

MUNICIPALITY OF BETHEL PARK

MINUTES OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Date: February 14, 2011

Time: 7:30 P.M.

Location: Municipal Building

1. Roll Call

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

Absent: Council Members Dixon and Gibbons

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

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Chair Announcement

An Executive Session of Council was conducted on January 24, 2011 to discuss a real estate issue and Police personnel issues. An Executive Session of Council was held tonight, February 14, 2011 to discuss Police Personnel issues.

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. She announced that the upcoming issue of the Chronicles has three pages of programs. As announced previously, the Library is the recipient of the Family Place Grant. The Family Place grant is a national initiative that focuses on children learning through play. The Library is ready to begin its first 6 week workshop in April for parents and toddlers where the parents are on the floor playing with the kids on different activities, with a specialist present such as a nutritionist or speech pathologist at each session to help answer parent's questions. This is a good time for parents to meet other parents and see how each other handles their toddlers.

Ms. McIntosh then introduced the new Bethel Park local history book from the Arcadia Publishing Images of America series released today, Monday, February 14, 2011. The book is \$21.00 plus tax and can be purchased at the Library, Evey Hardware and Bethel Bakery. The book is written by a local resident, Kristen Normile, and it is chock full of photos. Proceeds from the book go directly to the Community Foundation which they turn around and give back to the community for various grants and cultural events such as the Tower Concert Series. A copy of the book was presented to Mr. William Spagnol.

5. Police Chief's Report

Chief Mackey wished all a Happy Valentine's Day. He stated that the Crime Prevention Office and the Recreation Department are teaming up to offer discount tickets for Pittsburgh Pirates games. There are going to be 4 games offered this season. Order forms are available in the upcoming edition of the Chronicles, and on the Bethel Park website.

Chief Mackey mentioned that residents of Bethel Park have been inquiring about the annual Police Pals vs Steelers basketball game. Due to NFL labor issues, this years' game may not take place unless the issues get resolved. They are hoping it does, because the money raised from the game goes to the college scholarships offered to the high school seniors.

Chief Mackey stated that every year, this is a special night for the Bethel Park Police Department. Back in 1969, Dr. David McNary started the Bethel Police Award Foundation by soliciting from residents and business owners to donate to this worthy cause. This program honors three police officers for their work in the previous year. It also provides scholarship money to children of Bethel Park police officers who are attending college. Chief Mackey wanted to recognize Mr. Joseph Howdysell, who served as President until his death a couple of years ago, as well as the Board of the Bethel Park Foundation. He also wanted to introduce members of the board who are with us here tonight who are Mayor Cliff Morton and Council President Tim Moury. Also on the board are Vice President and Treasurer Andy Amrhein, President Dan Flynn, Lt. David Deremer, Police Secretary Josie Staffen and himself. Each year, the police officers are given ballots to vote for their fellow officers because of the job they did in the preceeding year. The awards are special because they come from their fellow officers, who are very deserving. The award includes a plaque and a monitary award. The officer that receives the Officer of the Year Award also receives a Police Merit Award Foundation pin that he can wear on his uniform. There is also a brass plaque in the Police lobby where the officer's name is engraved for the rest of time. Tonight, our 42nd officer is added to the plaque.

He then invited Councilman Moury and Mayor Morton to join him in presenting this year's awards as follows: Third Place: Sergeant Tim Kirsch; Second Place: Officer Michael Dunn; First Place: Jim Modrak, Officer of the Year.

Chief Mackey recognized Luke Modrak who was in the audience as a recent recipient of the Merit Award Foundation scholarship. Luke is a senior at Duquesne University.

6. Fire Chief's Report

Bethel Park Volunteer Fire Department Assistant Fire Chief Dave Gerber gave the Fire Chief's Report for the month of January.

Since he did not attend the January meeting, he thanked the Police, EMS, and Municipal Council for all their help and cooperation in 2010 and look forward to working together for another year. Being Valentine's Day, he was asked to give his Fire Safety tip which is to remember to extinguish candles when leaving the house.

Fundraising letters will be mailed out to residents in mid-March. Donations have been down recently and an appeal to the residents was made to support the Fire Department. Donations can be made to the fire department on line at www.bethelparkvfc.com dropped off or mailed to the station at 5213 Brightwood Road. Also, the fire department is actively seeking new members. You must be at least 19 years of age. However, they are looking to lower the age to 18. Later on this spring, they hope to start a junior program that will include the age of 16 and 17. As of now, if you are 19 years of age and live in Bethel Park, you may stop any Monday evening at the Brightwood Road Station, or on the website or call the station at 412-835-1127. The Bethel Park Fire Company provides all members with free training and all necessary equipment.

Mr. O'Brien stated that he knows they are trying to lower the age to 18 because of the benefit for Community College. But he thinks that to get the benefit, you must be a full-fledged fireman. He asked if they have enough certification by the time they turn 18 to receive the benefits.

Assistant Chief Gerber responded the he thinks Mr. O'Brien is talking about the County's FireVEST Program. That program is, he believes, if you join, you can get your training at Community College paid for by the fire department. You can go to Community College and take whatever line of study you like. It does not have to be fire service or public safety. In return, you sign a paper saying that you will give the fire department five years of service for the two years of school you receive at Community College.

Mr. O'Brien stated that this is a good way for men and women in Bethel Park to go to school for free. By joining the fire department, you can make it possible.

Assistant Fire Chief Gerber again stated that it is a very good program. They will provide training in-house and at fire academies in local areas.

Mr. Harrison asked if this program covered tuition and books.

Assistant Chief Gerber replied that he believes it is just tuition, but anyone can go on line and get the information about the FireVEST Program through Community College.

7. Mayor's Report

Mayor Morton began by saying that we can all agree that most of the people of Bethel Park are more than happy with a number of things that go on in the Municipality. He receives many nice comments about how clean we keep the streets in the winter time. He is also very proud of the Police, and you will see tonight that they do a good job day and night. The Fire Department does a great job as well and we should be proud of them. We will hear tonight from Nora Helfrich, Director of Tri Community South EMS, and he also thinks you will agree that our emergency medical group is on the ball every day.

Mayor Morton announced the ninety-plus birthdays for February. Mayor Morton then introduced Nora Helfrich, Director of Tri-Community South EMS.

Ms Helfrich stated that EMS runs approximately 7,000 calls per year and from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in any 8-hour shift, there are approximately 20 to 30 calls per hour. EMS is asking resident to support them. There are only 1,700 households who have subscribed to support Tri Community this year, and they are looking to increase that number. That is were they generate the revenue to fund the system. Tri Community South EMS is the second largest EMS system in Allegheny County, second only to the City of Pittsburgh. The paramedics work very hard, they have to shovel the sidewalks when they go to a resident's home. The goal for 2011 is to go out to the seniors and meet with the elderly to educate them on preventing falls which is a huge problem today. They are educating our seniors on the effect that a fall can have on them which is very life threatening. There has been a good response with this. They are educating people on the new changes in CPR. They are no longer recommending mouth-to-mouth and have had tremendous results with the hypothermic protocol with out-of-hospital cardiac arrests. Tri Community South received an award from the Center for Emergency Medicine for a study that they participated in regarding teen conflict. They are saving that gift to purchase a television that is needed for the base that has not been replaced for 25 years. They appreciate everyones help and cautioned that when it is icy outside, do not go out to get mail or newspaper. They are happy to help with fall prevention, teach you about your medicines or how to get an eye exam.

Mr. Harrison wanted to publicly thank Ms. Helfrich for much needed service that her crew provided today.

Municipal Manager Bill Spagnol thanked Nora Helfrich as the director of Tri Community South EMS. He stated that she works for three municipalities, Bethel Park, Upper St. Clair and South Park Township. The Administrative Committee oversees what she does and quite frankly, it can operate on automatic pilot. Nora is that good, she is a total professional in everything she does. The Tri Community South people are outstanding, they are professional and they are

timely in their response to provide service when a call is made. Mr. Spagnol stated that he has used them several times, they have been there and done a wonderful job, and Council can attest to that. It is so important to subscribe as they are a little bit down this year. A subscription can be a life-saver for \$60. It is security for your family and he cannot think of a better way to safeguard your family and support our community because their service is truly needed. On behalf of all of Council, he thanked Nora for the excellent work she does and to all the people of Tri Community South EMS.

Mayor Morton spoke about the Bethel Park historical and picture book that was released today. Kristen Normile was to come in to speak tonight, but did not make it.

Christine McIntosh reminded us that the proceeds from the book go to the Community Foundation only if it is purchased at the Bethel Park Library, Evey Hardware, Bethel Bakery or directly through the Foundation.

Mayor Morton mentioned that the committee for the Bethel Park 125th Anniversary Celebration is up and running. The Committee met on February 8th and subcommittees were chosen. Kristen Normile has been appointed as the official Chairman.

8. Approval of Minutes

Regular Council Meeting Minutes of January 10, 2011.

Motion by Mr. Allen and seconded by Mr. Hannan to approve the Regular Council Meeting Minutes of January 10, 2011. Motion Carried 7-0. Council Members Dixon and Gibbons absent.

9. Bills and Payrolls

Motion by Mr. Hannan and seconded by Mr. Hannan to approve the Bills and Payrolls for the Municipality per Bill List #21411 in the amount of \$1,203,406.47. Motion Carried 7 - 0. Council Members Dixon and Gibbons absent.

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

None

GENERAL POLICY AND FINANCE

11. General Policy and Finance Items

None

Mr. Harrison stated that if people have listened to what he's talked about from time to time, they know that for 6 years he has been promoting a change in the

Pennsylvania Prevailing Wage legislation. Representative John Maher introduced legislation twice. It was supported by Senator Pippy, but unfortunately was not supported by Representative Smith. That legislation went into the hopper and the Labor and Industry Committee never moved it out to the floor. Since the November election, Mr. Harrison has been speaking on financial type considerations that ought to be attended to in both national and state levels, but he wants to speak to the state level at this time. There is an organization called the Commonwealth Foundation. It is an organization that lobbies for things that they feel are good for the State. He was asked to be a member of a small group at a brainstorming session which the Foundation held at the Duquesne Club. The purpose of the meeting was to bring up any items that ought to be seriously considered. Mr. Harrison brought up prevailing wage. He stated briefly that when Representative Maher introduced that legislation, several communities passed resolutions. The bottom line is that he has been communicating with legislators, particularly, Senator Pippy and Representative Maher, about it and he just got a call from Representative Maher today telling him that it looks very promising. He recently had a letter published in the Trib indicating that previously, it did not get out of the committee. Now he can judge the action or inaction because the house is controlled by the Republicans and the Senate is controlled by the Republicans, and also the governorship. So, if it does not pass, we know who to blame and he will take that opportunity. In any case, the Commonwealth Foundation publishes a booklet called "Common Wealth Sense". Based on the brainstorming they did, they came up with five ways to cut \$5 Billion, and Item #3 is the Prevailing Wage Law, which they claim will save \$1 Billion, and the benefit of that is that it really does not cost anything to pass it in the legislative session, but it benefits every government, every authority from the top of the State on down. He wanted to let everyone know that he is communicating with the legislators. They are looking at the appropriate timing to introduce legislation and that he is talking to and emailing others and getting very positive vibes.

Mr. McLean wanted to make everyone aware that our Council meetings, in addition to being broadcasted on BPTV both live and shown in accordance with the schedule, are now available on YouTube, thanks to the folks at BPTV. You can now go to YouTube any time and watch any Council meeting over the website. You can go on YouTube and put in Bethel Park Council Meeting and it will take you to the archives. Or go to the Bethel Park website www.bethelpark.net and at the lower right-hand corner, there is a link to watch Council meetings and that will take you to the YouTube page. The nice thing about YouTube is that you can watch it when you are ready to watch it as opposed to waiting for it to come on the cable station. You can also, because of the features it has, go right to the part of the meeting that you want to get to and see, such as the Mayor's Report or the Chief's Report. This is part of our effort to continue to make the government of Bethel Park available to the people of Bethel Park. We now have our minutes available online, but also on the YouTube connection so you can see the meetings.

Mr. Harrison asked if you have to have cable or dish service to get YouTube.

Mr. McLean responded that you can get it with any internet connection.

PLANNING AND ZONING ITEMS

12. Planning and Zoning Items

None

HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE ITEMS

13. Health Safety and Welfare Items

Resolution – Disposition of Records

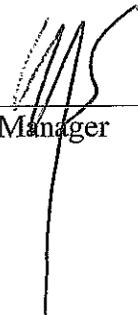
Motion by Mr. Allen and seconded by Mr. O'Brien to adopt the resolution for the disposition of public safety records, in accordance with the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Society regulations. Motion carried 7-0. Council Members Dixon and Gibbons absent.

PUBLIC WORKS AND MAINTENANCE ITEMS

None

14. Adjournment

Motion and second to adjourn at 8:06 P.M.



Manager