

**Clifton Heights Borough Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**January 19, 2016**

**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  
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**

**Public Comment:**

No opening public comment.

**Meeting Minutes:**

A motion was made by Councilman Martin to accept the December 2015 meeting minutes and January 2016 reorganization meeting minutes as presented; seconded by Councilwoman Peterson; 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 thanked the Committee that was involved in the home decorating contest. He said that the advertisement in the newspaper looked great.

**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 7-0.

**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 7-0.

**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 7-0. (Resnick – yes, Humphreys – yes, Berry – yes, Martin – yes, Peterson – yes, Papale – 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 discussed the items on his report in Caucus, but there was one item that needed action. He said that several minor sink holes have developed on Broadway Ave. as a result of a deteriorated sanitary line. He is requesting authorization to prepare bidding documents to solicit bids to slip line a portion of the sanitary line and make the necessary repairs to the road.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Papale to authorize the Engineer to prepare the bidding documents to address the sanitary line slip lining repairs and sink hole repairs on Broadway Ave.; seconded by Councilwoman Berry; and carried unanimously by a vote of 7-0.

**Solicitor's Report:**

Mr. Catania presented the Solicitor's report.

Mr. Catania reported for the record that there is a meeting of the Clifton Heights Zoning Hearing Board for the property at 130 N. Diamond St., the owner of that property is requesting a use variance to turn the property into a duplex. It is currently in an R-1 residential zoning district. The hearing will take place at Borough Hall on Wednesday, January 27<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.

**Old Business:**

No old business.

**New Business:**

A motion was made by Councilman Resnick to put out for the bid the replacement of the light fixtures on Broadway Ave. between Springfield Road and Clifton Pool for a cost not to exceed \$9,000; seconded by Councilwoman Berry; and carried unanimously by a vote of 7-0.

Councilwoman Berry asked to read a short noted dated today. She read, "It has been my privilege to serve the residents of Clifton Heights for the past 8 years as Councilperson. Due to increased responsibilities at my work as well as relocating, I find I am unable to devote the necessary time needed to be an effective

Councilperson. At this time, I wish to submit my resignation, and I hope to serve the Borough in other capacities in the future.” She thanked everyone at the table for their help during her tenure.

Mayor Kelly said that he was disappointed to hear that letter read, but she did a great job and will be missed.

**Ward Reports:**

Councilman Resnick had nothing to report.

Councilwoman Papale had nothing to report.

Councilman Humphreys had nothing to report but said he would miss Betsy.

Councilwoman Berry told everyone to be safe this weekend with the snow. She said she would miss everyone.

Councilman Martin nominated Ron Berry to replace Betsy Berry as a Councilperson; seconded by Councilman Humphreys; and carried unanimously by a vote of 6-0. (Resnick – yes, Humphreys – yes, Martin – yes, Peterson – yes, Papale – yes, Casadei – yes.)

President Casadei had nothing to report.

Councilwoman Peterson had nothing to report but wished Betsy all the best.

**Closing Public Comment:**

Fred Rich, 82 Chester Ave., asked if they were going to start demolition at 207 S. Springfield Rd.

Mr. Catania said that they have to make application to the Court, but they authorized final notice at the December meeting, and that time has passed.

Mr. Rich asked who would be responsible to pay for the demolition.

Mr. Catania said that it has already been put out to bid. He said that they are going to make application to the Court and ask the Court to make the owners responsible for the cost of the demolition. He said that if the Court determines that the Borough can take it down quickly, then the Borough would pay to take it down and then lien the property and seek recovery from the owners.

Mr. Rich said that at a previous meeting it was stated that Allstate was the insurance company on that property. He asked why Allstate did not pay for reconstruction of that property.

Mr. Catania said that he is not sure of the policy conditions for that specific Allstate policy. He said that they will find out in Court.

Mr. Rich said that from what he understands from a previous Council meeting is that Allstate refused to pay because it was presented as a single family home, while all along it was a rental property. He said that he remembers that specifically being stated by Mr. Tartaglia. He said that the next door neighbor, John Kelly, consistently complained that it was a rental property and drug house.

Mr. Catania said that the Borough wouldn't know what type of insurance was being held on that property.

Mr. Rich said that was stated at the meeting.

Mr. Catania said that if that is so, they found that out after the fire. They wouldn't have known what the policy was prior to the fire.

Mr. Rich reiterated his stance that the Borough should have known that was a drug house after the numerous complaints from the neighbor.

**Other Business:**

A motion was made by Councilman Martin to appoint Phil Fabrizio to the Zoning Hearing Board; seconded by Councilman Humphreys; and carried unanimously by a vote of 6-0.

**Adjournment:**

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Kimberly A. Duffy  
Clifton Heights Borough Secretary