

MUNICIPALITY OF BETHEL PARK

MINUTES OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Date: June 13, 2011

Time: 7:30 P.M.

Location: Municipal Building

1. **Roll Call**

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

Absent: Dixon, Gibbons and Pape

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 held June 13, 2011 to discuss contract negotiations.

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. Ms. McIntosh announced that this past Saturday, June 11th, the Library held the Summer Reading Club Kick Off Carnival. Several hundred people attended. Carnival games were held and they offered ethnic food. She wanted to remind everyone that it is summer reading time and the Summer Reading Program is ongoing and children that register for summer reading can receive book bucks to trade in for small prizes. For adults, you can register for a weekly gift card drawing.

Last week, the Library had new computers installed with Window 7. Now patrons have the ability to download books, music and videos to their devices.

Upcoming programs include Watercolor Demonstration on June 14 at 4:00 p.m. and June 16 at 6:00 p.m. This will give you a taste of the full classes that are offered at the Schoolhouse Gallery. Pajama Storytime for children, birth through kindergarten, is on Wednesday, June 15 at 7:00 p.m. Drama Clubs, a summer tradition at the Library, will be held on June 16 for Grades 6 through 12 at 3:00 p.m., and Grades 2 through 4 at 4:00 p.m. A Solar Energy Seminar will be held on Thursday, June 23 at 7:00 p.m., where you can find out how to save money on your energy bills. A seminar on colorectal cancer risks and screening procedures conducted by a registered nurse from the Allegheny County Health Department will be held on Saturday, June 25 at 1:00 p.m.

Ms. McIntosh said to look for the Library's annual fund drive envelope in the August edition of the Chronicles. While basic operating costs are covered by the Municipality and the County, programs and additional services are beyond the budget. Please consider a donation.

More information on the Summer Reading Programs or any of the Library programs and activities can be accessed by visiting the website at www.bethelparklibrary.org

5. Police Chief's Report

Chief John Mackey began by announcing that prior to the Council Meeting, he was at the Community Center for the third Crime Watch Meeting. Two hundred and fifty people have signed up for Crime Watch. Chief said he would like to relay to the public the importance of Crime Watch. Chief Mackey mentioned that a recent Citizens' Police Academy graduate's actions aided in the arrest of an actor in a recent armed robbery by doing what he was taught to do in the academy. Chief Mackey went on to say that by becoming involved with Crime Watch, they are asking for people to become extra sets of eyes and ears by paying attention to what is going on in the community. Meetings will continue to be scheduled and he would like folks to attend, but and if you cannot, you can sign up on the website, www.bethelpark.net and access Officer Rigatti's email. People will then be kept informed in two ways, by email and by the Swift Reach notification system.

Chief Mackey again brought up one of the local ordinances that deal with the requirement of house numbers. House numbers should be no smaller than 4" high next to your front door. If your house is 75 feet or more from the road, you should have a sign in your yard. The sign should be a foot and a half off the ground and it should have 4 inch numbers. Don't put numbers on your garage door because if the garage door is up, your house cannot be located in an emergency.

Chief Mackey said they are constantly accepting applications for the Citizen's Police Academy and for LEAP program for high school students. Classes begin on Wednesday, January 18, 2012. Please be advised that the class fills up quickly.

6. Fire Chief's Report

Dave Gerber, Assistant Fire Chief of the Bethel Park Volunteer Fire Company, gave the Fire Chief's Report for the month of May 2011.

Assistant Chief Gerber said the second mailing of donation letters for the annual fund drive will be mailed out at the end of June. You can drop a check off at the station, go to the website at www.bethelparkvfc.com and make a donation with a credit card or you can send it by mail.

Another fund raiser is the Saturday evening Bingo at the Brightwood Fire Station. Doors open at 6:00 p.m.

Assistant Chief Gerber announced that they are still looking for new members, 18 years of age or older. Information for new members is on the website or you can stop at the fire station for details. Training is paid for and if you are looking to go back to school, the Fire Department supports the Fire Vest program through Community College of Allegheny County.

Assistant Chief Gerber said that Chief Dan Moore sends his thanks to the Police Department for their assistance with a structure fire on South Park Road on Monday morning.

He also mentioned to Mr. Harrison that he did not forget about getting together with the Boy Scouts. He will be in touch to set something up.

7. Mayor's Report

Mayor Morton began by announcing the 90 Plus Club Birthdays for the month of June.

Mayor Morton mentioned that the Bethel Park 125th Banner Project has been going well. The goal was to sell 70 to 75 banners to merchants and individuals and now we stand at around 60 sold. There are approximately nine poles left to fill and we may reach our goal quite soon. Mayor Morton thanked all the merchants and individuals who have supported this project. The profit made on the sale of these banners is being used to finance the rest of the projects and programs for the celebration. A special thanks to Councilman McLean for collecting the money from Council for their banner. Mr. McLean said he will donate the banner to the time capsule.

Mayor Morton said he will keep everyone informed as to the upcoming events for the Bethel Park 125th celebration.

At this time, Mayor Morton gave his annual State of the Union Address.

Per request from Mr. Harrison, the following is verbatim text – Mayor Cliff Morton.

Mayor Morton said:

“First of all I want to thank the Council and particularly the financial staff who was able to stabilize our problems that we saw coming over the last couple of years and we are really not in bad shape at this point in time. If the economy keeps going the way it is, we may have to do some more adjusting, but I want to thank them for their efforts in that.

The census came out from the last few years, you know, and the town is showing some things that are probably not what we would like to see, but we are not growing, we are getting older, in fact, by average age, we are older than many of the towns around us, by age, and some homes have been abandoned in town as a result of the economy and I am sure that we will find some ways to get involved in that if it gets worse. For that matter, the economy has affected probably all of us, everybody in town to some degree in some way. However, the Municipality still, like I've mentioned, stayed the same sound financially and the other problems that we have, I'm sure that this Council and this staff will continue to find ways to improve it, work on these problems, and keep the town moving into the future the way we would like to.

So, Mr. Chairman, that is really all I really have for tonight, rather a brief comment on that.”

8. Approval of Minutes

Regular Council Meeting Minutes of May 9, 2011.

Motion by Mr. Allen and seconded by Mr. O'Brien to approve the Regular Council Meeting Minutes of May 9, 2011. Motion Carried 6-0.

9. Bills and Payrolls

Motion by Mr. Allen and seconded by Mr. Hannan to approve the Bills and Payrolls for the Municipality per Bill List #061311 in the amount of \$1,302,549.90. Motion Carried 6 - 0.

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

None

GENERAL POLICY AND FINANCE

11. General Policy and Finance Items

None

Mr. Moury noted that in the latest edition of the *Pittsburgh Magazine*, our solicitor, Mr. Robert McTiernan, was named as a “super lawyer”. Congratulations.

PLANNING AND ZONING ITEMS

12. Citizens' Comments – Planning & Zoning Items

None

13. Planning and Zoning Items

Application #2011-0464 – Fifth Third Bank, Library Road, Major Land Development, 5110 Library Road, GPD Group, Applicant

Motion by Mr. Allen, Seconded by Mr. Hannan to approve Application #2011-0464 – Fifth Third Bank, Library Road, Major Land Development, 5110 Library Road, GPD Group, Applicant, in accordance with the Municipal Planner's correspondence dated May 19, 2011. Motion Carried 6 – 0.

Mr. Harrison then spoke of the status of an item that was approved on last month's agenda, Sheetz, regarding the hours of operation of that business and the opposition of a 24-hour operation by the residents in the area. Mr. Harrison would be in favor of operation hours of 6:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. and that Sheetz should give it some consideration.

HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE ITEMS

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

None

15. Health Safety and Welfare Items

Ordinance – Amending Chapter 65 – Vehicle and Traffic, relating to parking restrictions in the Municipality, Increasing Fines from \$5.00 to \$20.00

Motion by Mr. McLean, Seconded by Mr. Allen to approve the ordinance, amending Chapter 65 – Vehicle and Traffic, relating to parking restrictions in the Municipality, increasing fines from \$5.00 to \$20.00. Motion Carried 6 – 0.

Mr. McLean mentioned that, as the Mayor spoke of, the banners for the 125th Celebration have been a wonderful start to the whole 125th celebration and by receiving the support from everyone who bought the banners. He also thanked Bob Cygrymus and the Public Works Department for their assistance in getting the banners hung so they could be part of the Community celebration.

PUBLIC WORKS AND MAINTENANCE ITEMS

16. Public Works and Maintenance Item

None

Mr. O'Brien mentioned that Memorial Day was a wonderful celebration of remembrance and recognition of our veterans in this town. He urged everyone to see it on Channel 7. He then thanked the following individuals: General Thomas Ayers for attending, his family, the Kelly and Walsh families who traveled from different parts of the country and other communities in order to celebrate the remembrance their family members, Rep. Matt Smith, Jim McLean, Mayor Morton, Municipal Council, Tim Moury, John Pape, Jack Allen, Jim Hannan, Robert Cygrymus, Jerry Duke and the employees that attended and helped that day. Also, he thanked Dave Cable, Bill Knaus, David Knaus and the Knaus family for their help with the memorial, Tom Gillis, Bud Gastgeb, Kathy and Rick Raeder, Sharon and Bob Daily, the Marine Corp League 726, George Tracey and the American Legion, the honor students from Bethel Park High School, Keystone Coach Works, and Evanovich Nursery. He then thanked a wonderful lady that we recently lost, Sharon Zimmermann, who was the nuts and bolts of the operation. In her spirit, we picked it up and moved it to a different level.

Mr. O'Brien recognized Judy Miller for stepping up and making it possible to have General Ayres present and for dealing with the families and researching and obtaining all the information on the two lost veterans. On behalf of the Veterans' Memorial Committee, Jeffrey Michael Walsh and Leo John Kelly III, Mr. O'Brien presented Ms. Miller with a bouquet of flowers.


Mr. Moury then asked Municipal Engineer, Jean Statler, to announce upcoming road closures.

Municipal Engineer Jean Statler announced that there are two upcoming road closures. Clifton Road will be closed between the intersection of McMurray Road and Highfield Road from June 17 and July 15 due to the installation of a bridge across Clifton Road to the Montour Trail. Arrowhead Trail in this area will also be closed during this time.

The second closing that will impact traffic is the closing of Highland Road between the intersection of Oregon Trail and Meadowbrook Drive between June 27 and August 15 due to the replacement of the bridge deck over the light rail tracks. Detours will be posted.

17. Adjournment

Motion and second to adjourn at 8:10 p.m.



Manager