

Clifton Heights Borough Council
Meeting Minutes
October 15, 2019

Present:

Ronald Berry, Council President
Edward Martin, Vice President
Mark Campbell, Councilman
Mike Humphreys, Councilman
Leona Papale, Councilwoman
Karen Peterson, Councilwoman
Fred Rich, Councilman

Absent:

Harris Resnick, Councilman

Others Present:

Francis Catania, Solicitor
J.P. Kelly, Engineer
Cynthia Leitzell, Treasurer
Joseph Lombardo, Mayor
John Perfetti, Interim Borough Manager
Timothy Rockenbach, Chief of Police

Pledge of Allegiance

Moment of Silence:

Council held a moment of silence for Sergeant Tony Torelli, a retired Borough police officer who served the police department for over 30 years and passed away the previous week.

Prayer led by Mayor Lombardo

Public Comment:

No opening public comment.

Meeting Minutes:

A motion was made by Councilman Martin to accept the September 2019 meeting minutes as presented; seconded by Councilwoman Papale; and carried unanimously by a vote of 7-0.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Lombardo announced that the Clifton Heights Boys' Club homecoming festivities would be taking place on Saturday, October 19th.

Mayor Lombardo noted that his annual Fall Mayor's Luncheon would be taking place on Tuesday, October 29th at 12pm at the Columbus Club.

Police Report:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Papale to accept the Police Report as presented; seconded by Councilman Campbell; and carried unanimously by a vote of 7-0.

Fire Report:

A motion was made by Councilman Humphreys to accept the Fire Report as presented; seconded by Councilwoman Peterson; and carried unanimously by a vote of 7-0.

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 7-0. (Rich– yes, Humphreys – yes, Martin – yes, Peterson – yes, Papale – yes, Campbell – yes, Berry – yes.)

Manager's Report:

Borough Manager Perfetti said that they have Counsel from R2K Development in the audience this evening, which is more widely known as the former Hillside property. He said that the matter had been brought before the Planning Committee earlier in the month and after hearing testimony, they had a unanimous vote to move forward with the development upon certain conditions as set forth by the Borough Engineer.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Papale to accept the recommendation of the Planning Commission and authorize R2K Development to move forward with the next phase of their planning and development for the property at 570 Baltimore Ave, contingent upon the review letter of the Borough Engineer dated August 23, 2019, which would outline any of the items that still need to be completed; seconded by Councilman Humphreys.

Councilwoman Peterson asked if an agreement had been reached on that.

Counsel for R2K Development said that they had agreed to the contingency letter from the Borough Engineer.

Councilwoman Papale asked to confirm the plans for the property.

Counsel for R2K Development said that it would be a retail front and restaurant, but they didn't yet know the actual tenants.

After questions, the motion was carried unanimously by a roll call vote of 7-0. (Rich– yes, Humphreys – yes, Martin – yes, Peterson – yes, Papale – yes, Campbell – yes, Berry – yes.)

Borough Manager Perfetti said that NorthPointe had also appeared before the Planning Commission for a land division request. After testimony, the Planning Commission decided not to go forward with their plan at this time. He said that they were not prepared to respond to any of the questions brought by the Commission.

A motion was made by Councilman Martin to accept the recommendation of the Planning Commission on and deny the land subdivision application from NorthPointe (CHB305E 546-556 East Baltimore Ave) as submitted, with the deficiencies outlined in the Borough Engineer's review letter dated July 31, 2019; seconded by Councilman Humphreys.

Councilman Rich asked to confirm if that was for the area in front of the storage facility.

President Berry confirmed that it was.

After questions, the motion was carried unanimously by a roll call vote of 7-0. (Rich– yes, Humphreys – yes, Martin – yes, Peterson – yes, Papale – yes, Campbell – yes, Berry – yes.)

Borough Manager Perfetti said that they also have a CDBG grant that was approved by Delaware County Council for the municipal parking lot resurfacing, as well as sidewalk, apron and curbing replacement. He said that to date \$125,000 has been approved, and the Borough Engineer has been in discussions to see if they could receive any additional funds towards that project.

Borough Engineer Kelly said that once the plans and specifications are completed, they would submit those back to OHCD for review, and once they are approved from OHCD, they would be put out to bid and then the public bids would be presented to Council. He said that he thinks that they are about 2 weeks away from submitting the plans and specifications back to OHCD

Borough Manager Perfetti explained that John Gould would go through the audit his department had to complete during his Code Enforcement report.

Borough Manager Perfetti informed Borough Council that Councilman Resnick had requested to use the Borough Hall building for the Boy Scouts' annual food drive on Saturday, November 9th. He said that he also requested the use of the trash truck on Saturday, November 16th as they do the Food Collection process at the former Sacred Heart Community Center/gym.

A motion was made by Councilman Rich to authorize the use of the Borough's trash truck on Saturday, November 16th for the Boy Scouts' annual food drive collection and to make a donation of \$300 to the same drive from the Borough; seconded by Councilman Campbell; and carried unanimously by a roll call vote of 7-0. (Rich– yes, Humphreys – yes, Martin – yes, Peterson – yes, Papale – yes, Campbell – yes, Berry – yes.)

Borough Manager Perfetti said that the Borough Solicitor would be presenting Ordinance #872, which would finalize the no parking in the municipal parking lot as they had developed.

Borough Manager Perfetti said that they are in the midst of finalizing the codification process with the research to get them all up to date.

Borough Manager Perfetti said that they received communication today that the new Borough computer system would be installed on October 24-25th, at which time all Council members would be provided their own personal emails and the Borough would be able to keep in touch through those emails.

Borough Manager Perfetti said that he would be meeting with the Highway Department tomorrow to map out the dates for the leaf and yard waste collection and would update Council with those dates as soon as he had them.

Borough Manager Perfetti said that he worked with B&L Disposal and they have made a couple of changes to the recycling pickup schedule because Christmas and New Year's Day both fall on a Wednesday this year. Recycling will be picked up on Saturday, December 28th in lieu of Wednesday, December 25th and Saturday, January 4th in lieu of Wednesday, January 1st.

Borough Manager Perfetti said that they have the preliminary budget for the year and he is proud to announce that through the efforts of the Finance Committee and Borough Council, there was no proposed tax increase. He said that they can take a vote of approval at the November meeting and he will have copies readily available for the public.

A motion was made by Councilman Martin to accept the Manager's Report as presented; seconded by Councilwoman Papale; and carried unanimously by a vote of 7-0.

Code Enforcement Report:

John Gould said that the State Department of Labor and Industry who oversees the Uniform Construction Code in Pennsylvania completed their audit about 2 weeks ago. He said that the range of dates for the audit was 2014 to 2019 and there were 2 projects that were selected for audit, the Hillside Nursery project on Jackson Street and the Municipal building. He said that he went through both buildings with the auditor, and he anticipates their findings in about 3-4 weeks.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Papale to accept the Code Enforcement Report as presented; seconded by Councilman Humphreys; and carried unanimously by a vote of 7-0.

Engineer's Report:

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

Mr. Kelly said that the only additional item that he hadn't yet addressed during the course of the meeting was the I&I (inflow & infiltration) report and the study. He said that they have been out in the field 2-3 nights collecting data, opening manholes. He said that the Highway Department is working in front of his guys ensuring that the manholes can be opened. He said that he anticipates that his guys will be out in the field for another 3-4 weeks collecting the data before they can accumulate and assess the data and make a substantive recommendation for control.

A motion was made by Councilman Martin to accept the Engineer's Report as presented; seconded by Councilwoman Peterson; and carried unanimously by a vote of 7-0.

Solicitor's Report:

Francis Catania presented the Solicitor's Report.

Solicitor Catania said that for the reasons discussed in Executive Session, his first item would be to appoint Scott Catell, Esquire as special counsel to the Borough for a Heart & Lung Act matter.

A motion was made by Councilman Martin to appoint Scott Catell, Esquire, as special counsel to the Borough for a Heart & Lung matter; seconded by Councilman Rich; and carried unanimously by a vote of 7-0.

Solicitor Catania said that the next item would be Ordinance #872. He said that Council took advantage of their ordinances that allow it to immediately adopt experimental parking regulations, and it imposed an prohibition on overnight parking in the municipal parking lots adjacent to the Borough building between the hours of 10pm and 6am. He said that the study would be complete upon the adoption of this Ordinance, which has been properly advertised and prohibits the parking of any type of vehicle in the adjacent lots from 10pm to 6am.

Councilman Humphreys asked when it would take effect.

Solicitor Catania said that it would take effect immediately, but that it was already in effect since the last meeting because of the action they previously took about adopting experimental parking regulations.

A motion was made by Councilman Martin to adopt Ordinance #872 as outlined for the prohibition of overnight parking in the municipal parking lot adjacent to Borough Hall; seconded by Councilman Humphreys; and carried unanimously by a vote of 7-0.

Solicitor Catania reported that the hearing for the 2 outstanding matters with the Upper Darby School District is scheduled for December 30th.

Old Business:

No old business.

New Business:

Councilwoman Papale noted that the Historical Society would be hosting the 75th anniversary of the slinky next year on Saturday, August 29th. They would also be decorating the building for the holidays and donating small slinky toys at the annual tree lighting event at the Fire House.

Councilwoman Papale announced that Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church would be hosting a pork and sauerkraut dinner on Saturday, October 26th from 5pm to 7pm if anyone is interested in attending.

Councilwoman Papale said that everyone is probably familiar with Bill Rossano who was a big part of bringing the Greater Overbrook String Band into Clifton Heights. She said that he is now with the Woodland String Band, and unfortunately his daughter-in-law was diagnosed with a leukemia over the summer. She shared that they would be hosting a beef and beer to support her, and it would be at Anderson Hall, which is the Woodland String Band clubhouse at 2141 S. 3rd Street in Philadelphia. She said that it is not a Clifton specific event, but for someone who was involved in the community. She noted that all of these events would be posted on the Clifton Quarterly Facebook page.

Sherry Rich said that she was aware of a beef & beer on December 6th at Saint Eugene's for a local Clifton Heights resident

Councilwoman Papale said that she would post it if she could get the information over to her.

Ward Reports:

Councilwoman Papale said that she just wanted to reiterate again about the importance of picking up after your dog.

Councilman Humphreys had nothing to report, but he said he would like to propose a motion.

A motion was made by Councilman Humphreys to dedicate a page of the minutes to the memory of retired Borough Police Sergeant Tony Torelli; seconded by Councilwoman Papale; and carried unanimously by a vote of 7-0.

President Berry had nothing to report.

Councilman Martin had nothing to report.

Councilman Rich said it is looking good in the 3rd ward. He said that he wanted to recognize the Code Enforcement Office and the great job that they are doing because he is sure that their hard work and diligence and the additional funds that they brought in were part of the reason that the Borough will not need a tax increase for the budget this year.

Councilwoman Peterson noted what a great night they had at the Fire Department's Open House event. She said that she knows that a lot of work goes into it, and she is grateful for nice events like that they host in the community.

Councilman Campbell had nothing to report.

Closing Public Comment:

No closing public comment.

Adjournment:

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Kimberly A. Duffy
Clifton Heights Borough Secretary

This page of the minutes is respectfully dedicated to the memory of Tony Torelli, retired Clifton Heights Police Sergeant.