

MUNICIPALITY OF BETHEL PARK

**MINUTES
OF
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

Date: November 9, 2015

Time: 7:30 P.M.

Location: Municipal Building

1. Roll Call

Present: Council Members Colella, Gibbons, Hannan, Harrison, McLean, Moury and O'Brien

Absent: Council Members Dixon and Pape

Also Present: Mayor Jack Allen; William J. Spagnol, Manager
Judith L. Miller, Assistant Manager; Solicitor Robert L. McTiernan; Gerard Duke, Director of Community Services, Chief Timothy O'Connor; Jean Statler, Municipal/Environmental Engineer; Ashley Moore, Municipal Planner

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Chair Announcement

None

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 announced the current programs. The Town Hall Speakers' Series will be held on Wednesday, November 18th at 7:30 p.m. at the Community Center. Dave Crawley of KDKA is the guest speaker.

Get Covered, Stay Covered will be held on Friday, November 20th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The YWCA will assist with health care applications. Please call the Library or call 2-1-1- for an appointment.

The Library's annual Gingerbread Workshop will take place on Saturday, November 28th from noon to 4:00 p.m. Please register in advance.

Fundraising for the Library was mentioned. Purse Bash will be held on Friday, November 20th at the Community Center. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$25 each and can be purchased in the Library or at Evey Hardware.

Psychic Medium Rev. Dr. Debbie Pakler will take 20-minute appointments for \$35 on Saturday, December 5th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Twenty percent of the proceeds will be donated to the Library.

Winter Lottery Raffle tickets, \$5 each, are on sale through December 30th. They are good for the entire month of January. Winners based on the PA Daily Numbers at 7:00 p.m.

Ms. McIntosh said that the Library will close at 5:00 p.m. Wednesday, November 25th; closed all day on Thanksgiving Day and will reopen on Friday, November 27th at 9:00 a.m.

For more information on these and the many other programs and services offered by the Library, visit the Library's web site at bethelparklibrary.org. You can also follow the Library on Facebook or Twitter.

5. Police Chief's Report

Chief O'Connor announced that the donation drive for Domestic Violence in October was very successful. Five truckloads of donated item were taken to the domestic violence shelter. He thanked all who donated.

The next Citizens' Police Academy begins on February 2, 2016 and run until the end of March. Classes will be held on Tuesday evenings from 6:30 to 8:30. Bethel Park residents or business owners 16 years of age or older are welcome to apply. Applications are available beginning December 1st at the Records office and must be turned in by January 8, 2016.

The next Crime Watch meeting will be held on Monday, December 7, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. at the Community Center. The guest speaker is Bethel Park Lieutenant Tim Kirsch, and he will speak about Traffic Enforcement Initiatives.

6. Fire Chief's Report

Chief David Gerber gave the fire report for the month of October.

Chief Gerber mentioned that the In Bethel Park magazine recently ran an article discussing that the tax monies from the Municipality cover the purchase of vehicles. He said that this was not correct. Vehicles are purchased through donations solicited by and received from residents by the Fire Company.

Chief Gerber reminded everyone that they should be changing batteries in both their smoke and carbon monoxide detectors when we change time at the beginning of November.

He also reminded everyone that with the holidays approaching, to please remember the safety recommendations of outdoor lights. Please remember that you should not string more than three sets of outdoor lights together. Use only outdoor lights and outdoor extension cords and seal plug connections with electrical tape.

Chief Gerber then mentioned that volunteers are always needed in the Fire Company. He suggested that anyone interested should see their website or stop by the Clifton Station any Monday evening.

7. Mayor's Report

Mayor Allen announced that there are only two more weeks of leaf collection which ends on November 20th. Leaves should be placed in paper recycling bags. No leaves in plastic bags will be collected.

He announced that the annual Tree Lighting Ceremony will take place on Wednesday, December 2, 2015 at 6:45 p.m. at the Community Center.

Additionally, the annual Holiday Lighting Contest will take place again in December. Nominations will be taken and winners will be announced at the January Regular Council Meeting.

Mayor said that the annual Bethel's Bounty, which benefits the Bethel Park Community Foundation, held on Sunday, November 8th was very successful. Over 300 tickets were sold and many new vendors were in attendance.

At this time, Mayor Allen introduced Charli Donaldson who we've all previously met. She was in attendance to speak about her new project, Wreaths Across America. Charli is the reigning National America Miss Pennsylvania Princess. She is participating in a new project called Wreaths Across America. Charli is soliciting donations to have wreaths made from cuttings of trees in Maine from a special tree farm. The trees will be marked with loved ones dog tags. The trees will not be cut down, but cuttings from them will be used to make the wreaths that will be placed by Charli and her volunteers on the grave sites of veterans at Arlington National Cemetery and the Airmen Cemetery on December 12th. Donations can be made in care of Charli on the Bethel Park Website home page; Wreaths Across America PA0163 Project Smile.

Mayor thanked and congratulated Charli for her hard work and continued dedication. She previously worked with the American Legion with the Operation Troop Appreciation project.

Mayor Allen wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Mr. O'Brien said that it is Mayor Allen's birthday. Council sang and wished a very Happy Birthday to Mayor Allen.

8. Approval of Minutes

Regular Council Meeting Minutes of October 12, 2015.

Motion by Mr. Hannan and seconded by Mrs. Gibbons to approve the Regular Council Meeting Minutes of October 12, 2015. Motion Carried 7 – 0. Council Members Dixon and Pape absent.

9. Special Meeting of October 26, 2015 – Bethel Park Police Hiring

Motion by Mr. Hannan and seconded by Mrs. Gibbons to approve the Special Meeting Minutes of October 26, 2015 – Bethel Park Police Hiring. Motion Carried 7 – 0. Council Members Dixon and Pape absent.

10. Public Hearing Minutes of October 26, 2015 – 2016 Municipal Budget

Motion by Mr. Hannan and seconded by Mrs. Gibbons to approve the Public Hearing Minutes of October 26, 2015 – 2016 Municipal Budget. Motion Carried 7 – 0. Council Members Dixon and Pape absent.

11. Public Hearing Minutes of October 26, 2015 – Artis Senior Living

Motion by Mr. Hannan and seconded by Mrs. Gibbons to approve the Public Hearing Minutes of October 26, 2015 – Artis Senior Living, Major Land Development, Conditional Use. Motion Carried 7 – 0. Council Members Dixon and Pape absent.

12. Bills and Payrolls

Motion by Mr. Hannan and seconded by Mrs. Gibbons to approve the Bills and Payrolls for the Municipality per Bill List #110915 in the amount of \$1,984,391.25. Motion Carried 7 – 0. Council Members Dixon and Pape absent.

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

Nancy Jean Morrison, 5612 Sandra Drive, spoke to Council about the need of a community outdoor swimming pool in Bethel Park. She is a retired teacher who is willing to work with a committee or interested group in the hopes of an outdoor swimming pool being built in Bethel Park. She is asking Council to consider opening discussion on an outdoor pool.

Mr. Moury said that Council did look into the possibility of the need for a pool in Bethel Park previously but the idea did not materialize. He said he will not say that it will never happen but from a financial perspective, we would probably break even. He said we have the County wave pool.

14. Citizens' Comments – General Policy and Finance Items

None

GENERAL POLICY AND FINANCE

15. General Policy and Finance Items

Ordinance – Tax Rate for Fiscal Year 2016

Motion by Mr. McLean and seconded by Mrs. Gibbons to approve the ordinance setting the 2016 fiscal year tax rate in the amount of two and nineteen hundredths (2.19) mills on each dollar (\$1.00) of assessed valuation for general municipal purposes and an additional thirty-four hundredths (.34) mills on each dollar (\$1.00) of assessed valuation for the provision of funding to Bethel Park Volunteer Fire Company and costs associated with the same. Motion Carried 7 – 0. Council Members Dixon and Pape absent.

Mr. Harrison said that as a segue to what Mrs. Morrison asked, we are sorely in need of a new Public Works facility and we have problems at the Community Center that need addressed, both of which will require tax payers money. He said a survey was conducted some time ago and the idea of a Bethel Park community pool was turned down. He said he spoke with fifteen different communities about the feasibility and cost of community pools. He said that in most cases, pools must be subsidized with tax payer's money. He said there was one community that had one year that they did not have to subsidize with tax payer's money. He said this is not a very good outdoor swimming area. If we decided to put in a swimming pool, it would likely cause another tax increase.

16. Ordinance – Sewer Rate Increase

Motion by Mr. McLean and seconded by Mrs. Gibbons to approve the Sewer Rate Increase. Motion Carried 7 – 0. Council Members Dixon and Pape absent.

Mr. Harrison said this may be a never ending challenge. The requirements being imposed on handling the sewage rates are a lot more restrictive and will take more tax money.

Mr. Moury said that more than 30% of Bethel Park's sewer system falls in the ALCOSAN watershed, but we charge everyone the same rate. ALCOSAN increased rates 30% in the last two years, so a good portion of this increased rate is going to go to subsidize what we are paying to ALCOSAN.

17. Ordinance – Year 2016 Municipal Budget

Motion by Mr. McLean and seconded by Mrs. Gibbons to approve the Year 2016 Municipal Budget. Motion Carried 7 – 0. Council Members Dixon and Pape absent.

Mr. McLean said that he wanted to observe and note that last week at the election we had a ballot measure with regard to a proposed change to the Home Rule Charter. The proposed change was to have the Police Chief report directly to the Municipal Manager rather than to Municipal Council, as recommended by the Home Rule Study Commission. It was adopted and passed. At this point, we are awaiting for certification from the Allegheny County Election Department and then it will become effective as a change to our Home Rule Charter.

18. Citizens' Comments – Planning and Zoning Items

None

PLANNING AND ZONING ITEMS

19. Application No. 2015-0436 – Artis Senior Living, Major Subdivision, Conditional Use

Motion by Mr. Hannan and seconded by Mrs. Gibbons to approve Application No. 2015-0436 – Artis Senior Living, Major Subdivision, Conditional Use, 1001 Higbee Drive, Property Lot & Block No. 392-R-6, Artis Senior Living – Applicant, in accordance with the Municipal Planner's correspondence dated November 5, 2015. Motion Carried 7 – 0. Council Members Dixon and Pape absent.

Mr. Hannan asked Solicitor McTiernan if he could vote on this Application as he is a member of the organization who is selling the property. He is not an officer of the organization, he is a member.

Mr. McTiernan said yes, Mr. Hannan may vote.

20. Resolution – Grant Acceptance – Community Parks Improvement Projects

Motion by Mr. Hannan and seconded by Mrs. Gibbons to adopt the resolution which authorizes the accepting of grant funds through the Redevelopment Authority of Allegheny County and execution of the necessary contract documents for the Community Parks Improvement Projects. Motion Carried 7 – 0. Council Dixon and Pape absent.

HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE ITEMS

21. Health, Safety and Welfare Items

No Items

22. Citizens' Comments – Public Works and Maintenance Items

None

PUBLIC WORKS AND MAINTENANCE ITEMS

23. Public Works and Maintenance Items

Resolution – CDBG Grant Application – Cherry Street Storm Sewer Phase 2

Motion by Mrs. Gibbons and seconded by Mr. Hannan to adopt the resolution which authorizes the requesting of funds through the Allegheny County Department of Economic Development for the Cherry Street Storm Sewer Phase 2 Construction Projects. Motion Carried 7 – 0. Council Dixon and Pape absent.

Mr. O'Brien said that November 11th is Veterans' Day. In addition, November is the birthday of the US Marines. He wished the Marine a fond hurrah.

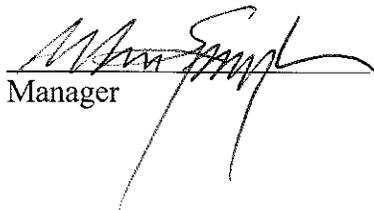
Mr. O'Brien then talked about a recent meeting with Mr. William Knaus, who told him a very touching story about how he met Sergeant Joseph Chmielowski during the war. They were both from Bethel Park and good friends. After they headed home, Police Chief Miskunas recommended that Mr. Chmielowski become a Bethel Park Police Officer. Mr. Knaus, however, advised that he go back into the military. Mr. Chmielowski accepted Chief Miskunas's offer. Shortly after, Joseph Chmielowski was killed in the line of duty as a Bethel Park Police officer.

Mr. O'Brien asked Mr. Knaus what he was doing that day. He said he was arranging to purchase two wreaths for Veterans' Day. Mr. Knaus annually places a wreath at the Veterans' Memorial every year for his friends and comrades. This year, the second wreath was going on the Bethel Park Police Memorial for Sergeant Joseph Chmielowski.

Mr. O'Brien then thanked all veterans for their service. Most especially, he wanted to thank Sergeant Joseph Chmielowski for his sacrifice and his service to our Country and our community. He also thanked Colonel Knaus to dare to remember that sacrifice is meaningless without remembrance.

24. Adjournment

Motion and second to adjourn at 8:07 P.M.


Manager