

MUNICIPALITY OF BETHEL PARK

**MINUTES
OF
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

Date: December 9, 2013

Time: 7:30 P.M.

Location: Municipal Building

1. Roll Call

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

Absent: Council Member Pape

Also Present: Mayor Morton; William Spagnol, 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, December 9, 2013 to discuss litigation and personnel issues.

Reports of Officials

4. Library Director's Report

Library Director, Christine McIntosh was not in attendance.

5. Police Chief's Report

Police Chief John Mackey said that the next Crime Watch meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 17, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. at the Community Center, where the U.S. Postal Inspector David Gealy will speak on mail fraud and identity theft. Light refreshment will be served after the meeting.

Chief announced that the Department continues to accept applications for the 2014 Citizens' Police Academy. The Academy begins on Wednesday, January 15, 2014 and runs for 12 consecutive weeks. Agencies from federal, state and county, as well as Bethel Park officers, will act as guest instructors. Anyone interested in attending can contact Officer Tom Rigatti or visit the Police Records Room to apply. There is a limit of 50 members.

The Annual Food Drive continues until Wednesday, December 18. Police Officers and Public Works employees will bring all donated food to the Fire Hall and volunteers will distribute the food for donations. Chief thanked Giant Eagle on Route 88, Shop 'n Save on Route 88 and Giant Eagle Market District for welcoming Police Officers, Paramedics and Firemen from Bethel Park to collect monetary and food donations this past weekend.

The Adopt-A-Family program will assist 37 or more families this year. This program started a few years ago where the Police Department accepts donations for families in need who would not otherwise be able to provide Christmas gifts for their children. For more information on this program, please contact Officer Tom Rigatti.

6. Fire Chief's Report

There was no Fire Company Representative present. The Fire Company is meeting this evening for elections. The monthly fire report will be given in January.

7. Mayor's Report

Mayor Morton announced the 90 Plus Club Birthdays for the month of December.

Mayor Morton recognized the Marine Corps League Detachment 726 in attendance. The League presented a Detachment Distinguish Service Award to Bethel Park Cable Director, Dave Cable, in recognition of his numerous years of supporting Detachment 726 activities, most recently the Marine Corps Birthday Ball Celebration.

At this time, Sue Means, newly elected Allegheny Councilwomen in District 5, read a Proclamation to Mayor Morton in honor of his 4-term, 16 year public service as Mayor of Bethel Park.

Ms. Means said she is looking forward to working with Bethel Park Council and will dedicate herself to help make District 5 a better place. She said she feels honored that the people of Bethel Park elected her to represent them.

Council President Moury presented Mayor Morton with a plaque commemorating and congratulating him on his service as Mayor of Bethel Park. Mr. Moury thanked Mayor Morton on behalf of Municipal Council and all the citizens of Bethel Park.

Mr. O'Brien said he was honored to sit next to Mayor Morton in Committee Meetings and he thanked him for his hard work, humor, honesty and for being an outstanding Mayor. In addition, he is a great husband, father and good friend and he served his county and community with great honor.

Mr. Spagnol said that as Municipal Manager, it has been a pleasure and an honor to work with him for all these years, and staff feels the same way. He said everyone appreciates everything Mayor Morton has done and that he will be missed.

Mr. Dixon said that if you open any dictionary and look up the word Mayor, you will see a picture of Mr. Morton. He has been the best we ever had and it has been a pleasure.

Mr. O'Brien left at 7:55 p.m.

8. Approval of Minutes

Regular Council Meeting Minutes of November 11, 2013.

Motion by Mr. Allen and seconded by Mrs. Gibbons to approve the Regular Council Meeting Minutes of November 11, 2013. Motion Carried 7 – 0. Council Members O'Brien and Pape absent.

9. Bills and Payrolls

Motion by Mr. Allen and seconded by Mrs. Gibbons to approve the Bills and Payrolls for the Municipality per Bill List #120913 in the amount of \$812,829.84. Motion Carried 7 – 0. Council Members O'Brien and Pape absent.

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

Mrs. Anita Potocar, 3544 Mapleview Drive, spoke about the deer population in her neighborhood and the dangerous situation they cause people, shrubs and flowers. She said health and safety is very important to all of Council as well as to all the residents. She said she spoke with officials from Mt. Lebanon and Upper St. Clair. She said the damage the deer are doing to the property in her neighborhood is getting out of control and has increased tremendously. She asked for comments from Council and is interested to know what plans Bethel Park has to eliminate or reduce this problem.

Mr. Moury said he thought that the controlled hunt was expanded this year and that Chief Mackey will update us at the January meeting and we can then talk about what we will be doing to move forward. He said other communities are trying to address this similar to Bethel Park. It costs a lot of money and there are many requirements.

Mrs. Potocar asked where the bow and arrow was done.

Mr. Moury said it is primarily in the Bethel Park portion of South Park. He said we tried to expand it, following the State Game Laws, into other parcels throughout the community and that we will recap this matter next month.

Mrs. Potocar said she drives through South Park but does not see deer there. She said it is not a South Park problem, it is a residential problem.

PLANNING AND ZONING ITEMS

11. Citizens' Comments – Planning and Zoning Items

None

12. Planning and Zoning Items

Brush Run Road Watershed/Amendment to Agreement for Sewage Conveyance

Motion by Mr. Dixon and seconded by Mr. Allen to approve the Amendment to the Agreement for Sewage Conveyance for the Brush Run Watershed in accordance with the Municipal Planner's correspondence dated November 25, 2013. Motion Carried 7 – 0. Council Members O'Brien and Pape absent.

13. Application No. 2013-0659 – Hillcrest Christian Academy Addition, Major Land Development, 2500 Bethel Church Road, Hillcrest Christian Academy, Applicant

Motion by Mr. Dixon and seconded by Mr. Allen to approve Application No. 2013-0659 - Hillcrest Christian Academy Addition, Major Land Development, 2500 Bethel Church Road, Hillcrest Christian Academy, Applicant, in accordance with the Municipal Planner's correspondence dated November 26, 2013. Motion Carried 7 – 0. Council Members O'Brien and Pape absent.

HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE ITEMS

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

No Items

Mr. McLean mentioned that the Bethel Park Recreation Town Hall Speaker Series will welcome Dr. Cyril Wecht to the Bethel Park Community Center as the featured speaker on Thursday, January 23, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. Admission is free.

Mr. McLean also said that there is a very nice retrospective interview with Mayor Morton that you can watch by going to the Bethel Park website and clicking the link. The Mayor gives his reflections on his 16 years of serving as the Mayor of Bethel Park.

PUBLIC WORKS AND MAINTENANCE ITEMS

15. Public Works and Maintenance Items

No Items

Mrs. Gibbons reminded everyone that we are changing garbage collection service beginning January 2014 and asked Mr. Smith to comment with an update on the new company.

Mr. Smith spoke about the new bid that was just awarded to Republic Services. Republic will replace our current hauler, Waste Management, as of January 1, 2014. He said that since the awarding of the contract, staff and Republic have been working together to make the transition seamless. Services will not change, the routes will remain the same, garbage and recycling will still be picked up on the same day and it still must be placed curbside prior to 7:00 a.m. Leaf recycling will remain at the same time of the year. As of January 1, Republic's red trucks will be replacing the green Waste Management trucks that we currently see. One improvement has been made with this new contract and that is yard waste pickups. Yard waste can be placed in traditional brown paper recycling bags on the third Saturday of each month from April through September. In addition, residents will receive the annual municipal waste collection letter which will describe the details as well as the phone numbers to call if you have questions, complaints or issues. Republic is also providing a website address for questions.

GENERAL POLICY AND FINANCE

16. Citizens' Comments – General Policy and Finance Items

None

17. General Policy and Finance Items

2014 Regular Council Meeting Dates

Motion by Mr. Hannan and seconded by Mr. Allen to approve the following year 2014 Regular Council Meeting dated with a starting time of 7:30 P.M.: January 13, February 10, March 10, April 14, May 12, June 9, July 14, August 11, September 8, October 13, November 10, December 8. Motion Carried 7 – 0. Council Members O'Brien and Pape absent.

Mr. Harrison made mention that the Regular Council Meetings are always the second Monday of each month.

18. Ordinance – Year 2014 Administrative Salaries

Motion by Mr. Hannan and seconded by Mr. Allen to approve the ordinance providing 2014 salaries for the Bethel Park Management, Supervisory and other

confidential Employees. Motion Carried 7 – 0. Council Members Pape and O'Brien absent.

19. Ordinance – Separation of Bids

Motion by Mr. Hannan and seconded by Mr. Allen to approve the ordinance of the Municipality of Bethel Park, amending Article 1 of Chapter 4 of the Code of the Municipality of Bethel Park, Pennsylvania, by providing the Municipality with the option to either seek separate bids for plumbing, heating, ventilation and electrical work or to solicit bids for a single prime contractor for the erection, construction and alteration of public buildings. Motion Carried 7 – 0. Council Members O'Brien and Pape absent.

Mr. Harrison said:

“Could we get someone to tell the public what motivated this motion?”

Mr. McTiernan said:

“Yes, Mr. Harrison. There is a law called the Separations Act, it's a state law that requires whenever a municipality builds a building, it has to do separate bidding with plumbing, heating, ventilation and electrical work in addition to the general contract. Often, the bidding of all those items together is more efficient, it is more economical on certain kinds of projects. The Borough Code has been amended to allow all boroughs in the Commonwealth to make a decision on whether they want to do those separately or whether it makes more sense to do them together and all this will do is amend the Bethel Park Code of Ordinances as a Home Rule Community to just give this Council the same power to make that determination, that same discretion, as it would have if it had been a borough.”

Mr. Harrison said:

“The motivation came from the fire company wanting to build a new building, is that correct?”

Mr. McTiernan said:

“Well, that is one of the issues that was raised by the architect, that it might be more efficient to do a particular project like that with just one general contractor. But it wasn't the sole reason, it is really an authority you should have generally.”

Mr. Harrison said:

“Thank you.”

Mr. Moury said:

“Before we go to Item D and E, I would just like to notify Council that I just received notice that we are going to be voting on two issues regarding the contract

with the Fire Department and the new fire station, and the membership of the fire department has approved the contract that we are going to be voting on tonight. So at this time, I would like to turn to Mr. Hannan.”

20. Ordinance – Purchase of Fire Company Property

Motion by Mr. Hannan and seconded by Mr. Allen to approve the Ordinance authorizing the conveyance of seven (7) parcels of real property from the Bethel Park Volunteer Fire Company to the Municipality of Bethel Park. Motion Carried 7-0. Council Members O'Brien and Pape absent.

Mr. Moury passed the gavel to Council Vice President Hannan.

Mr. Moury said:

“Real quick, the two next items on here are about something we’ve been talking about for the last probably fifteen months at our regular meetings. Without going into any great details, as everybody knows, for the last three or four years, there’s been a subcommittee of Council meeting with the Bethel Park Volunteer Fire Department to kind of come up with a plan on where we could be in five and ten years from now. We’ve identified a number of areas, they have dropped the age requirement, the membership is up in probably the last two years by 15 or 16 people. But the next biggest item was the Referendum question this past May. I guess first off I would like to thank the residents of Bethel Park that overwhelmingly passed the .34 mill dedicated tax to support the operations of the Fire Department. A lot of the decisions we’re voting on tonight were really decided last year prior to going to the Referendum question. In summary, the Fire Department is going to transfer ownership of all their properties, that’s this motion that we are going to be voting on first, to the Municipality. The .34 mill dedicated tax will be collected by the Municipality. There is a separate fund in the budget we adopted. The Municipality will own and act as the landlord, so to speak, of the existing fire stations, as well as building a new fire station. That will probably be coming up within the next few months as the plans are drawing to a close. But this is a combination of a lot of work, it’s like I said, to thank the residents, to thank the Bethel Park Volunteer Firemen for the work they do and basically this will set, hopefully, Bethel Park up with a fire department that can worry about the one thing they do best, is fighting fires. The Municipality will own and operate the buildings. The second item, Item E that we are voting on tonight, is what the agreement is going to be. And it really details who’s going to do what, who’s going to control what. All the money will be collected, as I said earlier, by the Municipality and spent by the Municipality. A month or so ago, we did a bond issue, so all the expenses and everything will be paid, utilities, everything will be paid for the operations from this dedicated tax. So the first Ordinance is to transfer property ownership and the second one is the actual agreement.”

Mr. Hannan passed the gavel back to Mr. Moury.

21. Agreement between the Municipality of Bethel Park and the Bethel Park Volunteer Fire Company

Motion by Mr. Hannan and seconded by Mr. Allen to approve the agreement between the Municipality of Bethel Park and the Bethel Park Volunteer Fire Company as related to the construction of a new fire station and other related issues. Motion Carried 7 – 0. Council Members O'Brien and Pape absent.

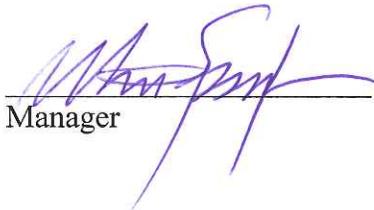
22. Resignation of Council Member Jack Allen, Ward 2

Motion by Mr. Hannan and seconded by Mr. Allen to accept the resignation of Council Member Jack Allen, Ward 2, effective January 5, 2014, per correspondence dated December 9, 2013. Motion Carried 7 – 0. Council Members O'Brien and Pape absent.

Mr. Allen reflected on the 16 years he served on Municipal Council. He said many positive events took place during his time on Council, such as the opening of the Community Center and Millennium Park and the dedication of the Veterans' Memorial. He also mentioned a microburst storm near his home several years ago where all the Bethel Park forces rolled up their sleeves and worked together to help the residents get back on their feet. He said he enjoyed working with the entire Council. He said he knows, and has been told, that as Mayor he has big shoes to fill, but he will work to the best of his ability to make Mayor Morton proud.

23. Adjournment

Motion and second to adjourn at 8:19 P.M.



Manager