

MUNICIPALITY OF BETHEL PARK

**MINUTES
OF
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

Date: September 10, 2012

Time: 7:30 P.M.

Location: Municipal Building

1. Roll Call

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

Absent: Council Members Allen and Pape

Also Present: Mayor Morton; William Spagnol, Manager; Judith Miller, Assistant Manager; Robert McTiernan, Solicitor; Robert M. Cygrymus, Director of Community Services; Police Chief John Mackey; Gerard Duke, Municipal Planner; Mark Romito, Finance Director; Mike Smith, Environmental Engineer; Jean Statler, Municipal Engineer

Mr. Moury asked that we remain standing after the Pledge of Allegiance for a Moment of Silence in memory of 9-11 and for all those in uniform who protect us and keep us safe.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Flag Ceremony was performed by Boy Scouts Troop 215, Crocodile Patrol

A Moment of Silence was held in Remembrance of the Eleventh Anniversary of September 11th.

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 said that the Fall programs have begun at the Library. Children's story time, Mother Goose, is being held on Saturdays at 10:00 a.m. Programs for older children, teens and adults have also begun.

The Library now offers one hour one-on-one technology appointments for software such as Word, Publisher, or for e-readers and digital cameras on Mondays and Tuesdays during the day and Wednesday evenings from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Please call the Library for an appointment.

She then announced that a new book club, Crossover Book Club, featuring teen titles that appeal to adults, will be held on Thursday, September 20 at 7:00 p.m. Under the Never Sky by Veronica Rossi will be read that night.

Ms. McIntosh announced the upcoming fundraising events. Chick-Fil-A Spirit Night will be held on Monday, September 17th from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. Just mention the Library and they will receive 15 percent of the sales. The annual Fall Craft/Vendor Fair will be held at the Community Center on Saturday, October 13th from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Any interested vendors should contact her or Erin. All proceeds of fundraising activities support the programs and services of the Library.

For more information on this policy or any of the programs and services offered by the Library, visit website at www.bethelparklibrary.org

5. Police Chief's Report

Police Chief John Mackey announced that the next Crime Watch Meeting will be held on Monday, September 17th at 6:30 p.m. at the Community Center. Also, applications for the 2013 Citizens' Police Academy are available through the Police Department Records Room or by contacting Officer Tom Rigatti by phone or email. This is a 12-week course and will cover topics from the FBI, Secret Service and U.S. Marshals. Bethel Park Police will provide instruction. Class size is limited to 40 participants.

He also mentioned that the next Drug Enforcement Drug Take Back Program is scheduled for Saturday, September 29, 2012 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at two locations, the Bethel Park Community Center and the Highmark Direct Building, 1175 North Highland Road. You can bring all expired, unused or unwanted medications, out of the bottles, to be disposed of properly. No liquid medications or needles will be accepted. This has been an extremely successful program.

Chief Mackey spoke about the Police Department's continued commitment to the Children's Identification Program. Photos and thumbprints are taken of students and given to parents in the event of a missing child. He mentioned that the equipment used for this process is old and in need of replacement. The Department looked into new equipment which is extremely expensive. Chief said that with funds from the Crime Prevention budget and a grant from Walmart, along with monetary donations from Bethel Park Elementary PTO's, they were still coming up short. The Department turned to the Bethel Park Community

Foundation and filed for a grant. The Foundation awarded them a grant in the amount of \$5,500 for this equipment. Chief asked that if you know anyone on the Foundation Board, please thank them for their continued support to the Police Department for worthwhile programs. This program would not have been able to continue without their help.

6. Fire Chief's Report

Third Lieutenant Tom Kelton gave the Fire Report for the month of August. He reminded everyone to have their chimneys and fireplaces checked for the upcoming winter season and to regularly check and replace batteries in smoke detectors and CO alarms. Lt. Kelton asked the residents for their continued support to the Fire Department as it is never too late to donate.

7. Mayor's Report

Mayor Morton introduced Eagle Scout Steven Condre, Troop 215, and asked him to report on his progress with the Yellow Dot program that he has been working on.

Steven announced that funds have been coming in. He provided a Yellow Dot kit to each Council Member. The project is going well and he is still accepting donations. He said the project is similar to the Vial of Life where you place a yellow dot on your vehicle alerting that vital information regarding medical conditions for up to three drivers is placed in the glove box. This information assists medical responders in case of an accident or emergency.

Mr. Harrison said he has been working with Steven, along with Nora Helfrich of Tri Community South EMS. He and Nora believe that this program will compliment the Vial of Life and will grow in the next few years to cover the tri community area because it is that valuable.

Steven thanked the Bethel Park Community Foundation for their grant and for all those who have contributed to his project. He then thanked Municipal Council and Mayor Morton for having him at the meeting.

Mayor Morton announced the 90+ Club birthdays for September. He said the 8th Annual 90+ Club Luncheon will be held on Friday, October 5th at noon at the Community Center which is always well attended. Invitations are being mailed this week.

Mayor mentioned that Community Day was cancelled on Saturday, September 8th due to inclement weather. As there is no make-up day, Mayor thanked all the vendors and the people who worked so hard on this event, most especially the Recreation Department as this is a very huge undertaking.

8. Approval of Minutes

Regular Council Meeting Minutes of August 13, 2012.

Motion by Mr. Hannan and seconded by Mrs. Gibbons to approve the Regular Council Meeting Minutes of August 13, 2012. Motion Carried 7 – 0. Council Members Allen 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 #091012 in the amount of \$1,365,690.66. Motion Carried 7 - 0. Council Members Allen and 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

Ordinance – HEART Act – Municipality of Bethel Park Police Pension Plan

Motion by Mr. Hannan and seconded by Mrs. Gibbons to approve the ordinance amending the Municipality of Bethel Park Pension Plan to comply with the Heroes Earnings Assistance Relief Tax Act and the Internal Revenue Code. Motion Carried 7 – 0. Council Members Allen and Pape absent.

Mr. Spagnol gave an overview of the HEART Act stating that this keeps the Police Pension Fund in compliance with IRS regulations. It also protects those individuals working for the Municipality who sign up for military service and should be deceased when they are away from the Municipality. This protects the survivors' benefit rights wherein the time for retirement would be placed at the time they were deceased serving the Military, not the time they left their employment with the Municipality of Bethel Park.

Mr. Moury asked Mr. Romito to speak about the upcoming change in sewer billing.

Mr. Romito said that Pennsylvania American Water Company is eliminating the municipal sewer billing service effective at the end of September. Beginning October, we were forced to choose someone else to send the sewer bills and that company will be Jordan Tax Service. The water bill will still be coming from Pennsylvania American Water Company. The sewer portion will be placed on a separate bill from Jordan Tax Service. There are several improvements from the last time Jordan billed. The bill will be a letter-sized form rather than the postcard size used previously. They are offering expanded payment options such as on

line, automatic checking account withdraw, regular check payment by mail, at the Jordan Tax Service location or in the orange Jordan Tax box located at the Municipal Building. In addition, they are offering an e-billing option where you could receive your bill via email that eliminates paperwork and postage costs. This is an option we are encouraging residents to sign up for.

Mr. Harrison asked Mr. Romito if there will be information available for residents to sign up to use the e-billing option.

Mr. Romito said that we expect all the information to be included in the first bill in October, as long as the system is set up and ready to go. You will not be able to sign up prior to receiving the first bill because you will need the information on your account in order to activate the e-billing account. Instructions will also be available on the Municipal website.

Mr. Moury announced that he has good news and bad news. He said Council has received the 2013 Preliminary Budget two weeks ago. The good news is that the millage rate is projected to remain the same as it was for 2012. The bad news is that we are looking at potentially raising sewer rates. We have had several bond issues. Over the last twenty years, we have had in excess of \$40 Million of work on our sewer system. He said this is something that has been talked about for a couple of years. He encourages everyone who would like to review the preliminary budget to do so by visiting the Library where a copy has been made available. He said that the first meeting to discuss the budget will be held on Monday, September 24, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. in the Caucus Room. We can potentially have a meeting on October 8th, October 15th, October 22nd, with a tentative date of October 22nd for a Public Hearing, provided it is in agreement with Council, and then potentially adopt the 2013 Budget at the November 12, 2012 Regular Council Meeting. If anyone has questions, Mr. Moury encourages Council to speak with the appropriate staff member with any issues, comments or questions so the meetings will be as productive as possible. Mr. Moury said, as he stated last year, this is a work in progress.

Mr. Harrison said he wanted to embellish a little bit. He said that at the last two meetings from the dais, he had spoken to the public and to the staff encouraging them to sharpen their pencil in preparing the preliminary 2013 budget, minimize the tax burden on the public and continue to provide the services at the present level, and the first sentence in the second paragraph that Mr. Spagnol sent to Council, saying the Mayor says the preliminary general fund budget, which is the largest of the funds, is presented with no proposed tax increase. He said that is the good news as Mr. Moury told you. He said they done good. The reason he wanted to speak to this is that since he brought it up the last two meetings by encouraging them to do that, he wanted to thank them for having sharpened their pencils and whatever they did to come up with this proposal.

PLANNING AND ZONING ITEMS

13. Citizens' Comments – Planning and Zoning Items

None

14. Planning and Zoning Items

Application No. 2011-0360 – 88 Investors, L.P., Plan No. 1, Major Subdivision, 88 Investors, L.P., Applicant

Motion by Mr. Dixon and seconded by Mrs. Gibbons to re-approve Application No. 2011-0360, 88 Investors, L.P., Plan No. 1, Major Subdivision for recording purposes. Motion Carried 7 – 0. Council Members Allen and Pape absent.

Mr. Moury said, in laymen's terms, that this is Sheetz on Route 88, the former Columbia Gas site that has been in progress for several years.

Mr. Harrison said he'd like to put on record the fact that this development is in the 5th Ward and he gets a lot of question about it. Most of them, since it has not yet developed and was expected to develop almost a year ago, were hopeful that it was going to disappear. The bad new is that it is not going to disappear. It looks like it is a matter of time before they start the project.

Mr. Dixon addressed residents in Ward 4 regarding the Locust Road area. He said a letter went to PennDOT concerning the pedestrian access at the guiderail and is awaiting word back from PennDOT to see if that will be approved. As soon as he hears, he will advise everyone.

HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE ITEMS

15. Health, Safety and Welfare Items

None

Mr. McLean presented two public service announcements. The first is that this Saturday, September 15th, there will be an opportunity for residents to dispose of certain common household chemicals otherwise might not be collected in the regular trash pickups. The event will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the South Park Wave Pool parking lot. There is a list of items that will be accepted and will not be accepted on the Bethel Park website.

The second announcement, Mr. McLean said, is that Tri Community South EMS is having a free flu shot day for anyone over the age of 18 on Saturday, September 22nd from noon until 3:00 p.m. at the Community Center Classroom. This event is being advertised on BPTV and on the Bethel Park website.

PUBLIC WORKS AND MAINTENANCE ITEMS

16. Public Works and Maintenance Items

None

Mr. O'Brien said that this month the Veterans' Memorial is recognizing the Navy. Anyone who would like to get their picture taken with the flags can come to the memorial at any time. He then announced that last month we lost one of our World War II veterans, Seaman First Class James Francis Fox. He is part of the greatest generation that ever served this country. Mr. O'Brien spoke of the many great attributes of Mr. Fox and his humility, his exemplary service to our country, to Bethel Park and for the Veterans' Memorial Committee. Mr. O'Brien read a poem written by Judith Mayer commemorating Mr. Fox.

17. Adjournment

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



Manager