

**Clifton Heights Borough Council
Meeting Minutes
March 15, 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
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

Public Comment:

No opening public comment.

Meeting Minutes:

A motion was made by Councilman Martin to accept the February 2016 meeting minutes as presented; seconded by Councilwoman Papale; and carried unanimously by a roll call vote of 7-0. (Resnick – yes, Humphreys – yes, Berry – yes, Martin – yes, Tumolo – yes, Papale – yes, Casadei – yes.)

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Kelly announced that the Junior Police Academy, which is hosted by the Chief, Clifton Heights Police Department and other local police departments started sessions. He said that there are 18-20 young cadets who are meeting each Thursday for a couple of hours to learn the duties of the police officers.

Mayor Kelly announced that the Borough's Easter Egg Hunt would be held on Saturday, March 19th at 10am at Diamond Street Park. He said it was for children 8 years and younger with prizes for all.

Mayor Kelly said that he wanted to clarify his statements on the insurance and demolition. He said that the insurance carrier is not paying, and they need to go to Court on that front. He said he is looking at himself as

a homeowner and wondering why he pays for his homeowners' insurance and mortgage if he can just walk away from it. He said that the Borough cannot take care of all of these properties out of pocket.

Councilman Berry said that he has the same concerns.

Mayor Kelly said that they have to draw a line somewhere, and the taxpayers can't continue to bail out the mortgage companies and insurance companies. He said that there has to be a way for the Court system to force these companies' hands in bringing the company back into its previous state.

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 Councilwoman Papale to accept the Fire Report as presented; seconded by Councilman Berry; 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 Councilman Berry; and carried unanimously by a roll call vote of 7-0. (Resnick – yes, Humphreys – yes, Berry – yes, Martin – yes, Tumolo – 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 OHCD has agreed to provide the additional funding for the 2015 CDBG Project for the playgrounds, which was nearly \$19,000. He said that the contracts are now fully executed, and they expect to meet with OHCD with a pre-construction meeting before the end of the week.

Mr. Kelly said that they had prepared the contract documents for the 2016 Road Program.

A motion was made by Councilman Martin to authorize the Engineer to advertise the 2016 Road Program bid solicitation; seconded by Councilman Papale; and carried unanimously by a vote of 7-0.

Mr. Kelly said that Tri-State Grouting has submitted the required insurance and bond documents, and the contract documents have been executed for the sanitary slip lining repair on East Broadway Ave. He said that once everything is reviewed, they will have a pre-construction meeting, and the work should commence within a month.

Councilwoman Papale asked how long the project would take.

Mr. Kelly said about two weeks.

A motion was made by Councilman Martin to accept the Engineer's report as presented; seconded by Councilwoman Tumolo; and carried unanimously by a vote of 8-0.

Solicitor's Report:

Mr. McDonald presented the Solicitor's report.

Mr. McDonald said that Council should consider a Resolution to approve a \$1.5 million construction loan related to the Borough Hall construction.

A motion was made by Councilman Martin to adopt Resolution 03-16, approving the \$1.5 million takedown loan for the Borough Hall construction; seconded by Councilman Berry; and carried unanimously by a roll call vote of 7-0. (Resnick – yes, Humphreys – yes, Berry – yes, Martin – yes, Tumolo – yes, Papale – yes, Casadei – yes.)

Councilman Resnick noted that his yes vote was contingent upon the RAC coming through for the garage.

A motion was made by Councilman Martin to accept the Solicitor's report as presented; seconded by Councilwoman Tumolo; and carried unanimously by a vote of 7-0.

Old Business:

Councilwoman Papale said that she has recently attended several meetings for various committees and community groups, the Civic Association, the 4th of July Committee, the Boys' Club. She said that the one thing that she is noticing at all of these events is that it is all of the same faces. He said it is the same corps of people in different groups helping each other. She said that it is a tremendous thing to see and she is challenging the members of Council to attend some of these events. She said that they always need volunteers and assistance for the events as well. She also encouraged the residents to come out and support the events as well.

New Business:

No new business.

Ward Reports:

Councilman Resnick had nothing to report.

Councilwoman Papale said the ward would be happy to get the slip lining completed.

Councilman Humphreys had nothing to report.

Councilman Berry had nothing to report.

Councilman Martin had nothing to report.

President Casadei wished everyone a happy Saint Patrick's Day.

Councilwoman Tumolo had nothing to report.

Closing Public Comment:

Bonnie Callahan, 235 Woodbridge Rd., said that if the Borough website was updated, the community groups could email the information to be uploaded onto the Borough's website. She said it would be great to see the information updated monthly

Councilwoman Papale said that she would make it her goal to ensure the information is updated monthly.

Mrs. Callahan continued that she agrees with the Mayor that the Borough taxpayers should not be paying for the demolition of properties. She said that the Borough paid for 119 E. Washington to be torn down, and no one knows if the Borough has been reimbursed or if a lien was placed on the property. She said that the Borough spent \$30,000 and the mortgage company took the property over.

Mayor Kelly asked if a lien was placed on the property.

Mr. Tartaglia said that one was not.

Mrs. Callahan said that it is not fair to the taxpayers to pay for those items, and it is not fair that John Kelly is still living next to a burnt out shell of a house.

Adjournment:

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Kimberly A. Duffy
Clifton Heights Borough Secretary