

**BOROUGH OF EAST GREENVILLE**  
***BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES***  
**October 25, 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 and Marita Thomson. Also present were Mayor Ryan Sloyer, Atty. 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 October 3, 2016, meeting. Seconded by Mr. McCluskie and unanimously approved.

**Visitors:** 97 visitors signed in.

**Public Comment:** None.

**Police Commission Report:**

Mayor Sloyer reported that last night's meeting included the financial report, chief's report and a resolution reducing the police officer's contributions to the pension plan for 2017. The proposed budget was sent to the Boroughs for consideration. It would raise East Greenville Borough's allocation to \$647,192.90. A budget through March 6, 2017, was requested but turned down. An executive session was held with no action taken.

Mayor Sloyer read the following statement: "East Greenville decided to withdraw and dissolve the Upper Perk Police Department which consists of one full-time chief, eight full-time officers, one full-time secretary effective March 6, 2017. The allocation for East Greenville in 2015 was \$577,000, in 2016 it was \$611,000 and now the proposed budget is going up to \$647,192. East Greenville cannot afford to continue with these increases every year. We asked Pennsburg to honor an agreement of not hiring for replacement of a retired officer to ease the financial burden on the taxpayers, and they have refused. The decision was made on September 6, 2016, at an advertised, public Borough Council meeting. The expense of the Upper Perk Police which is an increase of \$36,192 is proposed for East Greenville's portion next year. This will cost the taxpayers \$647,000 for police services from Upper Perk. Out of the proposed \$1.5 million budget, \$1,265,203 makes up the salaries, benefits, FICA, unemployment, health insurance and health exposure, etc. The operating cost of the department is roughly 20% of that budget. Over the years we have had Pennsylvania State Police from time to time covering our Borough and one officer between both boroughs of East Greenville and Pennsburg when they could not have more than that on for whatever reasons such as vacations, personal times, injuries, sickness, and that's as recent as our September's Police Commission meeting and also Borough Council meeting where we were told we had to bring in extra officers and pay extra for them to stand in the meetings. East Greenville will provide local police coverage with the assistance from the Pennsylvania State Police. When fully staffed, East Greenville will have 75 to 80% local coverage and save the taxpayers roughly \$899,000 over the next four years. This will allow for improved infrastructure and a lot more. East Greenville savings will allow the Police Department to grow as we need and what we can afford. The budget also includes a \$30,000 payment for a startup loan of \$200,000. We can house our Police Department at the Colonial Village Clubhouse. The clubhouse already consists of small offices, a full kitchen for them to eat their meals, and modern restrooms will be provided when we have the already approved facilities upgraded. Security cameras are inside and out and won't need a lot of expensive construction in order to turn that into an operational police department. East Greenville Police Department will consist of one full-time chief of police, one full-time officer, two to three part-time officers to cover the Borough. Some will argue my numbers and savings are incorrect, but I took the operating budget of Upper Perk Police and

put it into an East Greenville Police Department proposed budget changing the salaries, benefits, commercial insurance, health insurance, and over time we will save that kind of money. Sincerely, Ryan Sloyer, Mayor”

Mayor Sloyer asked Council to start the process of getting an ordinance in place to create the East Greenville Police Department and ask Police Commission members to start searching for a chief of police to be in place for March 6, 2017.

Ms. Hunsinger announced she will remove herself from the Police Commission alternate position effective tonight.

Margie Gehlhaus, 209 Cherry Street, asked for a copy of the Mayor’s statement. Mayor Sloyer offered his copy to Ms. Gehlhaus and suggested to Council that his statement be mailed to the taxpayers as well as additional information as they work on the budget.

Ed Buchinski, owner of 252 Main, 254 Main, 300 Main and 602 State Streets, introduced his attorney and asked Mayor Sloyer to resign. He asked Borough Council to vote no confidence in the Mayor and rescind their decision to leave the UPPD. He questioned the legality of an executive session at a Police Commission meeting. He and Mayor Sloyer discussed the payment for Red Hill Band made by Love Upper Perk for the July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration. He asked Council to delay the UPPD pullout to May 2017.

Mr. Pugh made a motion to rescind withdrawing from the Police Commission.

Mr. Buchinski asked him to table the motion until the vacant council seat is filled.

Mr. Pugh tabled the motion.

Mike Schwenk, 112 Jefferson Street, inquired about lawyer fees for the Police Commission and why Atty. Forsell was also asked to attend those meetings. Atty. Forsell explained that the solicitor for the Police Commission is paid by both boroughs through their allocation and East Greenville has paid their portion to Atty. Gazan. Ms. Hunsinger advised Atty. Forsell was present to give just East Greenville Borough legal advice and that going forward Atty. Forsell will be asked to review the audio for those meetings, as needed, rather than attend the meetings. Mr. Schwenk advised he spoke with 58 seniors who were willing to pay more in taxes to keep UPPD. Mayor Sloyer advised that East Greenville’s tax millage is the highest in the Upper Perk Valley and 13<sup>th</sup> highest out of 62 municipalities in Montgomery County. Mr. Schwenk asked about the tax increase needed to keep UPPD. Mayor Sloyer said the proposed budget with an increase of \$36,000 was just given to the Police Commission last night, and he apologized he was not able to run those numbers yet.

Lon Brinckman, 551 Washington Street, provided a packet to Council on the Sunshine Act and shared his concern on discrepancies in describing executive sessions. He asked if the withdraw from UPPD was discussed in executive session. Atty. Forsell advised Council is not to disclose specifics on what is discussed in an executive session.

Melanie Cunningham, Upper Hanover Township resident whose family owns Titanium Finishing, suggested the proposed police budget for next year of \$650,000 be divided among the 2900 residents. She also suggested the Arlington Street lot purchase expense be put into the police budget.

Bob Seville, Pennsburg resident, said the conflict should be worked out and asked to push off the decision until June 2017. Ms. Hunsinger advised that the meeting to begin mediation with Pennsburg Borough is scheduled for next week.

Joe Rock, 200 State Street, advised Council to work with Pennsburg Borough even though they are difficult.

Keith Gerhart, 143 Cherry Street, asked how Council picked the March 6, 2017, pullout date and why the decision was made in September. Ms. Hunsinger advised it was the required six month's notice and provided time to budget properly. Mr. Gerhart advised that a surcharge is a fee assessed against municipal officials for misuse of public funds. He asked Council to rescind their motion to withdraw from UPPD and remain as an active partner in the Police Commission.

David Yanan, 507 Jefferson Street, talked to the character of police officers that are currently serving on UPPD.

Jim Raftery, 319 State Street, asked Council to postpone rescinding while in mediation with Pennsburg Borough.

Joe Rock, 200 State Street, asked both the Mayor of Pennsburg and Mayor of East Greenville if they are willing to work together to resolve the issues. They both answered yes.

Margie Gehlhaus, 209 Cherry Street, asked for two new representatives on the Police Commission.

An unidentified Upper Hanover Township resident asked for a good faith effort to resolve.

Bob Seville, Pennsburg Borough resident serving on Police Commission, said he will remove himself from Police Commission if East Greenville will push the date back.

Three of the four candidates who submitted a letter of interest for the vacant Borough Council seat told Council about their qualifications and interest in serving. They were James J. Raftery, Robert D. McCarty Jr., and Jennifer Moran. D. Eric Grubb removed his name from consideration.

Ms. Thomson made a motion to approve Ms. Jennifer Moran as replacement for the open Borough Council seat, seconded by Mr. McCluskie. Roll call: Mr. McCluskie – aye, Mr. Pugh – no, Ms. Thomson – aye, Ms. Hunsinger – aye, Mr. Arahill – aye. Motion carried.

The Oath of Office was given to Ms. Moran by Mayor Sloyer, and she took her seat on Borough Council.

Atty. Forsell presented two resolutions for approval. Resolution 2016-10 is a formality for the appointment of Joseph Arahill back in June. Resolution 2016-11 is for the appointment of Jennifer Moran. Ms. Thomson made a motion to approve Resolutions 2016-10 and 2016-11 for appointments of Borough Council members, seconded by Mr. McCluskie. Roll call: Mr. McCluskie – aye, Mr. Pugh – no, Ms. Thomson – aye, Ms. Hunsinger – aye. Motion carried.

**Mayor's Report:**

Mayor Sloyer asked Council to authorize East Greenville fireman, if available, to help at the December 4<sup>th</sup> Hometown Christmas Parade from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Mr. Pugh made a motion to authorize the use of fireman for Hometown Christmas Parade. Seconded by Mr. Arahill and unanimously approved.

Ed Buchinski, owner of 252 Main, 254 Main, 300 Main and 602 State Streets, noticed that coupons from Subway was on the agenda at the last meeting and he inquired if it was resolved. Mayor Sloyer confirmed it was resolved.

Mr. Pugh reiterated his motion to rescind the withdraw of UPPD and work through mediation. Mr. Arahill asked if he would be willing to amend his motion to postpone the pullout date until mediation is given a chance, with pullout proceeding if mediation doesn't work. Council discussed adding a date to the motion. Atty. Forsell clarified that mediation would start and the March 6 date would be pulled off the table and could be revisited on March 6. Mr. Pugh revised his motion to rescind the decision to pull out to see how mediation works to revisit it on March 6 and then decide if there will be a pull out which would start the six-month deadline again, seconded by Mr. Arahill. Council discussed their concerns with budgeting for 2017. Roll call: Mr. McCluskie – no, Mr. Pugh – yes, Ms. Thomson – no, Ms. Hunsinger – no, Mr. Arahill – yes, Ms. Moran - yes. Motion tied 3-3. Mayor Sloyer – no. Motion did not carry.

**Water Committee:**

Mr. Fry advised that a resolution needs to be approved for filing a grant with PA Small Water & Sewer Program by the deadline of October 31, 2016, for sedimentation basin repair. Ms. Thomson made a motion to approve Resolution 2016-12 Application to PA Small Water & Sewer Program for grant money, seconded by Mr. Arahill. Roll call: Mr. McCluskie – aye, Mr. Pugh – aye, Ms. Thomson – aye, Ms. Hunsinger – aye, Mr. Arahill – aye, Ms. Moran - aye. Motion carries.

**Borough Manager Updates:**

Mr. Fry advised a new computer for code enforcement is needed for approximately \$900 which is a budgeted item. Mr. Thomson made a motion to purchase a new computer for code enforcement at a cost of \$900, seconded by Mr. Arahill. Roll call: Mr. McCluskie – aye, Mr. Pugh – aye, Ms. Thomson – aye, Ms. Hunsinger – aye, Mr. Arahill – aye, Ms. Moran - aye. Motion carries.

**Solicitor Items:**

Atty. Forsell advised a pre-planning meeting is scheduled for November 2, 2016, to discuss choosing a mediator and the topics.

**Motion to Adjourn:**

At 9:50 p.m. Ms. Hunsinger advised the meeting will be temporarily recessed so the time limit set by the off-site location at UPMS would not be exceeded. The time and date to reconvene this meeting will be announced at a later date.

Submitted by:




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Sharon Kachmar, Borough Secretary