

**BOROUGH OF EAST GREENVILLE**  
**BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**December 7, 2015**

**Call to Order:** Mr. Huff called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**Attendance:** The following Council members were present: Timothy Huff, Tracey Hunsinger, Josiah Pierson, Ryan Pugh, Andrew Rock, Lee Steinert and James Young. Also present were Mayor Ryan Sloyer, Michelle Forsell, Solicitor, James Fry, Borough Manager, and Sharon Kachmar, Borough Secretary/Treasurer.

**Approval of Minutes:** A motion was made by Mr. Rock to approve the minutes of the November 24, 2015, meeting. Seconded by Mr. Pugh and unanimously approved.

**Visitors:** A total of 30 people were in attendance. Those that signed in were DeAnn Mensch, Town & Country; Frank & Phyllis Buza; Stephanie Eisenhard; Diane Amoss; Bob McCluskie; Marita Thomson; Vicki Lightcap; Keith Gerhart; Peg Gerhart; Jeromy Schulz-Arnold; Doug Criddle; Keith McCarrick; Richard Walker; Mike Mensch; Larry Roeder, Town & Country; Eric Grubb

**Visitor's Comments:** Frank Buza, 434 Fourth Street, inquired about exemptions for the discharge of weapon ordinance that was on the agenda. He was told that Council was in the early stages of considering this ordinance.

Marita Thomson, 215, Bank Street, remarked on the benefits of evaluating the needs of every department including police, parks, code enforcement, roads, personnel, etc., when considering the budget. She asked the sitting Council to not make a decision tonight on a new hire, but work on the financial issues and research the decision properly.

Keith Gerhart, 143 Cherry Street, addressed Council concerning two major budget matters – police and roads. He questioned why \$30,000 was not spent this year in the roads budget. He suggested possible cuts from roads, tot lot, Christmas lighting and action park to make the budget work without a tax increase.

Doug Criddle, 274 Washington Street, asked that the \$30,000 surplus from roads be put right into the budget to hire an officer rather than roll over into roads. He asked that money be spent on safety first and roads second. He suggested cutting wayfinding and looking for more grants.

Rachael Demeter, a former East Greenville resident, stated a police force is necessary. She is considering moving back to East Greenville and wants to live in a town that 100% supports their police department.

Emily Eisenhard, a 13-year old proclaiming to speak on behalf of students at Upper Perkiomen Middle School, wants the police to stay.

**Police Commission Report:** Mayor Sloyer reported the allocation for the month is \$48,157.05.

**Mayor's Report:** Nothing.

**Solicitor Items:** Atty. Forsell advised that Ordinance 2015-03 which amends Section 53-1 of the Code of Ordinances of the Borough of East Greenville pertaining to the parking rules and regulations on all municipal-owned parking lots and properties has been duly advertised and ready for adoption. Mr. Pierson made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2015-03, seconded by Mr. Rock. Roll call vote: Mr. Rock – aye, Mr. Pugh – aye, Mr. Pierson – aye, Mr. Huff – aye, Mr. Young – aye, Ms. Hunsinger – aye, Mr. Steinert - aye. Motion carried.

Atty. Forsell indicated she researched a discharge of weapons ordinance due to concerns at the last meeting. An ordinance can be written to prohibit the discharge of deadly weapons with exception to self defense and defense of property and asked if Council wanted her to move forward. Mr. Huff stated that based on a population of 3,000 residents in one square mile, he didn't feel it was appropriate to discharge deadly weapons in town. Mr. Pierson asked if there could be language that allows for target shooting in their basement. Council also discussed outside target shooting if the lot size is big enough and there is a proper back stop. Atty. Forsell was asked to continue her research, specifically dealing with archery.

Atty. Forsell indicated there was no update on the wayfinding program agreement with PennDOT that was supplied by the Chamber. She is waiting on receiving some documents that were missing before it is reviewed.

**Water Committee:** Water supervisor report was given by Mr. Fry. Leak detection was done throughout the Borough with no issues. There is a problem with beavers along the creek. They are destroying trees that were used as a riparian buffer.

**Zoning/Planning:** Nothing.

**Road Committee:** Mr. Fry intends to meet with the engineer this week to go over the road repair plan and discuss the Second Street CDBG grant project. The Second Street project should be ready for submission of final design in January 2016. The handicapped improvements at Borough Hall and the Clubhouse may also be discussed.

**Finance Committee:** Mr. Rock made a motion to pay the bills. Seconded by Mr. Pugh and unanimously approved. Roll call vote: Mr. Rock – aye, Mr. Pugh – aye, Mr. Pierson – aye, Mr. Huff – aye, Mr. Young – aye, Ms. Hunsinger – aye, Mr. Steinert - aye. Motion carried.

Mr. Rock made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. Seconded by Mr. Young and unanimously approved.

Although not a bidding requirement, Eddinger's provided a 2016 quote of \$1.09 per gallon for propane.

Mr. Rock advised that Council needs to make a decision about the police budget before the Borough budget can be passed. Mr. Rock supports hiring a full-time officer, or at a minimum, adding a part-time officer. Mr. Huff suggested using other funds besides just the road maintenance fund to balance the budget. He suggested eliminating the holiday lighting line item, eliminating 206 Main Street painting and reducing the tot lot expenses by \$5,000. Mr. Huff originally supported a part-time hire but after reviewing information on crime rates and incidents per officer, has changed his position and suggests hiring a full-time officer. He stresses that the new hire would be a replacement for a retired officer, not an addition. Mr. Rock made a motion to approve to do a full-time hire for the police department, seconded

by Mr. Steinert. Roll call vote: Mr. Rock – aye, Mr. Pugh – aye, Mr. Pierson – aye, Mr. Huff – aye, Mr. Young – **no**, Ms. Hunsinger – **no**, Mr. Steinert - aye. Motion carried with vote of 5 – 2. Mr. Huff stated that that motion approves the police allocation of \$611,056.80 into the budget.

The meeting was paused from 8:32 p.m. to 8:42 p.m. for a medical emergency.

Mr. Rock recapped the changes to the general fund budget which is balanced at \$1,842,362.50. The water fund budget currently has \$2,535.14 more in expenses than revenue. The suggestion is to balance the budget using water savings. The Highway Aid budget is balanced. Mr. Rock made a motion to advertise the budget, seconded by Mr. Pugh. Roll call vote: Mr. Rock – aye, Mr. Pugh – aye, Mr. Pierson – aye, Mr. Huff – aye, Mr. Young – aye, Ms. Hunsinger – aye, Mr. Steinert - aye. Motion carried.

Mr. Rock made a motion to advertise the tax ordinance with no change from the previous year, seconded by Mr. Pugh. Roll call vote: Mr. Rock – aye, Mr. Pugh – aye, Mr. Pierson – aye, Mr. Huff – aye, Mr. Young – aye, Ms. Hunsinger – aye, Mr. Steinert - aye. Motion carried.

The last meeting of the year to adopt the budget is scheduled for Tuesday, December 22, 2015, at 7:30 p.m.

**Personnel Committee:** Ms. Hunsinger reported that the crossing guard who worked at 5<sup>th</sup> and Main has resigned due to safety concerns for herself and the children due to the vehicle traffic. Ms. Hunsinger suggested speaking with the school district to discuss the possibility of moving the crossing of Main Street to the Fourth Street or Sixth Street intersection where there is a traffic light. It was also mentioned that some of the buses are using Fifth Street to access Main Street, and they are not supposed to do that because Fifth Street is too narrow. A letter will be sent to the school district expressing these concerns and asking the principal to contact Mr. Fry to discuss the safest options.

Concerning board appointments for next year, Ms. Hunsinger advised that Jeromy Schulz-Arnold has agreed to take the Zoning Hearing Board position but an alternate for that board is also needed as well as a chairman for the Vacancy Board. Mr. Rock agreed to take one of those positions. One other person is needed. A notice will be posted on Facebook.

**Property Committee:** Signal Service provided a traffic signal maintenance contract for 2016 and 2017. The yearly contract amount is \$550.00; \$275.00 per traffic signal. Mr. Pierson made a motion to renew the contract with Signal Service not to exceed \$600 per year, seconded by Mr. Young. Roll call vote: Mr. Rock – aye, Mr. Pugh – aye, Mr. Pierson – aye, Mr. Huff – aye, Mr. Young – aye, Ms. Hunsinger – aye, Mr. Steinert - aye. Motion carried.

**Recycling/Waste Mgmt Committee:** Mr. Pugh advised that the reports are on file. A Recycling Committee meeting will be scheduled with Pennsburg Borough next year.

**Sewer Authority:** Nothing.

**Revitalization:** Nothing.

**Regional Planning:** Nothing,

**Emergency Management:** Nothing.

**Borough Manager Updates:** Mr. Fry advised Council that the Arlington Street lot agreement of sale with the Simmons estate expires December 31, 2016. The decision on the grant application we filed is being held up because of the state budget. Even if the state budget gets approved soon, it is not certain we would get the funding. In fairness, Mr. Fry suggested the agreement be released so they could put it back on the market. If the grant is awarded, it could be declined. Council agreed.

**Correspondence:** None.

**Motion to Adjourn:** Being no further business, Mr. Rock made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Pierson and unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Submitted by:



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Sharon Kachmar, Secretary/Treasurer