

**BOROUGH OF YEADON**  
**DELAWARE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**  
**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING**  
**March 16, 2017**

The Borough of Yeadon Legislative Council Meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM.

**1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Vice President Dr. Dolores McCabe led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Present: Councilmembers: Renita Austin, Sharon Council-Harris (President)(arrived late at 7:37), Clara Johnson, Learin Johnson, Tomeka Jones-Waters, Dr. Dolores McCabe (Vice President), LaToya Monroe.

Mayor: Rohan Hepkins

Engineer: Eileen Mulvena

Solicitor: Charles Gibbs

**3. YEADON LIBRARY DIRECTOR, RICHARD ASHBY**

- Richard Ashby, Director, summarized the improvements coming to the library including ADA doors, new technology, brand new furniture, and a new website and logo.
- In addition, Mr. Ashby recapped all of the upcoming programming at the Library for both children and adults.

**4. CITIZENS FORUM** (Comments limited to 3 minutes)

- Liana Roadcloud, 800 block of Cypress Street, followed up on her interest in the Flag Day Committee meetings and asked to know the date and location of the Flag Day Committee and Code Committee meetings.
- Charles Wilkins, brought forth a noise complaint regarding Social Space and asked Council to follow the Noise Ordinance. Council President addressed Mr. Wilkins that the main complainant regarding the noise was introduced to the Chief of Police during last week's Caucus meeting for follow up.

- Florence McDonald, introduced herself as the Chair of the Yeadon Democratic Party. Her question was addressed to the Borough Manager regarding the five seats that are up for reelection, and the discrepancy that Delaware County Board of Elections reporting there are only four seats. The Solicitor is to follow up and report back.
- Robert Wright Sr., William Penn School District Director, 907 Bell Ave, spoke to Council on the importance of the hiring process within the WPSD to promote diversity and hiring of minorities to the staff. Mr Wright specifically mentioned looking for other people who will help support this mission in the recruiting of teachers and administrators.
- Sandra, 1311 N Longacre Blvd, asked Council if there was a way to stop the speeding from Ruskin to Parkview. It was mentioned that there are accidents along that road often, including a car that ended up on the resident's front lawn. Chief of Police said additional officers will be out for enforcement, but any speed bumps or stop signs would need a study conducted by the Engineer.

## 5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- **Motion to Approve Legislative Minutes dated February 16, 2017**

**Moved by:** Vice President D. McCabe    **Seconded:** Councilor T. Jones-Waters

**Voted No:** Councilor L. Monroe    **Abstained:** Councilor C. Johnson

**Motion passed 5-1**

## 6. MAYOR'S REPORT

- Mayor Hepkins announced that Comcast Cares Day had chosen Yeadon Borough as a clean up site for their national volunteer day, April 22<sup>nd</sup>. They will address the Cobbs Creek area from 8am to 12 pm.
- A snow emergency was declared Monday, March 13 into Tuesday, March 14 due to the forecast of heavy snow. This is an opportunity to review procedures of snow removal to better
- Mayor Hepkins mentioned there had been deer in his yard a few months ago. He is looking into the deer population of Yeadon with the Police Chief.
- Residents were informed about the Mayor's Forum which was held on Thursday, March 2, 2017 in which Lt Dolly was honored for his retirement after 42 years of service. Chief Molineux will also be retiring after 41 years of service on May 31, 2017. He will be honored at the next Mayor's Forum on Thursday, June 1, 2017.

## 7. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- Council President encouraged residents that the monthly Caucus meeting is an open forum for the community to address any concerns directly to the department that can assist them. It serves as a way to bridge the communication between residents and Council.

## 8. BLACK HISTORY OF YEADON

- Leslie McGirth presented awards to Mr. Sammie Stinson and Mrs. Denise Stinson, recognizing their service and commitment to the Borough of Yeadon.

## 9. ENGINEER'S REPORT

- Engineer, Eileen Mulvena, addressed questions from the residents regarding stop signs, who controls traffic lights, and the intersection of 600 Church Lane.
- Ms. Mulvena reminded residents that there is a rain garden workshop on Saturday, March 18<sup>th</sup> in Haverford.
- Darby Creek Valley Association is sponsoring a Darby Creek clean up on Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup>.
- 900 Block of Bell Avenue will be the location of sanitary sewer repairs this week, along with a couple others that need repairs and have been authorized.
- **Motion to extend trash contract by one (1) year, so that it lines up with the recycling renewal.**

**Moved by:** Councilor T. Jones-Waters **Seconded:** Councilor R. Austin

**Motion passed 7-0**

- **Motion to adopt Resolution 2017-002 "Hazard Mitigation Plan"**

**Moved by:** Vice President D. McCabe **Seconded:** Councilor L. Johnson

**Motion passed 7-0**

- **Motion to authorize a traffic study at West Cobbs Creek and Chester Ave**

**Moved by:** Councilor L. Monroe **Seconded:** Councilor L. Johnson

**Motion passed 7-0**

- **Motion to authorize a traffic study on Longacre from Ruskin to Parkview.**

**Moved by:** Councilor L. Monroe **Seconded:** Councilor C. Johnson

**Motion passed 7-0**

## 10. Special Guest Speaker, Jenaya Smith, Royal Excellence Drill Team

- Expressed her gratitude for the support Yeadon Borough and Council offers the drill team, including practice space and the appreciation dinner.
- Councilor C. Johnson asked Ms. Smith who the owner is of the drill team. Ms. Smith thanked Councilor Johnson for her question and explained how originally she had started an organization in Collingdale and Councilor L. Johnson had started a drill team in Yeadon. They networked together and combined organizations. Ms. Smith stated she now has her 501(c)(3) and the official owner of the Royal Excellence drill team.
- Councilor C. Johnson addressed Ms. Smith again and asked if Collingdale contributes to the drill team. Ms. Smith stated they do not, but now that she has her non profit status she has her fingers crossed that they will.
- President Council-Harris asked how many girls are part of the drill team. Ms. Smith stated she has over 30 members now, all are Yeadon residents. She plans to start workshops to enforce the importance of education, how to conduct themselves in public, and how to be stellar young women. Ms. Smith stated that everyone should be proud of them. Ms. McFadden addressed Council how wonderful of an educated role model Ms. Smith is for the girls.
- Councilor C. Johnson acknowledged the good that Ms. Smith is doing for the girls, however she is concerned about the money the Borough spends on the drill team. Council President made the clarification that Yeadon is part of the William Penn School District, a 6 town district. It was decided 4 years ago that programming for youth through the Recreation Department is a priority.
- Mayor Hepkins stated his problem with it is that the drill team should not have anyone's name on it or privatize the drill team and all councilors should have been invited to the appreciation dinner.
- The conversation that followed was inaudible and unorganized.
- Councilor L. Monroe was given the floor. She stated she was not informed about the appreciation dinner and was offended. Councilor Monroe acknowledged she doesn't know anything about Yeadon's award winning drill team. Inaudible conversation followed.
- Ms. Smith stated that the Council reaction and discussion was very disheartening. Council President addressed that Ms. Smith was brought here to simply clarify a few things, and any breakdown in communication regarding the appreciation dinner was the Borough's responsibility. President Council-Harris stated that the drill team is included under the umbrella of the budget of the recreation department, which has already been voted and approved for 2017.

## 11. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

- Borough Manager, Mr. Bland, apologized to Council for the oversight and miscommunication.
- After speaking with representatives from Philadelphia, Mr. Bland stated he would be interested in teaming up with the Mayor for a dual-sided clean up of Cobbs Creek.
- First Red Cross Blood Drive event of 2017 is scheduled for Wednesday April 26<sup>th</sup> 1-6PM.
- Mr. Bland recapped the 13 Request for Action reports from residents.
- Spring Newsletter is underway.
- **Motion for authorization to advertise two seasonal employment positions for Public Works Department**

**Moved by:** Vice President D. McCabe **Seconded:** Councilor C. Johnson

**Motion passed 7-0**

## 12. TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT

- Tax Report read by Finance Director, Mr. Joseph Possenti.
  - Total Tax Collected for February 2017: \$285,566.00

## 13. COMMITTEE REPORTS

### a. Finance

- **Motion to Approve Cash Balances Report**

**Moved by:** Vice President D. McCabe **Seconded:** Councilor T. Jones-Waters

**Voted No:** Councilor L. Monroe

**Abstained:** Councilor C. Johnson

**Motion passed 5-1**

- **Motion to Approve Accounts Payable List**

**Moved by:** Councilor L. Johnson

**Seconded:** Councilor R. Austin

**Voted No:** Councilor C. Johnson, Councilor L. Monroe

**Motion passed 5-2**

*Recess for Executive Session at 9:46 PM. Reconvened at 10:02 PM.*

**b. Public Safety - Councilor Dr. D McCabe, Vice President, Chair**

- Vice President McCabe mentioned that during the Snow Emergency, Emergency Management did a very good job.
- The Fire Chief, Michael Melazzo, gave his report last week.
- Chief Molineux was introduced and recapped the deer situation in the Borough and the areas most effected. Chief will get in touch with the Games Commission to see if someone will speak at the next meeting.

**c. Ordinance / Zoning - Councilor Tomeka Jones-Waters, Chair**

- Councilor Jones-Waters explained the Code Report was presented the week prior at Caucus.
- The next Zoning Committee meeting will be held March 27, 2017.

**• Motion to approve handicap parking permit for 829 Pleasant Rd**

**Moved by:** Councilor L. Johnson

**Seconded:** Councilor R. Austin

**Motion passed 7-0**

**• Motion to approve handicap parking permit for 948 Bullock**

**Moved by:** Councilor L. Johnson

**Seconded:** Councilor R. Austin

**Voted No:** Councilor C. Johnson

**Abstained:** Councilor L. Monroe

**Motion passed 5-1**

**d. Municipal Services - Councilor Clara Johnson, Chair**

- Councilor Johnson reported that the Public Works Committee met on March 6<sup>th</sup>.
- Grace Courts will assist with flower planting on May 5, 2017. Lunch will be served.
- Public Works Director, Dan Wright, is looking into removing the dead and diseased tree in front of the Borough Hall.
- All new parking meters have been installed.
- Bus Shelters have been completely remodeled.
- The next Public Works Committee meeting will be April 3, 2017.

**e. Community Relations - Councilor Learin Johnson, Chair**

- Councilor Johnson reported on the upcoming events including the Annual Flag Day Races on June 3, 2017 at Evans Elementary School, upcoming tennis programs, Camp Garret information sessions, and the annual DCVA clean up at 56<sup>th</sup> and Cobbs Creeks on April 29<sup>th</sup>.

- The next E Waste Recycling event is July 15, 2017.
- Rain Barrel Workshop is being held at Morton Borough on March 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- YEDC has presented new Gateway Project construction plans to introduce new signs to the Borough.

**f. Education Liaison**

- Councilor Austin reported that Mr. Wright had already given a report. She also touched on her attendance to the School Board's presentation of the Curriculum Review for William Penn School District.
- Council President inquired whether Councilor Austin had any information on Rafi Cave's attendance to Harrisburg to request an increase in 3.75% increase in Borough real estate taxes. Inaudible, unorganized discussion followed.

**g. Library Liaison**

- Councilwoman T. Jones-Waters followed up on Library Director, Richard Ashby's report. Donna Samuels spoke about two positions that are available in the Library: administrative assistant and a coordinator.

**14. SOLICITOR'S REPORT – Mr. Charles Gibbs**

- **Motion to authorize the advertisement of the Police Chief of Yeadon position**

**Moved by:** Councilor L. Johnson

**Seconded:** Vice President D. McCabe

**Motion passed 7-0**

**15. NEW BUSINESS**

- Councilor Monroe voiced concern over Councilor Austin's employment, which would not allow her to be eligible to hold office, according to the Hatch Act. Councilor Monroe said she has notified Washington as well as the US Postal Office's HR Department.

**16. OLD BUSINESS**

- No Old Business to Record.

**17. ADJOURNMENT**

- The meeting adjourned at 10:34 PM.