

Clifton Heights Borough Council
Meeting Minutes
August 15, 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
Chuck MacDonald, Acting 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:

No opening public comment.

Meeting Minutes:

A motion was made by Councilman Martin to accept the July 2017 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 congratulated Chief Rockenbach and the Police and Fire Departments on a very successful National Night Out event.

Mayor Kelly announced that they would be hosting the 2nd annual Kingdom-palooza block party on South Penn Street on Saturday August 19th. He said that they would again be providing back to school supplies to the first 100 children and that Penn Street between Baltimore Pike and Broadway Ave. would be closed off to traffic for the event.

Mayor Kelly reminded residents that school would be getting back in session before the next Council meeting and asked residents to watch for children and drive safely with the back to school traffic patterns.

Mayor Kelly thanked the Lion's Club for their donation in support of the Police Department trading cards. He noted that their fundraiser in October would be in support of projects like this one and encouraged support for the Lions Club.

A motion was made by Councilman Martin to accept the Mayor's Report; seconded by Councilman Berry; 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 Councilwoman Papale; 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 Humphreys; 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 Tumolo; 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:

The manager's report was covered in the caucus session.

Engineer's Report:

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

A motion was made by Councilman Berry to authorize the 7th payment to GM Mechanical in the amount of \$150,000.00, contingent upon the receipt of notarized copies of the supporting documentation; seconded by Councilwoman Peterson; 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.)

Mr. Kelly announced that Couzins had been awarded the 2017 Road Program and that the contract documents were just awaiting PENNDOT's approval.

Mr. Kelly announced that he would be opening the floor for public comment for the Borough's MS4 program and the pollution reduction plan that they are preparing. It is a 10% sediment reduction plan that the DEP approves and the Borough has 5 years to implement. He said that grants were available to help fund some of the costs associated with implementing the plans.

Councilman Humphreys noted that so many of the issues with the Darby Creek watershed and flooding and pollution were caused by the construction of the Blue Route. He said that the Blue Route caused all of these issues and now small communities are being forced to pay for them.

Mr. Kelly noted that these were unfunded mandates, meaning the onus was on the municipalities to pay for the implementation of the plans.

There was no comment from the public on the MS4 pollution reduction plan.

Mr. Kelly announced that they needed to make a decision on the abatement bids.

A motion was made by Councilman Berry to award the abatement contract to A2U Services through 2018; seconded by Councilwoman Papale; and carried unanimously by a vote of 8-0.

Mayor Kelly asked if liens were being placed on the properties that are abated.

Mr. Tartaglia said that he sends all of the information to the Solicitor for the liens to be placed.

Mr. MacDonald said that they can certainly review the lien ordinance and ensure that the liens are being placed as provided in the ordinance or update the ordinance as needed.

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

Solicitor's Report:

Mr. MacDonald presented the Solicitor's report.

A motion was made by Councilman Berry to adopt Resolution 06-17, adopting the County's 2016 Hazard Mitigation Plan as the official plan of the Borough of Clifton Heights; seconded by Councilwoman Papale; and carried unanimously by a vote of 8-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Humphreys to adopt Resolution 07-17, revising the assessment for the two tax folios of HRES Clifton Heights LLC; seconded by Councilman Berry; and carried unanimously by a vote of 8-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Humphreys to adopt Resolution 08-17, resolving the tax assessment appeal for 228 Crestwood Drive, setting the 2017 assessment at \$58,500 and the 2018 assessment at \$54,990; seconded by Councilwoman Papale; and carried unanimously by a vote of 8-0.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Papale to adopt Resolution 09-17, resolving the tax assessment appeal for 403 W. Baltimore Ave., setting the 2017 assessment at \$191,750; seconded by Councilwoman Tumolo; and carried unanimously by a vote of 8-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Resnick to adopt Resolution 10-17, accepting a payment of \$20,000 from Batchelder Nurseries, LLC in exchange the Borough will not assert any lien or claim against the Property for trash fees and/or sewer fees and charges arising prior to July 1, 2017, reserving all rights to recover any unpaid amount from the seller of the property, the Estate of Walter Tyron; seconded by Councilwoman Tumolo; and carried unanimously by a vote of 8-0.

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

Old Business:

Councilwoman Papale announced that the due date for submissions for the next Clifton Quarterly would be Monday, September 18.

New Business:

No new business.

Ward Reports:

Councilman Resnick had nothing to report.

Councilwoman Papale had nothing to report.

Councilman Humphreys had nothing to report.

Councilman Berry had nothing to report.

Councilman Martin had nothing to report.

President Casadei had nothing to report.

Councilwoman Peterson asked about an update on the Oak Avenue property that they had discussed at previous meeting.

Mr. Tartaglia said that he would provide an update ASAP.

Councilwoman Tumolo had nothing to report.

Closing Public Comment:

No closing public comment.

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