

MUNICIPALITY OF BETHEL PARK

**MINUTES
OF
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

Date: September 12, 2011

Time: 7:30 P.M.

Location: Municipal Building

1. Roll Call

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

Absent: Council Members Allen, Moury and Pape

Also Present: Mayor Morton; William Spagnol, Manager; Robert McTiernan, Solicitor; Judith Miller, Assistant Manager; Robert 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

Meeting Note: Councilman and General Policy and Finance Chairman James Hannan conducted the Regular Meeting of Monday, September 12, 2011 in the absence of Council President Tim Moury and Council Vice President Jack Allen.

Councilman Hannan served in the capacity of Acting President in the absence of Moury and Allen.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

A moment of silence was observed in honor of the tenth anniversary of September 11, 2001.

3. Chair Announcement

An Executive Session of Council was conducted on September 12, 2011 to discuss Police contract negotiations.

Reports of Officials

4. Librarian'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 September is National Library Card Sign-Up Month. The card is free to all Allegheny County residents and includes access to books, DVDs, audiobooks, e-books, magazines and music CDs. If you don't have a card, now is a good time to get one. You can borrow from any Allegheny County library.

One of the library's databases is the Gale Testing & Education Reference Center. This database has practice exams for GED, AP, VoTech, PSAT, SAT, CLEP, GRE, TOEFL & U.S. Citizenship. It is a College and Grad school search tool and resume builder.

Ms. McIntosh mentioned that September 24 to October 2 is Banned Book Week. This is an annual event celebrating the freedom to read and the importance of the First Amendment. Banned Book Week highlights the benefits of free and open access to information while drawing attention to the harms of censorship by spotlighting actual or attempted banning of books across the United States.

Upcoming programs include Homeschool Happenings on Thursday, September 15th from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. for students in grades 2 through 5. Social Studies, Science, Spanish and Writing classes will be offered. You are asked to bring a bagged lunch and registration is required. Also upcoming for adults, on September 15th at 7:00 p.m., is Optimizing LinkedIn for Business Growth where you learn how to rank high for your type of business on LinkedIn, the most beneficial way to receive recommendations to enhance your reputation, how to gain exposure as an expert in your field and how to use groups to advertise your events.

Ms. McIntosh announced Fundraising: *Entertainment* books are available at the Library for \$30; 50% of the proceeds benefit the library. Also, Chick-Fil-A Spirit Night is Monday, September 26th from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. (Washington Road store). Tell your cashier that you support Bethel Park Library and 20% of all sales will be donated to the library.

For more information on these or any of the programs and services offered by the library can be accessed by visiting the website at www.bethelparklibrary.org

5. Police Chief's Report

Chief John Mackey thanked Officer Tom Rigatti for providing an outline referencing several items for the Chief's Report.

Chief announced that the Police Department is currently accepting applications for the Citizens' Police Academy and the Law Enforcement Apprenticeship Program. You can apply on-line at www.bethelpark.net or stop in to the Police Department for an application. Class size for both is limited to 30 people and they fill up quickly.

Tickets are available for the Pittsburgh Pirates vs. Cincinnati Reds baseball game on Sunday, September 25th. The order form is available on the website and in the Chronicles.

Chief Mackey, on behalf of the entire Police Department, thanked all those who volunteered from the Crime Watch community. They set out this year to reinstitute the Crime Watch in Bethel Park with a goal of signing up 1,000 residents by the end of the year. To date, there are over 400 people. Several more signed up on Community Day. The Police provided several hundred Child Identifications and after several years, have given away thousands of child identifications in the Bethel Park Community. Chief feels that this will help keep our children safe and that the parents have the security of knowing that if a child is missing, they have the proper information to turn over to first responders. The Crime Watch program is up and running and it has received very good feedback. They are hoping to sign up more interested residents.

Chief then announced that there will be a third Drug Enforcement Administration's National Drug Take-Back Day at the Community Center on Saturday, October 29, 2011, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The first two events were very successful. Residents can bring unwanted or expired medications (pills and capsules only, and taken out of the prescription containers) to the Community Center drop off where they are turned over to the Drug Enforcement Administration and disposed of safely.

At this time, Chief Mackey invited Assistant Fire Chief Dave Gerber to join him. Chief announced that the Police were victorious over the Fire Department in Saturday's Community Day softball game. He displayed the trophy and said that he hopes this annual game will become a tradition for many years to come. Both the Police Department and the Volunteer Fire Company had a great deal of fun at the event.

6. Fire Chief's Report

At this time, Mr. Harrison asked if the Assistant Fire Chief would describe the events that happened at Abbeyville Apartments this morning.

Assistant Fire Chief Dave Gerber said that there was a one-alarm fire callout at 5:00 a.m. today at a unit at the Abbeyville Apartments. The fire was contained and no one was injured. Bethel Park has a large number of apartments and Mr. Gerber encouraged residents to call anytime in the event that a fire alarm goes off at any home or apartment complex, even if they think it may be a false alarm.

Mr. Gerber then gave the fire report for the month of August.

He then announced that the annual Fire Department Open House will be held on Sunday, September 18, 2011 from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Brightwood Fire Station. There will be a car cruise, DJ, food and drinks, fire truck, ambulance and police car on display as well as an antique fire truck. In addition, there will be games and activities for the children, and vendors who will take questions on fire alarms, detectors and other household safety devices.

With the colder weather approaching, Assistant Fire Chief Gerber suggested that homeowners have their chimneys and wood burning stoves checked and cleaned for winter use. Check the Yellow Pages for companies that perform this work.

Also, he mentioned that in the upcoming movie, *Abduction*, there is a scene on a Pittsburgh bridge where a Bethel Park fire truck and crew from Bethel Park can be seen.

7. Mayor's Report

Mayor announced that Community Day was a great event this year and the weather was perfect.

The Mayor announced the 90+ Club birthdays for September.

He then announced that the J.R. Taylor Bridge over Clifton Road on the Montour Trail is now opened. The dedication was held on Sunday, September 4.

At this time, Mayor Morton asked Library Director, Christine McIntosh, to join him. He presented a Proclamation to her in honor of National Library Card Sign-up Month.

Ms. McIntosh extended her gratitude for the support that the library receives from the Municipality to help provide wonderful services and programs. The library provides approximately one program per hour, particularly in the Children's department.

Mayor Morton then announced that State Representative Matt Smith was in attendance. Representative Smith presented a proclamation to Mayor Morton and Bethel Park 125th Anniversary Chairman Kristen Normile.

Representative Smith said that this proclamation was sponsored in the House of Representatives by both himself and Representative John Maher. They had the opportunity to tell everyone throughout the Commonwealth about Bethel Park and what a special place Bethel Park is. This resolution was approved unanimously. He then read highlights from the proclamation as he presented it to Mayor Morton and Mrs. Normile.

Mayor Morton thanked both Representative Smith and Representative Maher on behalf of the entire community.

Mayor Morton also thanked Kristen for all the work she's accomplished in honor of Bethel Park's 125th anniversary and that there are a couple more things to come.

Representative Smith announced that on Saturday, September 17th, he and the Municipality of Bethel Park will sponsor a Shredding Event for residents who would like to dispose of confidential papers. It will be held at Bethel Park Independence Middle School from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. You can bring your documents to the school and observe as they are properly disposed of.

8. Approval of Minutes

Regular Council Meeting Minutes of August 8, 2011.

Motion by Mr. Dixon and seconded by Mrs. Gibbons to approve the Regular Council Meeting Minutes of August 8, 2011. Motion Carried 6 - 0. Council Members Allen, Moury and Pape absent.

9. Bills and Payrolls

Motion by Mr. Dixon and seconded by Mrs. Gibbons to approve the Bills and Payrolls for the Municipality per Bill List #091211 in the amount of \$1,951,938.13. Motion Carried 6 - 0. Council Members Allen Moury and Pape absent.

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

Dick Kraft, 102 Highland Road, Bethel Park, said that the Black and Orange Ball was an excellent event, as well as Community Day this past Saturday. He announced that on Saturday, October 15th from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., the second living tour event will take place at the Bethel Park Cemetery with the Oliver Miller Homestead re-enactors. He invited the entire community to take part in this event. He also mentioned that the Bethel Park 125th committee will bury the time capsule in the near future. He then commended Kristen Normile for her hard work and that he and his wife, Pat, were happy to be part of the committee.

At this time, Mr. Hannan asked Municipal Engineer, Jean Statler, to speak about an upcoming road closing.

Ms. Statler announced that Port Authority will be closing South Park Road at Brightwood Road on Friday, September 23rd at 7:00 p.m. until Monday, September 26th at 5:00 a.m. in order to replace the tracks that cross South Park Road. They will be posting detours.

GENERAL POLICY AND FINANCE

11. General Policy and Finance Items

None

Mr. McLean thanked Representative Matt Smith for sponsoring the paper shredding event on September 17th and also mentioned that the Fall Leaf Collection will begin on Monday, October 17th and run through Friday, December 2nd, with the exception of Thanksgiving week, November 21 through 25.

In addition to the leaf collection program, a number of people asked what they could do with larger items of debris that need to be taken care of. Mr. McLean stated that you can purchase the Bagster for approximately \$30 at either Lowes or Home Depot. It could hold a good bit of material, including some of the material that is not part of Bethel Park's regular waste collection. Then you must call Waste Management for a pickup, but there is a fee. It is suggested that you call Waste Management in advance for details.

Mr. Harrison mentioned that he again initiated his campaign that the Pennsylvania Prevailing Wage legislation be updated. He was counseled not to bring it up until after the State budget was passed. He continues to be in contact with several legislators on both sides of the aisle. Currently, any contract over \$25,000 has to be sent in for prevailing wage determination. Mr. Harrison stated that updating this legislation is very important because it can save money for all school districts, councils, municipal authority, and all the functions by the government. He will continue his effort as he feels it clearly needs to be updated and is encouraging citizens to contact their Pennsylvania legislators and let them know you support getting the legislation updated.

12. Citizens' Comments – Planning and Zoning Items

None

PLANNING AND ZONING ITEMS

13. Resolution – Installation of Traffic Signal

Motion by Mr. Dixon and seconded by Mrs. Gibbons to adopt the resolution Making an Application for Permit to Install and Operate a Traffic Signal at the Intersection of Hillside Drive and Route 88 (Library Road). Motion Carried 6 – 0. Council Members Allen, Moury and Pape absent.

Mr. Harrison asked Mr. Duke to address the public on this resolution.

Mr. Duke said that this action is associated with the proposed signal at Route 88 and Hillside Drive. The rules for the approval and construction of traffic signals are enforced by PennDOT and one of the main requirements is the signal operation and maintenance is the responsibility of the local governments. This resolution serves as PennDOT's way to have local governments officially recognize the rules for construction and also that the municipality is going to be

taking long term care and maintenance of the signal. It is a State requirement and our actions are required by the state, and tonight we pretty much have to do it.

Mr. Harrison mentioned that what motivated the need for the traffic signal is due to the Sheetz facility being built there and the intersection is in need of traffic control.

HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE ITEMS

14. Health Safety and Welfare Items

None

Mrs. Gibbons announced that the Recreation Department and Pasta Too are sponsoring a Car Cruise Event benefiting Susan D. Koman Breast Cancer Awareness, on Saturday, October 8, 2011 from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Port Authority Parking Lot at Brightwood and Lytle Roads, across the street from the Municipal Building. It is free to cruise and for spectators. Donations are accepted. Please call the Bethel Park Recreation Department if you have additional questions.

PUBLIC WORKS AND MAINTENANCE ITEMS

16. Public Works and Maintenance Items

None

Mr. O'Brien announced that safe disposal of common household chemicals, sponsored by Allegheny County, will be held at the Wave Pool parking lot in South Park, on Saturday, October 1, 2011 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. This is held every year and is very well attended.

Mr. O'Brien then said that almost a year ago, we began a quest to find lost veterans. Last year we found two Marines. Tonight, two of the main people that started this effort are here with us, Representative Matt Smith and his assistant Lauren Hurley. Mr. McLean is doing research on another possible lost veteran.

Mr. McLean replied that at last month's meeting, he mentioned that when he was young, a family lived next to him whose son was killed in action in Vietnam. He noticed at the last Memorial service, his name was not listed on the Veterans' memorial. After looking into it, it was determined that Charles Michael Swaim, Private First Class in the Marine Corp Reserve, actually lived in Bethel Park. The home he lived in straddled the borderline of Bethel Park and Upper St. Clair. We would like to do the same for him as we did for the other veterans that we added to the list of people killed in action. Another person present this evening, Dick Kraft, heard the request last month and he has been sending information on the Swaim family. We still need to find more information. We do know that "Chuck" Swaim had a twin sister named Margaret. They both apparently

attended Bethel Park schools but the family moved from Bethel Park prior to their graduation. We will continue our effort to try to locate the Swaim family.

17. Adjournment

Motion and second to adjourn at 8:16 p.m.



Manager