

BOROUGH OF EAST GREENVILLE
BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
October 3, 2016

Call to Order: Council acting President Ms. Hunsinger 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: Joseph Arahill, Tracey Hunsinger, Robert McCluskie, Ryan Pugh, Marita Thomson and Leon Steinert. 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 Ms. Thomson to approve the minutes of the September 27, 2016, meeting. Seconded by Mr. Pugh and unanimously approved.

Executive Session: Ms. Hunsinger announced that an executive session was held at 6:45 p.m. due to possible litigation with the termination of the Upper Perk Police District.

Visitors: 89 visitors were recorded.

Public Comment: Eric Grubb, 138 Main Street, asked Council to reconsider the purchase of Arlington Street lots.

Police Commission Report: Mayor Sloyer advised that the monthly allocation is \$50,921.40. At the September Police Commission meeting, Pennsburg members would not approve for payment the invoices from Gazan & John who represent the Police Commission as their solicitor. Mayor Sloyer asked Council to consider paying East Greenville's portion of the invoice in the amount of \$382.50. Ms. Thomson made a motion to approve payment for East Greenville Borough's portion of the bill from Gazan & John in the amount of \$382.50, seconded by Mr. Pugh. Roll call: Mr. McCluskie – aye, Mr. Pugh – aye, Ms. Thomson – aye, Ms. Hunsinger - aye, Mr. Arahill – aye, Mr. Steinert – aye. Motion carried.

East Greenville representatives recently attended a regional police meeting. Mr. Arahill said they were asked to present a Letter of Intent to their Borough Council to start the process. By submitting this letter, the municipality agrees to cooperate with the Governor's Center on the provision of technical services. Mr. Arahill proposed to have the solicitor review the letter and advise.

In connection with the motion made to terminate the agreement with Pennsburg for the Upper Perk Police, Mayor Sloyer asked Council to consider appointing committee members to start looking into the transition process. He recommends the two members of the Police Commission, Ms. Thomson and Mr. McCluskie, and himself. East Greenville is looking into local police coverage made up of full and part-time officers for coverage 75 to 80% of the time, supplemented with state police coverage. The first step will be to hire a chief who will determine the scheduling and hiring for what is necessary for the Borough.

Mr. Steinert made a motion to rescind the UPPD pullout, seconded by Mr. Pugh.

Derrick Ritter, 115 Main Street, asked about a police protection plan with costs.

Kristen Davies, 215 State Street, asked Council to rescind.

Ed Buchinski, East Greenville business owner, thought 75 to 80% local coverage was optimistic and stated his concerns with relying on state police coverage. He asked Council to rescind and mediate.

Lon Brinckman, 551 Washington Street, gave Council a handout about funding state police. He asked Council to rescind in the interest of gathering more information.

Donna Steinhauer, 313 State Street, wants the UPPD to continue.

Jack Ramsey, 710 Hamilton Road, was concerned new open space purchase won't be available for use to residents and asked Council to be more transparent.

Donald Baker, 232 Cherry Street, asked Council to rescind the order to disband the police until they can provide more information. He also doesn't support the open space purchase.

Donna Steinhauer, 313 State Street, asked Council to be more thorough before making purchases such as the Arlington Street lots.

Jeff Miles, 521 Jefferson Street, is concerned about the impact of removing the police force. He asked that Council seek mediation.

Lynette Madden, 229 Main Street, suggested a live feed of Borough Council meetings and website upgrades.

Dave Renner, Thistle Drive, Pennsburg, asked how this Council knows it will be cheaper to have their own force.

Margie Gehlhaus, 209 Cherry Street, questioned police pension state aid. She also asked what precipitated the pullout. Mr. McCluskie said the set up of the Police Commission is structurally flawed. Once Red Hill pulled out, the current structure was kept of three voting members to each of the remaining Boroughs. That fundamental flaw must be fixed.

Ed Buchinski, East Greenville business owner, believes it can be turned around.

Jack Ramsey, 710 Hamilton, asked Council to consider regionalizing. Mr. Arahill explained that was the purpose of the form received at the regional police meeting that Council asked the solicitor to review. The results of the study will look at police goals and advise what can be afforded and how to structure police departments.

Monica Oswald, 219 Third Street, questioned the payment to Gazan & John for solicitor fees. Mayor Sloyer advised that East Greenville Borough was paying their share of the invoice because if legal action is taken, the Borough doesn't want to be in nonpayment. Ms. Thomson further explained that East Greenville has no issues with the solicitor's work, and since Pennsburg officials refused to show proof of claimed bias, there was no reason to not pay the bills.

Donald Baker, 232 Cherry Street, asked how voters can help make changes.

Lon Brinckman, 551 Washington Street, said Police Commission needs to be reformed and asked if the time frame of the UPPD pullout can be extended if it cannot be rescinded.

Ed McQue, 219 W Sixth Street, urged Council to rescind the decision.

Joe Wenzel, 709 Morris Road, asked if it was possible to either donate money to the Borough or Police Commission to help with operating expenses.

Ms. Thomson said she appreciates everyone's comments tonight and relayed she has also received comments from residents who don't want taxes increased.

Dave Renner, Pennsburg resident, states it would cost more to start your own department. Both Ms. Thomson and Ms. Hunsinger stated that research shows there are more affordable options.

Ed Buchinski, East Greenville business owner, said school taxes are the highest, not real estate taxes. He is concerned about start up costs. He asked Council to rescind vote and reconsider in May.

Tanya Keller, 477 Colonial Drive, asked Council not to take away the UPPD.

Mr. McCluskie said they are open to options such as regionalization and moving forward towards a permanent fix.

Donald Baker, 232 Cherry Street, said he doesn't believe startup would be cheaper and wants to keep police who know the residents.

Mr. Arahill clarified through Atty. Forsell that a potential payout for the remainder of the contract for contractual obligations is not definite. The officer's contract will expire in 2017 and the chief's contract in 2018.

Tim Cunningham, East Greenville business owner, asked about a slight tax increase to afford the police.

Chrystal Connolly, 425 Jefferson Street, asked that Council research grants for police equipment and herion programs.

Mr. Arahill made a suggestion to amend the current motion on the floor to rescind temporarily to see how mediation progresses. Mr. Steinert did not accept the amendment. The original motion stands which was to rescind the UPPD pullout. Roll call: Mr. McCluskie – no, Mr. Pugh – yes, Ms. Thomson – no, Ms. Hunsinger - no, Mr. Arahill – no, Mr. Steinert – yes. Motion does not carry 2-4.

Solicitor Items: Tabled.

Water Committee: Mr. Fry advised that a quote for \$93,000 was received to recoat and reline the sedimentation basin. Joel Pilgert is looking into a grant application that must be filed by the end of October to help offset the cost. There is a \$100 grant application fee. Ms. Thomson made a motion to file the grant, seconded by Mr. Pugh. Roll call: Mr. McCluskie – aye, Mr. Pugh – aye, Ms. Thomson – aye, Ms. Hunsinger - aye, Mr. Arahill – aye, Mr. Steinert – aye. Motion passed.

The Grid Bee tank mixing system is on order with installation to be performed before the end of November. The water tank paint repair work has not been scheduled yet. Due to the weather, it may need to be carried over to next year's budget.

The water treatment plant was awarded the 15-year Director's Award for participation in Partnership for Safe Water in recognition for commitment to superior water quality.

Concrete sidewalk ramp was installed at the water plant. New regulations for chloroform testing have taken effect.

Water billing issues at 343 Jefferson Street were discussed with homeowner Mark Sinex. Council suggested offering a payment plan. Mr. Sinex asked Council to table their decision so he could review the water usage data. Mr. Arahill made a motion to table this item to give the customer time to look into it. Seconded by Mr. Steinert and unanimously approved.

Zoning/Planning/Codes: Mr. Arahill advised that \$1,730.96 was collected in fees for September. There were also 20 permits issued, 12 violation files and 113 inspections.

Road Committee: Mr. Steinert advised that signs 'for local delivery only' are on order. Corey Gressley is attempting to schedule crack sealing for the week of October 17. Cross walks will be repainted on Third and Fifth Street as needed. There is over \$4,000 left in the Highway Aid budget line item that was budgeted for the purchase of 'no trailer parking' signs. Third Street would cost \$1,875, Second Street would cost \$727, Fifth Street would be \$550, Sixth Street would be \$775 and Front Street \$440. Tabled by Mr. Steinert to be considered at a later date.

Morris Road repairs are scheduled for early November and the fog and chip seal was performed on Third and Fifth Streets.

A quote from Reilly Sweeping for 8 hours of street sweeping would cost \$960 and the cost to dump the sweepings at Pioneer Landfill would be about \$900. There is \$2,900 left in the budget. Ms. Thomson made a motion to proceed with street sweeping, seconded by Mr. Pugh. Roll call: Mr. McCluskie – aye, Mr. Pugh – aye, Ms. Thomson – aye, Ms. Hunsinger - aye, Mr. Arahill – aye, Mr. Steinert – aye. Motion passed.

Under the TSAMS program, the traffic light at 4th and Main Streets underwent an engineering study for potential upgrades with the possibility of PennDOT providing 100% funding. Mr. Fry will follow up for the results of the study.

PennDOT advised that Main Street is scheduled to be resurfaced sometime between October 11, 2016, and July 2017.

Finance Committee: Ms. Thomson made a motion to approve the October bill list as submitted, seconded by Mr. Pugh. Roll call: Mr. McCluskie – aye, Mr. Pugh – aye, Ms. Thomson – aye, Ms. Hunsinger - aye, Mr. Arahill – aye, Mr. Steinert – aye. Motion passed.

Ms. Thomson made a motion to accept the September 2016 Treasurer's Report. Seconded by Mr. Pugh and unanimously approved.

Personnel Committee: Applications for the Borough Council vacancy are due October 25, 2016, by 4:00 p.m.

Property Committee: Wayfinding sign is on target to be installed in the next week or so.

Budgeted improvements to 433 Main Street for capping soffit and fascia with vinyl and aluminum in the amount of \$2,735.00 and replacing gutters for \$495.00 were discussed. Ms. Thomas made a motion to proceed with 433 Main Street improvements based on the quote from Membrino, seconded by Mr. Pugh. Roll call: Mr. McCluskie –

aye, Mr. Pugh – aye, Ms. Thomson – aye, Ms. Hunsinger - aye, Mr. Arahill – aye, Mr. Steinert – aye. Motion passed.

Recycling/Waste Management Report: Trash contract bid opening took place this afternoon. The information is to be reviewed by the committee for a recommendation at the next meeting.

Mr. Pugh advised that bag sales and recycling reports are on file.

Mr. Pugh made a motion to pursue a mandatory recycling ordinance. Seconded by Ms. Thomson and unanimously approved.

Sewer Authority: Nothing.

Revitalization: Nothing to report.

Regional Planning: Nothing.

Emergency Management: Nothing.

Borough Manager Updates: Mr. Fry advised that next year additional funds will need to be budgeted to formulate a plan to reduce phosphorus in the storm water by 5%. Phosphorus is generally found in farm runoff, cattle manure and sewage.

Correspondence: Love Upper Perk sent a request for road closure on December 4, 2016, for the Hometown Christmas Parade. There is no rain date. Mr. Pugh made a motion to close Main Street on December 4th from 1 to 4 p.m. for the Hometown Christmas Parade. Seconded by Mr. Arahill and approved by all except Mr. McCluskie who abstained due to his involvement with Love Upper Perk.

Other: Fifty coupons totalling \$250 were purchased by the Borough from Subway on Main Street in East Greenville for handing out at Community Day. There were complaints that the coupons were not being honored. There was no expiration date on the coupon. Council noted that those coupons are once again being honored according to Mr. Buchinski's Grand Theater Facebook page and thank him for doing the right thing.

Motion to Adjourn: Being no further business, Mr. Pugh made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. Thomson. Meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Submitted by:



Sharon Kachmar, Borough Secretary