

**Clifton Heights Borough Council  
Meeting Minutes  
January 15, 2019**

**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**

**Prayer led by Mayor Joseph Lombardo**

**Public Comment:**

No opening public comment.

**Meeting Minutes:**

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

**Mayor's Report:**

Mayor Lombardo announced that there would be an electronics recycling and shredding event this Saturday, January 19<sup>th</sup> from 10am to 2pm.

Mayor Lombardo thanked the Mummers for their strut down Broadway Avenue on New Year's Day, and he thanked the residents who were in attendance.

He apologized and noted that the Borough calendar wasn't completed yet, but that it would be done in the next week or two and printed.

### **Police Report:**

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

### **Fire Report:**

A motion was made by Councilwoman Papale 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 Humphreys to accept the treasurer's report and pay the bills; seconded by Councilwoman Papale; 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:**

Borough Manager Perfetti announced that there would be a zoning hearing board meeting on Monday, January 21<sup>st</sup> at 7pm at Borough Hall. It would deal with 500 E. Broadway Ave. with the new developer requesting a variance of zoning to convert the existing mill building to 75 unit apartments. A second issue will be before the zoning hearing board on the same day with the Kingdom Dominion Church located at 100 S. Penn St. seeking relief to install a childcare center using the basement and the house as the basis of the facility.

Mr. Perfetti announced that the ethics statements and statement of financial interests had been distributed to all members of Council and other Borough elected officials. The due date is May 1, 2019, but the Borough Manager is requesting that they be returned within 30 days of this meeting.

Mr. Perfetti noted that he had contacted the Darby Creek Joint Authority questioning the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter invoice for 2018 which was \$257,155. He said after numerous discussions, the bill was reduced to \$210,223 for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, reflecting a reduction of \$46,932.

Mr. Perfetti noted that he had a meeting scheduled to discuss animal control options for the Borough. They have a meeting scheduled for next week with an interested party.

The Borough was awarded the pot hole assistance funding from Delaware County Council and should receive a check between \$3,000 - 4,000 in the next 30 days. The Borough can hire a contractor to fix pot holes throughout the Borough upon receipt.

The Baltimore Pike resurfacing project from Oak to Shadeland Ave is on track and it appears that they have moved their schedule up from 2021 to 2019, so hopefully the repaving will take place mid to late summer this year.

There was a request for a traffic study at S. Springfield Rd. and W. Madison Ave, so he contacted PENNDOT, and they will be sending out an inspector to do a traffic study.

Mr. Perfetti reported that the solicitor has agreed to file liens for the abatement properties throughout the Borough. The Borough and the Solicitor have determined that they will be able to ask for filing fees, Court costs, satisfaction fees, and any other costs associated with filing the liens.

Mr. Perfetti reported that for the year 2018, the Tax Collector was able to collect about 94% of the taxes sent out, which is a job well done.

Mr. Perfetti noted that there would be an e-cycling event this Saturday, January 19<sup>th</sup> from 10am to 2pm and shredding from 10am to 1pm and IDs would be required as it is open to residents of Clifton and Aldan.

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

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

J.P. Kelly presented the Engineer's report in the caucus meeting and had nothing further to report.

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

Frank Catania presented the Solicitor's report.

Solicitor Catania said that now would be the time to consider Ordinance # 866. He said that there was a public hearing on the ordinance prior to the commencement of the evening's Caucus meeting. He said that the ordinance does not allow personal service shops to be located within 500 feet of each other and does not allow thrift stores and/or consignment shops to be located within 500 feet of each other. Any existing personal service shop or thrift/consignment shop operating currently is grandfathered in and would not be in violation of this ordinance. This ordinance repeals any existing ordinances and is ready for consideration.

A motion was made by Councilman Martin to adopt ordinance # 866, regulating the distance between personal service shops and thrift/consignment shops to at least 500 feet between such shops; seconded by Councilwoman Papale; 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.)

Solicitor Catania said that with Council's approval, he could work with the Borough Manager to get an aging accounts receivable from the Darby Creek Joint Authority so that they can get a better understanding of the timing of the payments that they are anticipating to attempt to avoid the issue that he was able to solve for the Borough this time.

Council asked him to proceed with that process.

### **Old Business:**

Councilwoman Papale said that she was very happy to see everyone using the recycling cans that the Borough purchased. She said that she knows recycling has been in the news a lot recently and not in

a good way, so she thinks that they should now be proactive in trying to promote good recycling – not putting the recyclables in plastic bags, no pizza boxes, no dirty items. She said that she has read that these items will shut down the machinery and stop the process and cost the Borough more money. She said that the costs are going to increase, and they really need to be smart recyclers now.

President Berry asked for JP to keep them updated on the status of the recycling grant.

### **New Business:**

John Gould provided an update on the Codes department from April 11<sup>th</sup> to December 31, 2018. The Department issued 1,137 violation notices, conducted 228 resale inspections, investigated 347 complaints, 130 contractors were stopped, 329 tickets were issued, 36 health licenses were issued, 40 zoning applications were made, and 181 construction inspections were conducted. Of the 1,137 violation notices that were issued, 401 were complied with with no additional action. There were 28 commercial use occupancies applied for, 781 rental inspections, 770 contractor citations issued, 34 properties abated, 176 resale transfer applications were made, 608 rental license applications were made, 23 electrical permits issued, 25 plumbing permits issued, 216 building permits issued, and 23 HVAC permits issued. The Department issued 707 non-traffic citations with fines set at \$600 each, resulting in hundreds of hearings, multiple real estate listings and \$20,339.55 collected. The vacant property registration ordinance resulted in \$4,080 in registration fees and provided vital contact information and identified responsible parties of vacant properties. Ordinance 862 expanded the requirements and scope of the Borough's rental license requirements, and almost 50 commercial properties were identified and \$16,660 in fees were collected from commercial/industrial rental properties, most property owners responded with initial inspections having taken place. Property owners who have failed to comply have been issued citations. Code enforcement officers have issued 329 tickets for property maintenance violations and these actions have resulted in increased compliance. 43 properties were abated by the Borough as a result of owners failing to correct violation issues and the properties will be liened as a result. The Department has income of \$288,129.71 for 2018, nearly double the previous year. The collective efforts of Borough Council, the Mayor and Borough officials and staff to improve public safety, health and well-being through proactive code enforcement has proved invaluable. The effects are clearly visible and making an impact on property values and improving the quality of life in the Borough. He ended his report by stating that it has been his pleasure to serve the Borough.

### **Ward Reports:**

Councilman Resnick had nothing to report.

Councilwoman Papale thanked the 1<sup>st</sup> ward residents for doing a great job with their recycling.

Councilman Humphreys reported that Boo Boo was found 7 ½ miles away, so his wife was very grateful for the leads and support and the happy ending.

President Berry thanked the Highway Department for the great job they did removing the snow and salting the roads.

Councilman Martin had nothing to report.

Councilman Rich said that his ward did a great job decorating their homes for the holidays. He also noted that he really appreciated the work that John Gould was doing to identify the rental properties and keep all of that in order.

Councilman Campbell thanked Jane Tumolo for the great job she has done in her first year as the Tax Collector.

Councilwoman Peterson had nothing to report.

**Closing Public Comment:**

Sherry Rich, 82 Chester Ave., said that she is very happy to hear that they are looking into Animal Control. She said that it is a cause very near & dear to her heart. She said that she wanted to let residents know that 2019 dog licenses are now available and they are required.

**Adjournment:**

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Kimberly A. Duffy  
Clifton Heights Borough Secretary