

MUNICIPALITY OF BETHEL PARK

MINUTES OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Date: January 13, 2014
Time: 7:30 P.M.
Location: Municipal Building

1. Roll Call

Present: Council Members Dixon, Gibbons, Hannan, Harrison, McLean, O'Brien and Pape

Absent: Council Member Moury

Also Present: Mayor Allen; William Spagnol, Manager; Judith L. Miller, Assistant Manager; Gerard Duke, Director of Community Services; Robert McTiernan, Solicitor; Police Chief John Mackey; Michael Smith, Municipal Planner/Assistant Director of Community Services; Joseph Villella, Finance Director; Jean Statler, Municipal/Environmental Engineer

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Chair Announcement

Executive Session of Council was conducted on Monday, January 13, 2014 to discuss a real estate property sale.

Reports of Officials

4. Library Director's Report

Library Director, Christine McIntosh, stated that the Bethel Park Public Library provides services to inform, inspire and enrich the community.

Ms. McIntosh wished everyone a Happy New Year. She announced that Retro Game Night with the Parents will be held on Saturday, January 25 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. This program is for Grades 5 and up and costs \$3 per family. Registration is required. One-on-One technology classes are available by calling to set up an appointment with a librarian. There are various book clubs available, as well as scrabble, pinochle, button and knitting clubs at the Library to enjoy.

Ms. McIntosh announced that there are several Library-related apps available on the Library's website. You can download them onto your iPhone and/or Android devices. A new service, Freegal Music, is now available which provides access to 3 million songs and music videos by using your Library card and locating the e-resource tab on the Library website. Hoopla, a free digital music, video and audio book service, is coming soon.

She thanked those who supported the Library's Winter Lottery Raffle and reminded everyone that literary-themed tee shirts are available for \$15 each both in the Library and online.

For more information on these and the many other programs and services offered by the library, visit the library's website at bethelparklibrary.org.

5. Police Chief's Report

Police Chief John Mackey announced that this year's Police Pals vs. Steelers basketball game has been scheduled for Friday, April 4, 2014. Tickets will be made available at the Records Department. Proceeds from this event support the Sgt. Charles Bonczek Scholarship Fund.

The next Crime Watch Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 21, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. at the Community Center. You do not need to be a member to attend.

The Police Pal's Food Drive and Adopt-a-Family Programs were very successful this year. Chief said that 257 boxes of food were donated. In addition, 6-1/2 truckloads were donated to SHIM. Monetary and gift card donations in an estimated amount of \$15,000 - \$20,000 dollars was collected. Adopt-a-Family was able to sponsor 38 families. All goals were exceeded this year. Chief Mackey gave thanks to the Fire Department, Police Department, EMS and Public Works Department for all their help with the program, and to Cathy Rigatti, wife of Officer Tom Rigatti, who runs both programs. Also, he thanked Firefighters Ava Parker and Dante Bongiorno who helped on the day of distribution along with the Public Works Department.

Chief spoke about the recent SwiftReach notification that was sent out due to the extreme cold weather and its effects on the garbage and recycling schedule delays. The Police Department received calls from residents who said they did not receive the message. Chief reminded residents that if you do not have a published phone number or if you use a cell phone and want to be contacted by SwiftReach, you must to contact Officer Rigatti to register your phone number into the database.

He then mentioned that the Anonymous Tip Line is 412-851-2773 (BPPD). The tips line is for the anonymous reporting of confidential information that you would like to give to the Police Department. It is not to be used for emergencies. Emergencies calls should be directed to 412-833-2000 or to 911.

6. Fire Chief's Report

Third Lieutenant Tom Kelton gave the fire report for December and for the year 2013 which were up 9% from 2013. Lt. Kelton said that the Fire Company has safety and heating tips on their Facebook page. He also reminded residents that with the recent cold weather, it's a good idea to know where the shut offs are located in your house. This would help firefighters eliminate any hazards in your house should they be called out for an emergency.

7. Mayor's Report

Mayor Allen recognized that Tim Moury has again been appointed as President of Council and James Hannan as Vice President of Council for the next two years. He said that as the new mayor, it will be a work in progress, but he wants to recognize people who make a difference in Bethel Park such as a volunteer, business person or citizens group. He asked that if you know anyone that deserves consideration, you may call him at the Municipal Building and he will follow up on it.

The first group of people he wished to recognize and were in attendance are Bethel Park High School Band Director Chad Thompson and Coral Director Todd Kuczawa. Mayor said he and his wife attended the recent Christmas Concert and enjoyed the show immensely. Mayor thanked them both for their dedicated work and for following the tradition of excellent music at the high school that has been enjoyed for many years.

At this time, Mayor Allen announced the winners and honorable mentions of Mayor Morton's annual Holiday Lighting and Decorating Contest and presented those in attendance with certificates.

Mayor Allen announced that Bethel Park Recreation Department received recognition from the Central Blood Bank as Blood Drive of the Week for December 26 through January 1. Mayor congratulated the Recreation Department for this honor.

8. Approval of Minutes

Regular Council Meeting Minutes of December 9, 2013.

Motion by Mr. McLean and seconded by Mrs. Gibbons to approve the Regular Council Meeting Minutes of December 9, 2013. Motion Carried 7 – 0. Council Member Moury absent.

9. Reorganization Meeting of Council Minutes of January 6, 2014.

Motion by Mr. McLean and seconded by Mrs. Gibbons to approve the Reorganization of Meeting of Council Minutes of January 6, 2014. Motion Carried 7 – 0. Council Member Moury absent.

10. Bills and Payrolls

Motion by Mr. McLean and seconded by Mrs. Gibbons to approve the Bills and Payrolls for the Municipality per Bill List #011314 in the amount of \$1,900,953.76. Motion Carried 7 – 0. Council Member Moury absent.

11. Residents' Comments (non-agenda items only)

Dick Kraft, 102 Highland Road, thanked Chief Mackey's department for their help on behalf of his neighbor, Regis O'Toole, when his mother became ill and passed away this past October.

He also said he was happy to learn that the Municipality chose to use Republic Services for waste management at a cost savings to Bethel Park.

Doris Nagle, Program Director for South Hills Interfaith Ministries (SHIM), took this opportunity to thank Chief Mackey, Officer Rigatti and all who were involved with the Police Pals Adopt-a-Family Program and food drives. With so many of our residents in need, this program, because of the generosity of the people in Bethel Park, was a great help to SHIM by allowing them to answer the needs of the community and will continue to help through March of this year.

GENERAL POLICY AND FINANCE

12. Citizens' Comments – General Policy and Finance Items

None

13. General Policy and Finance Items

Reappointment – Building and Fire Code Appeals Board

Motion by Mr. McLean and seconded by Mrs. Gibbons to reappoint Robert Beech to the Building and Fire Code Appeals Board for a term to expire on December 31, 2016. Motion Carried 7 – 0. Council Member Moury absent.

14. Reappointment – Cable TV Board

Motion by Mr. McLean and seconded by Mrs. Gibbons to reappoint Susan Roberti to the Cable TV Board for a term to expire on December 31, 2017. Motion Carried 7 – 0. Council Member Moury absent.

15. Reappointment – Municipal Authority

Motion by Mr. McLean and seconded by Mr. O'Brien to reappoint Michael Dunleavy to the Municipal Authority for a term to expire on December 31, 2018. Motion Carried 7 – 0. Council Member Moury absent.

16. Reappointment – Board of Parks, Recreation and Leisure Services

Motion by Mr. McLean and seconded by Mrs. Gibbons to reappoint Barbara Valalik to the Board of Parks, Recreation and Leisure Services for a term to expire on December 31, 2016. Motion Carried 7 – 0. Council Member Moury absent.

17. Reappointment – Planning and Zoning Commission

Motion by Mr. McLean and seconded by Mrs. Gibbons to reappoint John R. Pavesi to the Planning and Zoning Commission for a term to expire on December 31, 2017. Motion Carried 7 – 0. Council Member Moury absent.

18. Reappointment – Planning and Zoning Commission

Motion by Mr. McLean and seconded by Mrs. Gibbons to reappoint Marc Schein to the Planning and Zoning Commission for a term to expire on December 31, 2017. Motion Carried 7 – 0. Council Member Moury absent.

19. Reappointment – Zoning Hearing Board

Motion by Mr. McLean and seconded by Mrs. Gibbons to reappoint Mark Vavrek to the Zoning Hearing Board for a term to expire on December 31, 2018. Motion Carried 7 – 0. Council Member Moury absent.

20. Investment Policy Statement for Police and Non-Uniform Pension Plans

Motion by Mr. McLean and seconded by Mrs. Gibbons to approve that Bethel Park Council adopt the revised the Investment Policy Statements effective February 1, 2014 and does hereby authorize the Municipal Manager and Pension Counsel to take such actions as necessary to effectuate this motion. Motion Carried 7 – 0. Council Member Moury absent.

21. Resolution – Investment Advisory Agreement

Motion by Mr. McLean and seconded by Mrs. Gibbons to adopt a resolution to approve an Investment Advisory Agreement with U.S. Asset Management, LLC, in a form to be approved by the Municipal Manager and Solicitor. Motion Carried 7 – 0. Council Member Moury absent.

Mr. Harrison said:

“I’d like to join the gentlemen that expressed Happy New Year to the public but the State continues to disappoint me, so I’d like to speak to this and, in fact they confused people that I associate with on this item. For over eight years now, I’ve been promoting the idea of changing the Prevailing Wage Law. The Prevailing Wage Law was enacted, actually it was amended, in 1961. At that time, the figure in the legislation said that if the project was estimated to be \$25,000 or less, it didn’t take a prevailing wage determination. The Prevailing Wage

determination basically says that for projects more than that \$25,000, you have to pay union wages and many, many of the projects that are over \$25,000 but not in the hundreds of thousands or millions are done by sort of mom and pop or small contractors who aren't union shops. I have talked to a lot of legislators, I've gone to many meetings and I update every year a spreadsheet that shows that that 1961, \$25,000 is worth about \$200,000 now just due to inflation. The State passed a piece of legislation late in the year that changed the number to \$100,000 which is sort of half job if you will, but in any case, it basically addresses State type projects, bridges and this type thing. So, it leaves once again the municipalities, the school boards and all that, out of the mix. The point I want to make is that several years ago when I started this campaign, Representative John Maher introduced legislation to change the \$25,000, to update it, and the legislation went to the Labor and Industries committee and at that time, the Democrats controlled the House of Representatives in Pennsylvania and the committees and would not send it out to the floor and I was told, well, the problem is there were Democrats and the unions have a lot of influence and they won't do it. Well, for the last couple cycles now, the Republicans have controlled the Governor's House the Senate, the House and we still can't get it changed. So I guess they can no longer say it's the fault of the Democrats. So I just wanted to call to people's attention that it's costing the local governments, this one in Bethel Park, all the local governments, or the legislative bodies to get the projects done that most effect the people in the communities, the neighborhood, it may be sewers, it may be potholes, it may be whatever, and we have to continue to live with this 1961 legislation. I'd just like to encourage people to call their legislators and say, hey, the time has come. You can no longer blame it on the Democrats. If you were sincere in saying the Democrats held it up, let's take some action. Thank you very much."

Mr. Dixon said:

"Mr. Harrison mentioned State Representative John Maher and I wanted to make sure nobody misunderstands. State Representative John Maher is a fine legislator. He provides top-notch representation to his legislative district. It's true that this prevailing wage legislation has failed in a Republican controlled atmosphere in Harrisburg, but it is not through a lack of effort by State Representative John Maher. He remains a champion of this issue and the people in his district are lucky to have a man like him. Thank you."

Mr. Harrison said:

"I agree with Mr. Dixon and what he said."

Mr. McLean announced that our new Finance Director, Joe Villella, along with Accounting Supervisor Pamela Inglis, was awarded the CAFR Award (Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting) from the Government Finance Officers Association. This award was given to our previous Finance Director Mark Romito and his staff last year as well.

Mr. McLean talked about the Memorial Day Celebration in 2012 when we recognized Charles Swaim, a Vietnam Veteran who died in service. As a result of this recognition, a student from Austin, Texas contacted Mr. McLean about Charles because she was doing a school project and was assigned his name. Through the efforts of a lot of people in the community, including Dick Kraft who was in attendance this evening, information was provided to this student for her English project. Her project has been completed and is available for everyone to see. A link will be provided on our website so anyone who would like to access it can do so. He said it is a wonderful tribute to a soldier from our community who gave the ultimate sacrifice.

Mr. O'Brien suggested that Dave Cable produce this project on BPTV narrated by Mr. McLean and to include Dick Kraft in the program.

PLANNING AND ZONING ITEMS

22. Citizens' Comments – Planning and Zoning Items

None

23. Planning and Zoning Items

Resolution – Designation of Agent

Motion by Mr. Dixon and seconded by Mrs. Gibbons to adopt a resolution designating Bethel Park Council President at the authorized agent to apply for Public Disaster Assistance from the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency. Motion Carried 7 – 0. Council Member Moury absent.

24. Resolution – Industrial Park Road Improvement Grant Acceptance

Motion by Mr. Dixon and seconded by Mrs. Gibbons to adopt a resolution accepting the GEDF Industrial Park Road Improvements Project Grant. Motion Carried 7 – 0. Council Member Moury absent.

Mr. Dixon said that this grant we just approved, a \$500,000 grant, was brought to us by the aforementioned State Representative John Maher.

HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE ITEMS

25. Citizens' Comments – Health, Safety and Welfare Items

No Items

PUBLIC WORKS AND MAINTENANCE ITEMS

26. Public Works and Maintenance Items

No Items

Mr. O'Brien said after listening to the people who came to the microphone to speak about Chief Mackey, Officer Rigatti and the Public Works Department regarding the food drive, it is wonderful how this community came together to reach out and help people in need at an interesting time. He thanked Chief, Officer Rigatti and Public Works. Mr. O'Brien mentioned that he was recently asked to sing at a local nursing home and it was a very enlightening experience. He recommends that if anyone who has some extra time and a special talent that you can offer to people in the local nursing homes, should try to make time to do it because you will walk away with more than you have given.

Mr. Hannan added to Mr. O'Brien's comments saying that a lot of the work that went into the food drive was done by the Fire Department who had a big role in boxing up and delivering food.

27. Adjournment

Motion and second to adjourn at 8:31 P.M.

Manager

