

MUNICIPALITY OF BETHEL PARK

**MINUTES
OF
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

Date: December 8, 2014

Time: 7:30 P.M.

Location: Municipal Building

1. Roll Call

Present: Council Members Colella, Dixon, Gibbons, Hannan, Harrison, McLean and Moury

Absent: Council Members O'Brien and Pape

Also Present: William J. Spagnol, Manager, Mayor Jack Allen; Judith L. Miller, Assistant Manager; Robert L. McTiernan, Solicitor; Gerard Duke, Director of Community Services, Chief David Rogan; 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

Mr. Moury announced that an Executive Session of Council was conducted on Monday, December 3, 2014 to discuss personnel issues.

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 Library programs. On Saturday, December 13, 2014 at 11:00 a.m., the Library will welcome Author Ernest D. Spisak. Mr. Spisak will discuss his book, Pittsburgh's Forgotten Civil War Regiment, which describes the experiences of the men of the 62nd regiment.

On Thursday, December 18th at 7:00 p.m. a local Caregiver Coach and a Social Worker will be present to discuss Coping and Caring During the Holidays and the

importance of self care and will provide tips to help eliminate stress through the holiday season.

Holiday Minute to Win It will be held on Monday, December 22nd at 7:00 p.m. for Grades 5 and up. This program is based on the popular TV game show.

Town Hall Speaker Series will be held on Wednesday, January 21, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at the Community Center. The speaker will be Bob Cranmer who will discuss the paranormal and his book, Demon of Brownsville Road. This program is sponsored in part by a grant from the Bethel Park Community Foundation.

Current fundraising is the winter lottery raffle. Tickets are \$5 each for the entire month of January 2015 and can be purchased at the Library.

Holiday closings at the Library will include Christmas Eve day and Christmas day, as well as New Years Eve day and New Years day.

She then reminded residents to check for winter weather closing on WTAE, WPXI or KDKA, as well as the Library Facebook and Twitter pages.

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 Rogan presented some well deserved recognition to businesses that have been of great support to the Police Department and to the community. Chief Rogan and Mayor Allen presented awards to Ray Smithyman of J&J Snack Foods; Andy Amrhein of Evey Hardware; Cindy Cooney of South Park Shops; and Bill Hess of Shop 'n Save. Chief thanked these businesses for their continued support and generosity to the community.

Chief Rogan asked if residence would like to place a blue light in their windows this holiday season. The blue light lets the Police Department know that you support them in their efforts and to recognize the officers who have given the ultimate sacrifice

The annual Food Drive will begin on December 1 and run through December 17. The Food Drive sorting will be held on December 17 at the Community Center beginning at 8:00 a.m. Please contact the Crime Prevention Office for more information on these programs and how you can provide assistance.

Chief Rogan is also seeking support from the community for the annual Adopt-A-Family program to assist a family during the holidays. This is an anonymous program and you can help by contacting the Police Department.

6. Fire Chief's Report

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

The Fire Company is currently selling lottery calendars for \$25 each for everyday in the year of 2015. Calendars can be purchased at the Clifton Station or from any fireman.

He then reminded residents that they should take special care by choosing the correct lights and extension cords for their holiday displays both indoors and outdoors and never string more than 3 sets of lights together.

If you are using a live Christmas tree, be sure to keep it well watered. Always remember not to leave lights on overnight. He also suggested to not place your used tree near your house for disposal but instead take it to a recycling location.

7. Mayor's Report

Mayor Allen thanked Christine and the programs at the Library for little children. He recently attended a program with his granddaughters and enjoyed the experience.

Mayor announced that the Holiday Lighting and Decorating Contest is going on, with judging of homes beginning the week of December 21st. If you would like to nominate a house, please contact Michelle at the Municipal Building.

Mayor Allen mentioned that last year, he attended the Bethel Park High School Christmas Choral Concert and enjoyed it immensely and highly recommends that residents attend this year on Wednesday, December 17 at the high school.

Mayor spoke about and reviewed this years winners of the People who make Bethel Park a Special Place awards. He asked that if anyone would like to nominate a potential recipient for this award to please contact his office.

8. Approval of Minutes

Regular Council Meeting Minutes of November 10, 2014.

Motion by Mr. Hannan and seconded by Mrs. Gibbons to approve the Regular Council Meeting Minutes of November 10, 2014. Motion Carried 7 – 0. Council Members O'Brien and Pape absent.

9. Bills and Payrolls

Motion by Mr. Hannan and seconded by Mrs. Gibbons to approve the Bills and Payrolls for the Municipality per Bill List #120814 in the amount of \$1,318,465.77. Motion Carried 7 – 0. Council Members O'Brien and Pape absent.

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

Beverly Moot, 5990 McPherson Avenue, gave an update of the matter of the water damage to her home from the fire at her neighbor's, the Kelly's, house in October. Until the Fire Marshal concluded his investigation as to the cause of the fire, the insurance companies put them in a holding pattern. They just learned that the cause was undetermined. This means that they are not liable for the damage to her house. The Fire Department agent gave her their assurance that they would cover the damages then seek reimbursement from Mr. Kelly's agency which is the way this situation should have been handled all along. She was assured that this situation would be taken care of by the end of this month. She was in attendance to say that she is cautiously optimistic that there may be a light at the end of the tunnel. She again suggested that it would be a good idea to earmark some of the tax money that the Fire Company is receiving be placed in escrow for this type of situation should it ever occur again.

Bob Swiech, 2848 West Munroe Street. Mr. Swiech said:

"This is the fourth time I've addressed the Council concerning the mentally challenged houses being established in Bethel Park totally in secret with none of the residents being notified and as just a little history, we have been told that there is no obligation to tell us. We have a problem with that but I guess that will be coming out shortly. I refer to these houses as problematic mental behavioral treatment facilities. We've gone back and forth a couple of times about the houses, they are staffed by nurses that do treat mentally ill people in these homes. I call them that the problematic mental behavioral treatment facilities, that's my term because of the literature and the information I got from the companies that are providing the treatment. When I address Council, when I address, I sent a letters, I've been corresponding with Mr. Spagnol. He turns everything over to Mr. McTiernan, the solicitor. These houses are called mentally challenged homes, disabled homes, group homes. I checked out my statement compared with the instructions, or the information that I have from people that actually work in these homes, some are acquaintances of mine, counselors, and with these other names other than what I've been calling them are and I was told these are the politically correct names that are being established for the homes rather than calling them the whole big what they are. In the past, while discussing these houses before Council, I've been told that they have been around with the knowledge of Council and Bethel Park for over 20 years and there is nothing that can be done about it because it is Federal Law. Even though we discussed these houses on many occasion, the solicitor has notified me there are not any treatment facilities in Bethel Park. I have his letter right here, or you should have it anyway. In addition, I've questioned the potential danger of these houses to the community. The solicitor, again, does not answer my question of potential danger, he answers them with the response of specific danger, that's what the Federal Law says. That law has changed from specific danger to potential danger that changes the law as far as the community is concerned as far as the danger is. The solicitor's letter of November 18th will be formally addressed in the near future, but I believe these two issues contained in that letter deserve even a partial address at this time. In addition to the houses that we have now, I've been given a

summary of the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act proposed by Congressman Tim Murphy, the number is HR3717. I just have a second here, not all the law is questionable, but one section is terribly troubling. The new program that will be established with this law and connected to these homes that we have now established in the community is called the AOT or Assisted Outpatient Treatment. The eligible participants, this is directly right from the law, the eligible participants for AOT must have a history of violence, incarceration, or medically unnecessary hospitalizations without supervision and treatment may be a danger to self or others in the community. I'll just leave it at that. Thank you."

11. Citizens' Comments – General Policy and Finance Items

None

GENERAL POLICY AND FINANCE

12. General Policy and Finance Items

2015 Regular Council Meeting Dates

Motion by Mr. McLean and seconded by Mrs. Gibbons to approve the following year 2015 Regular Council Meeting dated with a starting time of 7:30 P.M.: January 12, February 9, March 9, April 13, May 11, June 8, July 13, August 10, September 14, October 12, November 9, December 14. Motion Carried 7 – 0. Council Members O'Brien and Pape absent.

13. Ordinance – Year 2015 Administrative Salaries

Motion by Mr. McLean and seconded by Mrs. Gibbons to approve the ordinance providing 2015 salaries for the Bethel Park Management, Supervisory and other confidential employees. Motion Carried 7 – 0. Council Members O'Brien and Pape absent.

14. Appointment – Bank of Record

Motion by Mr. McLean and seconded by Mrs. Gibbons to approve Brentwood Bank as the Municipality's Bank of Record effective January 1, 2015, in accordance with the Finance Director's correspondence dated November 26, 2014. Motion Carried 7 – 0. Council Members O'Brien and Pape absent.

Mr. Moury said that Mr. O'Brien is not present this evening but he asked that we announce that he will be participating in a musical at the South Hills Assembly of God entitled a Wild, Wild Christmas. Mr. Moury said it would be worth it to go to see Mr. O'Brien. It will be held on Friday December 12, Saturday, December 13 and Sunday, December 14 at 7:00 p.m. Admission is free and more information is available at the South Hill Assembly's website or call 412-835-8900.

PLANNING AND ZONING ITEMS

15. Planning and Zoning Items

No Items

HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE ITEMS

16. Health, Safety and Welfare Items

No Items

PUBLIC WORKS AND MAINTENANCE ITEMS

17. Public Works and Maintenance Items

No Items

18. Adjournment

Motion and second to adjourn at 7:55 P.M.

Manager

