

# ***MUNICIPALITY OF BETHEL PARK***

## **MINUTES OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

**Date:** September 12, 2016

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

**Location:** Municipal Building

1. Roll Call

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

**Absent:** Council Members Colella and Gibbons

**Also Present:** Mayor Jack Allen; William J. Spagnol, Manager; Judith L. Miller, Assistant Manager; Solicitor Robert L. McTiernan; Chief Timothy O'Connor; Jean Statler, Municipal/Environmental Engineer; Joseph Villella, Finance Director; Ashley Moore, Municipal Planner

2. Pledge of Allegiance

A Moment of Silence was held in memory of Council Member John A. Pape who passed away on Thursday, September 8, 2016.

3. Chair Announcement

An Executive Session of Council was conducted on Monday, August 22, 2016 to discuss personnel items, and on Monday, September 12, 2016 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 gave a report of the Library participation and events for the month of August.

She then announced programs for September. They include Toddler Storytime on Tuesdays at 10:00 and 10:30 a.m. Mother Goose on the Loose will take place on Wednesdays at 9:30, 10:30 and 11:30 a.m. Baby Jam on Thursdays at 9:30 and 10:30 a.m. There are additional programs for age's birth to teens through Youth Services

Programs for adults include Coloring for Grown Ups on Tuesday, September 20, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

New Approach to Weight Loss will be presented by Dr. Timothy Campbell on Wednesday, September 21, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

Climate Change Talk will be held on Thursday, September 22, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

Memory Café will be held on the fourth Wednesdays of each month from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. The first one taking place on September 28<sup>th</sup>. This coffee and conversation program is for those with dementia and their caregivers. Two resource individuals will be on hand, one to discuss topics of interest to caregivers and another to provide activities for those with dementia.

Ms. McIntosh said that the Love Your Library Campaign is underway through the month of September. The Jack Buncher Foundation will match all donations made to any library in Allegheny County up to \$500 per donor. The match pool for the month is \$125,000. You can donate in person, by mail or through the Library's website.

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](http://bethelparklibrary.org). You can also follow the Library on Facebook or Twitter.

#### 5. Police Chief's Report

Chief O'Connor announced that Community Day is this Saturday, September 17, 2016. He said that the Police Department will be there along with the Fire Company and EMS. Police will have handouts.

Crime Watch meetings resume on Monday, October 3, 2016 at the Community Center at 6:30 p.m.

At this time, Chief O'Connor introduced Officer Carey Ellwanger and our new Canine Officer Jeez. Officer Ellwanger completed the 12-week canine course at the Police Academy. Officer Ellwanger said Jeez is approximately 21 months old. He is a narcotics dog, and he does dual work as patrol and sniffing out drugs. His training has been reward-driven. He said he is a great dog and will fit in with the community.

You can following the Police Department news on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Mr. Moury said a special thank you to the Bethel Park Community Foundation and the Ben Roethlisberger Foundation for their help with the grant money for the new Canine Officer.

6. Fire Chief's Report

Chief David Gerber gave the fire report for the month of August.

Chief Gerber said that there will be an Open House at the new Brightwood Station on Sunday, October 2, 2016 from noon to 4:00 p.m. Fire Prevention tips and activities for the kids will take place and refreshments for everyone.

He then said that the Bethel Park Volunteer Fire Company always welcomes new members. The Fire Company has been posting training information on their Facebook Page. Anyone interested can go to their website to access information or you can call or stop at the Brightwood Station on Monday evenings for more information.

Chief Gerber said that he recently had a conversation with one of his officers. He wanted to remind everyone that the fire company is 100% volunteer meaning that when a fire call comes in, members must get to the station from their homes or place of business. He would like to remind everyone that vehicles must pull over when they see blue flashing lights approaching to let the firemen pass. These lights indicate a fireman who is attempting to get to the station due to a fire callout.

Donations are also being requested. If you are interested in donating and did not receive a letter in the mail, you can go to their website and donate on line.

7. Mayor's Report

Mayor Allen announced that the Fire Department has an open house on October 2, 2016.

The following text is verbatim.

Mayor Allen said:

“As Mr. Moury said before, we lost a great friend and a Councilman last week. He will always be remembered for all the good things he did for Bethel Park over the last three-plus decades. And I'm sure others will say things about John tonight, but I wanted to talk about his military service. John was a wounded World War II veteran. He was a member of our American Legion Post 760 here in Bethel Park and we'll always be grateful for his service to the United States of America. We also lost another World War II veteran a couple of weeks ago who was on our Zoning Hearing Board, and that was Jack Tortorice. And so I want to keep both of them in your prayers. They did a lot of service with Bethel and we're going to miss them both.”

Mayor Allen then said he wanted to recognize a couple members of our police department for an incident that occurred last month. One of our residents had a medical issue and three of our officers responded and saved his life. Michelle Tanney, Communications Officer, kept the family on the phone the entire time until the officer arrived. Those officers were Dean Cristiano, Craig Smeltz and Steven Hozella. He said that in this time when police officers are in the spotlight, he wanted to thank them all for what they do. Not just these three, but the entire Police Department.

He then announced that Fall Clean Up will take place on Saturday, October 15, 2016. Individuals or group interested in volunteering can contact Michelle Baynham at the Municipal Building at 412-831-6800 ext. 203 for more information and to receive supplies.

Mayor Allen then said that the annual 90 Plus Luncheon will be held on Friday, October 14, 2016 at noon. This year's event will take place at St. Valentine's Frawley Hall, due to the renovations that are taking place at the Community Center. Anyone 90 years of age or older that are interested in attending can contact Michelle at the Municipal Building.

Mayor said that Community Day is Saturday, September 17, 2016. The parade begins at 9:00 a.m. Festivities begin after the parade at the Bethel Park High School grounds from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

He announced that a household chemical collection sponsored by Allegheny County will take place at the South Park Wave Pool parking lot on Saturday, September 17, 2016 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. There is a charge of \$3.00 per gallon, cash only.

At this time, Mayor Allen introduced County Councilwoman Sue Means of the Edwards Family. He presented her with a Proclamation honoring the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Brookside Lumber Company. Mrs. Means thanked Mayor Allen for this award. She said it has been an honor for her family to serve the community of Bethel Park for 90 years from its beginning when her grandfather, who was a contractor, started Brookside Lumber Company in September of 1926.

8. Approval of Minutes

Regular Council Meeting Minutes of August 8, 2016.

Motion by Mr. Hannan and seconded by Mr. McLean to approve the Regular Council Meeting Minutes of August 8, 2016. Motion Carried 6 – 0. Council Members Colella and Gibbons absent.

9. Bills and Payrolls

Motion by Mr. Hannan and seconded by Mr. McLean to approve the Bills and Payrolls for the Municipality per Bill List #091216 in the amount of

\$1,946,795.17. Motion Carried 6 – 0. Council Members Colella and Gibbons absent.

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

Mr. Carl Denson, 2615 Santa Barbara Drive.

Mr. Denson said:

“Good Evening. I just wanted to say something on behalf of Mr. Pape and I put a little bit together here today and it's to the Mayor and Municipal Council of the Municipality of Bethel Park. I, Carl Denson of 2615 Santa Barbara Drive in Bethel Park, want to say this. In memory of my friend, the late John A. Pape, Councilman of the Municipality of Bethel Park, Pennsylvania for 31 years. I met Mr. Pape back in 1968 at the Democratic Committee meeting of Bethel Park. Subsequently, Councilman Pape and I served together on the Civil Service Commission for Bethel Park. Since then I've served personally on the Commission for thirty years plus. Councilman Pape was my friend, who along with then Senator Mike Fisher who recommended that I be appointed to the Human Relations Commission where I served 20 years, and three of those 20 years I served as Chairman of that Commission. As a Councilman, Mr. Pape was generally supportive of our Municipality. He was instrumental in working with Senators and Legislators from Harrisburg to obtain various grants and funding for our Municipal region. Mr. Pape will be sadly missed, but my hope is that residents of Bethel Park will not readily forget Mr. Pape's diligent efforts to support and advance the causes of our Municipality. I just wanted to let you know how I felt about Mr. Pape. He helped a lot of people in Bethel Park and to let you know we will all miss him. Thank you.”

Mr. Harrison said:

“As a follow up to what Mr. Denson has stated, I recommended to Council that we rename Miners' Memorial Park to John Pape Park in recognition of his long and dedicated service as an elected Councilman representing the Ward that that park is located in. Thank you.”

Mr. Moury said:

“I would ask if the Manager can place that on our next General Policy and Finance Agenda. Thank you.”

Mr. Bob Barrett, 2931 O'Neill Drive.

Mr. Barrett said:

“I am a 20+ year resident up there, one of Mr. Pape's constituents. And I would like to reiterate that he is very much going to be missed by the people in that Ward and I would like to offer any help I can to this Council and to this community. Thank you.”

Mr. Kenneth Sharo, 1005 Surrey Woods Road.

Mr. Sharo said:

“My name is Ken Sharo. I live at 1005 Surrey Woods Road. I built a home there about forty some years ago and was very happy I did because I honestly believe that Bethel Park is one of the nicest and best communities, not only in the South Hills, but in the whole County. And that my recognition of being involved in activities when I first came here was long, long ago. And I had the greatest respect for the Council. They were good men, they’re all gone now. Death takes its toll. But I had a discussion with several of the people who are left on our street, still on our street, and one of them made a statement to me and I said no, no, no, you can’t be right. And he said, oh yeah, there is a man, he said, in Borough Council that has served in this community for better than thirty years. I said, no, couldn’t be. I happen to know a person who served quite a few years. But he said no, no, no. I checked it out and I couldn’t believe that you have on your Council a man who has given tremendous effort to have this wonderful Municipality in which we live for 43 years. And not only that, my son was a Boy Scout and when I went to camp with him and a few other things, who did I find? I found a man who sits there, his name, Donald Harrison. The kids loved him. He made a tremendous impact of goodness to that Boy Scout Troop here in Bethel Park. In addition to that, was more than just boys, Boy Scouts, it was the fact that he helped set a trend for the fine young men that were developed and that had such respect for this man. And, recently, someone was talking about a new park that went up. I went up to take a look at it and I was impressed, this Millennium Park. Beautiful, beautiful. And thinking of all the things that have been going on in Bethel Park and it dawned on me that here is a man who’s probably as old as I am and is not in the best of health, putting all his time into things. Forty years with the Boy Scouts as an advisor and so forth. And I felt that it would be a wonderful, wonderful thing to get a man who’s been here for 43 years and change, that this group here, would change the name from Millennium Park, sometimes you get tongue-tied trying to say it, and make it the Donald Harrison Park. I think it would be a great tribute to a man, who is one of the most ethical persons that I’ve ever met in the years that I have. So I hope that this could come about, really. He is a very ethical individual. Age is beginning to bear very heavily on his shoulders. I watched him come in. His wife, he loves, she’s quite sick, and I believe that no one would be objecting that Millennium Park is named Donald Harrison Park or even Donald Harrison Millennium Park if someone insists on the name Millennium, all right? So that’s what I would ask that this group here considers and hopefully this man will be given a wonderful gift by the people of Bethel Park. Thank you.”

## **GENERAL POLICY AND FINANCE**

### 11. General Policy and Finance

No Items

Mr. McLean said that as required, Council has been given the Preliminary Budget by the Finance Director. The first meeting review will be in two weeks. The good news is that the Preliminary Budget does not include any tax increase. He said that a Public Hearing will be scheduled.

Mr. Moury said that according to the Home Rule Charter, Council must appoint a replacement for the Ward 1 vacancy within 45 days of the vacancy due to the death of Councilman Pape. All applicants must be a resident of Ward 1 and must be a registered voter. Mr. Moury instructed staff to advertise for the Ward 1 vacancy requesting that all resumes and letters of interest be received by the Municipal Manager no later than noon on Thursday, September 29, 2016. Interviews will begin on October 5, 2016.

### **PLANNING AND ZONING ITEMS**

12. Citizens' Comments – Planning and Zoning Items

None

13. Planning and Zoning Items

Signals in Coordination with Equipment Upgrades (SINC-UP) Agreement

Motion by Mr. Dixon and seconded by Mr. Hannan that the appropriate municipal official execute the agreement with Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission for the traffic signal improvement project along McMurray Road. Motion Carried 6 – 0. Council Members Colella and Gibbons absent.

### **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 said:

“This afternoon, we said goodbye to a great friend in Bethel Park, John Albert Pape. AKA, also known as Johnny, Krusher, the Governor, and on St. Patricks' Day when I decorated his yard, he was known as John Patrick O'Pape, the Keeper of the Pot of Gold. What an amazing man. He had the ability to light up a room. Like Paul Dixon paraphrased, the 'Johnisms'. You got that right, Brother. More people die of pneumonia. I just didn't fall out of no Christmas tree. I'm too old

of a cat to be fooled by a kitten. He was just a funny guy. He could make people laugh. Everyone knew Johnny Pape. For over forty years he served as the First Ward Councilman. When work needed to be done, Johnny was always there. He was not the kind of guy that would pick up the shovel. His greatest tool was the telephone. He'd say, I'm burning up the wires, brother. And he would know someone, somewhere who know somebody who knew someone. He would just get it done. He was not much of a public speaker, however, one-on-one, wow, John was at his best. As his son Gregory said this afternoon, John was always looking for a deal. John was a true salesman. He didn't just look for a deal for Bethel Park, he worked for deals. He could find common ground and compromise. That's just the way he was. That's just what he did. There was two things John did not care much for, one was losing; the other was the word no. And many of us over the years had been on that side of John. And we know John could be very difficult with those two issues. He would never give up. He would just work so hard to change your mind or give you a different perspective until the vote was taken. And once it was done, John would move on. John was not afraid of anything or anybody. He is part of the greatest generation. John came from Mt. Wash. He grew up on Natchez Street in the depression. They were difficult times. You had to be tough and that's what John was. My father also grew up on Mt. Washington. But I didn't know that at first that John and my dad knew each other. My dad was already gone. John would tell me stories about my father and his childhood in the old days. When I first came on Council, I was up visiting my father and mother's grave up on Mt. Washington and so I made a unique observation. When I came home and called Johnny up, I said John do you know some guy named Anicledo Pape. And he said, hey look tall glass of water, I'm gonna clean your clock. What are you making fun of my father for? I said, woo, wait a minute, brother. John's father and my father were buried side-by-side in that same cemetery. John had a great passion for veterans. He didn't share much that he was a wounded combat veteran of World War II. When you talked to John about stories of the war, he brought a lot of good stories about joy and friendship about his travels through the Philippines and the Upper Luzon. But there was one time when John was in combat, he lost his best friend beside him and he was gone and that's when John was wounded. And that's all he would mention because John would start to weep and say I do not wish to ever talk about this again, and don't you share this while I am still here. So, tonight I am sharing. John just loved to help people. Getting jobs, if they were in trouble. He was willing to reach out. He was a great defender of his beloved people of Ward 1. He took really good care of them. John loved his children no matter how many difficulties they found themselves in. John was always there for them. He never abandoned them. In my most difficult times of my life, John was there for me, every day and every time. And John had a deep love for his wife, Audrey. In these days when Audrey fell to some difficulties, John never left her side. He was her greatest hero. Bethel Park will miss this tough guy from Mt. Wash. I'll miss my friend. All of us are grateful for his dedication to our country and our community. My father once said that he would never second question the Lord, however, he would like to have a long talk with him. In John's case, the Lord is having a long talk with him and it's probably going on and it will go on for some time. Goodbye my old friend, John Albert Pape. The Veterans' Memorial is flying an Army Flag in the front in remembrance of our friend, Staff Sgt. John

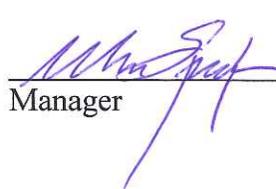
Albert Pape. The geraniums in front were donated by Dupree's Nursery and all the wonderful bouquets that you see on the memorial today are from John's funeral. So his memory will live on and we can honor him just one more time. Thank you."

Mr. Moury said:

"I don't know what more I can say, but I know that the conversation that Mr. Pape is having with the Lord about now, is somebody is going to end up with new carpeting. I can tell you that. I met John 20 plus years ago, it's hard to believe I've been here, some will probably say too long, but very interesting. Some of his sayings we can share and some we are going to keep in our memory. But, they are all good though. He was always helping. I don't know how many times I got a call early on Saturday mornings saying, hey, what are you doing? Why don't you come over? I'd go over and he'd say, come on with me. He had a call from one of his residents, had an issue and he wanted me, or he would do it himself, to go with him to make sure that resident was taken care of. Knowing people, as Mark said, no matter where you went, John knew everybody. We never knew how, but he knew everybody. He was always willing to help. I think the statute of limitations has run out, but we, one time, had a problem with one of our regulatory agencies. We weren't getting anywhere, and they were threatening to fine us and somebody sitting in this room, who John knew very well, knew somebody up in Erie that knew somebody in Harrisburg. And within a half hour of making that phone call, everything was resolved. It was the best for everybody. He will be remembered as a friend, as a member of Council for over 40 years, a member of Civil Service, I believe, 12 years. No matter where he went or what he did, Bethel Park always came first for John. He may be gone but he'll never be forgotten."

16. Adjournment

Motion and second to adjourn at 8:17 P.M.

  
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Manager