

# ***MUNICIPALITY OF BETHEL PARK***

## **MINUTES OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

**Date:** October 8, 2012

**Time:** 7:30 P.M.

**Location:** Municipal Building

1. Roll Call

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

**Absent:** Council Members Dixon 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

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Flag Ceremony was performed by Boy Scouts Troop 215 Hawk Patrol

Mr. Harrison asked the parents of Troop 215 if they received their Yellow Dot information.

3. Chair Announcement

Executive Session of Council was conducted on Monday, September 24, 2012 to discuss personnel issues and Police Issues. Executive Session of Council has held on Monday, October 8, 2012 to discuss Police, EMS and personnel 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 new programs. On Saturday, October 27, 2012 after the library closes, there will be a children's program at 7:00 p.m, for Kindergarten

through fifth grade. Registration is required. On Tuesday, October 16, 2012 at 7:00 P.M., a slide show called Haunted Pittsburgh Virtual Ghost Tour, will take place in Council Chambers. Also, On Friday, October 19, 2012 at 11:00 a.m., there will be a Haunted Hat Tea in Council Chambers. A contest for the most unique Halloween hat will be held.

Ms. McIntosh announced that the Library has a database called the Testing and Resource Center. If you have a valid library card, you can access the database for practice exams for SAT, PSAT, in addition to the Praxis, Civil Service, Fire Fighters, EMS, nursing and other full length practice exams free of charge.

On Saturday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, the Library will hold their 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Craft/Vendor Fair at the Community Center from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Interested vendors can contact Christine or Erin in the Library for more information.

On Tuesday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, TGI Friday's will hold a fundraiser from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. Coupons can be obtained at the Library or on online. The Library will receive 20% of the total check for that evening.

Proceeds of all 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](http://www.bethelparklibrary.org)

##### 5. Police Chief's Report

Police Chief John Mackey announced that longtime Police Secretary, Josie Staffen, retired after 25 years of service to the Municipality. Chief Mackey thanked her for her terrific service not only to the Police Department, but to the Bethel Park community and wished her the best in her retirement.

Mr. O'Brien spoke about Mrs. Staffen saying she did a wonderful job and she will be missed.

Chief Mackey said that the Police Department received a surprise check in the amount of \$620.00 designated for the Charles Bonczek Scholarship Fund. The check came from the Bethel Park High School Class of 1962, the 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion Committee. Sgt. Bonczek served 40 years on the Bethel Park Police force. Chief thanked the Reunion Committee for their generous donation to the scholarship fund which was created in memory of Sgt. Bonczek's after his passing.

Chief Mackey said that there will be a special screening for a movie called "Heroes Behind the Badge". It is a documentary film that will be previewed at the Bethel Park High School auditorium on November 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. Executive Producer of the film, Lt. William Erfurth (Ret) will be there for a question and answer session. There will also be a performance by the Greater Pittsburgh Police Pipes and Drums Band. Tickets are \$15.00 in advance and

\$20.00 at the door. Tickets will be available in the Records Room of the Police Department.

Chief announced that the next Crime Watch meeting will be held on Thursday, October 11, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. at the Community Center. Secret Service Agent Christopher Watson will speak on counterfeiting and fraud.

Last month, Chief mentioned last month that the Police Department received a grant from the Bethel Park Community Foundation for a new Children's ID System. The system is being used and currently three schools are completed, Ben Franklin, Memorial and Neil Armstrong. Over 1,050 child identification cards have been distributed already with a couple more schools to go. This program is voluntary.

The next Citizens' Police Academy begins on Wednesday, January 16, 2013 and runs for twelve weeks. Applications are available at the Police Department or you can contact Officer Rigatti by email.

A Drug Enforcement Drug Take Back event was held last month and again was very successful. Ninety pounds of unused, unwanted prescription drugs were taken. Chief will announce to the community when the next event will take place.

The Bethel Park Police Pal Annual Food Drive will begin on Monday, November 26<sup>th</sup> and run until Wednesday, December 19<sup>th</sup>. More information on this year's food drive is forthcoming.

Chief Mackey announced that Halloween Trick or Treat will be held on Halloween night, Wednesday, October 31<sup>st</sup> from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. When Police Officers go to the elementary schools to talk about Halloween safety, they advise the children to only go to the home with porch lights on. Chief asked residents to please turn on your porch lights for the children's safety. Also, be aware of the children and adults as you drive through the community that evening. Parents are urged to carry flashlights with them warn the motorists.

#### 6. Fire Chief's Report

Third Lieutenant Tom Kelton gave the Fire Report for the month of September. Lt. Kelton said that an Open House was held at the Brightwood Station on Sunday, October 7<sup>th</sup>. He thanked everyone for attending, and a sent a special thank you to Evey Hardware and Bethel Bakery for their support.

Lt. Kelton said that fundraising events were held recently. One was held at Barleys and Hops where food was sold and raffles were held. In addition, a Fill the Boot event was held at the intersection of Rt. 88 and Corrigan Drive and also at the intersection of Oxford Drive and Fort Couch Road.

He then reminded homeowners to change batteries in smoke detectors this month. He advised that the life span of a smoke detector is around ten years and a CO detector is five years. He urged everyone to replace them as needed. He said to

take special care of space heaters as they are meant to be used in a small room and to follow the manufacturer's recommendations for their use.

Lt. Kelton said that the firemen will be out on Trick or Treat. The fire truck will be on the roads for safety reasons, to slow traffic down and to pass out candy.

Lt. Kelton announced that the Bethel Park Volunteer Fire Company is now on Facebook.

Mr. Harrison reminded everyone that the Bethel Park Volunteer Fire Company relies on contributions and encourages everyone to make donations. Also, Tri Community South EMS operates on subscriptions but will also accept contributions. Mr. Harrison said that a lot of people in Bethel Park do not make contributions for whatever reason. That there is no minimum amount, a donation of any amount is welcome. If the volunteer fire company did not operate on contributions, the community would not like the cost it would impose on them.

#### 7. Mayor's Report

Mayor Morton said that the 90+ Club Luncheon was held on Friday, October 5<sup>th</sup> at the Community Center and it was a huge success. Eighty four people attended and he thanked Manager William Spagnol for attending and speaking to the group. He also thanked Councilman Jack Allen for his donation of ice cream sundaes and John Walsh of Bethel Bakery for his donation of cupcakes.

Mayor Morton announced the 90+ Club birthdays for October.

Mayor Morton thanked the Scouts for attending and performing the Flag Ceremony and asked that they continue to do so at upcoming meetings.

Mayor then introduced the members of the Bring a Smile to the Service group from Independence Middle School. This program was put together a few years ago by Independence Middle School 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Social Studies teacher, Mrs. Jen Makel. For the past three years, these girls have been writing to and emailing soldiers and Marines and sending care packages monthly. They communicate not only with the service men and women, but their families. The girls spoke about their endeavor to continue their commitment to this project. They have been given an award by the PASC Leadership Conference and by the School Board. They applied for and received a \$500.00 grant from the Bethel Park Community Foundation. They received the Rotary Student of the Month award for September. Letters received from the service men and women were read by the girls. Their mission is to expand the club as much as possible and involve as many individual as they can. In order to do so, they designed fliers that are being disbursed throughout Bethel Park and surrounding districts. They created their own website and also set up two email accounts, one that residents can send letters to go to the soldiers and Marines and one for any questions about the program. The website [www.bringasmiletotheservice.webs.com](http://www.bringasmiletotheservice.webs.com) or twitter [bringasmile@sendsmiles](https://twitter.com/bringasmile@sendsmiles). For further information, their email address is [bringasmiletotheservice@gmail.com](mailto:bringasmiletotheservice@gmail.com).

8. Approval of Minutes

Regular Council Meeting Minutes of September 10, 2012.

Motion by Mr. Allen and seconded by Mrs. Gibbons to approve the Regular Council Meeting Minutes of September 10, 2012. Motion Carried 7 – 0. Council Members Dixon 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 #100812 in the amount of \$915,079.94. Motion Carried 7 – 0. Council Members Dixon and Pape absent.

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

None

**GENERAL POLICY AND FINANCE**

## 11. General Policy and Finance Items

None

Mr. Hannan said that he has been a Council member for 15 years and tomorrow is a special day, his and his wife's 30<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary. He said that Council Members cannot do their job on Council or the job they do for a living without the support of their families. He wished his wife a Happy Anniversary.

Mr. Harrison said he is in his 39<sup>th</sup> year on Council but lived in Bethel Park for 12 years longer than that. He said he chose to live in Bethel Park because they found the home that they liked and because the Bethel Park School District was impressive. He has a real concern with the school district that manages to construct a Taj Mahal high school that he believes was not needed. But, they don't seem to be too successful in educating the children. He said there is an article in the Pittsburgh Tribune Review on Saturday, September 22, 2012, that says 17 area school districts fail to meet grade which is an adequate yearly progress. One of the 17 districts is Bethel Park. He said he wants to make sure people are aware of the fact that our district is one of the 17 that is not meeting the grade and he is hopeful that they will get the message that we, the citizens, expect our children to get a good education and he does not think that is working out too well.

**PLANNING AND ZONING ITEMS**

## 12. Planning and Zoning Items

None

Mr. Moury said that in Mr. Dixon's absence, he wanted to let the residents in the Locust and Lawrence Drive area know that there has not yet been a reply to the letter sent last month to PennDOT. As soon as a reply is received, the residents in the area who are affected will be made aware.

### **HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE ITEMS**

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

None

14. Bethel Park School Guard Agreement

Motion by Mr. McLean and seconded by Mr. Allen to approve the contract agreement with the Bethel Park School Guards for a 4-year period with a yearly rate increase of 2%. Motion Carried 7 – 0. Council Members Dixon and Pape absent.

15. Ordinance – Installation of Stop Signs

Motion by Mr. McLean and seconded by Mr. Allen to approve an Ordinance to install two stop signs on Greenwald Road at Carlton Road stopping traffic in an easterly and westerly direction. Motion Carried 7 – 0. Council Members Dixon and Pape absent.

Mr. McLean announced the leaf recycling program that begins in two weeks. Leaves can be placed curbside on the regular garbage pickup day provided they are in the approved bags. Information regarding the leaf recycling program is available on the Bethel Park website.

Mr. Moury said the pickup days are the weeks of October 22 to 26, October 29 to November 2, November 5 to 9, November 12 to 16, November 26 to 30 and December 3 to 7. There will be no leaf collection the week of Thanksgiving, November 19 to 23.

### **PUBLIC WORKS AND MAINTENANCE ITEMS**

16. Citizens' Comments – Public Works and Maintenance Items

None

Mr. O'Brien said this month is the recognition of the Air Force at the Veterans' Memorial.

Mr. O'Brien said, speaking of veterans, tonight is an interesting night as one of our family members from the Municipality is retiring at the end of the month. All the things that have been done under this man's watch are remarkable. Robert Cygrymus has been stellar as he worked with all the policies and ideas that Municipal Council has requested. Bob worked through many projects such as

neighborhood and school field lighting, neighborhood sewer programs, the \$40 Million sewer plant renovation project, the Community Center Phase I and Phase II, Veterans' Memorial Phase I and Phase II, Millennium Park construction, and so much more including for two blizzards, and remnants of back-to-back hurricanes. He also participated in the development of the Logan Creek project which was a success as well as the Greenwald Project and he is sure that Council can come up with even more. Mr. O'Brien said that he could not think of the right man in the right place at the right time for Bethel Park. Mr. O'Brien saluted Mr. Cygrymus for his remarkable public service, and his outstanding service for our country and for our community.

Mr. Cygrymus said he appreciates the kind words and as he leaves after almost 18 years, he does so with a lot of mixed feelings. He said there is satisfaction with the work that has been accomplished and there is sadness in leaving behind people, colleagues and friends with whom he worked on the various projects. He said he thinks we have a very strong team at Bethel Park, a strong team with the staff and with Council and we get a lot of things done. He said he appreciates all the support he was given and that is from the top and from the bottom. Bethel Park has great people working for the Municipality. As far as the Public Works Department is concerned, when things and weather conditions are very bad, there is nobody better. There are great people at the Sewage Treatment Plant who work around the clock during bad weather conditions, make sure we have the correct permits and keep everything processed properly. He said we have a very strong and capable Municipal staff who knows what they are doing, and they get a great deal accomplished. He said he appreciates all the support he was given by them. He is really heartened with the selection of Jerry Duke as his replacement. Jerry has been on staff for a long time and is a very capable man and from the standpoint of the Municipality, we are in very good hands.

Mr. Cygrymus said it is time for him to move on, to cross another mountain to see what is on the other side. He said he will miss everyone and wish them all the very best.

Mr. Harrison said he hopes that Mr. Cygrymus did not initiate a trend.

Mr. Spagnol said that Mr. Cygrymus started here in 1995 and that every single day he worked here he exemplified great leadership, great work ethic, and demonstrated discipline in everything he's done. Mr. Spagnol said thank you for a job very, very well done.

Mr. Moury said he would like to follow up on the events that happened over the years as Mr. O'Brien mentioned. He said the one thing that everyone needs to know is that there are a lot of people who make the community what it is today, but Mr. Cygrymus was here for all those events. Whether they were good or bad, he was there. Whether it was snow or rain, he was always there. He said that although they may not have agreed on some items, Mr. Cygrymus respected the wishes of Council and was very diligent in sharing his opinions when he thought he needed to and when he was asked. He's done a great job. While attending many events, we've seen Bob out there. We take credit for all the good things

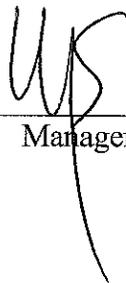
that happen, but Bob really made them all happen. He congratulated Bob on his retirement and said he appreciates all he's done over the years. He said that Jerry Duke is assuming the role, and other changes within the staff are coming up soon. Mr. Duke has had a good teacher and he will make it on his own. He said there are no bad days in Bethel Park, just some days that are better than others.

17. Adjournment

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

After adjournment, a citizen said she was not sure of the procedure, but wanted to make a request to Council. Ms. Ruth Hale, 2530 Highland Circle, Ward 5, presented a letter requesting Council's consideration of sidewalks along Brightwood Road. She said with the recent elimination of the T stop on Center and Lytle Road, there is a need for sidewalks and lights to ensure pedestrian safety to access the shopping area on Route 88 and the trolley.

Mr. Moury asked her to leave the letter for Council to review.



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Manager