

**Clifton Heights Borough Council
Meeting Minutes
February 20, 2018**

Present:

Ronald Berry, Council President
Edward Martin, Council Vice President
Leona Papale, Councilwoman
Karen Peterson, Councilwoman
Harris Resnick, Councilman
Fred Rich, Councilman
Mark Campbell, Councilman

Absent:

Mike Humphreys, Councilman

Others Present:

Joseph Lombardo, Mayor
Francis Catania, Solicitor
J.P. Kelly, Engineer
Cynthia Leitzell, Treasurer
Timothy Rockenbach, Chief of Police

Pledge of Allegiance

Meeting Minutes:

A motion was made by Councilman Martin to accept the January 2018 meeting minutes as presented; seconded by Councilwoman Papale; and carried unanimously by a vote of 7-0.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Lombardo noted that Tim Rockenbach had been elected as President of the Delaware County Police Chiefs' Association last month. He said that he and members of Council were able to attend the event to see Chief Rockenbach sworn into his position. He acknowledged his accomplishment and thanked him for his service.

Mayor Lombardo said that in the past the Delaware County SPCA, when they were in operation, did low cost vaccinations for the Borough at Borough Hall. He said that the Providence Animal Center had reached out to him about doing the low cost vaccination at Borough Hall on Tuesday, April 17th. He said that he is not sure if they would want to host this in the new Borough Hall, but the Borough has a business in town called Ever After Pets, and they are hosting a rescue day on May 20th at their business. He said that perhaps they could coordinate to have coinciding events with the business in town on May 20th.

Public Comment:

Sherry Rich, 82 Chester Ave., said that her mission at this point is to figure out some resolution for the Borough's situation with the lack of a Delaware County Animal Control contract. He said that it is her understanding that the Borough Manager thought it was an unnecessary expense to continue with the Animal Control contract. He said that the police can't hold the animals, and they are taken to Brandywine Valley SPCA, which is quite a distance from Clifton Heights. She said that they are only held there for 3 days, and then they are fostered, adopted or euthanized. She said that she found that out today from someone with

Delaware County Animal Control. She said that she has a copy of the contract that was forwarded to Tony for his signature from Delaware County Animal Control, which is for local animals that might be picked up by Animal Control and taken to Brandywine Vet Hospital, which is a no-kill shelter. There, the animal is held for up to 10 days, and if no owner claims the animal, they are then taken for foster or adoption. They are never euthanized. She said that the Borough would have to sign off on a \$105 fee, and then the Borough would seek to recover those funds from the owner when the animal is recovered. She said that the \$350 that they currently pay to Delaware County Animal Control only covers dead animals and aggressive animals. It has no coverage for lost & found animals. He said that she has copies of the contract to share with all of Council.

President Berry asked if that fee was per month or per animal.

Mayor Lombardo said that it must be per animal with all of the transport that that involves.

Mrs. Rich said that Providence Animal Center hosts various clinics throughout the local municipalities, and she has taken her dog to one, and other than having to wait in line, which is to be expected, it was a good experience.

Mrs. Rich said that she also wanted to comment on something that she read on Facebook. She said that a resident of Clifton Heights posted 2 websites on Facebook that he was collecting donations for the 4th of July Committee and the Kiwanis Club, and you could make the checks payable to him and he would turn the donations over to each organization. She said that she reached out to Detective Steve Brown, and within an hour both items were deleted, and she wanted to thank Detective Brown for responding so quickly, because she thinks a serious issue was avoided by being so responsive. She said that she would submit a letter to Chief Rockenbach mentioning the same.

Police Report:

A motion was made by Councilman Resnick to accept the Police Report as presented; seconded by Councilman Campbell; 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 Councilwoman Peterson; and carried unanimously by a vote of 7-0.

Treasurer's Report/Bill List:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Peterson 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, Rich – yes, Martin – yes, Peterson – yes, Papale – yes, Campbell – yes, Berry – yes.)

Engineer's Report:

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

Mr. Kelly said that pursuant to Council's authorization, he has compiled a list of outstanding items and generated a punchlist, which was sent by way of certified mail to the contractor. He said that a follow up letter was also sent, and that due to the lack of performance, he recommends that the solicitor inform the bonding company of the status.

Mr. Catania said that he would like Council to consider a motion to authorize the Solicitor to contact the bonding company and taking any other action necessary to protect the Borough's interest in having the job completed.

A motion was made by Councilman Resnick to authorize the solicitor to contact the bonding company and take any other action necessary in reference to the Borough Hall renovations; seconded by Councilman Martin; and carried unanimously by a roll call vote of 7-0. (Resnick – yes, Rich – yes, Martin – yes, Peterson – yes, Papale – yes, Campbell – yes, Berry – yes.)

Mr. Kelly said that a resolution for the 2018 CDBG application attached to his report. He said that Council authorized the Engineer to proceed with the application, so he is asking that the Resolution be ratified this evening.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Papale to ratify the Resolution for the 2018 CDBG application on behalf of the Borough of Clifton Heights; seconded by Councilwoman Peterson; and carried unanimously by a vote of 7-0.

Mr. Kelly said that since their last meeting, they had met with the Civic Association and finalized the plan for stormwater improvements and that they would take that information and finalize the bidding documents and advertise the bid for the 2017 CDBG project. He said that he would expect to have the bid prepared for next month's meeting.

A motion was made by Councilman Martin to accept the engineer's report as presented; seconded by Councilman Resnick; and carried unanimously by a roll call vote of 7-0. (Resnick – yes, Rich – yes, Martin – yes, Peterson – yes, Papale – yes, Campbell – yes, Berry – yes.)

Solicitor's Report:

Solicitor Catania presented the Solicitor's report.

He said that on February 6, 2018, President Berry received a letter from Anthony Tartaglia indicating that he was submitting his resignation as Borough Manager effective immediately. He said that Council received a copy of the letter. He said that the first action item for the evening would be for a motion to accept the resignation.

Administrative Actions:

A motion was made by Councilman Martin to accept the resignation of Anthony Tartaglia as Borough Manager, effective February 6, 2018; seconded by Councilwoman Peterson; and carried unanimously by a vote of 7-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Martin to appoint John Perfetti on a temporary basis to fill the position of interim Borough Manager and adopt the resolution outlining the same, Mr. Perfetti would be compensated at a rate of \$25/hour for an estimated 20 hours per week, with a cap at 30 hours per week (est. \$500-\$750/week); seconded by Councilman Rich; and carried unanimously by a roll call vote of 7-0. (Resnick – yes, Rich – yes, Martin – yes, Peterson – yes, Papale – yes, Campbell – yes, Berry – yes.)

Solicitor Catania noted that Mr. Tartaglia had in his possession the delinquent sewer and trash records, so as a housekeeping item, it would be typical to get those records back and have an audit completed. He said that in consultation with Ms. Leitzell, they worked previously with a CPA out of

Springfield named Donna Stillwell with the firm of Brinker Simpson. He is requesting permission that Council authorize the Solicitor and Ms. Leitzell contact her and provide an estimate for an audit.

A motion was made by Councilman Martin to authorize Mr. Catania and Ms. Leitzell to obtain the outstanding sewer and trash records and to contact Donna Stillwell with Brinker Simpson to provide an estimate on the cost of completing an audit of these records; seconded by Councilman Resnick; and carried unanimously by a roll call vote of 7-0. (Resnick – yes, Rich – yes, Martin – yes, Peterson – yes, Papale – yes, Campbell – yes, Berry – yes.)

Old Business:

Councilman Resnick said that the Borough had a comprehensive plan last done in 2006 and a market study done in 2016. He said that he would like to move forward with adopting the market study as the comprehensive plan.

A motion was made by Councilman Resnick to adopt the 2016 market study as the Borough's comprehensive plan; seconded by Councilman Martin; and carried unanimously by a vote of 7-0.

Mr. Catania explained that his understanding is that the Borough had a comprehensive plan completed in 2006, and the municipality's planning code of Pennsylvania requests that the Borough reconsider that every 10 years, and the Borough Council considered it in 2016. He said that for the purposes of any upcoming meetings, it would be appropriate to produce both the 2006 and 2016 plans as evidence of what Council's intent is as far as further development within the Borough. He said to put them in a better position to compete for State grant and loan money, it is better to go through that process again now to make sure it was done correctly, starting with the Clifton Heights Planning Commission.

Councilwoman Papale said that she would like to discuss the recycling again. She said that Bill Kneass has put together a short presentation about the recycling and some ideas that he put together.

Bill Kneass said that the premise of this came from a Facebook discussion. He said that people are lodging complaints on Facebook, but not properly directing their complaints to channels that can take action on those complaints. He thanked Lorraine for helping him develop the idea and survey. He said that they developed a two-fold survey to assess residents' feedback regarding trash and recycling pickup and to determine how residents are voicing their concerns. He said that posted a 10 question survey that was available for 10 days on the Citizens of Clifton Heights Facebook group. He said that they received 89 responses with 84 Borough residents completing the survey. He said that he is aware that it is not a statistically significant number, but he thinks the evidence presented anecdotally is worthy. He said that respondents covered 55 streets in the Borough, with a 50/50 split between the North and South of the Borough. He said that 2/3 indicated that they have curbside pickup. He said that they asked when they were placing their trash/recyclables at the curb, and half responded early evening and half responded in the morning. He said that the most interesting item to him was the response to the inquiry of which methods they have used to lodge a complaint regarding trash and recycling. 2/3 of respondents said that they had not lodged a complaint. 18 people said that they called Borough Hall; others posted on Facebook or talked to neighbors. He said that 9 respondents said that they used 3 or more methods to lodge a complaint and 6 respondents noted that they lodged 6 or more complaints. He said the for those respondents who lodged their complaint with the Borough or B&L, the average rating on response to the complaint was 2.4 out of 5. He said that the nature of complaints included: inconsistency – pickup times vary widely and trash pickup not reliable; recycling being taken on trash day; the Borough should provide recycling cans; increase the amount of recycling or offer an incentive to recycle; trash cans not being returned curbside and being thrown; dropped items not being picked up; rude behavior from drivers and pickup men, etc. He said that he believes that some of the items can definitely be addressed with discussion from B&L.

Councilwoman Papale said that recycling bins have been delivered and will be distributed once they figure out the best method to move forward with that. She said that they will provide more information about recycling in future Clifton Quarterly pamphlets.

New Business:

Mayor Lombardo presented a proclamation on behalf of the Borough of Clifton Heights to Police Chief Timothy Rockenbach recognizing his exemplary service to the Borough and election to the presidency of the Delaware County Police Chiefs' Association.

Ward Reports:

Councilman Resnick had nothing to report.

Councilwoman Papale thanked the Highway Department for their quick response to repairing the potholes that have been reported. She thanked James of the Highway Department for always quickly responding to her texts and assisting the residents of the Borough.

Councilman Rich said that there are a few problems down in the 3rd ward, but he has had a few residents come to him saying that there are vacant homes in the 3rd ward that have people coming in and out of the home. He said that he is not sure if they are squatters or if the homes are being rented out without being registered. He said that this might not just be in the 3rd ward but throughout the Borough.

President Berry asked Councilman Rich if he could meet with Mr. Perfetti and provide addresses.

Councilman Martin had nothing to report.

President Berry had nothing to report.

Councilwoman Peterson said that she received a complaint for 212 N. Springfield Rd., which is a similar complaint to what Councilman Rich just outlined. She asked if, in addition to that, Mr. Perfetti could look into the status of the property at 205 N. Oak Ave., which has been pretty much condemned because the roof is falling down and the property is posted with stickers, but they would like an update to provide to the residents.

Closing Public Comment:

Barb Kates, 26 Ogden Street, said that she thinks that she should work with the Providence Animal Center with the immunizations before the dates come and go.

Mayor Lombardo assured her that he wasn't trying to say that the Borough wasn't interested in working with the Providence Animal Center; he was just trying to see if it might be more convenient to coordinate with another event in town.

Ms. Kates said that she sees that Tony just resigned as Borough Manager and that they just appointed another Borough Manager. She said that this is what got them in trouble in the first place. She said that Tony Tartaglia was appointed, and he screwed this Borough big time and she was personally screwed over by him.

Councilwoman Papale said that Mr. Tartaglia applied for the position back when he received the position.

Ms. Kates asked about applications now.

Councilwoman Papale said that Mr. Perfetti is being appointed on an interim basis, and it will be followed up and become an advertised position.

Ms. Kates asked if that would go for Code Enforcement also.

President Berry said that Code Enforcement was not on the table at this time.

Ms. Kates asked if he was still the Code Enforcement officer and what they are waiting for. She said that she is going to have work done on her property and it is going to need a permit, and he charges too much for permits.

President Berry said that the cost of permits was not discussed at tonight's meeting.

Ms. Kates said that they just appointed a new tax collector, but she just voted for her tax collector in November.

Councilwoman Papale said that the tax collector retired, so they had to appoint a new tax collector.

Ms. Kates said that she voted for her in November and asked if they did not know that that was going to happen in November.

Councilwoman Papale said that they did not know that information and that also was not discussed in the meeting tonight.

Ms. Kates said that she couldn't hear during the trash/recycling presentation and asked if they were trying to get a new trash collector.

President Berry said that they were not. They were discussing a survey.

A resident asked when the contract expired.

President Berry said that it is a 5 year contract, so they have 3 years remaining.

Michelle Hartel asked about the items that the Engineer was discussing.

Mr. Kelly said that he was discussing the 2018 CDBG, which was for the roads, and the 2017 CDBG, which was for McFadden Park. He said that the McFadden Park funds had been approved, and they were waiting to hear back on the 2018 applications.

Michelle Hartel said that Claudia Fagioli used to handle the delinquent sewer and trash fees until Tony Tartaglia assumed that position, and that since she still has all of that information on hand, she could collect the delinquent fees that are prior to 2018. She said that she assumed it would go back to her.

President Berry said that they could get the lists from the County, and they would work on that going forward with the new Borough Manager and Treasurer (Tax Collector).

Sherry Rich, 82 Chester Ave., asked how you would get a playground on the list to be fixed. She said that the little playground on Edgmont Ave. is awful.

President Berry assured her that it was already on the list.

Councilwoman Papale said that she thinks that they created the list and included all of the playgrounds.

Sherry Rich reminded residents to get their 2018 dog licenses.

A resident asked about discussing an item that was not on the agenda.

President Berry let her know about the policy of signing up 24 hours in advance, so that they can work on getting an answer for everyone.

A resident asked about the door to door permits for electric.

Chief Rockenbach outlined the procedure for the resident, and said that if they ever had any issues to dial 911.

Rich DePompeo, 224 E. Broadway Ave., said that he appreciated the crowd and hoped it continued.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Councilman Martin to adjourn; seconded by Councilwoman Papale; and carried unanimously by a vote of 7-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kimberly A. Duffy
Clifton Heights Borough Secretary