

**Clifton Heights Borough Council  
Meeting Minutes  
December 20, 2016**

**Present:**

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

**Others Present:**

Joseph T. Kelly, Mayor  
Francis 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 Pastor Derek Rimson**

**Public Comment:**

No opening public comment.

**Meeting Minutes:**

A motion was made by Councilman Martin to accept the November 2016 meeting minutes as presented; 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's Report:**

Mayor Kelly thanked everyone for attending another successful tree lighting. He thanked the Clifton Heights Fire Company, the Recreation Board, the Clifton Heights Business Association, the Clifton Heights Civic Association, and the Boys Club for a job well done. He said it was well attended and went smoothly.

Mayor Kelly thanked Borough resident Ted Archer for donating the decorations and his time and labor in decorating the telephone poles along the main business thoroughfares in town – Baltimore Pike and Springfield Road. He asked for the Council to invite him to a Council meeting so that he can receive the recognition he deserves.

Councilman Martin requested that a resolution be prepared to recognize resident Ted Archer for his efforts.

Mayor Kelly announced that the Great Overbrook String Band would be performing on Broadway Ave on New Year's Day after the conclusion of their performance at the Mummers' Parade in the city. They would parade from the Rams Head to the Clam Tavern and do their same New Year's performance upon arrival at the Clam Tavern. He said that there would be food available for purchase and parking at CAPP USA.

Mayor Kelly wished everyone a happy holidays.

**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 8-0.

**Fire Report:**

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

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

A motion was made by Councilman Martin to accept the treasurer's report and pay the bills; seconded by Councilman 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.)

**Manager's Report:**

Mr. Tartaglia said that the Clifton Heights Economic Development Board had requested a total sum of \$3,407.20 to pay off their remaining balances and close their corporation status.

A motion was made by Councilman Martin to make a final payment of \$3,407.20 to the Clifton Heights Economic Development Board; seconded by Councilwoman Tumolo; 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.)

**Engineer's Report:**

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

Mr. Kelly said that the final reports for the 2016 completed road program would be filed before December 31<sup>st</sup>.

Mr. Kelly said that the bid opening for the lawn maintenance occurred on December 13<sup>th</sup>. He said that they received 3 bids, and the lowest bidder was Tom Morris Inc.

A motion was made by Councilman Martin to award the lawn maintenance contract to Tom Morris Inc. for one year with the optional 2 additional years that can be voted on annually; seconded by Councilwoman Peterson; and carried unanimously by a vote of 8-0.

Council decided to table the awarding of the street lighting contract until January's meeting so that they could follow up on a few contractual issues.

Mr. Kelly explained that the CDBG applications would be due on January 11, 2017. He said that the programs primary objective is to create viable urban communities that provide suitable housing and living environments with economic opportunity for those of low to moderate income. He outlined the items that were possibilities for CDBG grants. He opened the floor for public comment on ideas for the CDBG applications, which is one of the requirements for the application process.

Mr. Kelly explained that they had successful applications in the past for the storm water facility on Broadway Ave., lighting on Baltimore Pike, playgrounds, the demolition of a property.

Mayor Kelly said that they had discussed working on the additional playgrounds in the Borough.

Councilman Martin expressed interest in having McFadden Park included on the CDBG application.

Mr. Kelly said that they had McFadden Park and the park at Clifton field as the two centerpiece items on the CDBG list.

Mayor Kelly said perhaps the final playground in the 1<sup>st</sup> ward could be included as well.

Mr. Kelly said that they can submit primary and secondary applications by January 11<sup>th</sup>.

The floor was closed for public comment.

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

Mr. Catania presented the Solicitor's report.

Mr. Catania said that ordinances 853, 854 and 855 had been properly advertised and were ripe for consideration.

A motion was made by Councilman Humphreys to adopt ordinance #853, fixing the tax rate for the fiscal year 2017 at 14.5010 mills; 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 Councilman Martin to adopt ordinance #854, fixing the sewer rental fee at \$314 per unit; 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 Tumolo to adopt ordinance #855, fixing the fee for the collection and disposal of refuse within the Borough at \$210 per household; seconded by Councilman 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.)

Mr. Catania announced that the 2017 meeting schedule had been duly advertised.

Mr. Catania informed Council of 2 tax assessment appeals that he was aware of for the Kent Mill properties on East Broadway Avenue. He said they were seeking reassessment after the demolition of the buildings.

A motion was made by Councilman Martin to authorize the solicitor to seek reconsideration from the County and School District for tax refunds for the properties that they acquired from the Clifton Heights Economic

Development Board along Springfield Road, totaling 5 parcels; seconded by Councilwoman Tumolo; and carried by a vote of 8-0.

Mayor Kelly asked for information on the Rockbourne Road property, which received a substantial reduction in their tax assessment after filing a tax assessment appeal, but it was in the newspaper that he would like to sell that property for \$30 million. Mayor Kelly if the Borough could file an assessment appeal on the property.

Solicitor Catania said that the next opportunity to file an assessment appeal would be this summer, and they will certainly revisit that issue.

### **Administrative Actions:**

A motion was made by Councilman Martin to authorize the engineer to proceed with CDBG applications for the Borough playgrounds; seconded by Councilwoman Tumolo; and carried unanimously by a vote of 8-0.

Solicitor Catania said that it would be in order for Council to vote on the 2017 final budget.

A motion was made by Councilman Martin to approve the final budget as prepared, reflecting a 1 mill increase from the 2016 budget; seconded by Councilman Humphreys; 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.)

### **Old Business:**

No old business.

### **New Business:**

Councilwoman Papale announced that she was excited to share that the Borough would be reinstating the Clifton Quarterly. She said that it is basically a newsletter put out by Council to inform residents of what is going on in the Borough. She said that they will request different departments within the Borough to submit items, different organizations within the Borough to submit information and residents to submit and share any positive news. She said it could be activities, information that needs to be passed along, births, graduations, weddings, and any other positive news. She said that she hoped to keep the same layout and would like to get the Quarterly to print early in January, even though it was short notice.

### **Ward Reports:**

Councilman Resnick thanked everyone who was involved with the Thanksgiving Food Drive for the Boy Scouts as they were able to have another record-setting year, with their highest item count to date.

Councilwoman Papale wished everyone a happy holiday season and said that she was looking forward to New Years on Broadway Ave. with the Greater Overbrook String Band performance.

Councilman Berry wished everyone a Merry Christmas and happy holidays.

Councilman Humphreys wished everyone happy holidays.

Councilman Martin wished everyone happy holidays.

President Casadei wished everyone happy holidays.

Councilwoman Peterson said she hoped that everyone will enjoy the time with their family and friends. She followed up on her request from the previous month for a status update on the roof on Oak Ave.

Mr. Tartaglia said that Jay Borrelli has been attempting unsuccessfully to serve the warrants, so they have been unable to gain access to the unit. He said that if they have information to the comings and goings of the owner, they could pass that along to Jay so that he can serve the warrants. He said that he is not looking to send the owner to jail, but trying to get her to be responsive to their requests.

Councilwoman Tumolo wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

**Closing Public Comment:**

Steve Turjannian, Jefferson Court Apartments, said that he was almost hit at the intersection of Baltimore Pike and Diamond Street. He said that cars are passing through the yellow and red lights. He said that he walks all the time and something must be done about instances like this because this is not the first time this has happened.

President Casadei reminded Mr. Turjannian that closing public comment is reserved for issues that had been discussed during the evening's meetings. He said that if he had issues that he wanted to discuss with Council, he could sign up to speak at the meeting by calling Borough Hall 24 hours in advance of the meeting. He said this is certainly a valid concern but something that should be addressed to the Chief of Police.

Mr. Turjannian said that he also has concerns with the paving of the driveways in the Borough that are difficult to traverse.

**Adjournment:**

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Kimberly A. Duffy  
Clifton Heights Borough Secretary