

Clifton Heights Borough Council
Meeting Minutes
October 17, 2017

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 MacDonald, 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 Joseph T. Kelly

Moment of Silence:

Mayor Kelly requested a moment of silence to remember Jack Rockenbach.

A motion was made by Councilman Martin to dedicate a page of the minutes to the memory of Jack Rockenbach; seconded by Councilman Berry; and carried unanimously by a vote of 8-0.

Public Comment:

No public comment.

Meeting Minutes:

A motion was made by Councilman Martin to accept the September 2017 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 announced that he would be presenting a Resolution to the Clifton Heights Fire Department.

A motion was made by Councilman Berry to adopt Resolution 13-17, the Thank You for Keeping Us Safe Resolution; seconded by Councilman Resnick; and carried unanimously by a vote of 8-0.

Mayor Kelly presented the Resolution to the Fire Department, thanking them for their never-ending commitment to the community through their responding to fire calls and community service efforts, meeting with the local school, hosting open houses, etc.

Mayor Kelly announced that Halloween would run from 6pm to 8pm on Tuesday, October 31st. He reminded everyone to be safe and noted that the police would be present and active that day throughout the neighborhoods.

A motion was made by Councilman Martin to accept the Mayor's Report; seconded by Councilman Berry; and carried unanimously by a vote of 8-0.

Police Report:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Papale to accept the Police Report as presented; seconded by Councilman Berry; 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 Tumolo; 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:

The manager's report was covered in the caucus session. He requested action on the LED replacement plan that he outlined in his report.

A motion was made by Councilman Martin authorizing the new replacement plan for lights that burn out throughout the Borough be to upgrade to a new LED light fixture; seconded by Councilwoman Papale; and carried unanimously by a vote of 8-0.

Engineer's Report:

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

A motion was made by Councilman Berry to authorize the 9th payment to GM Mechanical in the amount of \$252,761.94, all of the supporting documentation has been presented; seconded by Councilwoman Peterson; 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. Kelly announced that the Road Program scope had been completed, and they would be awaiting the documentation for the next step.

Mr. Kelly announced that they completed the MS4 submission as required.

Councilman Martin said that during a recent meeting at Borough Hall, they had an issue while leaving with the new setup outside of Borough Hall, and he believed it presented a safety hazard that needed to be corrected immediately. He said that there was an 18-24 inch drop and that the handrail was not properly connected.

A motion was made by Councilman Martin to address the safety issues outside of Borough Hall immediately; seconded by Councilwoman Tumolo; and carried unanimously by a vote of 8-0.

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

Solicitor's Report:

Mr. Catania presented the Solicitor's report.

He reminded Council that next month's meeting would take place on Tuesday, November 14, 2017 to account for the required 30 day window to post the annual budget. He said that they would discuss the preliminary budget at next month's meeting.

No action items.

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

Old Business:

Councilwoman Papale said that she would like to work on their recycling program. She said that they recently received information from B&L Disposal about not being able to put recycling in plastic bags. She said that this has been a policy already in place, but they now to enforce it strictly. She said that the info was shared on the Clifton Quarterly Facebook page. She said that she thinks that they should work hard to push the recycling program and enforce the program and educate the residents about the importance of the program. She asked about setting up a recycling committee to involve Council and residents to get the community really involved in recycling.

Mayor Kelly said that residents could use any container for recycling, aside from plastic bags. They can use regular trash cans, paper bags, and cardboard boxes.

Councilwoman Papale asked if they could look into the availability of grant money. She said that perhaps if they got a committee started, they could look into grant money in the new calendar year. She said that they could discuss how they would enforce the recycling program for residents who are not partaking.

Mayor Kelly said that one of the items that should be emphasized is the tipping fee that is charged by the County for the tonnage of trash that is dropped off. He said that by taking recyclables out of the trash, the overall tonnage is reduced, resulting in lower tipping fees, and that should be emphasized to residents. He noted that it would be an enforcement nightmare because it would require checking trash and seeing if they are including recycling.

Councilwoman Papale noted that Councilman Resnick included the information on the tipping fees in the July issue of the Clifton Quarterly, but she thought there definitely needed to be follow up on that information to have it have an impact.

Tony Casadei appointed a recycling committee to include himself, Harris Resnick, Leona Papale and Jane Tumolo.

Councilwoman Papale asked about including residents on the Committee.

Councilman Martin said that they have the authority, so they should make up the Committee.

Councilwoman Papale said that she would prefer a Committee with resident involvement, but they would start the work.

New Business:

No new business.

Ward Reports:

Councilman Resnick announced that the Boy Scouts would be hosting their annual Thanksgiving Food Drive on Saturday, November 11th and Saturday, November 18th. He reminded everyone that this year's event would be taking place at Today's Child on East Berkley Ave., the former Sacred Heart Rec Center and gym, because of the renovations at Borough Hall. He said that they would be dropping bags off on November 11th and picking food up on November 18th from 10am to 6pm, with the bulk of the work occurring from 11am to 2pm. He welcomed any and all volunteers.

Councilwoman Papale had nothing to report.

Councilman Humphreys had nothing to report.

Councilman Berry had nothing to report.

Councilman Martin had nothing to report.

President Casadei had nothing to report.

Councilwoman Peterson asked about an update on 205 N. Oak Ave.

Mr. Tartaglia said that the house is vacant, and they can cut down the shrubbery. He said that the building is condemned, and they have had a few false starts on roof repairs, where the homeowner's son said it was going to happen and then nothing happened.

A motion was made by Councilman Peterson to authorize the solicitor and code enforcement officer to present the issues to the Court of Common Pleas to try and force some action on the property; seconded by Councilwoman Tumolo; and carried unanimously by a vote of 8-0.

Mr. Catania said that they would work on that and get the opinion of a disinterested, expert engineer to comment on the condition of the property and necessary repairs

Councilwoman Tumolo had nothing to report.

Councilwoman Papale said that she wanted to recognize Billy Kneass, who was at the meeting, and has been instrumental in helping with the Clifton Quarterly and the Facebook page. She said it is because of him that the Clifton Quarterly looks so nice.

Closing Public Comment:

No closing public comment.

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

This page is respectfully dedicated to the memory of Jack Rockenbach.