

BOROUGH OF YEADON
DELAWARE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
BOROUGH COUNCIL CAUCUS WORKSHOP MEETING

January 14, 2016

The Borough of Yeadon Caucus Meeting was called to order by Council President Sharon Council-Harris at 7:03 PM.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIENCE

Council President Harris led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. ROLL CALL

The following members were in attendance: Mayor Rohan K. Hepkins, Council Members: President Sharon Council-Harris, Vice President Dr. Dolores McCabe, Clara Johnson, Learin Johnson, Tomeka Jones-Waters, and LaToya Monroe. Also present were Interim Borough Manager Joe Bland, Finance Director Joseph P. Possenti Jr., Code Director, Judson Sumbler, and Police Chief Donald Molineux.

3. CITIZEN FORUM

Toni M Smiley – 631 Yeadon Ave, had complaints of smelly stray cats. She stated that there was a similar problem with stray dogs about 15 years ago. Councilwoman L. Johnson asked if the borough could put traps out. Councilwoman C. Johnson suggested that the Borough contact the Humane Society. Mayor Hepkins asked Chief Molineux to explain how the Borough handles stray cat issues. Chief Molineux explained that the Borough receives animal control service from the “Chester County SPCA”. He stated that the SPCA will come out to service the area, upon receiving a call from Yeadon Police dept. Chief Molineux also expressed that there has been a cat problem for years, and that residents putting food out for the animals contribute to the problem. He stated that education and awareness could help. Councilwoman L. Johnson asked about traps again, but Chief Molineux stated

that the police dept. doesn't have the skills or resources to set or place such traps. Councilwoman L. Johnson asked Chief Molineux about the cost involved, Chiefs response: \$250 for the SPCA to come out and take the cat, \$75 to set each trap, and \$35 per trap inspection. Chief Molineux stressed that residents should call the police to report stray cat or dog issues.

4. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Hepkins talked about the police shooting and the suspect living in Yeadon Borough with his mother. The Mayor also expressed the importance of his role as a public official in keeping residents calm and reassured of the safety of Yeadon Borough. Mayor Hepkins stated that he didn't want a vacuum of negative allegations that Yeadon Borough was a bad place. The Mayor commends Chief Molineux, and the entire police dept. The suspect had a long rap sheet. Mayor Hepkins described his interactions with: the Media, FBI, Homeland Security, ATF, State & Federal Officials, and Religious Leaders. The Mayor commented to the media "that the suspects' action is not indicative of the Muslim faith". The Mayor then describes how he found out about the shooting. He also thanked Vice President Dr. McCabe for her efforts. Council President Harris asked Mayor Hepkins about an update on security cameras. The Mayor stated that he must follow-up with Senator Pat Toomey's office, and a local company that offered to supply the police department with body cameras.

5. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Council President Harris directs the Interim Borough Manager to follow-up with: Historic Commission & Redevelopment Authority (RE: YMCA). Council President Harris said Mr. Robert Wright is the newest member of the task force that has been organized for the planning and development of the YMCA. Mr. Bland must contact the members of these boards and set-up meetings with these members within 30 days and to inform Council. Council President Harris said she will attend and address a broader vision for Yeadon during these meetings. Council President Harris introduced new solicitor, Mr. Charles Gibbs. She announced for the next meeting (Legislative meeting) there will be an executive session prior to the meeting to discuss personal issues and any legal updates from Mr. Gibbs on the status on certain legal cases that involves the Borough. She also welcomes the newest Council members, Councilwoman Tomeka Jones- Waters, and Councilwoman

LaToya Monroe. Council President Harris asked the department heads (Mr. Possenti, the Borough Manager, Mr. Sumbler, and Mr. Wright) to meet with the Chairs of the Committees at least once a month to update. She also said that the Borough has major events planned for 2016. It would be extremely helpful for department heads and Chair persons to prepare a calendar for Council to review by March so they can plan accordingly.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Finance

Chair and Councilwoman Monroe thanked the Council for the appointment.

Mr. Possenti read the finance report.

b. Public Safety

Chair and Vice President Dr. McCabe stressed the importance of Public Safety and commended Chief Molineux, Mary Nixon (Emergency Management), and Mayor Hepkins for their hard work and leadership. In a discussion prior to the Public Safety report, Vice President Dr. McCabe talked about the police shooting, and asked Chief Molineux if the Yeadon police department has a plan of action in handling a terrorist cell? Should one actually exist in the borough! Chiefs' response: Intelligence is good between Yeadon police department, Philadelphia police department, FBI, ATF, and Homeland Security. "We get daily briefings through our secured system". Suspect had warrants in multiple counties. Mayor Hepkins intervened and discussed the need for additional police officers and a second detective. Councilwoman L. Johnson stressed the need to hire female police officers. Mayor Hepkins & Chief Molineux agreed and explained the hiring process. Councilwoman Jones-Waters, asked Chief Molineux about suspects with mental illness. "Does the police dept. see many cases"? Chief Molineux explained that the police department sees a lot of 302's (involuntary commitments). Afterwards, Chief Molineux read his report. Public Safety revenue for 2015 was \$102,057.22. Vice President Dr. McCabe said we will hear from Mary Nixon at the next Legislative meeting.

c. Ordinance/Zoning

Chair and Councilwoman Tomeka Jones-Waters thanked Council for her appointment. She met with Mr. Sumbler (Code Dept. Director) and he informed her of some of the procedures within the Code department. She scheduled a ride along with the Code Dept. for next Saturday to see what they are doing in the community. Mr. Sumbler read the Code report.

d. Municipal Service

Chair and Councilwoman Clara Johnson asked to be made of aware of any changes that are made in the future. She states that Public Works has enough salt for the winter. She asks the residents to report any pot holes or damages on the street to Public Works. She also stated that she will meet with Mr. Wright to discuss matters that pertain to Municipal Services next week.

e. Community Relations

Chair and Councilwoman L. Johnson stated that 2 of the chandeliers were not ordered by the previous Borough Manager. 1 of the 2 did come in. She met with Mr. Wright (Municipal Services Director) to discuss the partition in front of the kitchen in borough hall. She also discussed; painting the stairwell, replacing the floor in the kitchen, finishing the front of the stage, begin working on the mobile island, and painting the kitchen area. Councilwoman L. Johnson asked to locate a picture of our current President, Barack Obama and hang it in the atrium of the Borough Hall. Councilwoman L. Johnson said she will discuss with Councilwoman C. Johnson about contacting Mr. Wright to clean the windows in the Borough Hall and in the atrium and adding some artificial hanging plants in the atrium. She stated that the Borough is in need of a new sound system in time for Flag Day. She also mentioned that she is planning an Elegant Tea Social on May 7th at high noon. The Tea Social will be hosted by Councilwoman Monroe, and resident Toni Smiley. She also suggested finding volunteers who can plant perennials in the front of the Borough Hall the Saturday after Mother's Day. Mr. Roy Hunter, Director of the Recreation department gave a presentation and updates about upcoming programs and the summer camp program, Flag Day, and the 4th of July Carnival. He also stated the next meeting date for the Eastern Delaware County

Stormwater Coalition is February 10th at the Borough Hall at 4 PM. Councilwoman L. Johnson asked if Mr. Bland can research how much replacement chandelier pieces would cost in case they are damaged and to order them. She also says to consider lowering the price for renting the hall for residents after researching other surrounding hall prices.

7. CITIZEN'S FORUM

Dr. Vivian Ford of 1002 Longacre Blvd said the windows at Little Caesar's Pizza are very dirty. Many times they are dirty with food particles. She also wanted to thank Chief Molineux and Mayor Hepkins and the Police department for doing a great job on the streets.

Council President Harris stated that last week this issue was reported to Mr. Sumbler and he addressed this matter. She asks Mr. Sumbler to visit Little Caesar's again.

Donna Samuel of 1302 S. Longacre Blvd asked Council to consider handing out reports to the residents who attend the meeting so they can follow along. She requested Council to record the meetings so they can be reviewed by the public. She also stated that the website was not up to date with the times of the meetings. On behalf of the St. Michael's Church Mrs. Samuel inquired about receiving a donation that the Council agreed to donate. President Council-Harris said it will be available after the Legislative meeting next week.

Councilwoman C. Johnson asked President Council-Harris about donations made to various organizations. President Council-Harris explained the process by which, members of Council, and Mayor Hepkins, under the advisement of Solicitor Charles Gibbs; can review and approve certain requests.

Robert Purfield of 15 Big Woods Drive in Glen Mills: (Owner of 620 Church Ln & 620 Yeadon Ave) offered Council the opportunity to consider purchasing both properties. Councilwoman Monroe suggested that Council should discuss real estate purchases in executive session.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn was made by Vice President Dr. McCabe and was seconded by Councilwoman C. Johnson. Meeting was adjourned at 8:41 PM.