

MUNICIPALITY OF BETHEL PARK

**MINUTES
OF
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

Date: July 14, 2014

Time: 7:30 P.M.

Location: Municipal Building

1. Roll Call

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

Absent: Council Member Pape

Also Present: Mayor Jack Allen; Judith L. Miller, Assistant Manager; Robert L. McTiernan, Solicitor; Gerard Duke, Director of Community Services, Police Lt. 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

An Executive Session of Council was conducted on Monday, June 23, 2014 to discuss personnel issues and on Monday, July 14, 2014, to discuss personnel and legal 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 that the summer reading programs for children through adult will run through the end of the first week of August. Where Heroes Lie program will be held by Who's Your Brother.org on Thursday, July 31st at 7:00 p.m.

Freegal, a downloadable music service containing three million song titles, allows you to download three music tracks per week. No software is needed and the service is free.

With Hoopla, you can borrow free video, music and audiobooks for your PC, tablet or smart phone. Access to Testing and Education Reference Center offers services for resume builder, study guides, college search, Scholarship search and scored practice tests for AP, GED, SAT/ACT, PSAT, Microsoft Office tutorials, Military test, ASE Automotive test prep, real estate test prep and GRE/LSAT and MCAT.

Ms. McIntosh also announced that the library is collecting back to school supplies for SHIM to provide to students in need until July 31, 2014.

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

Police Lt. David Rogan announced that the next Crime Watch Meeting will be held on Monday, August 25, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. at the Bethel Park Community Center.

He said that applications are now being taken for residents who wish to attend the next Citizens' Police Academy. This is a 12-week class beginning January 14, 2015 spotlighting various law enforcement entities.

Bethel Park Police Department and Mt. Lebanon Police Department teamed up with All State Insurance and will sponsor a safety program. All State will purchase a state of the art speed monitor that both communities will share. This message board will provide school zone and pedestrian safety as well as a safe driving simulator for teenaged drivers.

On August 13, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. the committee will sponsor a charity softball game between the Bethel Park and Mt. Lebanon Police Departments at Millennium Park with proceeds going to Special Olympics. All State will make a donation on behalf of both of the police departments. This is a community challenge to see who can raise the most funds. If anyone would like to be involved or would like to make a donation, please contact our Crime Prevention Office at the Police Department.

The next DEA Drug Take Back Program will be held in this Fall. More information on the date of this program is forthcoming. The department received a grant for a drop box for unwanted and expired medications in pill form only. The drop box is located in the lobby of the Police Department and is available for drop-off all day.

6. Fire Chief's Report

Fire Chief David Gerber gave the fire report for June. Chief Gerber announced that the second fundraising mailing just went out. He said he is aware that tax statements were received by residents showing the new tax allocation to the Fire Company. He explained that these tax funds are being directed to the fire company's buildings as well as the new building going up on Brightwood Road. The fund raising donations are strictly for fire department equipment, vehicles, computer, insurance, etc.

He said that the demolition at Brightwood station has begun. Thereafter, the Municipality will begin a sewer project there. Construction of the new station is set to begin shortly after the New Year.

7. Mayor's Report

Mayor Allen announced that Bethel Park has been informed by a study out of California that they we one of the best places for home ownership based on affordability, home ownership growth and home ownership rates. Mayor read statistics, which makes Bethel Park number 10 in the state of Pennsylvania.

In keeping with the Mayor's theme, the Make Bethel Park a Better Place to Live award this month goes to the South Hill Veterans Honor Guard. Mr. Bill Babcock announced the names of the members in attendance who received an award from Mayor Allen. Mr. Babcock spoke about the group, which was formed in June of 2000. He gave a brief history of the organization and explained that these volunteers have provided military honors to over 3,250 veterans' funerals since they formed. This is a volunteer organization that receives no compensation and is represented by all branches of the military.

8. Approval of Minutes

Regular Council Meeting Minutes of June 9, 2014.

Motion by Mr. Hannan and seconded by Mrs. Gibbons to approve the Regular Council Meeting Minutes of June 9, 2014. Motion Carried 8 – 0. Council Member 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 #071414 in the amount of \$1,662,187.27. Motion Carried 8 – 0. Council Member Pape absent.

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

None

GENERAL POLICY AND FINANCE

11. Citizens' Comments – General Policy and Finance Items

None

12. General Policy and Finance Items

Approval of Retirement

Motion by Mr. McLean and seconded by Mrs. Gibbons to approve the DROP Pension Retirement Election of Police Officer David A. DiToppa with an effective date of December 31, 2014, in accordance with Ordinance No. 08-10-09. Motion Carried 8 - 0. Council Member Pape absent.

Mr. Harrison said:

“At the January meeting this year, I announced that I was still active in pursuing a change in the 1960 vintage Prevailing Wage Legislation. The next day, and I’ll say in that effort, Representative John Maher, in two sessions of the legislature, introduced bills to make the changes and those bills never made it to the light of day. After making the announcement at the January meeting, the next day, I sent Representative Maher an email requesting that he inform me of what actions if any has been taken and will be taken and what his plans are in promoting this like he did previously. Each month since then, I’ve indicated to the public that I’ve gotten no reply from Representative Maher. So last month, I sent Representative Maher a follow up email reminding him of the previous one and telling him that the next public meeting here will be July 14th, tonight, and I’d appreciate hearing from him and I haven’t heard from him. I checked my email before I came to the meeting. I just think that Bethel Park is significant community in the area he represents in the state legislature. I think he owes this governing body and the public some kind of a response. Maybe he’s lost interest, maybe he thinks it’s hopeless, whatever, but I think he owes us a response. So I’m going to continue to keep people informed. I figure one of these days a couple of the Council members congratulate Representative Maher for showing up with one of these check presentation that he comes back for and so what I’m looking forward to is one of these days Representative Maher will probably show up at our meeting and then I’ll be able to talk to him what I call eyeball to eyeball. But I’m going to continue to ask him to tell us what effort he is taking, can take or will take in behalf of this effort. Thank you very much.”

Mr. Moury said, for public information, this year’s budget allotted for new Welcome to Bethel Park signs. He has been assured that by the end of next week, they will all be out.

PLANNING AND ZONING ITEMS

13. Planning and Zoning Items

No Items

HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE ITEMS

14. Health, Safety and Welfare Items

No Items

PUBLIC WORKS AND MAINTENANCE ITEMS

15. Public Works and Maintenance Items

No Items

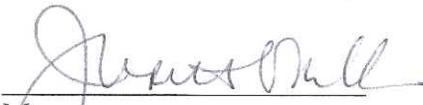
Mr. O'Brien announced Mr. George Atkins, after much work with the County, realized a dream and has organized a South Park Gospel Night which will bring together all gospel music from the South Hills. Music from many of the South Hills churches will be featured. The event is scheduled for Friday, July 25, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. at the South Park Amphitheater.

Mr. O'Brien spoke about the flags that have been displayed at the Veterans' Memorial for the month of July. As a special interest item, each Council member read the history of a flag which included the Traditional Continental Navy Jack Flag read by Mayor Allen; the Philadelphia Light Horse Troop Flag read by Councilman Colella; the Star-Spangled Banner 1795 flag read by Councilman Dixon; the 34-Star Flag read by Council President Moury; 24-Star Flag read by Mr. Hannan; the Gadsden Flag read by Councilman Harrison; the Betsy Ross Flag read by Councilman O'Brien; the Whiskey Rebellion Flag 1794 and the Grand Union Flag read by Councilman McLean; the Bennington Flag 1777 and the 125th Pennsylvania Volunteers Flag read by Councilwoman Gibbons.

Mr. O'Brien thanked Council for their beautiful readings and invited all residents to visit the Veterans' Memorial plaza to view these special flags which will be on display through the end of July.

16. Adjournment

Motion and second to adjourn at 8:20 P.M.


Manager