

Clifton Heights Borough Council
Meeting Minutes
May 12, 2011

Present:

Anthony Casadei, Council President
Edward Martin, Council Vice President
Betsy Berry, Councilwoman
Jane Tumolo, Councilwoman
Leona Papale, Councilwoman

Absent:

Mario Alpini, Councilman
Robert Penjuka, Councilman
Harris Resnick, Councilman

Others Present:

Joseph T. Kelly, Mayor
Frank Catania, Borough Solicitor
Tony Tartaglia, Code Enforcement/Borough Manager

Pledge of Allegiance

Prayer Led By Mayor Kelly

Public Comment:

None.

Fire Department Presentation:

Chief Kneass explained that they were contacted by the Port Authority of New York a year ago asking if the Fire Department would be interested in a relic from the World Trade Center. He said that a couple of guys got together to form a committee and started working on the project. He said that they received their piece of the World Trade Center a few weeks ago and presented a replica of the monument that they are in the process of building for everyone to view. He explained how the monument would be set up.

He announced that this was a community affair and announced that they were selling memorial bricks to help offset the cost of the monument.

Councilwoman Papale asked who designed the monument.

Chief Kneass explained that Gerry DePompeo designed it.

Mayor Kelly thanked the Fire Department for what they are doing. He said that they had a good event last year in memory of 9/11 and that he looked forward to attending this memorial event and dedication ceremony.

President Casadei said that the Council was behind them 100%.

Chief Kneass said that they would be having their dedication on Sunday, September 11th and that the bricks were \$50 each.

Meeting Minutes:

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

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Kelly said that the bike patrols were going to start again around carnival time. He said that June 12th would be Community Day with the Auto Show and the 4th of July committee having the Cow Pie Bingo Fundraiser. He said that chances would be \$10 and the winnings would be based on how many tickets were sold. He reminded residents that this would be the big fundraiser for the event and stressed its importance, especially after reading about another community who has had fireworks for the last 20 years having to cancel their fireworks this year because the cost was too steep. Mayor Kelly asked Sgt. Rockenbach to come forward to present a certificate from Congress to one of the Borough's dedicated patrolmen.

Seargent Rockenbach presented two certificates of commendation to Patrolman Robert McCaughn – one from Mother's Against Drunk Driving of Southeastern PA and one from Congressman Patrick Meehan. He read a letter from Congressman Meehan.

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 5-0.

Fire Report:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Papale to accept the fire report as presented; seconded by Councilwoman Berry; and carried unanimously by a vote of 5-0.

Code Enforcement Report:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Berry to approve the code enforcement report; seconded by Councilwoman Tumolo; and carried unanimously by a vote of 5-0.

Treasurer's Report/Bill List:

A motion was made by Councilman Martin to accept the treasurer's report and pay the bills as money becomes available; seconded by Councilwoman Papale; and carried unanimously by a roll call vote of 5-0. (Berry – yes, Martin – yes, Tumolo – yes, Papale – yes, Casadei – yes.)

Engineer's Report:

J.P. Kelly said that they submitted a suggested scope of work for this year's road program and they are waiting for Council's approval to develop the bidding documents and advertise for bids.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Berry to approve the suggested scope of work for the road program and authorize the engineer to move forward with the bidding documents; seconded by Councilman Martin; and carried unanimously by a vote of 5-0.

Mr. Kelly announced that there was a wall failure on Sycamore Ave. and pursuant to the direction of the Borough Manager, they have completed a plan to restore the integrity of the retaining wall. He said that it is his recommendation that this work be completed on an emergency basis because the wall has moved significantly. He said that it has been moving for the past 7 months but that it has accelerated in the past 4

weeks. He said that he would expect catastrophic failure in the next few weeks if no action is taken. He said that his engineer's opinion of probable cost to fix the wall is \$75,000. He said that it is very complicated due to the proximity of homes that are within a foot and a half of the wall and the 2 inch gas main which is in the failure zone.

A motion was made by Councilman Martin to approve the emergency repairs; seconded by Councilwoman Berry; and carried unanimously by a roll call vote. (Berry – yes, Martin – yes, Tumolo – yes, Papale – yes, Casadei – yes.)

Mayor Kelly said that he wanted to remind the police and fire departments that that road would be closed for approximately 3-4 weeks for the work to be completed. He said that alternate routes would need to be created for the Fire Department.

Mr. Kelly said that completed his report unless there were any questions and said that he would coordinate his efforts through the Borough Manager. He said that he would expect to have a contractor out there as early as next week.

A motion was made by Councilman Martin to approve the Engineer's Report; seconded by Councilwoman Berry; and carried unanimously by a vote of 5-0.

Solicitor's Report:

Frank Catania said that Judge Perfetti was requiring them to report weekly as to the progress that the building owner of 500 E. Broadway is making or not making on the property. He said that although a demolition plan was filed for a portion of the building, an application hasn't been filed. He said that was reported to the Judge in a progress meeting last week. He said that the attorney of the building owner expressed surprise that the application hadn't been filed and indicated that he would see to it that it was filed promptly. As of today, an application has still yet to be received.

A motion was made by Councilman Martin to approve the solicitor's report; seconded by Councilwoman Berry; and carried unanimously by a vote of 5-0.

Manager's Report:

Tony Tartaglia covered his report in the Committee meeting held prior to the Council meeting. He said that they would skip right to the Citizens Bank item.

Mr. Catania asked if notice was sent out to taxpayers that they could pay at Citizens Bank as part of the tax bill.

Mayor Kelly said yes.

Mr. Catania asked if they thought there should be some way of communicating the change – an ad in the paper or a sign in Borough Hall.

President Casadei said that they were hoping the reporter would be here tonight.

Mayor Kelly said that Mr. Catania was correct and that they should prepare a press release or something to inform residents that they could no longer pay their tax bill at the bank.

Mr. Catania said that they should also be in touch with the bank to see if they could provide something to anyone who might come in to pay to tell them where they could go to pay.

Mr. Tartaglia asked if they would need a motion to look around at other banks.

Mr. Catania said that they would only need a motion to accept a change in banks. He said that he was previously authorized to look around for banks because although this development was unwanted, it was not unexpected.

Mayor Kelly asked if they had a list of who would be paying the penalty. He said that the only people who would be affected would be those paying the penalty. He said that they could mail a direct letter to only them and that would be a lot cheaper.

Mr. Tartaglia said that to find out on the current year, they would have to ask the tax collector.

Mr. Catania said that it would probably be a very small number.

Old Business:

President Casadei said that he needed to correct the information in the newspaper about next month's meeting because the information was wrong. He said that they would be having their normally scheduled meeting on the third Tuesday of the month – Tuesday, June 21st.

Councilwoman Papale announced that the Borough had exceeded their goal of recycling 20 tons per month. He said that in the Finance Committee the other night, they discussed sending a letter out to residents letting them know that recycling is working in Clifton Heights and letting them know that there have been some changes. Residents can now recycle number 4, 5 & 6 plastics. She said that residents can expect a letter.

President Casadei asked where the goal figure came from.

Mr. Tartaglia explained that when they implemented the program, the company said what they could expect for a town of their size. They estimated that they would be able to take 20 tons out of their solid waste haul monthly within 2 years and that they had already exceeded that goal.

New Business:

None.

Ward Reports:

First Ward:

Councilwoman Papale said how impressed she was with the residents of Clifton Heights and how much they care about what is going on in their community. She said that residents were attending Zoning Board meetings, going to District Court for hearings on community properties and turning in suspicious vehicles in the area. She said kudos to Clifton Heights residents and particularly those in the 1st ward for their community involvement.

Second Ward:

Councilwoman Berry had nothing new to report.

Third Ward:

Councilman Martin had nothing to report.

President Casadei reminded residents that school would be out soon and to be careful while driving. He also reminded residents to cut their grass because tickets will be given out to those who do not.

Fourth Ward:

Councilwoman Tumolo announced that she was very excited to hear about the success of the recycling program.

Closing Public Comment:

None.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Councilman Martin to adjourn; seconded by Councilwoman Berry; and carried unanimously by a vote of 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kimberly A. Duffy
Clifton Heights Borough Secretary