

# ***MUNICIPALITY OF BETHEL PARK***

## **MINUTES OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

**Date:** December 10, 2012

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

**Location:** Municipal Building

1. Roll Call

**Present:** Council Members Allen, Dixon, Gibbons, Hannan, Harrison, McLean and Moury

**Absent:** Council Members O'Brien and Pape

**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/Assistant Director of Community Services; Joseph Vilella, Finance Director; Jean Statler, Municipal/Environmental Engineer

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Chair Announcement

Executive Session of Council was conducted on Monday, December 3, 2012 to discuss Property/Real Estate issue and Police Contract issues.

Executive Session of Council was conducted on Monday, December 10, 2012 to discuss Police personnel matters.

Mr. Moury announced that the Mayor's Report will be heard first this evening.

### **Reports of Officials**

4. Mayor's Report

Mayor Morton recognized the Bethel Park Junior Football Termite Black and White teams in attendance. They are six and seven year olds who play in the Route 19 league against communities in the surrounding area. Mayor read a synopsis of the year for both teams provided by the coaches. Coach Jim DelDuca of Termite White and Coach Paul Currie of Termite Black presented their teams and talked about the season and their eventual meeting in the Super Bowl in

Seneca Valley, which was won by Termite Black by a score of 25 - 6. The championship trophy was displayed.

Coach DelDuca and Coach Currie thanked the boys for a successful season and are looking forward to many more years of football.

Mayor announced that this year is the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Bethel Park Junior Football. Mayor and Municipal Council offered their congratulations to the teams, Coaches, parents and the Junior Football Board for this achievement.

Mr. Moury mentioned that new turf was installed at the Park Avenue field. On behalf of the Municipality, he thanked the sports groups, Junior Football, Lacrosse, Soccer, Jim Gastgeb, John Mascara and Municipal staff, Jerry Duke, Jean Statler, Mike Pomposelli, Tim Roney and all of Public Works. This work was accomplished with private donations, the banner fund and a lot of work by a lot of people to get it to this point. The field will open in June of 2013.

Mayor Morton said that the Tree Lighting Ceremony which took place at the Community Center on Monday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> was very successful.

The Annual Lighting and Decorating Contest begins this week. If anyone has a house that they want to nominate, please call or email the Mayor.

Mayor Morton announced the 90+ Club birthdays for December.

Mr. Harrison recognized and welcomed the Scouts in the audience who are attending the public meeting as part of obtaining their merit badges.

Mr. Moury announced that today is Jerry Duke's birthday.

5. Library Director's Report

Rachel Thieroff said that the Library has a new service, Zinio, a downloadable digital magazine service which is free to Library cardholders. Over 300 popular magazines are available for use on digital reading devices.

It is time for Friends of the Library membership renewal. New Friends are welcome and the donation is \$10 per year.

The Winter Lottery Raffle for the month of January is underway. For a \$10 donation, you have 31 chances to win each day in the month of January, based on the Pennsylvania Daily Number at 7:00 p.m.

The Annual Fund Drive is in progress, so please remember the Library in your year-end giving.

Ms. Thieroff said that the Library will be closed for Christmas beginning Sunday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> and will reopen on Tuesday, December 26<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m.

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

For more information on any of the programs and services offered by the Library, visit the website at [www.bethelparklibrary.org](http://www.bethelparklibrary.org)

6. Police Chief's Report

Police Chief John Mackey, on behalf of the Police Department, wished everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Chief said the Bethel Park Police Pals Food Drive has nine days remaining. On December 19<sup>th</sup>, the food will be packed and distributed to local churches. He thanked Two Men and a Truck for their donation of boxes.

The Adopt a Family Program was a huge success. With the generosity of the community, we were able to help over thirty families this year with food, gifts and gift certificates.

On Saturday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, members of the Police Department, Fire Department and Tri Community South EMS were stationed at Shop 'n Save, Giant Eagle and Walmart on Library Road and collected \$1,644 and over forty boxes of food. In addition, on Saturday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, the Fire Department, along with the Police and EMS, collected \$1,849 and over 20 boxes of food.

Applications are still being accepted for the Citizens Police Academy. Only four positions remain at this time.

Chief announced that Baptist and Broughton Road corridor is currently open for traffic. The construction project will start back up in the spring with further road restrictions. He thanked the public for obeying all the traffic signals and signs during this difficult time.

The next Crime Watch meeting will take place on Wednesday, December 12, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. at the Community Center. Guest speaker Dave Gealey of the Postal Inspection Service will speak about mail fraud and other related crimes. Following the presentation, light refreshments will be served. These meetings are not just for Crime Watch members, the public is welcome to attend.

7. Fire Chief's Report

Due to the Fire Company's Annual Membership meeting, there was no Fire Chief's Report.

8. Approval of Minutes

Regular Council Meeting Minutes of November 12, 2012.

Motion by Mr. Allen and seconded by Mrs. Gibbons to approve the Regular Council Meeting Minutes of November 12, 2012. Motion Carried 7 – 0. Council Members O'Brien and Pape absent.

9. Police Pension Appeal Hearing of November 12, 2012.

Motion by Mr. Allen and seconded by Mrs. Gibbons to approve the minutes of the Police Pension Appeal Hearing of November 12, 2012. Motion Carried 7 – 0. Council Members O'Brien and Pape absent.

10. Bills and Payrolls

Motion by Mr. Allen and seconded by Mrs. Gibbons to approve the Bills and Payrolls for the Municipality per Bill List #121012 in the amount of \$846,104.99. Motion Carried 7 – 0. Council Members O'Brien and Pape absent.

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

None

#### **GENERAL POLICY AND FINANCE**

12. Citizens' Comments – General Policy and Finance Items

None

Mr. Spagnol introduced our new Finance Director, Joseph Villella, who will be replacing Mark Romito at the end of the month.

Mr. Spagnol announced that Mr. Romito received, on behalf of the Municipality of Bethel Park, a very prestigious award from Government Finance Officers Association. The letter was read by Mr. Spagnol which said that a Certificate of Achievement for Comprehensive Financial Annual Reporting for the Fiscal Year ending December 31, 2011, was awarded to Mr. Romito for excellence in financial reporting. This certificate of achievement is the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting. It is an obtainment that represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management. A plaque will be shipped to Mark Romito, Finance Director.

Mr. Harrison said he told Joe he has a tough act to follow, so he's got his work cut out for him.

Mr. Moury said we expect Joe's name on this plaque next year. He also thanked Assistant Manager Judy Miller and all the staff who work with Mark to get it to this point. It was a big undertaking, a lot of work under the direction of our Manager Bill Spagnol, but he thanked everybody for a job well done.

Mr. Spagnol said he wanted to mention Pam Inglis who does a yeoman's work in assisting Mark by getting this done.

## 13. General Policy and Finance Items

## 2013 Regular Council Meeting Dates

Motion by Mr. Hannan and seconded by Mr. Allen to approve the following year 2013 Regular Council Meeting dated with a starting time of 7:30 P.M.: January 14, February 11, March 11, April 8, May 13, June 10, July 8, August 12, September 9, October 14, November 11, December 9. Motion Carried 7 – 0. Council Members O'Brien and Pape absent.

## 14. Resolution – Year 2013 Tax Anticipation Note

Motion by Mr. Hannan and seconded by Mr. Allen to adopt the resolution relative to the proposal submitted by Brentwood Bank for the year 2013 Tax Anticipation Note, in accordance with the Finance Director's correspondence dated November 27, 2012. Motion Carried 7 – 0. Council Members O'Brien and Pape absent.

Mr. Harrison said we may mention that we do this every year because a lot of money does not come in until August and September for real estate. So, this is to have money to operate the Municipality until we collect the real estate taxes.

## 15. Resolution – Appointment of Southwest Allegheny Tax Collection Committee Delegate

Motion by Mr. Hannan and seconded by Mr. Allen to adopt the resolution to change the Municipality's Southwest Allegheny Tax Collection Committee delegate by naming Joseph Villella as the new primary voting delegate. Motion Carried 7 – 0. Council Members O'Brien and Pape absent.

## 16. Resolution – Police Pension Benefit Appeal

Motion by Mr. Hannan and seconded by Mr. Allen to adopt the resolution denying the appeal of the decision of the Police Pension Plan Administrator dated August 29, 2012. Motion Carried 7 – 0. Council Members O'Brien and Pape Absent.

## 17. Ordinance – Year 2012 Administrative Salaries

Motion by Mr. Hannan and seconded by Mr. Allen to approve the ordinance providing 2012 salaries for the Bethel Park Management, Supervisory and other confidential Employees. Motion Carried 7 – 0. Council Members O'Brien and Pape Absent.

## 18. Ordinance – Year 2013 Administrative Salaries

Motion by Mr. Hannan and seconded by Mr. Allen to approve the ordinance providing 2013 salaries for the Bethel Park Management, Supervisory and other

confidential Employees. Motion Carried 7 – 0. Council Members O'Brien and Pape Absent.

## **PLANNING AND ZONING ITEMS**

### 19. Planning and Zoning Items

None

Mr. Dixon gave an update on the Broughton/Baptist Road construction program as relates to the closure of Locust Road. He said that now that the intersection is open again, the guide rail will remain up on Locust. There was a meeting some months ago with PennDOT wherein an opening of a pedestrian access to the guiderail to allow neighbors to come up Locust and cross over was discussed. A letter was sent to PennDOT officially requesting pedestrian access. That request is still in PennDOT's hands. Jerry Duke checked with our traffic engineer, Trans Associates, and the decision is forthcoming.

In addition, Mr. Dixon mentioned that there is a misconception as to how that guiderail got placed across Locust. In anticipation of the project, we proactively took measures to control traffic coming through the neighborhoods. This is not an uncommon occurrence as we have been through this before in various other parts of the community. We offered three different scenarios to PennDOT for approval and this was the plan that was put forth in an effort to control traffic in that area.

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

### 20. Health, Safety and Welfare Items

None

Mr. McLean said Chief Mackey pointed out a couple of week ago that a study was done that determined that Bethel Park was the 27<sup>th</sup> safest community to live in the United States. A pretty impressive determination from that study. He looked at the list and only one other community in Pennsylvania made the list. This is based on the fact that we have an extremely low crime rate for the number of people living in this community. This is a testament to the Police Department, to the leadership of Chief Mackey and also to the people in this community. He does not think it is an accident that the Chief mentioned that there are 1,000 people involved in the Crime Watch community and we have one of the safest communities in the United States. It is something we all work on and we should all be proud of.

The other related event was related to Mr. Romito and his award. A year ago, we sat in this room and faced a lot of uncertainty about what was going to happen with the Act 32 and the earned income tax and how was that money going to come in, reassessments in the same year and how was that going to affect the real estate taxes. But through a lot of good work by people on the staff and I think some good decisions that were made, we were able last month to, without much

fanfare, actually reduce the millage rate on our real estate taxes from 2.43 to 2.03. So, it occurred to me that we managed to keep our real estate taxes relatively low compared to other communities, yet we have one of the safest communities around and in the United States. So, I guess it's something all of us should be proud of in this entire community. I just wanted to mention that and make the proper accolades toward the people who work for us because they are all responsible for bringing that about.

He then said that if anyone is looking for a suitable donation, there will be a Blood Drive on Saturday, December 29, 2012 at the Bethel Park Community Center from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. All donors will receive two free Carmikes Movie Theatre tickets.

Mr. Moury mentioned that Mr. Pape, Chair of Health, Safety and Welfare, is not with us this evening. He wished him a Merry Christmas and look forward to seeing him back here next month.

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

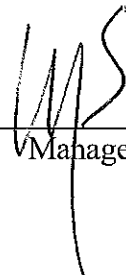
21. Public Works and Maintenance Items

None

In the absence of Mr. O'Brien, Mr. Allen announced that the Bethel Park Military Banner Program is up and running. Information on this program is available on the Bethel Park Website with a link to the application. He thanked Judy Miller for making this possible. If you don't want to do it on line, interested individuals can get an application to fill out, provide a picture, and a check for \$80 made out to the American Legion at the Municipal Building Reception Desk. The banners will be displayed next year from Memorial Day through Veterans' Day.

22. Adjournment

Motion and second to adjourn at 8:14 P.M.

  
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Manager