

MUNICIPALITY OF BETHEL PARK

MINUTES OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Date: November 12, 2012

Time: 7:30 P.M.

Location: Municipal Building

1. Roll Call

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

Absent: Council Member Gibbons

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

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Steven Condre, Boy Scout Troop 215, gave an update on the Yellow Dot Program. The kits are being distributed around the community covering most of Ward 8 and all of Ward 5. He said they are trying to get some information out in the Almanac about this program.

Mr. Harrison said that Troop 215 is getting ready for Citizenship in the Community Class and some of the representatives are present at tonight's meeting whom he wanted to recognize.

3. Chair Announcement

Executive Session of Council was conducted on Monday, October 22, 2012 to discuss Police 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 that long time staff member Mary Mullen is retiring after many, many years of service. She is the Adult Outreach Program director. Ms. McIntosh said they appreciate all she has done to make the library the wonderful facility that it is.

She then announced the programs and services that are coming up. Story time is every hour during the day for children from infant to pre-school. Computer classes are available everyday and the topics depend on what the patron want from basic computer to e-readers, iPads, digital cameras, etc. You can call the library to schedule a time. Starting at the end of November is the Step Together program which is a weekly program for parents or care givers and a child, infant through 18 months. An expert comes in each week to answer questions of parents or care givers.

Ms. McIntosh then reminded everyone that the library subscribes to the Gale Testing and Education Resource Center Database. This programs allows a parent or student to practice for the SAT, PSAT, teacher Praxis exam, RN exam, EMT exam, Fire exam and many, many more. These tests can also be accessed from your home on the library website and they are free.

It is Friends of the Library membership renewal time. The annual membership is \$10. The application is on the website or at the library.

Winter Lottery Raffle tickets are available. For a \$10 donation per ticket, you have 31 chances to win in the month of January 2013, based on the PA Daily Number (evening). Also, the Annual Fund Drive is in progress. You can get a form at the library or on the website.

Proceeds of all fundraising activities support the programs and services of the Library.

Ms. McIntosh said that the Library will close on Wednesday, November 21st at 5:00 p.m. for Thanksgiving and will reopen on Friday, November 23rd at 9:00 a.m.

For more information on any of the programs and services offered by the Library, visit the 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 Wednesday, November 14, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. at the Bethel Park Community Center. You do not need to be a member of Crime Watch to attend the meetings. They are open to the public.

Chief said that the he mentioned last month that the department took possession of a new Child Identification System and have been providing child I.D.'s at the elementary schools and at Neil Armstrong. As of today, they have distributed

over 2,300 child identifications. He thanked the PTO's for their assistance for both their monetary donation to the program and for helping them out. He thanked Target for providing a grant for this program in the amount of \$2,000. That money will be used for the program in 2013. Next year, they will do identifications for kindergarten, second, fourth and sixth grade students.

Chief said they are still accepting applications for the Citizens' Police Academy which begins on Wednesday, January 16, 2013. Originally, the limit for attendance was 40 people. They have decided to increase it slightly to 50 people. Please sign up soon.

The Bethel Park Police Pal Food Drive begins on Monday, November 26, 2012, and will run until December 19, 2012. He said he is excited to say that this year they have two new partners in the food Drive, the Bethel Park Volunteer Fire Company and Tri Community South EMS. In addition, the Adopt a Family program also starts on December 1, 2012. This program helps families that may not otherwise be able to have a Merry Christmas. With monetary donations, you can adopt a single family and it is completely anonymous. You can receive more information on these programs by contacting Officer Tom Rigatti at 412-831-6800 extension 104 or email him at trigatti@bethelparkpolice.net

Mr. McLean asked Chief Mackey to explain what occurred in his neighborhood on Sunday evening, November 11th.

Chief Mackey said that approximately 11:00 p.m. they received a fire call at Dorchester Apartments on Fort Couch Road. There was a fire in Building 3 on the fourth floor. The building was evacuated, everyone got out safely, no one was injured and except for a few people, most everyone was able to return to their apartments.

Mr. Harrison said that he personally attended one of the Citizens' Police Academy programs. He said it is worthwhile, very informative, and if you are interested at all, he recommends that you contact the Police Department to apply.

6. Fire Chief's Report

Third Lieutenant Tom Kelton continued with comments on the fire. He said they were very lucky that everyone got out safely. However, he said that he would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone that when you hear a fire alarm go off in any building, please evacuate immediately. No one ever knows when an alarm goes off falsely or not and it is very important especially if you have small children to make your way to an exit and evacuate. He thanked the Bethel Park Police, Tri Community South EMS and the neighboring fire companies that helped out.

Lt. Kelton said that due to the fire, the Fire Company was unable to prepare the fire report for the month of October. He will do so in conjunction with the November report at the December Regular Council Meeting.

Lt. Kelton reminded everyone again to donate and to think about volunteering as a fire fighter if you are so inclined.

Mr. Harrison made his monthly reminder to the residents for donations to the fire company. He also made the same request for Tri Community South EMS.

7. Mayor's Report

Mayor Morton announced the 90+ Club birthdays for November.

Mayor Morton introduced Harry Munson. Mr. Munson and members of the American Legion spoke about the Military Banner Program that is underway in Bethel Park.

Mr. Munson, HTM Designs, explained the banner program and its importance to the communities and how much interest they are receiving from residents in Bethel Park to start this program. He said the American Legion got involved shortly after Castle Shannon placed the banners along Rt. 88. The total cost for a banner, including brackets, is \$80. If anyone wants to be a part of the program, applications will become available and will describe all the information you will need to provide in order to purchase a banner. Applications will be available on the Legion's website as well as the Bethel Park Municipality's website.

American Legion representatives John Normile, Ed Robinson, Bob Daley and Dick Rush spoke about the program and how the Legion is supporting it and they thanked Council for having them attend the meeting to make the presentation.

Mr. Munson presented Council with the first banner honoring Bethel Park's own Sgt. Russell Kurtz on behalf of the American Legion and himself. He also will present a banner to the Kurtz family.

Mr. Allen said that they started talking about this project about 6 or 8 months ago with the help of Council and especially Municipal Engineer Jean Statler who worked on receiving permission from PennDOT to install the banners. We will hopefully have enough banners to extend on Rt. 88 from Castle Shannon to South Park Township. He said this is a great tribute to all the veterans in Bethel Park and presenting it on Veterans' Day makes it even more special.

At this time, Mayor Morton presented a Proclamation proclaiming November 12, 2012 as "Extra Mile Day", honoring volunteerism and service. Mayor said this coincides perfectly with the Scouts Yellow Dot Program as well as the Veterans' Banner program being discussed at tonight's meeting.

8. Approval of Minutes

Regular Council Meeting Minutes of October 8, 2012.

Motion by Mr. Allen and seconded by Mr. Hannan to approve the Regular Council Meeting Minutes of October 8, 2012. Motion Carried 8 – 0. Council Member Gibbons absent.

9. Public Hearing Minutes of October 22, 2012 – 2013 Municipal Budget

Motion by Mr. Allen and seconded by Mr. Hannan to approve the Public Hearing Meeting Minutes of October 22, 2012 – 2013 Municipal Budget. Motion Carried 8 – 0. Council Member Gibbons absent.

10. Public Hearing Minutes of October 22, 2012 – Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance Amendment - Fees

Motion by Mr. Allen and seconded by Mr. Hannan to approve the Public Hearing Meeting Minutes of October 22, 2012 – Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance Amendment - Fees. Motion Carried 8 – 0. Council Member Gibbons absent.

11. Public Hearing Minutes of October 22, 2012 – Zoning Ordinance Amendment - Fees

Motion by Mr. Allen and seconded by Mr. Hannan to approve the Public Hearing Meeting Minutes of October 22, 2012 – Zoning Ordinance Amendment - Fees. Motion Carried 8 – 0. Council Member Gibbons absent.

12. Bills and Payrolls

Motion by Mr. Allen and seconded by Mr. Hannan to approve the Bills and Payrolls for the Municipality per Bill List #111212 in the amount of \$3,227,139.00. Motion Carried 8 – 0. Council Member Gibbons absent.

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

None

GENERAL POLICY AND FINANCE

14. Citizens' Comments – General Policy and Finance Items

None

15. General Policy and Finance Items

Ordinance – Tax Rate for Fiscal Year 2013

Motion by Mr. Hannan and seconded by Mr. Allen to approve an ordinance fixing the tax rate for real estate taxes at 2.03 mills for the fiscal year 2013 for the Municipality of Bethel Park. Motion Carried 8 – 0. Council Member Gibbons absent.

Mr. Moury said that this motion and the next three motions are relative to the 2013 Municipal Budget and the sewer rates. He asked Mr. Romito to give an overview of the budget and the sewer rates for 2013.

Mr. Romito said the millage rate is proposed to decrease to be in compliance with the law which requires that the millage rate be adjusted when there is a reassessment. The proposed rate reflects Council's intention to bring in the same amount of current real estate tax revenue in 2013 as will be brought in during 2012. In order to calculate that millage rate without having complete information, we had to use estimates, and the estimates incorporated into the calculation result in a millage rate of 2.03 mills which is a decrease from our current rate of 2.43 mills. If final information from the County comes in significantly different than estimated, the millage rate will be adjusted as necessary to remain in compliance with the law. The sewer rates on the agenda represent an increase for next year. The monthly service charge of \$10 will remain flat. The increase will be on the usage charge which will increase from \$5.25 per 1,000 gallons to \$6.34 per 1,000 gallons. The preliminary budget was submitted in August, with several budget meetings and a Public Hearing since then.

Mr. Harrison said he thought they should inform the public that a lot of sewer repair projects are being done which is necessary to comply with upper level government people. There is a lot of extraneous water getting sent to the sanitary sewer system and the projects address these things. Hopefully one of these days we will reduce that significantly and it has been reduced based on work being done. This is primarily the basis for the rate per gallon being increased.

Mr. Moury followed up on Mr. Harrison's comments. He said roughly 30 percent of Bethel Park goes to ALCOSAN. They have raised their rates several times in recent years. We have absorbed the increase, because we pay them based on the water usage at that portion of the Municipality. So this is going to require a future bond issue that we will be looked at again next year and every year because we are being mandated by the DEP and EPA. A lot of money on the sewer system will be spent in the next 5 years. A bond issue is probable in the next year or so and a lot of additional work will be done.

16. Ordinance – Proposed Amendment to Ordinance 7-12-93A Revising Various Fees

Motion by Mr. Hannan and seconded by Mr. Allen to approve an ordinance revising the language associated with various fees identified in the Municipal Code. Motion Carried 8 – 0. Council Member Gibbons absent.

17. Resolution – Sewer System Maintenance Reserve Fund

Motion by Mr. Hannan and seconded by Mr. Allen to adopt a resolution transferring funds from the Sewer System Maintenance Reserve Fund to the sewage fund to pay for necessary maintenance improvements in the 2013 Municipal Sewage Fund Budget. Motion Carried 8 – 0. Council Member Gibbons absent.

18. Ordinance – Municipality of Bethel Park Sewer Rates

Motion by Mr. Hannan and seconded by Mr. Allen to approve an ordinance amending the code of the Municipality of Bethel Park by establishing new sewer rates. Motion Carried 7 – 1. Dissenting vote by Mr. O'Brien. Council Member Gibbons absent.

19. Ordinance – Year 2013 Budget

Motion by Mr. Hannan and seconded by Mr. Allen to approve an ordinance enacting the Year 2013 Budget for the Municipality of Bethel Park. Motion Carried 8 – 0. Council Member Gibbons absent.

Mr. Moury said it was a much smoother budget session this year than last year and he thanked staff and Council. There were a lot of discussions and tough decisions made in the last year. Some of the fruits of our labor from the past are hopefully coming through. He said we are not out of the woods as our revenues are flat. The assessment is pending, so Council will continue to monitor what is being spent each month.

PLANNING AND ZONING ITEMS

20. Citizens' Comments – Planning and Zoning Items

None

21. Planning and Zoning Items

Ordinance – Proposed Amendment to the Zoning Ordinance

Motion by Mr. Dixon and seconded by Mr. Allen to approve an ordinance changing the fee schedule contained in the Zoning Ordinance. Motion Carried 8 – 0. Council Member Gibbons absent.

22. Ordinance – Proposed Amendment to the Subdivision Ordinance

Motion by Mr. Dixon and seconded by Mr. Allen to approve an ordinance changing the fee schedule contained in the Subdivision Ordinance. Motion Carried 8 – 0. Council Member Gibbons absent.

Mr. Moury said the fees are being raised in accordance with the 2013 Budget.

23. Resolution – Land Development and Recreational Activity Fees

Motion by Mr. Dixon and seconded by Mr. Allen to adopt a resolution to establish the fees for various land development and recreational activities as authorized by the Municipal Code. Motion Carried 8 – 0. Council Member Gibbons absent.

Mr. Dixon asked that someone explain what the recreation fees.

Mr. Moury said that currently recreational organizations that run through the Recreation Department pay a 10% fee. Rather than doing the 10% fee, we will charge \$5 per head on a yearly basis on what they participate in for the programs or use of the facilities.

Mr. Harrison said that the previous motions where fees are being increased is due to costs going up in all areas, staff time and other efforts, requiring the Municipality to collect additional funds. These increases will affect the developers and that type of thing, not the man up and down the street.

24. Resolution – Joint Bid for Contract for Solid Waste Collection

Motion by Mr. Dixon and seconded by Mr. Allen to adopt a resolution for Joint Bid for a Contract for Solid Waste Collection Services for Disposal Services coordinated and administered by SHACOG (South Hills Area Council of Governments). Motion Carried 8 – 0. Council Member Gibbons absent.

Mr. Harrison said we contract our refuse collection and we can either individually solicit bids or we can work through SHACOG. We do not necessarily have to accept their bid, we can do it separately.

Mr. Duke said that is correct. Every five years, SHACOG goes out as a group and solicits bids for the whole South Hills area, one of the largest in the country. That way we can get what we believe is the best break as a community. Our contract is up next year and we are going to go through the process of bidding through SHACOG again. As Mr. Harrison said, we do not have to take the bids, but hopefully it will work to our advantage to be part of their bid process.

25. Resolution – Military Banners Along Library Road – PennDOT Approval Process

Motion by Mr. Dixon and seconded by Mr. Allen to adopt a resolution requesting approval from PennDOT for Military banner placement along Library Road, a State owned roadway. Motion Carried 8 – 0. Council Member Gibbons absent.

Mr. Harrison said he would like to thank Municipal Engineer Jean Statler for all the effort she made by communicating with and getting approvals needed to display the military banners

HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE ITEMS

26. Health, Safety and Welfare Items

None

PUBLIC WORKS AND MAINTENANCE ITEMS

27. Public Works and Maintenance Items

None

Mr. O'Brien announced that the flags flying at the Veterans' Memorial are for the Marines this month. This will conclude our year on the birthdays of our services. Next month, the flags will return to ordinary time.

Mr. Spagnol announced that one of the staff members, Scott Dunn, Superintendent of the Waste Water Treatment Plant, recently received the Bruno Award. The intention of the Bruno Award is to recognize the waste water treatment plant operators who distinguish themselves as outstanding operators through service to the western section. This award has been granted to 45 individuals since its inception in 1967, and Scott Dunn is one of the recipients and it is well deserved. Mr. Spagnol said that with Superstorm Sandy that came through and did so much devastation to the East Coast, we did receive our portion of it which was almost 4 inches of rain. We had no discernable or measureable amounts of flooding or charging of the collection system. We did have overflow at the plant, but with all the work that has been done in the last 15 years or so, it looks like it has been paying off.

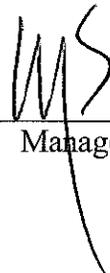
Once again, Mr. Spagnol offered congratulations to Mr. Dunn.

Mr. Moury said congratulations to Scott and his staff who work 7 days a week, 24 hours a day to make sure we have no issues at the plant.

Mr. Moury then wished Mr. O'Brien a Happy Birthday.

28. Adjournment

Motion and second to adjourn at 8:22 P.M.



Manager