

**Clifton Heights Borough Council
Meeting Minutes
June 16, 2015**

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

Absent:

Jane Tumolo, Councilwoman

Others Present:

Joseph T. Kelly, Mayor
Chuck McDonald, Acting 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

Presentation to the Honorable John J. Perfetti:

Mayor Kelly presented Clifton Heights Borough Resolution 07-15, honoring Judge John Perfetti upon his retirement, honoring his service to the community.

A motion was made by Councilman Martin to approve Resolution 07-15, honoring Judge John Perfetti upon his retirement; seconded by Councilwoman Berry; and carried unanimously by a vote of 7-0.

Public Comment:

Mary Kelly, 205 S. Springfield Rd., said that she is currently attached to a burned out shell. She said that she was displaced from her home for 6 months and returned in April, and it has now been 8 months, and the property next door has not been touched. She said she has numerous concerns. The wind and rain causes glass to blow into her back yard, and she has a dog and relatives that she babysits. She said that with the heat & humidity, the push of the smoke is getting worse. She said that her whole property has been rebuilt after she sustained in excess of \$80,000 worth of damage that day. She said that a few weeks back, the mortgage company went into the back door to see if it was safe to enter to take pictures, and the back ceiling is collapsing in the back. She said that the

property has no tarps on it and is taking on water in the front and rear. She said that she is concerned about collapse to the point that they remove the dog from their home every time that they leave the house.

President Casadei asked if she had been touch with the Borough Manager.

Mr. Tartaglia said that the property is currently under citation because the insurance carrier for that building has not agreed to repairs and is telling him that the fire is under investigation. He said that they started to issue citations in an effort to have them repair the property, and that was probably around the time that they started to cut the grass. He said that he inspected their home the entire time it was being reconstructed, and he doesn't have any doubt that it is stable, with or without the building alongside of it. He said that a number of years ago they dealt with a similar issue, and the insurance carrier wouldn't make repairs, and the Borough ended up removing the building and filing suit against the insurance company. He said that he doesn't think that they are there yet. He said that the insurance company is still returning phone calls and sending people to inspect the building. He said that he can't tell them how long it is going to take. He assumes they are trying to decide whether it is better to take it down or rebuild it. He said that his estimation is that taking it down is better, but he can't tell them to do that just yet. He said that he would have wait for it to arrive to the point of litigation and then the litigation to settle.

Mrs. Kelly said that the mortgage company has been awarded funds from Allstate to rebuild.

Mr. Tartaglia said he couldn't tell her that because he doesn't know where they stand between the two companies.

Mrs. Kelly asked how often they were being cited.

Mr. Tartaglia said every week and there is a \$300 limit plus Court costs.

President Casadei told her that she should keep in touch with Mr. Tartaglia.

Councilwoman Papale asked if they had any timeframe that they could impose.

Mrs. Kelly said that she hoped that this wouldn't be something that would drag on forever. She asked if she would be able to obtain the address of the actual homeowner.

Mr. Tartaglia said that the homeowner's information is public record, so he would be able to provide that to her, and if the mortgage company is on record, he would be able to provide that as well. He said that she could come up on any Monday evening at 7:30pm, and he would be able to get her the information she requested.

Brian Weston, 134 N. Church St., said that he had discussed his concerns with the conditions of the playgrounds previously with the Mayor. He said that he has also talked with members of the PAL and Boys Club about how nicely the fields look, but his concern is with the jungle gym. He said that the equipment is in disrepair, the basketball backboard doesn't have a rim and the blacktop is all broken up, which makes it stick out next to the fields, which are in nice shape. He said that the playground down on South Church also has the poles for basketball without the rims. He said that the park has a sign that says no ball playing because of the fear of the ball going into the street, per

the Mayor's explanation. He said that after speaking to members of the community, he knows that grant money was awarded to update at least two parks.

Mayor Kelly said that the South Church St. park is one of the parks that will be updated.

Mr. Weston asked what their stance was on basketball courts because the Mayor said that there was resistance to replacing the basketball courts.

Councilman Martin said that it was the citizens in the area of the playground that encouraged the removal of the backboards at the playground, and that had to be at least 20 years ago.

Mr. Weston asked about replacing them.

Councilman Martin said that as a Councilperson, he would have to survey all of the residents down there to see what their opinion was.

Mr. Weston asked what the problems were with the courts.

Mayor Kelly said that the main complaint was language.

Councilwoman Berry said that the courts in her ward would have men coming in from outside of the Borough and playing pickup games, and the youth of the Borough weren't even getting an opportunity to use the courts.

Mr. Weston said that if you drive down the road to Springfield, they have basketball courts and tennis courts, and they don't seem to have any issues.

Mayor Kelly said that that park sits back off the road and is not in a residential area.

Mr. Weston said that he also has concerns with the upkeep of the parks.

Mayor Kelly said that he would have the highway department check them tomorrow.

Bonnie Callahan, 235 Woodbridge Rd., said that she asked Mr. Tartaglia about the status of 207 S. Springfield Rd. in April, and she was told that he would get back to her with an answer, and that is the first answer that she received tonight. She asked if the holdup was because it was not a legal rental.

Mr. Tartaglia said that he has no idea why the insurance carrier has chosen not to be responsive.

Mrs. Callahan said that she sent a text message to him about a month and a half ago about a rental on her street, 268 Woodbridge; it was moved into and she asked if it was inspected. She wants to know if it is a legal rental.

Mr. Tartaglia said that he would have to ask Lou because he knows what he does and does not inspect.

Mrs. Callahan said that the girl is living in Brookhaven and people are living in her house.

Mr. Tartaglia said that he sent a letter out.

Mrs. Callahan said that if he sent a letter out, it would have went to the house in Clifton and needs to go where she's living in Brookhaven. She said that she doesn't want a similar situation with a fire at this property.

Mr. Tartaglia said that it would be a stretch to jump and say that just because it's a rental, there will be a fire.

Mrs. Callahan said that he wouldn't think that if he saw who was coming in & out of the residence.

Mr. Tartaglia said that she could always call the police.

Mrs. Callahan said that she has called the police.

Meeting Minutes:

A motion was made by Councilman Martin to accept the May meeting minutes as presented; seconded by Councilwoman Berry; and carried unanimously by a roll call vote of 7-0. (Resnick – yes, Humphreys – yes, Berry – yes, Martin – yes, Peterson – yes, Papale – yes, Casadei – yes.)

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Kelly reminded residents that school was out and to be careful with the kids at home for the summer. He thanked District Justice John Perfetti for being an advocate for their community, and said that they would always be here for him.

Police Report:

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

Fire Report:

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

Treasurer's Report/Bill List:

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

Manager's Report:

Mr. Tartaglia had nothing further from his report in caucus.

Engineer's Report:

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

Mr. Kelly said that the 2015 Road Program documents had arrived at the office, and after confirming they were in order, he would forward them to PENNDOT for their pre-investigation review.

Mr. Kelly said that he expects the contractor to be in town as early as this week for the Baltimore Pike sidewalk repairs.

Mr. Kelly said that they are on schedule for the consideration of bids for the July meeting for the Highway Department garage. He said that they have submitted the Act 247 to the County Planning Department for comment and review. He said that they've also submitted planning modules & exemptions, and they also received a clean review.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Berry to authorize the highway department garage/salt shed work to be opened to bidding on July 14, 2015; seconded by Councilwoman Papale; and carried unanimously by a vote of 7-0.

Mr. Kelly said that they did receive the 2015 CDBG award in the amount of \$95,000 for park improvements.

Councilwoman Berry asked if the Baltimore Pike sidewalk repairs would cause additional traffic concerns in that area.

Mr. Kelly said that he did discuss this with the contractor, and he is going to work to minimize his impact as much as possible during the repairs.

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 7-0.

Solicitor's Report:

Mr. McDonald had nothing to report.

Old Business:

No old business.

New Business:

No new business.

Ward Reports:

Councilman Resnick said that the Delaware County Bar Association Elder Care Law Book would be available in the Borough office for free for anyone interested in the useful information.

Councilwoman Papale wished everyone a safe & enjoyable summer.

Councilman Humphreys asked everyone to be safe with the kids at home this summer. He recommended anyone who could to help the 4th of July committee.

Councilwoman Berry thanked Judge Perfetti for his years of service. She congratulated the Upper Darby High School class of 2015 on this morning's commencement.

Councilman Martin thanked Judge Perfetti.

President Casadei had nothing to report.

Councilwoman Peterson thanked Judge Perfetti for his years of service and professionalism and told him that he made Clifton Heights a better place.

Closing Public Comment:

Brian Weston, 134 N. Church St., said that with concerns of the kids on the streets during the summer, if the parks were repaired quicker, that would probably help get the kids in the park. If they were partially repaired and fixed up.

Adjournment:

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Kimberly A. Duffy
Clifton Heights Borough Secretary