

**Clifton Heights Borough Council
Meeting Minutes
March 18, 2014**

Present:

Edward Martin, Council Vice President
Betsy Berry, Councilwoman
Mike Humphreys, Councilman
Hugh McElhenney, Councilman
Leona Papale, Councilwoman
Karen Peterson, Councilwoman

Absent:

Anthony Casadei, Council President
Jane Tumolo, Councilwoman

Others Present:

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Prayer Led Mayor Kelly

Public Comment:

No opening public comment.

Meeting Minutes:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Berry to accept the March meeting minutes as presented; seconded by Councilwoman Papale; and carried unanimously by a vote of 6-0.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Kelly read a letter from the assistant District Attorney complimenting Officer Tom Wooding on his testimony during a jury trial, which was his 1st, in which the other witnesses were not cooperative, and the decision of the jurors was based on Officer Wooding the jurors' perception of him.

Councilman Martin asked that the letter be included in his personnel file.

Police Report:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Berry to accept the Police Report as presented; seconded by Councilman Humphreys; and carried unanimously by a vote of 6-0.

Fire Report:

A motion was made by Councilman Humphreys to accept the Fire Report as presented; seconded by Councilwoman Peterson; and carried unanimously by a vote of 6-0.

Code Enforcement Report:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Papale to accept the code enforcement report as presented; seconded by Councilwoman Peterson; 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; seconded by Councilwoman Papale; and carried unanimously by a roll call vote of 6-0. (McElhenney – yes, Humphreys – yes, Berry – yes, Peterson – yes, Papale – yes, Martin – yes.)

Manager's Report:

The manager said that all of his items were covered in caucus.

Engineer's Report:

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

Mr. Kelly said that the lighting work in Micozzie Park was completed, and he was recommending payment to the contractor, which was covered in the bill list approval.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Berry to approve the scope of the work for the 2014 Road Program as presented by the Engineer; seconded by Councilwoman Papale; and carried unanimously by a vote of 6-0.

Mr. Kelly said that the work on the school cornerstone project had started. He said that the stone had been cleaned & they would be starting work on the footer & base, with a projected finish date of the following week.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Berry to accept the Engineer's Report as presented; seconded by Councilwoman Peterson; and carried unanimously by a vote of 6-0.

Solicitor's Report:

Mr. Catania presented the solicitor's report.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Berry to authorize the solicitor to work with the Borough Manager begin the process of recovering the money that the Borough spent to repair sewer lateral that caused sinkhole on Berkley Avenue from the homeowner; seconded by Councilwoman Peterson; and carried unanimously by a vote of 6-0.

Mr. Catania explained that there was a tax assessment appeal pending for 4 Rockbourne Road, which has had some development and new tenants over the last few years. He said to cover the eventuality of the School District appraiser coming back with a value that is higher than the taxpayer thinks the property is worth, he is asking permission to assert a counterclaim. The Borough would be arguing that the appeal should be denied or raised.

A motion was made by Councilman Humphreys to authorize the solicitor to file a counterclaim for the tax assessment appeal for 4 Rockbourne Road, seeking to either deny the assessment appeal or raise the assessment; seconded by Councilwoman Berry; and carried unanimously by a vote of 6-0.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Berry to accept the Solicitor's report as presented; seconded by Councilwoman Papale; and carried unanimously by a vote of 6-0.

Old Business:

No old business.

New Business:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Papale to donate \$100 to the 28th annual Clifton Heights Trout Tournament; seconded by Councilwoman Peterson; and carried unanimously by a vote of 6-0.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Berry to donate \$500 to the Boy Scouts Troop 111; seconded by Councilman Humphreys; and carried unanimously by a vote of 6-0.

Ward Reports:

First Ward:

Councilman McElhenney said that he appreciated the work of Aqua.

Councilwoman Papale agreed with Councilman McElhenney.

Second Ward:

Councilman Humphreys had nothing to report.

Councilwoman Berry wished all of the residents a happy Spring and Easter.

Third Ward:

Councilman Martin shared his prayers with the runners in Boston, those who lost their lives or limbs last year and those who are running in the race this year.

Fourth Ward:

Councilwoman Peterson said that she had received many complaints about dogs not being cleaned up after up at Clifton Field.

Councilman Martin said that they had received complaints in the office and are working on getting some times for Animal Control to go up there.

Closing Public Comment:

Fred Rich, 82 Chester Ave., asked how much the invoice for the lighting at the Micozzie Park was.

Councilman Humphreys read from the Engineer's report that the total was \$14,530.

Mr. Rich said that the original cost of the project was \$153,000.

Mr. Kelly said that the final figure for the park was about \$189,000.

Mr. Rich said that \$189,000 and it did not have the proper lighting.

Mr. Kelly said that they put in solar lighting.

Mr. Rich said over \$200,000 for that project and asked who the construction company was that did the project.

Mr. Kelly said that the company was A.J. Jurich.

Mr. Rich said that all he saw working up there were undocumented aliens.

Mr. Kelly said that all of the employees were documented, and they have to have proof that they are documented because the money was from a grant for CDBG through the HUD program, and the standards to spend that money are very strict. He said that every person who worked on this project was documented through e-verify.

Mr. Rich asked why Americans didn't work on this project or veterans.

Adjournment:

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Kimberly A. Duffy
Clifton Heights Borough Secretary