

Clifton Heights Borough Council
Meeting Minutes
May 23, 2017

Present:

Anthony Casadei, Council President
Edward Martin, Council Vice President
Ronald Berry, Councilwoman
Mike Humphreys, Councilman
Leona Papale, Councilwoman
Karen Peterson, Councilwoman
Harris Resnick, Councilman
Jane Tumolo, Councilwoman

Others Present:

Joseph T. Kelly, Mayor
Frank Catania, Solicitor
J.P. Kelly, Engineer
Cynthia Leitzell, Treasurer
Timothy Rockenbach, Chief of Police
Tony Tartaglia, Borough Manager/Code

Pledge of Allegiance

Prayer Led by Mayor Kelly

Public Comment:

Fred Rich, 82 Chester Ave., said that at the last month's Borough Council meeting, Tony Blanche, owner for the Broadway Bar & Grille, had asked for permission to put steps that would protrude about an additional 6 inches into the sidewalk. He said that after an Executive Session, they returned to deny Mr. Blanche's request. He said that they may recall that previously he came to Council to complain about the large tree that had grown into the sidewalk on Chester Ave. He said that ADA requires 36 inch wide sidewalks to allow a walker or wheelchair to pass through unrestricted. He said that he complained to ADA and was told that he must first complain to Borough officials before proceeding with a complaint. He said at the January 2015 Council meeting, he brought it to Council's attention and was told that Mr. Tartaglia would go down and look at the tree. He read from the minutes of the January 2015 Council meeting. He said that no action was taken and the following month he attended the meeting to complain that no action was taken and no one came down to look at the tree. He read from the February 2015 meeting minutes, noting the Mr. Tartaglia's response was that they looked at the tree, which has probably been there for 60 years and that there is no such thing as an ADA requirement on a private sidewalk. He said that ADA requirements are specifically for commercial properties. He said that that does not make any sense to him and he thinks that it is a violation of the ADA because it is only 18 inches wide. He said that they are not allowing a business 6 inches, but they have this tree that is blocking a sidewalk to make it only 18 inches of passable sidewalk.

President Casadei told Mr. Rich that he was out of order for going over his time.

Mr. Rich said that he is asking them to terminate Mr. Tartaglia's employment. He said that the entire community is up in arms and despise Mr. Tartaglia.

Meeting Minutes:

A motion was made by Councilman Martin to accept the April meeting minutes as presented; seconded by Councilman Humphreys; and carried unanimously by a roll call vote of 8-0. (Resnick – yes, Humphreys – yes, Berry – yes, Martin – yes, Peterson – yes, Tumolo – yes, Papale – yes, Casadei – yes.)

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Kelly announced that they would be hosting a Memorial Day ceremony, partially at the Fire House and partially at the Memorial at Springfield Rd. & Baltimore Pike. He said that they would have the colors and benediction at the Memorial at 10am with the Pastor from St. Mark's Lutheran Church providing the benediction. He said that they would work on a guest speaker. He said that they are concerned with controlling the traffic while having the event at both spots, but that the Chief was working to address that concern.

Mayor Kelly reminded residents that that carnival was in town. He asked everyone to support the Boys' Club and PAL by supporting the carnival and for everyone to be safe driving in the vicinity of the field.

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

Police Report:

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

Fire Report:

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

Manager's Report:

Mr. Tartaglia said that all of his items were covered in the caucus meeting.

Engineer's Report:

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

Mr. Kelly said that he was requesting a conditional release of payment #4 for the Borough Hall renovations in the amount of \$83,776.63. He was awaiting the notarized copy of the supporting documentation for release.

A motion was made by Councilman Humphreys to authorize the 4th payment to GM Mechanical in the amount of \$83,776.63, contingent upon the receipt of notarized copies of the supporting documentation; seconded by Councilman Berry; and carried unanimously by a vote of 8-0.

Mr. Kelly discussed the abatement contract that they had put out for bid and had received only one bid package in return from A2U Services.

A motion was made by Councilman Martin to hold off on awarding the abatement contract and turn the process over to the solicitor; seconded by Councilman Humphreys; and carried unanimously by a vote of 8-0.

Mr. Kelly explained that he needed authorization to proceed with developing a scope for the Road Program based on a dollar figure. He suggested using the same amount that they had used in previous years and that after the Borough Manager met with Aqua to discuss the roads that would be affected by their construction, he would adjust the scope as needed.

A motion was made by Councilman Papale to authorize the Engineer to proceed with the preparation of a scope for the Road Program in the amount of \$75-80,000; seconded by Councilman Martin; and carried unanimously by a roll call vote of 8-0. (Resnick – yes, Humphreys – yes, Berry – yes, Martin – yes, Peterson – yes, Tumolo – yes, Papale – yes, Casadei – yes.)

A motion was made by Councilman Martin to accept the Engineer's Report as presented; seconded by Councilman Humphreys; and carried unanimously by a vote of 8-0.

Solicitor's Report:

Mr. Catania said that he had two items for reporting, but no action items.

He said that as indicated in the caucus meeting, the Borough Engineer prepared a list of land improvements for both the Batchelder and HRES properties. He said that both of those agreements have been sent to the respective parties for their review, and he is awaiting a response.

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

Mayor Kelly asked about where they stand with getting any of the Economic Development money that they had submitted to receive. He said that he has seen the approvals from Harrisburg, but hasn't seen the okay on receiving the money. He asked if they had received any funding at all. He said that pretty soon the line of credit would come due, and he asked if there was any way to expedite the receipt of the funds.

Mr. Catania said that he would provide the County representative's name and phone number so that he could also reach out to her.

Old Business:

Councilwoman Papale announced that the deadline for the next Clifton Quarterly would be June 12, 2017, and the Quarterly would go to print for July.

New Business:

Councilman Resnick said that the webpage is still not being updated, and they need to take charge of the process.

Councilwoman Tumolo said that the webmaster goes back from being responsive to not responding, and it has proven difficult to stay on top of his updates.

Councilwoman Papale said that if Councilman Resnick wants to step up and take on the process of the website, she thinks that is what they need, for one of them to be spearheading the whole process.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Papale to fire the current webmaster; seconded by Councilman Resnick; and carried unanimously by a vote of 8-0.

It was agreed that they would reach out to 3rd parties to get back prices to move forward with a new webmaster.

Ward Reports:

Councilman Resnick had nothing to report.

Councilwoman Papale reminded residents that the Clifton Heights Civic Association would be hosting a Mystery Dinner Theater at Romarco's by the Aldan Colonial Playhouse Players on Saturday, June 3rd. Admission is \$30. She announced that the annual trout tournament would be taking place this Saturday, May 27th.

A motion was made by Councilman Berry to donate \$200 to the Clifton Heights' Trout Tournament; seconded by Councilwoman Papale; and carried unanimously by a roll call vote of 8-0. (Resnick – yes, Humphreys – yes, Berry – yes, Martin – yes, Peterson – yes, Tumolo – yes, Papale – yes, Casadei – yes.)

Councilman Humphreys asked everyone to be safe driving near the carnival.

Councilman Berry had nothing to report.

Councilman Martin had nothing to report.

President Casadei had nothing to report.

Councilwoman Peterson had nothing to report.

Councilwoman Tumolo had nothing to report.

Closing Public Comment:

No closing comment from the public.

Councilman Martin shared his thoughts for Jane Tumolo's mother, who had a fall and underwent surgery.

Mayor Kelly also asked everyone to keep Mrs. Martin in their prayers as she continues to battle her medical problems.

Adjournment:

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Kimberly A. Duffy
Clifton Heights Borough Secretary