

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

**Present:**

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

**Others Present:**

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

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Mayor's Report:**

Mayor Lombardo noted that the annual Easter Egg Hunt would be taking place at Diamond Street Park on Saturday, March 24th at 10am, weather permitting with the snow that is forecast for tomorrow. He said that fliers are available.

Mayor Lombardo said that he will be hosting the next Mayor's Luncheon on April 26th at 12 noon at the Columbus Club. He said that Council members will be on hand for discussion, as well as State Representative Jamie Santora and State Senator Tom McGarrigle and Borough Manager John Perfetti. He said that he hopes to have representatives from both the Police and Fire Departments on hand as well. He said that he wants to put members of the community together in an open forum and that he would try to host an event similar to this 2-3 times per year.

Mayor Lombardo said that they would be hosting a pet rescue and low-cost vaccination day at the Williams-Lombardo Funeral Home on Sunday, May 20th. He said that there would be food and face painting and fun for the kids.

Mayor Lombardo said that he wanted to quickly discuss the last few storms that hit the Borough. He said that the first storm, which hit on a Friday, March 2nd, almost 85% of the residents were without power during the height of the storm. With the help of the Borough Manager, John Perfetti and Chief of Police Tim Rockenbach, they were able to go out throughout the weekend and reach out to those residents without power. He said that they were in constant contact with PECO and PECO did a great job considering the County wide outages that they were dealing with. He said that they finally decided that they had to do something on North Diamond because a tree had fallen into the

street, and the street was impassable and without power for 4 days. He said that they worked to get the residents generators. He said that with the help of the Streets Department, James Salmon and Paul D'Antonio (D'Antonio Excavating) and Drew Kershaw (Kershaw Construction), they were able to move and cut up the tree at no cost to the Borough. 4 telephone poles came down and wires were on cars, and they were able to get PECO in to disconnect the main wires at the pole so that they were at least able to move cars off of the street.

Mayor Lombardo said that PECO would be replacing lateral mast lines into residences. He said that they were starting with 155 customers in the 3rd & 2nd wards, and that would be starting in early April.

Mayor Lombardo said that with all of the work that they are putting into the town, the Council is going to start caucusing twice a month. He said that they will meet the 1st Tuesday of each month in addition to the regular 3rd Tuesday.

### **Public Comment:**

Ken Scotts announced that the 4th of July Committee could use some help this year. He said that they need volunteers to be able to keep the tradition going. He said that they meet monthly at 7pm at FAMCO at 35 E. Baltimore Ave. He asked everyone to spread the word and try to get more volunteers out to help.

Lorraine Jensen said that they had been coordinating cleanups in different areas throughout the Borough and had used the Borough dumpster to dump some of the bagged trash that they had collected. She wanted to ensure that they would be able to continue to do so moving forward.

President Berry told her that she could coordinate with the Borough Manager and the Highway Foreman moving forward to come up with the best plan for the trash collected.

Lorraine Jensen said that their next targeted cleanup would be this weekend at the alley/parking lot off of Cambridge Rd. She said that they are hoping to host 2 cleanups per month moving forward.

Terry Smythe, East Broadway Ave., said that she had read about the talks of a Dollar General going in and she wanted to discuss some of the issues that she would have with since she lives in a house that backs up to the property in question. She said that she would worry about the traffic, if a privacy fence would be installed, a dumpster being placed on site. She asked if these items could be taken into account for any business that might build on that property.

### **Meeting Minutes:**

A motion was made by Councilman Martin to accept the February 2018 meeting minutes as presented; seconded by Councilwoman Peterson; 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 Martin; and carried unanimously by a vote of 8-0.

### **Fire Report:**

A motion was made by Councilman Humphreys to accept the Fire Report as presented; seconded by Councilman Campbell; 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 Councilwoman Peterson; and carried unanimously by a roll call vote of 8-0. (Resnick – yes, Rich – yes, Humphreys - yes, Martin – yes, Peterson – yes, Papale – yes, Campbell – yes, Berry – yes.)

### **Manager's Report:**

Mr. Perfetti said that he has been doing a lot of listening his first several weeks as Borough Manager. He said that Baltimore Pike needs to become a place where people are showing an interest in coming in and setting up shop. He said that they are listening on all fronts. He said that he knows the initial response to storage units is to not approve of them, but they do have a company that is talking investing a great deal of money into such a venture. They will continue to listen and discuss development, like the Dollar General and other stores that want to come into town. He said that the turnaround won't be immediate, but they are working on it as a priority.

The manager said that he discussed the issues of Animal Control with Mrs. Rich. He said that there is no quick fix. He said that they have a relationship with Delaware County Animal Control and pay them \$350 per month for services that include dead animals in the road and aggressive animals, however, they will not take animals running at large. He said that he understands the issue with that setup. He said that they discussed some leads and would continue to discuss and work on the issue moving forward.

The manager said that they worked diligently during the recent storms and were in constant contact with PECO. He thanked the Mayor for his work with the generators that he personally provided to residents who were without power. He thanked the Chiefs for their assistance and noted that Delaware County Emergency Management assisted as well.

The manager said that he worked on resolutions for the two problem properties that were discussed at last month's meeting. He said that he prepared a resolution for the property at Broadway and South Penn Street. They have submitted a retainage check to the Borough to be submitted to an escrow account.

He said that he has discussed the property on Oak Avenue with the Solicitor, and they are continuing to work on the various issues with that property and to get progress.

### **Engineer's Report:**

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

Mr. Kelly said that they have held two separate meetings with the contractor for the Borough building renovations and the contractor has made some progress since these meetings. He said that they still have a punchlist that has to be completed in full and will have another meeting with the contractor.

Mr. Kelly 2017 CDBG project has been put out to bid and they expect to have bid packages for the next Borough council meeting in April.

Mr. Kelly said that the 2018 Road Program was being prepared, and they discussed the roads and scope with the Borough Manager and were working on the tabulations to prepare the Road Program. He said that he would submit what he has prepared to the Borough Manager for review, and the Road Program will ultimately be submitted and approved by PENNDOT.

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

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

Solicitor Catania presented the Solicitor's report.

He said that he has 5 action items for Council

### **Administrative Actions:**

A motion was made by Councilman Martin to adopt a resolution appointing the temporary interim Borough Manager, John Perfetti as the Borough's acting Right-to-Know officer; seconded by Councilman Humphreys; and carried unanimously by a vote of 8-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Martin to confirm via Resolution that in accordance with the Borough ordinances that the Borough Tax Collector is also charged with the ability to collect the current sewer and trash fees; seconded by Councilman Resnick; and carried unanimously by a vote of 8-0.

Solicitor Catania explained that the next few items would reference the Borough's Code Enforcement Office. He said that the Borough deferred action on the reappointment of their Code Department at the start of the year, and that they have now decided to move from a part-time code enforcement model to a full-time code enforcement model.

A motion was made by Councilman Rich to end the Borough's relationship with Commonwealth Code and Anthony Tartaglia at the earliest possible time, no later than to April 9, 2018, ending his status as the Borough's various code enforcement official; seconded by Councilman Resnick; and carried unanimously by a roll call vote of 8-0. (Resnick – yes, Rich – yes, Humphreys - yes, Martin – yes, Peterson – yes, Papale – yes, Campbell – yes, Berry – yes.)

Mr. Catania said that after research and background checks, the Borough had identified John P. Gould III as the candidate they would like to appoint to the position of Code Enforcement Officer.

He is a resident of Drexel Hill. He outlined all of his certifications and noted that he is an active fireman and the senior code official in Lansdowne Borough since March 2004.

A motion was made by Councilman Martin to appoint John P. Gould III, an individual, as the Borough's Chief Code Enforcement Officer, with an annual full time salary of \$75,000 with health benefits similar to those of the Borough Highway Department, with the same holiday, sick and vacation time as the Highway Department and the Borough would pay for the cost of keeping the certifications active; seconded by Councilman Humphreys; and carried unanimously by a roll call vote of 8-0. (Resnick – yes, Rich – yes, Martin – yes, Peterson – yes, Papale – yes, Campbell – yes, Berry – yes.)

Mr. Catania said that transition should take place as soon as possible. He said that to ensure that there would be no adverse impact on the Borough's code enforcement efforts in the interim transition period, it would be in the Borough's interest to appoint the firm of J.P. Kelly & Associates to serve on an interim, as-needed basis, if any need arose during the time and a code enforcement official was required.

A motion was made by Councilman Rich to appoint J.P. Kelly & Associates as the temporary, as-needed code enforcement official during the transition period between code enforcement officials; seconded by Councilman Humphreys; and carried unanimously by a roll call vote of 8-0. (Resnick – yes, Rich – yes, Humphreys - yes, Martin – yes, Peterson – yes, Papale – yes, Campbell – yes, Berry – yes.)

### **Old Business:**

Councilwoman Papale said that the recycling bins were going to start to be distributed on Saturday. She said that she didn't have an exact timeline, but the process would start.

### **New Business:**

No new business.

### **Ward Reports:**

Councilman Resnick had nothing to report.

Councilwoman Papale announced that the Clifton Heights PAL organization would be hosting a food truck event at the athletic complex on Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, and more information would be forthcoming on that event.

Councilman Humphreys said that the Borough should be using the flag poles that were installed outside of Borough Hall, and, if need be, they should purchase a State flag and Borough flag to fly alongside the flag of the United States of America.

President Berry had nothing to report.

Councilman Rich said that they had a pretty bad assault at Madison and Church Street last week and asked if they could have an increased police presence at night. He said that he mentioned last month

that residents had approached him asking about rental properties in the 3<sup>rd</sup> ward that are not registered with the Borough. He asked if they could get a committee together to look into these unregistered rental properties.

President Berry said that he should start by providing the addresses to the Borough Manager, and they could start doing some research.

Councilman Martin had nothing to report.

President Berry had nothing to report.

Councilwoman Peterson said that she continues to get calls and complaints about 212 N. Springfield Rd. She said that people are still entering the property despite it being boarded up.

Councilman Campbell had nothing to report.

**Closing Public Comment:**

A resident asked for confirmation that if the Borough would be hiring someone for a full time position who is working for the Borough of Lansdowne, that he would be leaving that position.

President Berry confirmed that he would be leaving the Borough of Lansdowne and working full time for the Borough of Clifton Heights

A resident said that she called and left a message about discussing the redrawing of the District lines. She said that they were working to have resolutions adopted at the local level showing that they are supporting the process.

Solicitor Catania said that she could provide a copy of the resolution to the Borough Manager for him to review and they could discuss it at their next caucus.

She said that it shows local support for the effort to have the districts redrawn.

**Adjournment:**

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

Respectfully Submitted,

**Kimberly A. Duffy**

**Clifton Heights Borough Secretary**