

Clifton Heights Borough Council
Meeting Minutes
June 15, 2010

Present:

Anthony Casadei, Council President
Edward Martin, Council Vice President
Betsy Berry, Councilwoman
Harris Resnick, Councilman (arrived late)
Jane Tumolo, Councilwoman
Mario Alpini, Councilman (arrived late)
Robert Penjuko, Councilman

Absent:

Leona Papale, Councilwoman

Others Present:

Joseph Kelly, Mayor
Frank Catania, Borough Solicitor
Tony Tartaglia, Code Enforcement/Borough Manager
Chief Walt Senkow, CHPD Police Chief

Pledge of Allegiance

Prayer Led By Mayor Kelly

Public Comment:

None.

Meeting Minutes:

A motion was made by Councilman Martin to accept the meeting minutes as presented; seconded by Councilwoman Berry; and carried unanimously by a roll call vote of 5-0. (Berry – yes, Martin – yes, Penjuko – yes, Tumolo – yes, Casadei – yes.)

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Kelly announced that the PAL and Boys Club Carnival was very successful based on the information that he received. He said that it was successful both for the clubs and that the town was also pretty much under control for that week. He thanked the Police Department for a job well done.

Mayor Kelly said that it seemed like the Businessman's Association always picked a day with rain for their car show event. He said that he still thought it was a success and the food was very good and he hopes that they do not disillusioned because of the rain and continue with their worthwhile event.

Mayor Kelly reminded residents that school would be out on Friday, which would mean more children on the streets. He urged all to be careful while driving. He also announced that the Borough would be having strict enforcement of the curfew during the summer months.

Police Report:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Berry to approve the police report; seconded by Councilwoman Tumolo; and carried unanimously by a vote of 6-0. (Councilman Alpini arrived prior to vote.)

Fire Report:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Berry to approve the fire report; seconded by Councilman Martin; and carried unanimously by a vote of 6-0.

Code Enforcement Report:

A motion was made by Councilman Martin to approve the code enforcement report as presented; seconded by Councilwoman Tumolo; and carried unanimously by a vote of 6-0.

Treasurer's Report/Bill List:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Berry to accept the treasurer's report and pay the bills as funds become available; seconded by Councilwoman Tumolo; and carried unanimously by a role call vote of 6-0. (Alpini – yes, Berry – yes, Martin – yes, Penjuka – yes, Tumolo – yes, Casadei – yes.)

Engineer's Report:

A motion was made by Councilman Martin to accept the Engineer's Report as presented; seconded by Councilwoman Berry; and carried unanimously by a vote of 6-0.

Solicitor's Report:

Mr. Catania said that he had several items for Executive Session so he would ask that they hold one tonight. He said that two items are real estate tax assessment appeal matters and two items are police pension matters.

Manager's Report:

Mr. Tartaglia said that they need a motion tonight to approve the bid on the sewer lining provided for by J.P. Kelly at the caucus meeting. He said that they had one bidder, and he advised them to approve that.

A motion was made by Councilman Martin to award the bid on the sewer lining project to the lowest bidder; seconded by Councilwoman Berry; and carried unanimously by a role call vote of 6-0. (Alpini – yes, Berry – yes, Martin – yes, Penjuka – yes, Tumolo – yes, Casadei – yes.)

Mr. Tartaglia said that they needed a motion to approve a bid of \$2,000 for the replacement of the four windows at Borough Hall in the front of the building.

Councilwoman Berry said that she didn't think that they came up with the decision as to which way they were going to go with it.

Mr. Tartaglia said that if Council didn't make the motion for the \$2,000, then he would immediately ask Council to approve a motion for the lower bid.

A motion was made by Councilman Penjuka to award the contract to Clifton Jalousie; seconded by Councilman Alpini.

Councilman Alpini asked if they could just make sure that it was safety glass before moving forward with the installation.

Councilman Penjuka confirmed that it would tempered safety glass that was installed.

After questions, the motion was then carried unanimously by a role call vote of 7-0. (Resnick – yes, Alpini – yes, Berry – yes, Martin – yes, Penjuka – yes, Tumolo – yes, Casadei – yes.) (Councilman Resnick arrived prior to vote.)

Mr. Tartaglia said that they needed a motion if Council so desires to pay the postage for Blue Mountain Recycling for a Borough-wide recycling mailing. He said that the approximate cost of the mailing will be \$464.

A motion was made by Councilman Martin to approve the postage cost for the recycling mailing; seconded by Councilman Alpini; and carried by a role call vote of 6-1. (Resnick – yes, Alpini – yes, Berry – no, Martin – yes, Penjuka – yes, Tumolo – yes, Casadei – yes.)

Mr. Tartaglia said that his last item was a request for authorization for the appropriate Borough personnel (the Solicitor & Finance Chairman) to investigate a \$1.5 bond issue.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Berry to authorize the appropriate Borough personnel to research/investigate a \$1.5 million bond issue; seconded by Councilman Martin; and carried by a role call vote of 6-1. (Resnick – no, Alpini – yes, Berry – yes, Martin – yes, Penjuka – yes, Tumolo – yes, Casadei – yes.)

Mr. Tartaglia said that would conclude his report.

Old Business:

Councilman Penjuka asked if they could get the lettering and the signs approved tonight. He said that it would be for A & A Custom Signs to install the signs that they discussed. He said that they were going to delete one sign on the other side that they do not need at a cost of \$140. He said that the complete deal for the signs comes to \$2,000.

President Casadei asked if they had anything to show them what the signs would look like.

Councilman Penjuka said that they would have one, but he didn't have the chance to pick it up today.

Councilwoman Berry asked if they had decided what they were going to put on the signs.

Councilman Penjuka said that the lettering doesn't matter and that they can put on whatever they want.

Councilwoman Berry asked if there were a certain amount of letters that they would need or be limited to.

Councilman Penjuka said that it didn't matter; they could have whatever they wanted.

Councilman Alpini said that basically, they were being charged for the square footage of the sign.

Councilman Penjuka said that was correct.

Councilwoman Berry asked how much it was.

Councilman Penjuka said that it was a little less than \$2,000. It was \$1,950.

Councilman Alpini asked to confirm what signs it included.

Councilman Penjuka said that it included the main sign on Springfield Rd., another smaller sign on the side of the building for those coming up Springfield Rd. from the Post Office, a sign over the doorway denoting entrances for the Borough Hall and Police Station, and a sign on the door for the Police Personnel Entrance.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Berry to approve the sign contract to A & A Custom Signs; seconded by Councilman Alpini; and carried unanimously by a roll call vote of 7-0. (Resnick – yes, Alpini – yes, Berry – yes, Martin – yes, Penjuka – yes, Tumolo – yes, Casadei – yes.)

Mayor Kelly said that he would like to add that Borough Hall looks very good. He said that the paint job and the doors look very nice.

Councilman Alpini said that he thinks that they should extend some sort of congratulations and thank you to the students from Williamson Trade School who completed the work. He said that they were polite with no complaints.

Mr. Tartaglia said that he would have a plaque made up to thank them.

Mayor Kelly said that he would recommend writing a letter as well that has their names on it so that it can go in their files for when they get jobs in the future.

President Casadei confirmed that they should have the plaque made and an individual letter for each student who completed work on the building.

Councilman Martin said that he would like to return to the signs on the building. He asked if they were going to have a committee or someone to oversee the nomenclature for the signs. He said that if they were going to spend \$2,000, they can't just leave it up to the printer.

President Casadei said that it was okayed, but that he would bring up examples before the final decision was made on the signs and they were completed.

Councilman Martin asked if they were regular signs or if they were signs that were being painted on the wall.

Councilman Penjuka said that they were actual signs that would be completed with reflective lighting for visibility at night.

Councilman Martin said that he thinks that it would be appropriate to put the Mayor's name on the sign as most towns do. He said that even if it were on a smaller sign that could be changed in the future.

Councilman Penjuka said that he would look into that.

New Business:

No new business.

Ward Reports:

First Ward:

Councilman Resnick apologized for being late.

Second Ward:

Councilman Alpini also apologized for being late. He asked Mr. Tartaglia if he had had any luck with tree #41 down in Diamond Street Park.

Mr. Tartaglia said that he hadn't since they looked at it last. He said that he had called Mike but he had not been able to get out there.

Councilwoman Berry apologized for not being able to complete her recycling report for everyone to look at. She said that she would get it to everyone. She said that recycling continues to do well and that she is encouraged because she seems to see more and more recycle bins out each week. She encouraged all of the residents to take advantage of recycling because it helps everyone.

Third Ward:

Councilman Martin had nothing to report.

President Casadei reminded residents that school is out this week and to be careful because there would be a lot more children on the streets.

Fourth Ward:

Councilman Penjuka had nothing to report.

Councilwoman Tumolo reminded residents that this Saturday was Cow Pie Bingo.

Mayor Kelly said that he read in the Inquirer on Sunday about 10-12 municipalities not having fireworks this year because of a lack of funds. He said to remember that the Clifton Heights Fireworks & 4th of July Committee is all volunteers and no taxpayers dollars are spent on this program. He encouraged residents to participate with all the fundraisers and mailings with donations if they want to see the great 4th of July tradition continue.

Councilman Martin said that he forgot to address one issue. He said that this year is the Borough's 125th birthday. He said that as such the 4th of July Committee has got thousands of balloons donated with 125 years and a nice slogan on there. He said that the only cost involved will be to fill those balloons with helium. He said that he had suggested to get 4 small bottles of helium so that they can be taken along the parade route and filled up as they go and handed out to the children along the route.

A motion was made by Councilman Martin to pay for the helium on behalf of the 4th of July Committee at a cost of \$400 and to make an additional donation of \$600 for the parade; seconded by Councilman Alpini.

President Casadei asked if that would come out of their recreation fund.

Councilman Martin said that it should.

President Casadei asked if they were going to give them out while they were walking down the street or up at the field.

Councilman Martin said both.

After questions, the motion was carried unanimously by a roll call vote of 7-0. (Resnick – yes, Alpini – yes, Berry – yes, Martin – yes, Penjuka – yes, Tumolo – yes, Casadei – yes.)

Administrative Actions:

Mr. Catania said that he had initially indicated that there were no administrative actions, but that he would be asking for votes on two tax assessment appeals and possibly one other matter.

Closing Public Comment:

Fred Rich, 82 Chester Ave., said that he heard Mr. Tartaglia mention something about looking into another \$1.5 million bond.

President Casadei said that it was because of the low rates.

Mr. Rich said that the tax millage rate is 11.5 mills and one of the highest tax millage rates in Delaware County. He said that this is just a poor or middle class town with hard working people with one of the highest tax millage rates in Delaware County. He said that in addition to that, the \$1.3 million bond that they got in 2003, a lot of that was never even spent. He asked what they were doing.

President Casadei said that was all earmarked and asked Mr. Tartaglia to answer.

Mr. Tartaglia said that the bond issue that they were discussing right now would pay off the balance from the previous bond that Mr. Rich referenced. He said that it would not be an additional \$1.5 million, but \$1.5 million reduced by whatever they still owe.

Mr. Rich asked what was left on the bond from 2003. He said that was 7 years ago. He said all that money wasn't even spent from that \$1.3 million.

Mr. Tartaglia said that it wouldn't be another \$1.5 million.

Mr. Rich started to speak over Mr. Tartaglia.

Mr. Tartaglia said that he would answer his question if he wanted to listen.

Mr. Rich said that he doesn't know what they are doing and that they are totally out of control. He said that it was really despicable and to look at the town.

Councilman Alpini said that he wanted to add that they have not passed anything yet and that they are just looking into rates to see what is available. He said that they haven't taken any votes to borrow any money.

Mr. Rich said that it shouldn't even be a consideration. He said that they haven't even spent all the money from the last bond.

President Casadei told Mr. Rich he was out of order for interrupting.

Councilman Alpini thanked and named all of the sponsors of the car show that the Clifton Heights Businessman's Association hosted. (Average Joe's MMA, Family Matters Adult Day Care Center, D'Antonio's Excavating, Adorante Electric, Scaramuzza Pasta, the Brickhouse Bar & Grill, Kelly & Close Engineering, Rubino Bros. Custom Carpentry, A Storage Depot, Task Mechanical, Catania & Parker, Beneficial Bank, Phillips Enterprises, Williams-Lombardo Funeral Home, Romarco's, Cal's Automotive, Full Cycle Inkjet, Fred Snacki's Wheel World Racing, Construction Technologies Inc., DAL Collections Service, Leitzell & Economidis, the Clam Tavern & Mario Alpini.)

He offered an additional thanks to J.P. Kelly of Kelly & Close Engineering and Frank Catania of Catania & Parker who split the cost of all trophies and awards that were given out, which added up to almost \$750.

POST EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mr. Catania explained that in Executive Session they discussed the assessments for the property known as 500 E. Broadway Ave., which is one of 2 folio numbers and the 4 Rockbourne Rd. property, and it was the request of Council that the Borough Code Enforcement Department share their files and copies of permits with the Delaware County Assessor's Office, and secondly to authorize the solicitor to file tax assessment appeals for all 3 properties – the Rockbourne Rd. property and the two E. Broadway Ave. parcels to the extent that their appraiser recommends.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Berry to authorize the Borough Code Enforcement Department to share their files on 4 Rockbourne Rd. & 500 E. Broadway Ave. with the Delaware County Assessor's Office

and to authorize the solicitor to file tax assessment appeals for the same properties based on the appraiser's recommendation; seconded by Councilman Martin; and carried unanimously by a roll call vote of 7-0. (Resnick – yes, Alpini – yes, Berry – yes, Martin – yes, Penjoke – yes, Tumolo – yes, Casadei – yes.)

President Casadei asked Mr. Tartaglia how he got U&Os and permits and the like to Media, PA (to the County Office.)

Mr. Tartaglia said that they sometimes mail them and sometimes carry them in by hand.

President Casadei asked if they receive any proof that it has been sent.

Mr. Tartaglia said that they don't receive proof but that he has had conversations with the Assessor's Office about what was installed. He said that he had particularly expressed displeasure with the assessment of 4 Rockbourne Rd. and was told that all they could assess was the stone building and that the rest of the property belongs to the County and is not assessed against 4 Rockbourne. He said that he was told that was the proper assessment by someone in the Assessor's Office. He said that he would certainly resend all of that information to them and ask for a meeting.

President Casadei asked if the place were to be sold tomorrow if the parking would apply to that.

Mr. Tartaglia said that it probably wouldn't. He said that the agreement that they signed was with the Rockbourne Rd. Partnership. He said that Frank would probably be more aware of that end of it.

Mr. Catania said that it would depend on the terms of the agreement but that his recollection was that they purposefully structured the license around the easement.

A motion was made by Councilman Martin to reappoint Tony Tartaglia for another 30 days as Borough Manager; seconded by Councilwoman Berry; and carried unanimously by a roll call vote of 6-0. (Resnick – yes, Alpini – yes, Berry – yes, Martin – yes, Penjoke – abstained, Tumolo – yes, Casadei – yes.)

A motion was made by Councilman Martin concerning the Police Pension Board to appoint Juan Sedgwey (sp?) and Hugh McElhenney as the Chief Administrative Officer and the 3rd trustee; seconded by Councilwoman Berry; and carried unanimously by a roll call vote of 7-0. (Resnick – yes, Alpini – yes, Berry – yes, Martin – yes, Penjoke – yes, Tumolo – yes, Casadei – yes.)

Adjournment:

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Kimberly A. Duffy
Clifton Heights Borough Secretary