

Clifton Heights Borough Council
Meeting Minutes
December 16, 2014

Present:

Anthony Casadei, Council President
Edward Martin, Council Vice President
Betsy Berry, Councilwoman
Mike Humphreys, Councilman
Leona Papale, Councilwoman
Karen Peterson, Councilwoman
Harris Resnick, Councilman
Jane Tumolo, Councilwoman

Others Present:

Joseph T. Kelly, Mayor
Frank Catania, Solicitor
J.P. Kelly, Engineer
Cynthia Leitzell, Treasurer
Timothy Rockenbach, Chief of Police
Tony Tartaglia, Borough Manager/Code

Pledge of Allegiance

Prayer Led by Mayor Kelly

Mayor Kelly asked for a moment of silence in memory of former Councilwoman Jean Ruskowski

Executive Session:

Solicitor Catania noted that Council was in a brief Executive Session prior to the meeting to discuss litigation matter, a personnel matter, and the trailer issue that the Borough Manager had brought up during his report.

Solicitor Catania noted that the litigation matter was the Commonwealth vs. Fred Rich, which is scheduled for trial on February 24, 2015. They are going to attempt mediation first and have scheduled a date for the mediation.

Public Comment:

No opening public comment.

Meeting Minutes:

A motion was made by Councilman Martin to accept the November meeting minutes as presented; seconded by Councilwoman Berry; and carried unanimously by a roll call vote of 8-0. (Resnick – yes, Humphreys – yes, Berry – yes, Martin – yes, Peterson – yes, Tumolo – yes, Papale – yes, Casadei – yes.)

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Kelly announced that Santa would be coming to the Borough on Sunday during the day and would travel to all the streets throughout the Borough. He thanked the Fire Department for furnishing the truck for Santa's visit.

He wished everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukah and Happy Holidays. He thanked the Police Department and Fire Department for all of their work.

Police Report:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Papale to accept the Police Report as presented; seconded by Councilman Martin; and carried unanimously by a vote of 8-0.

Fire Report:

A motion was made by Councilman Humphreys to accept the Fire Report as presented; seconded by Councilwoman Berry; and carried unanimously by a vote of 8-0.

Treasurer's Report/Bill List:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Berry to accept the treasurer's report and pay the bills; seconded by Councilwoman Papale; and carried unanimously by a roll call vote of 8-0. (Resnick – yes, Humphreys – yes, Berry – yes, Martin – yes, Peterson – yes, Tumolo – yes, Papale – yes, Casadei – yes.)

Manager's Report:

Mr. Tartaglia said that he had nothing additional to add to his report.

Mr. Tartaglia invited all Council members and professional staff to Romarco's after the meeting.

Councilman Humphreys asked for all of the information on the other health benefits plan that he discussed.

Engineer's Report:

J.P. Kelly presented the Engineer's report.

Mr. Kelly reported that the Road Program was completed.

He reported that the contract documents for the CDBG Lighting project have been furnished and executed. Once OHCD has granted the notice to proceed, they would inform the contractor. He said that they expect that work to be completed within two weeks once they give them the notice to proceed.

He reported that applications for the 2015 CDBG are due by January 12, 2015. Accordingly, it was advertised that the Borough would discuss its application and potential improvements at tonight's meeting. The program's primary objective is to create viable urban communities by providing

decent housing, suitable living conditions, and expanding economic opportunity, principally for persons with low and moderate incomes. The specific activities may include acquisition or disposition of real property, public facilities and improvements, clearance of environmental contaminants, public services and planning activities.

President Casadei asked if there was any public from the comment on these issues.

No public comment.

Mr. Kelly said that the Borough was considering some playground improvements, which are within the eligible areas. He said that it would be his recommendation that they apply for CDBG grants for the funds to make the playground improvements.

A motion was made by Councilman Martin to submit a CDBG application for playground improvements in the eligible areas in the Borough; seconded by Councilwoman Berry; and carried unanimously by a vote of 8-0.

Mr. Kelly said that they would move forward with completing the application. He said that a lot of the work was already completed by the Borough Manager and Highway Department.

A motion was made by Councilman Martin to accept the Engineer's Report as presented; seconded by Councilwoman Berry; and carried unanimously by a vote of 8-0.

Solicitor's Report:

Mr. Catania presented the Solicitor's Report. He commended the members of Council and their financial professionals for their diligence in presenting budget that reflected no tax or fee increase.

A motion was made by Councilman Martin to ratify the 2015 budget; seconded by Councilwoman Peterson; and carried unanimously by a roll call vote of 8-0. (Resnick – yes, Humphreys – yes, Berry – yes, Martin – yes, Peterson – yes, Tumolo – yes, Papale – yes, Casadei – yes.)

A motion was made by Councilwoman Berry to adopt Ordinance #843, setting the tax rate for the year 2015 at 13.001 mills; seconded by Councilwoman Papale; and carried unanimously by a roll call vote of 8-0. (Resnick – yes, Humphreys – yes, Berry – yes, Martin – yes, Peterson – yes, Tumolo – yes, Papale – yes, Casadei – yes.)

A motion was made by Councilwoman Berry to adopt Ordinance #844, setting the sewer rentals rate for the year 2015 at \$282 per unit and affixing the overage rates; seconded by Councilman Martin; and carried unanimously by a roll call vote of 8-0. (Resnick – yes, Humphreys – yes, Berry – yes, Martin – yes, Peterson – yes, Tumolo – yes, Papale – yes, Casadei – yes.)

A motion was made by Councilwoman Berry to adopt Ordinance #845, setting the trash collection and disposal fee for the year 2015 at \$210; seconded by Councilwoman Papale; and carried unanimously by a roll call vote of 8-0. (Resnick – yes, Humphreys – yes, Berry – yes, Martin – yes, Peterson – yes, Tumolo – yes, Papale – yes, Casadei – yes.)

Mayor Kelly thanked everyone for their hard work at keeping the rates the same.

A motion was made by Councilman Martin to accept the Tax Anticipation Note (TAN) proposal from Republic Bank in the amount of \$300,000 as a 1 year loan paid at the end of 2015, with all documents to be prepared and filed with the PA Department of Community and Economic Development as required, and authorizing all of the necessary officials to sign the Resolution recommended by Republic Bank with the terms set forth; seconded by Councilwoman Berry; and carried unanimously by a roll call vote of 8-0. (Resnick – yes, Humphreys – yes, Berry – yes, Martin – yes, Peterson – yes, Tumolo – yes, Papale – yes, Casadei – yes.)

A motion was made by Councilman Martin to accept the Solicitor's report as presented; seconded by Councilwoman Berry; and carried unanimously by a vote of 8-0.

Old Business:

No old business.

New Business:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Papale to dedicate a page of the minutes to the memory of Jean Ruskowski; seconded by Councilwoman Berry; and carried unanimously by a vote of 8-0.

Ward Reports:

Councilman Resnick had nothing to report.

Councilwoman Papale wished everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukah and Happy New Year. She said that she was happy that 500 East Broadway was coming down and that she has not received any complaints during the process.

Councilman Humphreys wished everyone happy holidays.

Councilwoman Berry thanked the Fire Department, Recreation Board, 4th of July Committee and Businessman's Association for the successful tree lighting ceremony. She also asked everyone for their continued patience with Micozzie Park. She said that the plans do include having everything illuminated, but they are waiting for the road work to be completed so that they avoid having to readjust things as they go. She also wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Councilman Martin wished everyone happy holidays.

President Casadei wished everyone happy holidays and a safe New Year.

Councilwoman Tumolo thanked everyone for the beautiful decorations throughout the town and wished everyone happy holidays.

Councilman Martin said that they are still looking for volunteer judges for the decorating contest for the Borough.

Councilwoman Peterson wished everyone happy holidays.

President Casadei asked when they would be starting the Road Work.

Mr. Tartaglia said not until April.

Closing Public Comment:

Fran Smith, West Berkley, thanked Council for their work on the playground project.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Councilman Martin to adjourn; seconded by Councilwoman Berry; and carried unanimously by a vote of 8-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kimberly A. Duffy
Clifton Heights Borough Secretary

This page of the minutes is dedicated to the memory of Jean Ruskowski.