

**Clifton Heights Borough Council
Meeting Minutes
March 15, 2011**

Present:

Anthony Casadei, Council President
Edward Martin, Council Vice President
Betsy Berry, Councilwoman
Harris Resnick, Councilman
Jane Tumolo, Councilwoman
Leona Papale, Councilwoman
Mario Alpini, Councilman
Robert Penjuko, Councilman

Absent:

Jane Tumolo, Councilwoman
Leona Papale, Councilwoman

Others Present:

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Prayer Led By Mayor Kelly

Councilman Martin asked to send condolences out to the Salmon family for the loss of former Councilman Jim Salmon's sister.

Public Comment:

Richard DePompeo, 224 E. Broadway Ave., asked about having to send a letter in order to speak at Council meetings.

President Casadei explained that it wasn't that a letter needed to be sent but that speakers needed to register 24 hours prior to the meeting. He said that the reasoning for that is so that they are aware of the items that residents would like to speak about and are prepared with answers to questions.

Mr. DePompeo asked about the 3 minute time limit. He asked if it was an issue that was trying to be answered with back and forth if there would be an allowance for more time.

President Casadei said that they have the Borough Manager for a reason and he can be called with issues at any time and to have to address issues at the meetings should be a last resort. He said that the limit was solely to keep the meeting moving along because if 10 people signed up to speak, it would be very time consuming.

Tony Tartaglia addressed Mr. DePompeo's letter and said that they were aware of the conditions that he had wrote about except for one. He said that they had already sent a letter to 35 Marple and that they ordered the billboard removed after it was damaged in the wind. He said that he was not aware of the mound of dirt at Hillside. He said that they were out there and are going to send them a letter telling them that they cannot house that there.

Mr. DePompeo asked about the curb at 18 & 20 Edgmont Ave. He said that everything was low and that he was required to have a certain height when he did the concrete at his house.

Mr. Tartaglia said that they would take another look at it.

Meeting Minutes:

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

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Kelly said that everyone is probably aware of the almost tragic situation that they had since the last meeting. He thanked the residents who called in the tip that led to the police pursuit he is referencing and reminded residents that their names are kept anonymous in such situations. He said that the police officer did an excellent job but that unfortunately he was injured pretty badly. He said that while not typical, it was a situation that could happen at any time and thanked the police officers for the work that they do day in and day out. He thanked the local ministries for all of the prayers that they dedicated to the officer. He thanked all of the residents who were sending cards and donations to the Borough. He announced that there is a banquet planned for Saturday, October 1st from 7:30-11:30pm at the Knights of Columbus in Springfield for Officer Kevin Schieler. He said that the reason for the event being so far off is that the hope is that Kevin will be able to walk into the event to show how far he's come. He said that his family, the Clifton Heights PD, the Chester PD and the Sheriff's Dept all came together to support Kevin. He said that there would be an ad book for the event and that people can get in touch with the Chief if they are interested in being part of that.

Chief Senkow informed everyone that Kevin sustained injuries that included a broken foot, broken femur, 2 broken hips, a broken pelvis, a fractured spine, cracked ribs along his left torso, and a deflated lung as a result of the cracked ribs. He said that he was brought home today from Chester County Rehab and tonight they found swelling in the area where they placed a rod into his leg, so Thursday he has to go back to HUP to address that. He said that once he gets back home, he will be there for 8-10 weeks for rest to repair his bones and then he'll have another 6 months of intensive rehab back at Chester County Rehab. He said that Kevin and his family thank everyone for their thoughts and participation in his planned benefit. He thanked everyone for their support as well.

Mayor Kelly thanked Chief Kneass and the Fire Department for the extra effort that they put forth on Kevin's behalf.

Police Report:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Berry to approve the police report; seconded by Councilman Martin; and carried unanimously by a vote of 6-0.

Fire Report:

A motion was made by Councilman Martin to approve the fire report for the months of January and February; seconded by Councilwoman Berry; and carried unanimously by a vote of 6-0.

Code Enforcement Report:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Berry to approve the code enforcement report; seconded by Councilman Martin; and carried unanimously by a vote of 6-0.

Treasurer's Report/Bill List:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Berry to accept the treasurer's report and pay the bills as money becomes available; seconded by Councilman Martin; and carried unanimously by a roll call vote of 6-0. (Resnick – yes, Alpini – yes, Berry – yes, Martin – yes, Penjuke – yes, Casadei – yes.)

Manager's Report:

Tony Tartaglia announced that there would be a Zoning Hearing Board meeting on Thursday, March 24th at 7pm at Borough Hall for Today's Child about using the Recreation Facility at Sacred Heart as a commercial kitchen to prepare foods for their other facilities and as an after school program for children. Anyone who would be interested in expressing an opinion on the use of Sacred Heart Recreation Center should attend.

He said that there would be another Zoning Hearing Board meeting in April on an application for condominiums on the property on Jackson Street. He said that there are proposals for 2 buildings that would exceed their height limitations. He said it would either exceed the height limitations or there would be a need to reduce the number of parking spaces.

He said that he is asking Council to direct the Solicitor to contact the District Court because the milestone established to have the designs by the end of February has passed, and they have not heard anything and efforts to contact them through their manager, John Nichol, have not been successful.

He said that he explained the other night that RCN was having intermittent service issues and as such it has been causing difficulties in transmitting reports. He said that while it is currently working, they are still experiencing intermittent outages. He asked for Council's permission to move to Comcast and have RCN taken out of the building.

Chief Senkow explained that they currently use RCN to do registration, driver license, criminal history searches, among others and that over the course of the last couple of weeks there have been issues with the service and it has been difficult to get RCN to come out and address the problems and when they have come out, the problem has come back after a few days. He said that it is really affecting the Police Department's ability to do their job.

A motion was made by Councilman Martin to switch the internet & phone services at Borough Hall to Comcast.

Frank Catania said that it is a public safety matter and that they certainly should listen to the recommendations of the Borough Manager and Police Chief. He said that there is a possibility that the provision of RCN services to the Borough was done because they were required to do so under the contract. He said that they have to make the move to Comcast, but perhaps it could include that they are not indicating that they are accepting a lesser obligation from RCN and if they have an obligation under the contract, the Borough will find some other way for them to comply with that.

Councilman Martin amended his motion to include the stipulation that RCN was still under the obligations of their contract and that the Borough would switch internet and phone services to Comcast; seconded by Councilman Alpini; and carried unanimously by a vote of 6-0.

Councilman Alpini said that he thought it was important to note that this would not cause any additional costs for the Borough and would be a free service.

A motion was made by Councilman Martin to approve the manager's report; seconded by Councilman Alpini; and carried unanimously by a vote of 6-0.

Engineer's Report:

J.P. Kelly said that they completed the County Aid forms for the Road Program and would submit them accordingly.

He said that Chapter 94 reports have been completed and submitted to Delcora & the DEP.

He said that they completed the Outfall Testing for the MS4 Program and the information will be included in the annual report, which is due in June.

Councilwoman Berry asked what outfall testing was.

Mr. Kelly explained that wherever you have a pipe that drains into a creek that is considered an outfall. He said that whenever there is flow coming out of that pipe, in accordance with the MS4 program, they have to test it for illicit discharge, which could be anything from fecal matter to chemicals or chlorine. He said that fortunately this year, they have no illicit discharge.

A motion was made by Councilman Martin to approve the Engineer's Report; seconded by Councilwoman Berry; and carried unanimously by a vote of 6-0.

Solicitor's Report:

Frank Catania said that he was contacted by an attorney for another town who indicated that there was a consortium of towns getting together on storm water management. He said that it is their professionals' recommendation that the Borough not become involved. He said that he just wanted to make the Borough aware of the inquiry.

He continued that he will transmit the Local 835 proposal, and he would think that they would want one further session before month's end. He said that he would coordinate that with Mr. Tartaglia.

He said that there was a police pension ordinance that needed updating but because of the advertising time frame he was unable to do that for this meeting but he would do it for the next meeting.

He said that the only action item he had was for the internet & phones.

A motion was made by Councilman Martin to approve the solicitor's report; seconded by Councilwoman Berry; and carried unanimously by a vote of 6-0.

Old Business:

No old business.

New Business:

No new business.

Ward Reports:

First Ward:

Councilman Resnick said that his only issue was with 500 E. Broadway Ave. He asked Frank to get in touch with the District Court.

He said that he would write to them and while it was disappointing, it wasn't a surprise.

Second Ward:

Councilman Alpini had nothing to report in reference to the ward. He asked Tony if he was able to follow up with the property at the corner of Harrison & Walnut where the tree went through the roof.

Mr. Tartaglia said that they don't have the name of the mortgage company or who would have executed any of the work that residents saw being completed at the property.

He said that since that date, he thinks he recognized the original owner from 2 years ago, up there with a crew and they pulled the board from the side and put a temporary patch over the hole in the corner. He said that there was no identification on the trucks.

Mr. Tartaglia said that they would continue to try to identify the mortgage holder.

Councilwoman Berry had nothing to report.

Third Ward:

Councilman Martin had nothing to report. He said that his heart was going out to Kevin & his family.

President Casadei had nothing to report.

Fourth Ward:

Councilman Penjucke had nothing to report. He said that the Road Program would be starting soon, so if any residents were aware of any pot holes or anything of concern to contact the Borough.

Mayor Kelly added the Clifton Heights PAL would be having their spring signups.

Closing Public Comment:

None.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Councilman Martin to adjourn; seconded by Councilwoman Berry; and carried unanimously by a vote of 6-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kimberly A. Duffy
Clifton Heights Borough Secretary