

BOROUGH OF EAST GREENVILLE
BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
February 1, 2016

Call to Order: Council President Mr. Young called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Attendance: The following Council members were present: Timothy Huff, Robert McCluskie, Ryan Pugh, Marita Thomson and James Young. Also present were Michelle Forsell, Solicitor, James Fry, Borough Manager, and Sharon Kachmar, Borough Secretary/Treasurer.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Ms. Thomson to approve the minutes of the January 26, 2016, meeting. Seconded by Mr. Pugh and approved by all except Mr. Huff who abstained.

Visitors: Jeromy Schulz-Arnold; Kathy & Ed Hummel; Debbie Finn; Anna Uhl; Margie Gehlhaus; Bradley Schlegel of Town & Country

Visitor Comments: Debbie Finn, 541 Colonial Drive, attended to discuss the invoice for the unbilled water usage on her water meter which was replaced in December 2015. Based on a customer in the past who had a similar issue with his meter, Council reviewed several options for billing which would reduce her initial invoice that was based on 2015 rates. One breakdown of usage allocated the 286,000 gallons over a period of four decades and used rates from 1980, 1990, 2000 and 2010. The total due would be \$757.68. Ms. Uhl asked that we continue to research the amounts billed during those years and take into account whether the minimums were met. Borough Council directed the office to go back and check for minimum usage. Ms. Finn expressed her concern that this is a very difficult position she is in and feels it is negligence by the Borough. Ms. Thomson advised that we are a utility and once we realize there is a problem with a reading, we try to make it right. Mr. Huff advised that it is costly to make water and the other residents should not be responsible to pay for the 286,000 gallons of water used by another homeowner. Ms. Finn insisted her outside register was replaced at one time, but the office was able to confirm that the water meter and outside register were original to the property based on records from 1980 that listed the serial numbers on those units which matched the ones recently replaced. Ms. Finn indicated she appreciates Council working with her but she doesn't feel that she owes this money. Ms. Thomson stated she understands it is a hardship but feels it is the homeowner's responsibility to pay for the water they used and Council is looking at reasonable scenarios. Ms. Finn asked what her next step is if she is not satisfied with Council's decision after they look over all the minimums. Ms. Uhl asked the Borough solicitor to advise them, to which Atty. Forsell replied she works for the Borough and Borough Council and the customer would need to obtain their own representation.

Margie Gehlhaus who lives at 209 Cherry Street asked if the Borough will be removing snow that is taking up parking spaces along Cherry Street. She felt the Borough had much better snow removal coverage in the past and indicated they are the only resident on Cherry Street who has no back yard property. Mr. Young indicated there were no plans to remove the snow, and Mr. Fry added that due to the amount of snow received, there was no place to take the snow. Ms. Gehlhaus also asked if the Borough could be more respectful of those who have handicapped parking places. Mr. Fry said the Borough is not authorized to remove snow from the right of way onto private property. It is best if neighbors get together to clear the spaces for their handicapped neighbors.

The handicapped resident had called the Borough office to say they had no issue with how the snow was cleared, but it was determined the Borough can no longer clear snow for any private resident.

Police Commission Report: The monthly allocation for January is \$50,921.40.

Solicitor Items: Atty. Forsell presented **Resolution 2016-04** which allows Council member participation and voting by telecommunication device as ready to be adopted. This resolution replaces **Resolution 2015-06** and includes wording that council members must join the meeting at roll call. Ms. Thomson made a motion to approve **Resolution 2016-04**, seconded by Mr. McCluskie. Roll call vote: Mr. McCluskie – aye, Mr. Pugh – aye, Ms. Thomson – aye, Mr. Huff – aye, Mr. Young – aye. Motion carried.

Water Committee: Reports were emailed. Mr. Fry advised that they were contacted by the Partnership for Safe Water who asked if the Borough was interested in doing the distribution system optimization at a cost of \$50.00 a year. It is through the AWWA, and they look at the entire distribution system. Both he and Joel Pilgert, water plant supervisor, felt it would be beneficial especially since the chlorine residual regulations will be changing and there will be monitoring to do. Mr. Pugh made a motion to proceed with the distribution system optimization at a cost of \$50.00 a year, seconded by Mr. Huff. Roll call vote: Mr. McCluskie – aye, Mr. Pugh – aye, Ms. Thomson – aye, Mr. Huff – aye, Mr. Young – aye. Motion carried.

Mr. Fry indicated there was a small leak on a service line scheduled for repair tomorrow.

Zoning/Planning/Codes: Mr. Huff advised that the code officer's report is on file. Status of the Flood Plain Ordinance has not changed; it is being reviewed by PEMA.

Road Committee: Mr. Fry advised that the bid package for the Second Street Reconstruction project is being completed and Cowan is looking at adding the sidewalk with a change order if there is money in the grant for that to be done. The pre-bid meeting is scheduled for February 17, 2016, with the bid opening on February 24, 2016.

We are waiting for approval from the insurance company to submit work to Signal Service for the accident damage at Sixth and Main Streets.

Mr. McCluskie asked if the speed bumps can be re-painted in Colonial Village. Mr. Fry replied that they will paint them as soon as the weather permits.

The road crew is planning on patching potholes later this week if the weather cooperates.

Finance Committee: Ms. Thomson made a motion to approve the February 2016 bills for payment. Seconded by Mr. Pugh and unanimously approved.

Ms. Thomson made a motion that the Treasurer's Report be approved as submitted. Seconded by Mr. Pugh and unanimously approved.

Personnel Committee: Nothing.

Property Committee: Mr. Fry has no information yet on the design for the handicap accessible improvements.

Waste Management Report: Mr. Pugh advised that monthly reports are on file.

Recycling Committee: Mr. Pugh advised the reports are on file. Mr. Fry added that last year Council approved money to go into the Recycling Fund if needed. The account looks fine for February, but if money is needed in the future, he will address it with Council as the need arises. Mr. Fry spoke with Bruce Lord who was going to set up a joint recycling/trash meeting with Red Hill. Mr. Fry will follow up.

Sewer Authority: No report.

Revitalization: Nothing to report.

Regional Planning: Nothing to report.

Emergency Management: Nothing to report.

Borough Manager Updates: None.

Correspondence: Upper Hanover Township wrote a letter thanking the Borough for their help during the major fire event in their township that occurred in December.

Mr. Ed Buchinski left a phone message to be read thanking the road crew, borough manager and Pennsburg Borough for clearing snow on Main Street in the business district. He also thanked the borough employees for helping troubleshoot the flooding problem in the basement of Subway.

A thank you was received from Kathy Chilton for the condolences of Borough Council and gift cards.

Motion to Adjourn: Being no further business, Mr. McCluskie made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Pugh. Meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Submitted by:



Sharon Kachmar, Borough Secretary