

BOROUGH OF EAST GREENVILLE
BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
April 3, 2017

Call to Order: Council President Ms. Hunsinger called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Attendance: The following Council members were present: Joseph Arahill, Tracey Hunsinger, Robert McCluskie, Jennifer Moran, Ryan Pugh, and Marita Thomson. Absent: Michael Perlow. Also present were Mayor Ryan Sloyer, Atty. Kramer, Solicitor, James Fry, Borough Manager, and Sharon Kachmar, Borough Secretary/Treasurer.

Ms. Hunsinger advised that on April 2, 2017, at 4 p.m. the police committee held a meeting to interview for a proposed police department consultant.

An executive session was held before this meeting for personnel and threatened litigation for breach of contract.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Ms. Thomson to approve the minutes of the March 28, 2017, meeting as submitted. Seconded by Mr. Pugh and unanimously approved.

Visitors: 25 visitors were present.

Public Comment:

Mike Schwenk, 112 Jefferson Street, inquired about Mr. Perlow's absence.

Mayor's Report: Nothing to report.

Solicitor Items: Atty. Kramer announced he was revising the Comcast franchise agreement based on Mr. Fry's review.

Mr. Fry asked Council if they wanted to include a paragraph about chipping in the mandatory recycling ordinance. Council affirmed it should be included and then sent to Atty. Kramer for his review.

Atty. Kramer advised he received comments about revisions from a Council member to the proposed **Ordinance 2017-01** to terminate East Greenville's participation in the UPPD and create their own police department. He suggested Council review the comments and re-advertise if they want to see those changes to the proposed ordinance. The public was asked for their comments.

Eric Grubb, 138 Main Street, asked to slow down the process.

Mike Schwenk, 112 Jefferson Street, asked to stay with UPPD until December. He also asked for the members of the police commission to change. Ms. Hunsinger advised against continuing to the end of the year with a police commission that does not function and stated that East Greenville changed a member of the police commission.

Eric Grubb, 138 Main Street, said he is frustrated that Council voted to withdraw back in September rather than try mediation first.

Jim Raftery, 319 State Street, wants East Greenville to honor their contract to the end of the year and allow more time to research their own police department.

Lon Brinckman, 551 Washington Street, believes a third party is needed to review budget items not taken into account. He believes building plans should include evidence storage with climate control, adjustable temperature setup for biologic evidence, collection equipment, and specialized computers and software. He affirmed he would be in favor of having a consultant brought in to review the process.

Debbie Finn, 541 Colonial Drive, said she has been going to both East Greenville and Pennsburg Borough meetings and stated both councils are responsible. She asked what people are most angry about, no mediation or leaving the police force.

Jim Raftery, 319 State Street, said the key point is that Council decided to leave before attempting mediation. He doesn't believe anyone is disputing that there are issues on both sides with people not getting along and that there are financial issues. He suggested Council fulfill the contract, allowing for more time to create their own department, and potentially seek mediation with new Council after November election.

Pam Keyser, 236 Cherry, asked how Council intends to pay legal fees and start their own police department if they get sued by UPPD.

Ms. Moran made a plea to reach out to Pennsburg Borough one last time to see if something can be worked out. She is concerned about the time line. Ms. Moran made a motion to finish out the contract, reach out to Pennsburg one more time with no stipulations, and sit down to talk, seconded by Mr. Pugh.

Ms. Hunsinger advised that in the pre-mediation meeting, they gave Pennsburg a list of items they wanted to work on in mediation. Pennsburg brought nothing to the table besides the solicitor issue, and Pennsburg Mayor stated you don't need to change anything with the police if you have trust. Ms. Hunsinger believes Pennsburg Borough doesn't want to make any changes and hopes that a new Council will do whatever Pennsburg wants. Ms. Moran expressed concern about being able to get the best police officers and chief in a very short time period. Mr. McCluskie added he's been on the commission for over a year and his votes are representative of how he feels, adding that financial and other issues with the police commission are intertwined.

Diane Criddle, 274 Washington Street, asked what's wrong with the police commission. Ms. Moran said there is no tie breaker. Mr. Arahill added that changes to the commission need to be done by ordinance, and if the commission cannot agree on simple things right now, redoing the whole ordinance may be a challenge. Jim Raftery suggested it may be better with different people attacking the same problems.

Debbie Finn, 541 Colonial Drive, asked if the Borough is no longer responsible for regional police after the June 1st pullout date. Atty. Kramer said it's in the Borough's best interest when he requests Council not confirm nor deny that legal conclusion.

Eric Grubb, 138 Main Street, wanted Council to get more people involved who are willing to help out with researching and putting together a police department for East Greenville.

Angie Fegely, 501 Third Street, asked why Pennsburg's offer to pay a higher percentage was rejected. Ms. Hunsinger said the ordinance did not allow for that change.

Rich Kosman, 236 Cherry Street, asked where they got the budget figure for the police car. Mayor Sloyer said it was from a dealer. The quote was for a fully equipped police vehicle with the exception of radios.

Roll call on motion by Ms. Moran (above): Mr. McCluskie – no, Mr. Pugh – yes, Ms. Thomson – no, Ms. Hunsinger – no, Mr. Arahill – no, Ms. Moran – yes. Motion does not carry 2 – 4.

Council agreed to table a vote on proposed **Ordinance 2017-01**.

Water Committee: Mr. Hunsinger advised that the water supervisor report is on file. The committee did not yet meet to discuss the items on the agenda. Mr. Fry asked if Council would consider approving water supply protection signs. The proposal is to split the cost of two \$160 signs with Upper Hanover to be put on Route 29. Ms. Moran made a motion to pay \$160.00 toward the signs, seconded by Mr. Pugh. Roll call: Mr. McCluskie – aye, Mr. Pugh – aye, Ms. Thomson – aye, Ms. Hunsinger – aye, Mr. Arahill – aye, Ms. Moran – aye. Motion carries.

Council asked the office to reach out to the resident with a hardship at 326 Cherry Street to find out what they can afford and have them sign a monthly payment plan in order for them to continue not having their water shut off.

Zoning/Planning/Codes: Mr. Arahill reported there were 42 permit inspections performed in the first quarter and \$1,224.15 in permit fees for March. No zoning hearings were scheduled.

Mr. Arahill asked Council to consider the adoption of the Main Street Study. Mr. Fry explained that it needs to be kept up to date in case there is ever grant money available to finish the streetscape plan. Mr. Arahill made a motion to adopt the Main Street Study. Seconded by Ms. Thomson and unanimously approved.

Eric Grubb, 138 Main Street, inquired if the preliminary zoning hearing for S.O.S. is tomorrow night. Mr. Fry advised the text amendment adoption is scheduled for April 25, 2017.

Road Committee: Ms. Moran summarized the road committee report.

A road committee meeting was held with Ms. Moran, Mr. Perlow, Mr. Fry and the road crew in attendance. They are working on getting a road maintenance and replacement plan in place using the road conditions report from 2015 as a guide. The goal is to come up with a tiered system of maintenance and treatment for each street that can be used as an aid during budget time. In the meantime, Ms. Moran suggested scheduling preventive maintenance by AMS on Bank Street from Main Street to the Upper Hanover Township line and on Second Street from Main Street to Long Alley. Ms. Moran made a motion to move forward with the proposed project, seconded by Ms. Thomson. Ms. Moran then amended her motion not to exceed \$20,000 for the double bituminous seal coat followed by a fog seal for Bank Street and Second Street, seconded by Ms. Thomson. Roll call: Mr. McCluskie – aye, Mr. Pugh – aye, Ms. Thomson – aye, Ms. Hunsinger – aye, Mr. Arahill – aye, Ms. Moran – aye. Motion carries.

Mr. Fry indicated he was meeting with Cowan Associates tomorrow regarding bid specs and cost for a complete rebuild to Forge Road to be presented to Council at the April 25, 2017, meeting.

James Kemp, 332 State Street, said the next street needing maintenance is State Street due to trucks. He asked about putting up more signs to discourage truck traffic.

Concerning the 2017 CDBG application, Mr. Fry said he needs Council direction on a proposed project due to issues with the current grant for handicap accessible improvements. This will be discussed further under the property committee report.

Finance Committee: Ms. Thomson made a motion to approve the bill list for April, seconded by Mr. Pugh. Roll call: Mr. McCluskie – aye, Mr. Pugh – aye, Ms. Thomson – aye, Ms. Hunsinger – aye, Mr. Arahill – aye, Ms. Moran – aye. Motion carries.

Ms. Thomson made a motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report for March 2017 as submitted. Seconded by Mr. Pugh and unanimously approved.

Personnel Committee: Ms. Moran read a letter from Mr. Michael Perlow wherein he tendered his resignation from Borough Council effective April 3, 2017. He appreciated the opportunity to serve on Council and provide his perspective on the withdrawal from the UPPD and formation of the EGPD. He enjoyed working with Council and Borough employees and looks forward to helping on a volunteer basis. Ms. Moran made a motion to accept the resignation of Mr. Perlow. Seconded by Ms. Thomson and unanimously approved.

Council announced that letters of interest to fill the vacant Council position are due by April 28, 2017. The vacancy will be filled at the May 1, 2017, Borough Council meeting.

James Kemp, 332 State Street, asked if patching will be done in the loop by State and Third Streets. Mr. Fry confirmed the road crew will be patching potholes soon curb to curb.

Ms. Moran said the road crew questioned if jeans could be reimbursable under the uniform policy. Mr. Fry confirmed that there are uniform pants available for reimbursement. Jeans are allowed to be worn, but the policy does not provide reimbursement. This policy, along with updates to the human resources manual, will be discussed by the personnel committee.

Property Committee: Mr. Arahill advised there was only one bidder for the CDBG handicap accessible improvements project and at least two are required. Since this project was approved last year for less money than requested, Mr. Fry advised that the county representative suggests the Borough apply for the same project again this year requesting additional funding. Another option discussed was to remove the Borough Hall alterations, funding that project with Borough funds, and rework the bid specs to only include clubhouse alterations. The initial plan for this year’s CDBG application was to apply for a road reconstruction project, but it is a stipulation that you certify your public buildings are handicap accessible when applying for federal funding. Mr. Arahill made a motion to re-apply for additional funding through the CDBG application to accomplish all the work including HVAC upgrades to the clubhouse. Seconded by Ms. Moran and unanimously approved.

Mr. Arahill advised that the roof slates were repaired at 433 Main Street, and there was very little damage done by the bird in the Boy Scout hall.

Recycling/Waste Management: Mr. Pugh reported that bag sales and recycling reports are on file. Atty. Kramer added that he is still waiting for Pennsburg’s solicitor to get back to him concerning drafting the agreements for disbanding the recycling center and chipper use.

Sewer Authority: In response to Mayor Sloyer’s questions, Mr. Pugh advised that requests for bids on the sewer renovation project are going out to contractors and UMJA is applying to DEP to have EDUs released for specific projects. He also advised that there is currently no projection for sewer rate increases. They are being considered year by year depending on the costs.

Revitalization: Nothing to report.

Regional Planning: Mr. McCluskie referenced an email received this evening concerning a meeting of the Montgomery and Bucks County Tax Collection Committees to discuss Act 172 of 2016 which addresses the volunteer tax credit program. Sandra Kassel, of UPSD, who is the Borough's representative on the Montgomery County TCC, suggested a Borough representative be sent to the meeting scheduled on April 19, 2017, at 11:00 a.m. to address questions and concerns. Atty. Kramer inquired if there were any new amendments to the draft. Mr. McCluskie said he assumes that will be addressed at this meeting.

Emergency Management: Nothing to report.

Borough Manager Updates: Nothing to report.

Police Report: Mayor Sloyer was not in attendance at the last meeting but heard that department division was part of the meeting. He recommends Council approve the Borough's portion of solicitor fees on Invoice #4646 from Gazan & John in the amount of \$455.63. Monthly allocation to UPPD minus that payment is \$53,175.86. Ms. Thomson made a motion to pay Gazan & John 45% of their bill amounting to \$455.63 out of the monthly allocation, seconded by Mr. McCluskie. Roll call: Mr. McCluskie – aye, Mr. Pugh – aye, Ms. Thomson – aye, Ms. Hunsinger – aye, Mr. Arahill – aye, Ms. Moran – aye. Motion carries.

Correspondence: The PSAB Resolution & Policy Committee forwarded an email containing two resolutions for consideration to adopt in support of their efforts to allow local police departments to utilize municipal radar and other forms of speed tracking equipment and pay-out ceilings for Small Games of Chance by local charitable service clubs. Ms. Thomson said both seemed worthy, and Atty. Kramer was asked to review the proposed resolutions.

Other:

Doug Criddle, 274 Washington Street, disagreed with a statement he heard made by Ms. Hunsinger and Mr. McCluskie suggesting that Pennsburg Borough may have influence over new candidates.

Motion to Adjourn: Being no further business, Mr. Pugh made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Moran. Meeting adjourned at 9:13 p.m.

Submitted by:



Sharon Kachmar, Borough Secretary