that Mr. Gibbs is the best choice. Mr. Gibbs thanked the Council for their confidence.

11. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Council-Harris said Mr. Santarelli had introduced the YMCA director to Council and there will be two Town Hall Meetings at Penn Wood High School, Cypress campus, to discuss the Y on September 24 and October 24. She said Vice-President Wright worked with Republic Bank and Clarify to hold keys to Home Ownership workshops. Vice-President Wright said the Tuesday, September 22nd date is postponed and we will heavily advertise the October 17 workshop.

6. MAYOR'S REPORT

Councilor Dr. McCabe read the Public Safety report. She asked the solicitor to review the truck ordinance. She also recommended a Public Safety Day when residence can meet with the Police, Fire Chiefs, and Emergency Management. Councilor R. Jones-Johnson said in the report where it speaks to the need for crossing guards on duty on days public schools are off but private schools are open. It should say William Penn School District, rather than "Public Schools" as all property owners pay taxes to the school district. Chief Molineux read Mayor's report, which included remarks about the Fair Tax Forum. Councilor R. Jones-Johnson said it is not the Mayor's job to involve himself in school districts matters. Chief Molineux asked for the truck ordinance to be reviewed. Councilor R. Jones-Johnson said that committees are required to take minutes of their meetings. Mr. Gibbs said he will research and give a thorough answer.

12. NEW BUSINESS

12.1 Motion to appoint James Marshall to the Zoning Board by Councilwoman L. Johnson. Seconded by, Councilor Dr. McCabe. Councilor R. Jones-Johnson said without information on him the Council should not vote. Motion to table motion by Councilwoman L. Johnson. Seconded by Councilor R. Jones-Johnson. Motion to table approved 6-1. Voting yes: Councilors C. Johnson, L. Johnson, R. Jones-Johnson, Dr. McCabe, Vice-President Wright, President Council-Harris. Voting no Councilor G. Snead.

12.2 Motion to approve handicapped parking spot at 814 Whitby Avenue by Councilwoman L. Johnson. Seconded by, Councilor G. Snead. Motion approved 7-0. Councilwoman L. Johnson asked why three tables were removed from the library. Richard Ashby, Library Director, said he doesn't need round tables but needs rectangular ones. Councilwoman L. Johnson said at Community Relations Committee Meetings there was discussion of the Beautification Program. She will work with Roy Hunter to expand Recreation Committee. Councilor R. Jones-Johnson asked when financial audit report will be available. Mr. Possenti said the auditor is taking a long time and hopes it is completed soon. Councilwoman L. Johnson spoke about Senior Community Services Black Tie Bingo on October 16th, Girl Scout registration, parents should call 610.328.3100 ext. 1031. Do not call registration number is 1.888.777.3406. The October 3rd library event. Donna Samuel said the event is 7-11 and costs \$10. Councilwoman L. Johnson also spoke about the Raw Garden at the library.

13. OLD BUSINESS

Councilor R. Jones-Johnson said the Zoning Board and Planning Commission have not submitted reports in years. The Chair Persons are responsible. Mayor Hepkins thanked Chief Molineux for reading his report. He spoke about the State Budget Crisis. Councilor R. Jones-Johnson said there is still a graffiti problem. Vice-President Wright suggested before and after photos be taken when graffiti is removed.

14. CITIZENS FORUM

Dr. Carolina Harris, Rose Street, congratulated Mr. Gibbs as she knows him and he will do a good job. She appreciates every council member and the work they do. She also spoke about the budget process, sewer problems have existed for years, the need to aggressively seek out CDBG Funds to shift tax burden from residents. The Redevelopment Authority can help with project funding. Richard Ashby, library, thanked Mr. Healy for help with the library, such as Peco's landscaping, the rain garden, and the YMCA which is holding Silver Sneakers exercises on Mondays and Fridays starting October 5th and line dancing starting October 6th. William Bagley, Whitby Avenue, talked about the need for crossing guards on days

William Penn School District is off and the truck ordinance review. Dr. Harris congratulated Chief Molineux on being awarded the NAACP Social Justice Award.

15. ADJOURNMENT

Councilor C. Johnson moved to adjourn at 10:05 PM.