

**Clifton Heights Borough Council  
Meeting Minutes  
July 21, 2015**

**Present:**

Anthony Casadei, Council President  
Edward Martin, Council Vice President  
Betsy Berry, Councilwoman  
Harris Resnick, Councilman  
Jane Tumolo, Councilwoman

**Absent:**

Mike Humphreys, Councilman  
Leona Papale, Councilwoman  
Karen Peterson, 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 requested a moment of silence in memory of James Watts and the dedication of the minutes to his memory.**

**Commendation:**

Mayor Kelly presented three commendations, valor awards to Sergeants Marie Morgan and Robert McCaughan and Officer Thomas Gallo for their service in responding to a house fire at 9 Harrison Ave. and ensuring the safety of all occupants at harm without regard for their own safety.

**Public Comment:**

Ed Jilozian, 134 E. Broadway Ave., said that he was a new resident and that he was expected to recycle but wasn't provided a recycling bin. He said that he knew that years ago they provided different color cans.

President Casadei said that they now have single stream recycling and that any can could be placed at the curb with the recycling for Wednesday mornings.

Mr. Jilozian asked if they had a Town Watch or block captains,

President Casadei said that is something that they had looked into a few years ago but had never moved forward with. He said that if Mr. Jilozian provided his number, they could look into it and get back to him.

Mayor Kelly said that they can do a study. He said that he could work with the Police Chief and talk to other towns that have Town Watch to see what rules and regulations they would have to be aware of. He invited Mr. Jilozian up to meet with him on a Monday evening before the next meeting.

Brian Weston, 134 N. Church Ave., said that his first item was his continued plea for the return of basketball hoops to provide the teenage kids something to do.

President Casadei said that he believed that they provided the answer last month and that he doesn't believe that it has changed since then.

Mr. Weston said that does not stop that from being a continued concern of his. He said that outside of being involved in the organized sports teams, there is not much for the older kids to do in town that is constructive. He said that if they aren't involved in the organized sports, their options seem to be video games or riding bikes. He said that there was a kid the other day that walked down his street and set a poster on fire. He said he thought basketball courts would at least provide an outlet.

President Casadei said that he disagreed that the basketball courts would solve the problem.

Mr. Weston asked about the bike patrol.

Mayor Kelly said that they have a bike patrol.

Mr. Weston said that he had seen them last year but not this year. He said that even before the current traffic issues, he had a problem with speeding at Church and Springfield. He asked what the process would be to investigate getting a speed hump or something of the sort for his block.

Councilman Martin said that this has been discussed hundreds of times over the years, and the majority of what they have been told is that the liability that comes to municipalities with speed bumps is greater than the purpose they serve.

Councilwoman Berry said that there was a study a few years ago that said that speed bumps don't actually serve the purpose of slowing drivers down, but has the opposite effect of making them go a little faster.

Mayor Kelly said that they can have the Chief up patrols in the area.

Chief Rockenbach said that he could set up more patrols in that area, but reminded that the minimum speed in that area would be 25mph. He said that it might seem like they are exceeding speed limits, but 15mph is strictly for school zones. He said that he could definitely set up more patrols.

President Casadei reminded residents that they were always free to speak at Council meetings, and their only requirement is that residents call their request to speak in 24 hours in advance and provide the topic they would like to discuss so that Council can hopefully be prepared with a response to their topic.

Sherry Rich, 82 Chester Ave., thanked the Borough for having the flag flying at half staff after the President's announcement today on the matter. She said that Chief Rockenbach was kind enough to call her today about the issues that she is hearing about and seeing on Chester Ave., and she is grateful for that. She said that she couldn't prove that this single, 20ish man who was walking slowly down the alley and looking at all the cars and backs of houses was the perpetrator because she didn't actually see him do anything other than that, but it still made her uneasy that he was there.

President Casadei urged all residents to follow the concept that if you see something that you think is amiss or strange, to please call 911.

Mrs. Rich also said that she thought the idea of Town Watch was a great idea.

### **Meeting Minutes:**

A motion was made by Councilman Martin to accept the June meeting minutes as presented; seconded by Councilwoman Tumolo; and carried unanimously by a roll call vote of 5-0. (Resnick – yes, Berry – yes, Martin – yes, Tumolo – yes, Casadei – yes.)

### **Mayor's Report:**

Mayor Kelly announced that the Clifton Heights PAL would be hosting a fundraiser on Saturday, July 25<sup>th</sup>. It is a takeoff on the Cow Pie Bingo and named, "The Reindeer Runs." He said that there will be a snack bar and the main event, as they try to raise money to make a good organization an even better organization. He encouraged everyone to support the event.

Mayor Kelly also reminded that football would be right around the corner, as well as sign-ups.

Mayor Kelly said that he hoped everyone would survive the maze that they are currently trapped in with the traffic disruptions. He asked everyone to watch for children and to call 911 with any problems.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Berry to accept the Mayor's Report; seconded by Councilman Martin; and carried unanimously by a vote of 5-0.

### **Police Report:**

A motion was made by Councilman Martin to accept the Police Report as presented; seconded by Councilwoman Tumolo; and carried unanimously by a vote of 5-0.

### **Fire Report:**

A motion was made by Councilman Martin to accept the Fire Report as presented; seconded by Councilwoman Berry; and carried unanimously by a vote of 5-0.

### **Treasurer's Report/Bill List:**

A motion was made by Councilwoman Berry to accept the treasurer's report and pay the bills; seconded by Councilman Martin; and carried unanimously by a roll call vote of 5-0. (Resnick – yes, Berry – yes, Martin – yes, Tumolo – yes, Casadei – yes.)

### **Manager's Report:**

Mr. Tartaglia said that he had nothing further from Caucus.

### **Engineer's Report:**

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

Mr. Kelly said that they were awaiting final approval from PENNDOT for the 2015 Road Program, which would include notice to proceed.

Mr. Kelly said that the bid opening for the highway department/salt shed was held on July 14<sup>th</sup>, and unfortunately no bids were received.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Berry to re-advertise the work for the salt shed; seconded by Councilman Martin; and carried unanimously by a vote of 5-0.

Mr. Kelly said that for the 2015 CDBG, they had the initial meeting with the OHCD representatives, and they had received the subgrantee agreements. He said that they will complete and forward back to the OHCD accordingly. Meanwhile, contract document specifications will be prepared, and he will coordinate those efforts with the Borough Manager as far as specific items to be installed.

Councilman Martin confirmed that this was all in reference to the \$95,000 that was awarded for the playgrounds.

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 5-0.

### **Solicitor's Report:**

Mr. Catania presented the Solicitor's report.

Mr. Catania asked Mr. Kelly which PENNDOT District we were in.

Mr. Kelly said that we were in District 6.

Mr. Catania said that he had 2 Action Items from the matters that they discussed in Executive Session. He said that the first would be a personnel matter.

### **Administrative Action Items:**

A motion was made by Councilman Martin to authorize Chief Rockenbach to make an offer of employment to Candidate #2 as a full-time officer, on the condition that he pass the physical and psychological tests as required by the Civil Service Commission, and be placed on 6 months probation; seconded by Councilwoman Berry; and carried unanimously by a roll call vote of 5-0. (Resnick – yes, Berry – yes, Martin – yes, Tumolo – yes, Casadei – yes.)

Mr. Catania reported 4 Rockbourne Rd. had two issues. The first issue is that a sewer planning module has been filed by the owner, and there are some issues with that regarding the proposed use of the property and the 2<sup>nd</sup> issues is that there have been allegations that there have been attempts at occupying other portions of that property and work being done without the necessary approval and permits from the Borough.

A motion was made by Councilman Martin to authorize the Solicitor and appropriate Borough officials to take any action, including Court action, to prohibit occupancy or work being done in violation of the Borough ordinances, including the Zoning ordinance and any applicable Department of Environmental Protection regulations; seconded by Councilwoman Berry; and carried unanimously by a vote of 5-0.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Berry to accept the Solicitor's report as presented; seconded by Councilman Martin; and carried unanimously by a vote of 5-0.

### **Old Business:**

No old business.

### **New Business:**

Mayor Kelly let residents know that Borough Hall would be open to all residents during the day for relief from the heat.

Mr. Tartaglia said that in preparation for the renovations at Borough Hall, they have an offer sheet from Republic Bank that would have to be executed at some time in the near future. He said that the loan terms are presented in the proposal that was provided to Council.

A motion was made by Councilman Martin to authorize the appropriate Borough officials, and subject to legal review, to take all the necessary steps to work with Republic Bank to put into place a \$1.5 million line of credit or construction loan for action by Council at the August meeting; seconded by Councilwoman Tumolo; and carried unanimously by a vote of 5-0.

Mr. Martin asked who would provide the legal review if it was not Mr. Catania.

Mr. Catania said that the bank may provide their regular bond counsel for something like this.

### **Ward Reports:**

Councilman Resnick had nothing to report.

Councilwoman Berry thanked the residents for their patience during the current road construction process.

Councilman Martin said that he has been told that the current inconvenience with travel will be well worth it upon completion, but that doesn't change the difficulty of the current situation.

President Casadei reminded everyone that the current construction projects and issues with traffic were PENNDOT and SEPTA projects and not Borough Council projects.

Councilwoman Tumolo asked the Chief to explain to residents what would be done with the extra manpower.

Chief Rockenbach explained that he was authorized by Council today to bring in additional manpower in 4 hour blocks during the morning and afternoon rush to address some enforcement issues with the current detours and traffic. He said that there was no actual way to prohibit vehicles from traveling down side streets, but they could enforce any traffic violations being committed to ensure that the roads are being traveled legally and safely. He said that they would do their best to work within their budget to ensure that they can alleviate residents' concerns as much as they can from their end for the duration of the construction.

Councilwoman Tumolo thanked Chief Rockenbach for the information and also thanked the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Committee and any and all volunteers who came together to make the 4<sup>th</sup> of July a great day.

### **Closing Public Comment:**

Fred Rich, 82 Chester Ave., asked about \$2 million bond from 2012 that had \$500,000 appropriated to re-do Borough Hall.

Mayor Kelly said that we still have the \$500,000.

Mr. Rich asked why they were applying for more money.

Mr. Tartaglia said that they still have the \$500,000, and they have to demonstrate to the State that they...

Mr. Rich asked Mr. Tartaglia to resign.

Mr. Tartaglia could not finish his explanation.

Michelle Palladino, 232 Woodbridge Rd., asked about copies of budget and bills being available.

President Casadei said that they could be requested from the Secretary at Borough Hall, and the cost is \$0.25 per sheet.

Ed Jilozian, 134 E. Broadway Ave., asked why they wouldn't get reimbursed from SEPTA for the additional police officers.

President Casadei said that they would be doing that.

Mr. Jilozian asked where the fees/payments from the traffic related violations would go.

President Casadei said that all of that would come out of and go into the General Fund. He said that if they ended up over-budget in that area because of additional receipts that would come in as a result of the traffic violations, they would look at other areas to reimburse with the proceeds.

Councilwoman Tumolo said that funds are allocated to certain areas, and they can't just take the money and decide to do whatever they want with it. It is all allocated and regulated by the budget.

Bill Clarke, 105 E. Berkley Ave., said that he spoke to a Councilmember about 3 weeks ago about the playground at Penn & Berkley. He said that he is not complaining, but merely bringing to Council's attention that the daycare center at the end of Berkley, Today's Child, uses that playground for their children everyday. He said that there are 25-40 kids who use that playground daily. He said that his concern is that if one of the children from that daycare is injured, is the Borough liable for any injuries or medical care or does the daycare center have a rider on their insurance policy that would cover that?

President Casadei said that was a good question.

Mr. Catania said that would depend upon a specific incident, but they would definitely look into a for-profit business using the playground. He explained that they are not treated like a normal property owner in situations like this because there is a cap on governmental entities and the Borough does have its own insurance for the property, but a for-profit business is using the property, so it is definitely something that they will look into it.

Bonnie Callahan, 235 Woodbridge Rd., said that if they are looking into that, Smart from the Start Daycare is also using Borough facilities. She said that they came in with a school bus up at Clifton Field and about 50 students got out and used the playground equipment. She said that they had coolers, and she left & returned, and they had left their trash all over everywhere. She said that she as a resident called the facility and asked them to clean up after themselves if they were going to use the public facilities. She said that they were not happy to hear from her about that.

Brian Weston, 134 N. Church Ave., asked if the extra police manpower would go away once the construction went away.

President Casadei said that it definitely would.

Mr. Weston asked if there was anything that they could do to keep the extra manpower.

President Casadei said that if they had the money, they would be able to hire more officers. He said that they are hiring one new policeman within the next couple of weeks.

Mr. Weston said that some of the frustration that they are feeling is that they, as residents, are bringing things to the table to start conversations with Council members, and when they are being told, "well, 3 years ago we tried that" or "we'll look into that," they feel like they are not being provided constructive responses to the real concerns that they are trying to present to Council. He said that it's sort of like being brushed aside, and the only people who could change that would be Council members themselves.

President Casadei said that they do their best, but it is extremely difficult to make everyone happy. He asked Mr. Weston to provide him an example of a problem that they have addressed or attempted to solve.

Mr. Weston said drugs.

President Casadei asked what they weren't doing about drugs. He said that they weren't selling drugs out of Borough Hall, and the Police Department was doing a heck of a job on their end in combating the scourge that is drugs, that is not only affecting our community, but all communities.

Mayor Kelly said that they are working on the drug problem 24-7, without the knowledge of residents. He said that they are aware of the drug problem and they are attacking it vigorously, as are surrounding communities.

**Adjournment:**

A motion was made by Councilman Martin to adjourn; seconded by Councilwoman Berry; and carried unanimously by a vote of 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kimberly A. Duffy  
Clifton Heights Borough Secretary

**This page of the minutes is respectfully dedicated to the memory of Jimmy Watts.**