

Clifton Heights Borough Council
Meeting Minutes
April 20, 2010

Present:

Anthony Casadei, Council President
Edward Martin, Council Vice President
Mario Alpini, Councilman (arrived late)
Betsy Berry, Councilwoman
Leona Papale, Councilwoman
Harris Resnick, Councilman
Jane Tumolo, Councilwoman

Absent:

Robert Penjuko, Councilman

Others Present:

Joseph Kelly, Mayor
Frank Catania, Borough Solicitor
Tony Tartaglia, Code Enforcement/Borough Manager
Chief Walt Senkow, CHPD Police Chief

Pledge of Allegiance

Prayer Led By Mayor Kelly

Public Comment:

Michelle Hartel, 317 Harrison Ave., asked if Council could take some action on the outside appearance of Borough Hall so that it doesn't look so neglected. She said that as is it is a negative reflection of the Borough.

She also asked Council if there was any progress in the development of a Borough website.

President Casadei said that they were in touch with the Williamson Trade School about working on the outside of the building and having it painted.

Councilman Martin said that it was postponed because they could not do it until the spring weather arrived.

President Casadei said that there was a domain and asked Mayor Kelly for more information.

Mayor Kelly said that they do have a domain with the State Association of Boroughs, which they paid and that it was discussed at the Committee meeting that they should have a website up and running in the next two to three weeks.

Meeting Minutes:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Berry to accept the meeting minutes as presented; seconded by Councilwoman Papale; and carried unanimously by a roll call vote of 6-0. (Resnick – yes, Berry – yes, Martin – yes, Tumolo – yes, Papale – yes, Casadei – yes.)

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Kelly announced that, as most members of Council are aware, a former Councilman, Francis "Socky" DeVitis, who was Vice President of Council and an active member of the town passed away. He was the town's "Christopher Columbus" and will be sorely missed. He asked Council to dedicate a page of the minutes to Mr. DeVitis.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Papale to dedicate a page of the minutes to Mr. DeVitis; seconded by Councilman Martin; and carried unanimously by a vote of 6-0.

Mayor Kelly urged residents to be aware of the children playing as the weather changes and becomes nicer and to slow down while driving.

He reminded residents of the single stream recycling and added that it was a great project for the town. He said that he hoped it would be a success but told Council that if people didn't voluntarily take part, they would have to look into making it a success later down the road.

Mayor Kelly asked for permission from Council to host the Mayor's Senior Citizens' Luncheon on May 4th.

Mayor Kelly announced that the 4th of July Committee would be having an important, new fundraiser – Cow Pie Bingo. He said that he hoped that the fundraiser would be a success because it was proving difficult to get donations with the tough economy for the 4th of July Committee. He said that he hoped it would be even better this year than in past years because it was the 125th anniversary. He continued that the Cow Pie Bingo would take place on June 19th at 2pm and the cost of tickets is \$10. He said that it would be a 50/50 pot.

Councilman Martin asked if the Chief could address Council.

Chief Senkow said that he wanted to thank Council for their support in letting him move forward with a website for the Police Department. He said that the website is up and running. He asked Council for their suggestions on how to notify the residents of that fact. He mentioned a community newsletter or a card similar to the one that went out for single stream recycling.

Police Report:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Berry to approve the police report; seconded by Councilwoman Papale; and carried unanimously by a vote of 7-0. (Councilman Alpini arrived prior to vote.)

Fire Report:

A motion was made by Councilman Martin to approve the fire report; seconded by Councilwoman Tumolo; and carried unanimously by a vote of 7-0.

Mayor Kelly said that he would like to congratulate our fireman who saved a couple of other firemen in Yeadon with the Rapid Response Unit. He asked the Fire Chief to provide the names of those involved so that Council could present them with something.

Code Enforcement Report:

A motion was made by Councilman Martin to approve the code enforcement report as presented; seconded by Councilwoman Tumolo; and carried unanimously by a vote of 7-0.

Treasurer's Report/Bill List:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Berry to accept the treasurer's report and pay the bills as funds become available; seconded by Councilman Martin; and carried unanimously by a roll call vote of 7-0. (Resnick – yes, Alpini – yes, Berry – yes, Martin – yes, Tumolo – yes, Papale – yes, Casadei – yes.)

Manager's Report:

Mr. Tartaglia asked Council to look over the Ordinance that he provided to them from East Lansdowne that would require those who tear up the Borough's streets to put a half overlay from the center line to the curb. He said that if Council wishes, they could begin the advertising process for next month on that Ordinance. He said that he was just looking for Council's okay to work with the Solicitor to get the Ordinance ready for consideration at the next meeting.

A motion was made by Councilman Martin to authorize the Borough Manager to work with the Borough Solicitor to prepare an Ordinance that would address the tear up of Borough streets for next month's meeting; seconded by Councilwoman Berry; and carried unanimously by a vote of 7-0.

Councilman Alpini asked what would happen if the trench went right down the middle of the street.

Mayor Kelly asked if the water company was coming back in.

Mr. Tartaglia said that the water company would be here for the next several years because it was a long term project to replace those concrete mains or to scale & coat the cast iron ones. He said that the projection is 3-4 years of construction work to complete the entire town.

Mayor Kelly asked if Tony saw Walnut Street with the green.

Councilwoman Berry said it was all over the 2nd ward.

Mr. Tartaglia said that green would indicate a sanitary line.

Mayor Kelly asked if he had any idea of when they would be coming in so that they could let residents know.

Mr. Tartaglia said that they are scheduling a meeting with Aqua to determine which streets they are doing before they make their recommendations for the Road Program.

Mayor Kelly said that some of the streets were paved only 2-3 years ago.

Mr. Tartaglia said that they were trying to keep them away from those streets as long as possible.

Councilman Alpini said that he hoped that they would be able to get all of the fees this time.

Mr. Tartaglia said that they are on the same page with the fees this time around.

Mr. Tartaglia continued that all of Council should have a copy of the contract for the recycling that was corrected by Frank. He said that he sent it to Blue Mountain Recycling, and they agreed to all of the changes. He asked for authority to execute the contract.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Berry to authorize the Borough Manager to execute the contract with Blue Mountain Recycling for a single stream recycling program to start the 1st week of May; seconded by Councilwoman Papale; and carried unanimously by a vote of 7-0.

Mr. Tartaglia said that they (Peggy & himself) have been pretty much been able to keep up with everything that has come in the front door, but they are finding that there are documents and reports that were not filed previously. He said that he has asked Kim (Borough Secretary) to help them with record research over the next couple of months in her spare time to try and dig out. He said that Peggy has also offered to make herself available since she knows where most of the records are.

Councilwoman Berry asked if Mr. Tartaglia could add recycling stickers to his list of things to do.

Councilman Martin said that he would like to acknowledge the fact that Peggy Moran has done a great job in picking up the slack and taking care of all of the office duties.

Councilwoman Berry asked if he was able to put the police vehicles on municibid.

Mr. Tartaglia said that it was on his list of things to do, but he hadn't gotten there yet.

Engineer's Report:

A motion was made by Councilman Martin to accept the Engineer's Report as presented; seconded by Councilwoman Papale; and carried unanimously by a vote of 7-0.

Mr. Catania said that one of the items on the Engineer's Report would need a separate vote. He said that there was a recommendation from the Engineer to award the grass cutting contract to Tom Mars Landscaping of Boothwyn for the 1st year base bid of \$451/cut with the option of renewing for a 2nd & 3rd year.

A motion was made by Councilman Martin to award the grass cutting contract as outlined by the Engineer to Tom Mars Landscaping of Boothwyn; seconded by Councilwoman Berry; and carried unanimously by a roll call vote of 7-0. (Resnick – yes, Alpini – yes, Berry – yes, Martin – yes, Tumolo – yes, Papale – yes, Casadei – yes.)

Solicitor's Report:

Mr. Catania requested an Executive Session to discuss tentative settlement with Local 835 for the sanitation & highway departments.

Administrative Action:

No Administrative Actions.

Old Business:

No Old Business.

New Business:

A motion was made by Councilman Resnick to donate \$500 to the local Boy Scout troop as discussed at the Committee meeting; seconded by Councilwoman Papale; and carried unanimously by a vote of 7-0.

Ward Reports:

First Ward:

Councilman Resnick had nothing to report.

Councilwoman Papale said that the 1st ward was looking forward to single stream recycling and nice weather.

Second Ward:

Councilman Alpini had nothing to report on the ward. He said that he did just receive word from the PSAB that they received their \$49 check, so they should be proceeding within the next few days to get the website up and running. He said that he needed any and all information that everyone wanted personally included.

Councilwoman Berry asked the Chief for the history of Clifton Heights information that he provided to her about a year ago.

Chief Senkow said that he still had it and would give it to her.

Councilwoman Berry had nothing to report. She announced that the deadline for the Lion's Club scholarships is May 5th; she encouraged anyone interested to hurry up and get their applications in.

Third Ward:

Councilman Martin had nothing to report.

President Casadei said that the people who came in to work on the potholes did a really great job.

Councilwoman Papale reminded everyone of the 24th Annual Vincent Natale Memorial Golf Tournament & Pig Roast on Monday, May 3rd at Cobbs Creek Golf Club.

Fourth Ward:

Councilwoman Tumolo said that it was brought to her attention that the Delaware County SPCA is now charging all municipalities \$115 for bringing a stray animal into the facility. She said that she wanted to make sure it was in the newsletter so that residents call the Delaware County Animal Control. She said that the 4th of July Association really needs everyone's support, so anyone who wanted to come out and help was encouraged to do so.

Councilwoman Berry asked if they could get some fliers out on that.

Councilwoman Tumolo said that they were working on that.

Closing Public Comment:

Chief Senkow said that they should encourage the public to contact Animal Control so that they are not charged \$115, and they try to find the home. He said that oftentimes, they'll do an investigation and ask residents in the area if they recognize the animal, and they'll try to locate the owners before sending it up to the SPCA.

POST EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mr. Catania said that on behalf of the committee of Harris & Leona, he would like to report that they successfully concluded negotiations with Local 835 and request Council's authorization to enter into a new agreement with two changes – 1) Members of Local 835 are eligible for a 3% wage increase, effective January 1, 2010 & January 1, 2011 with the contract expiring March 31, 2011. He said that there are no other changes and the previous Collective Bargaining Agreement remains in full force & effect. He said that they also agree to recommend that the Borough authorize Ms. Leitzell to provide a transmittal letter with attachments any time she sends money to Local 835's pension plan.

A motion was made by Councilman Martin to accept the agreement as presented by the Borough Solicitor – the previous Collective Bargaining Agreement with Local 835 remains in full force & effect, with 2 changes – the wage increases effective January 1, 2010 & January 1, 2011, and the contract expiration of March 31, 2011 & the authorization to allow Ms. Lietzell to include transmittal letters when she sends money to Local 835's pension plan; seconded by Councilman Resnick; and carried unanimously by a roll call vote of 7-0. (Resnick – yes, Alpini – yes, Berry – yes, Martin – yes, Tumolo – yes, Papale – yes, Casadei – yes.)

Mr. Catania said that some action would be required for the Manager who is working on a 30 day basis.

A motion was made by Councilman Martin to extend Tony Tartaglia's contract as the Borough Manager for the next 30 days; seconded by Councilwoman Tumolo; and carried unanimously by a vote of 7-0.

Mr. Catania asked if anyone was familiar with 226 W. Baltimore Pike.

Council determined that it was in the strip of stores between the former Wachovia Bank & Sally's Beauty Supplies.

Mr. Catania said that it was presently assessed with the Fair Market Value of \$757,000. He said that the property owner filed petition for appeal and said it was worth \$500,000, and now he is saying that it is only worth \$225,000.

Mayor Kelly said that he believes that it is the bank.

Mr. Catania said that right now it is assessed at \$464,600, which means a Fair Market Value of \$757,000. They are now saying that the Fair Market Value should be \$225,000, which means the assessment would be \$130,000 (approx.).

Mayor Kelly said that he thinks that they should fight that because of the ground that is involved there.

Mr. Catania said that Upper Darby is already objecting to it.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Councilman Martin to adjourn; seconded by Councilwoman Papale and carried unanimously by a vote of 7-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kimberly A. Duffy
Clifton Heights Borough Secretary

This page of the minutes is respectfully dedicated to the memory of Francis "Sucky" DeVitis.