

**BOROUGH OF EAST GREENVILLE**  
**BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
**May 1, 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: Tracey Hunsinger, Robert McCluskie, Jennifer Moran, Ryan Pugh, and Marita Thomson. Absent: Joseph Arahill. Also present were Mayor Ryan Sloyer, Atty. Kramer, 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 April 25, 2017, meeting as submitted. Seconded by Mr. Pugh and unanimously approved.

**Visitors:** 16 visitors were present.

**Appointment to Fill Council Vacancy:** Ms. Moran advised that letters of interest were received from James Raftery, Eric Grubb, John Dingler and Chrystal Connolly. Mr. Pugh made a motion to appoint Chrystal Connolly to the vacancy on Council, seconded by Mr. McCluskie. Roll call: Mr. McCluskie – yes, Mr. Pugh – yes, Ms. Thomson – yes, Ms. Hunsinger – yes, Ms. Moran – yes. Motion carries.

Eric Grubb, 138 Main Street, asked why Council did not use an interview process as done in the past.

John Dingler, 503 Jefferson Street, asked why Council didn't follow a previous procedure.

Ms. Moran apologized that they didn't have an interview process like last time. Ms. Hunsinger suggested Council come up with a formal policy for appointing council members.

Ms. Hunsinger called a recess at 7:38 p.m. to have Ms. Connolly sign the Affidavit of Residency and have Mayor Sloyer perform the Oath of Office.

The meeting was called back to order at 7:41 p.m.

Ms. Thomson made a motion to approve **Resolution 2017-11** to appoint Chrystal Connolly to Borough Council, seconded by Mr. Pugh. Roll call: Mr. McCluskie – aye, Mr. Pugh – aye, Ms. Thomson – aye, Ms. Hunsinger – aye, Ms. Moran – aye. Motion carries.

**Public Comment:**

Seth Howard, 500 Penn Street, Pennsburg, congratulated Ms. Connolly on her appointment.

**Mayor's Report:** Mayor Sloyer advised he received a phone call asking if the Borough allows people to put signage along Main Street in the tree grates. He suggested Council decide whether or not the signs are allowed. John Dingler, 503 Jefferson Street, said he thinks they should be only on private property. Ms. Hunsinger said she agrees and suggests allowing time for those who put them there to remove them. Mr. Fry said his concern is with the court case Reed vs. Town of Gilbert. Atty. Kramer added that this 2015 Supreme Court case made it difficult to remove signs, and he recommends Council be mindful of regulating any content-based sign unless they cause a hazard such as being in the line of sight.

Lon Brinckman, 551 Washington Street, asked about signs in the rest of the Borough such as on Sixth Street. Mr. Fry replied that the property he was referring to is a homeowner's property.

Joe Wenzel, 709 Morris Road, asked if the size of signs can be restricted. Atty. Kramer said that would be allowed as long as it's equally applied to all content-based signs. Mr. Fry said he will investigate prohibiting any signs in the tree grates.

Seth Howard, 500 Penn Street, Pennsburg, asked what to do if someone is harassing you with your sign. Atty. Kramer said that's an issue to discuss with police; this discussion is only referring to a governing body suppressing rights.

Mayor Sloyer advised that the Perkiomen School has graduation on May 27, 2017, from 9 am. to 1 p.m. and Seminary Street will be closed. He asked if the Borough can post a local traffic only sign at the intersection of Third and State Streets from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on May 27, 2017. He also asked that a letter be sent to the Perk School explaining that they have no authorization to place personnel on Borough streets for the purpose of directing traffic.

Mayor Sloyer advised that East Greenville fire police were requested for the Memorial Day parade. Since there are none in East Greenville, the Mayor asked if an employee of the Borough can place barricades on the side streets so the parade can proceed from the fire house parking lot on Fourth Street onto Main Street and then to the Pennsburg Borough line.

Mayor Sloyer advised that Girl Scout Troop 72059 would like to clean up the Nature Meadow on May 15, 2017, and asked if the Borough can provide mulch like last year. He recommends four scoops of mulch not to exceed \$125 from Landis Pallet & Box Company in Perkiomenville. A scoop is estimated to cost \$25 each delivered. Ms. Thomson made a motion to approve mulch not to exceed \$125 for the Nature Meadow cleanup performed by the Girl Scouts on May 15<sup>th</sup>, seconded by Ms. Moran. Roll call: Mr. McCluskie – aye, Mr. Pugh – aye, Ms. Thomson – aye, Ms. Hunsinger – aye, Ms. Moran – aye, Ms. Connolly - aye. Motion carries.

**Solicitor Items:** Atty. Kramer had no update on the Comcast franchise agreement. The mandatory recycling ordinance is being put into ordinance form, and he hopes to have a draft ready for the next meeting on May 8, 2017. A public hearing is scheduled for May 8, 2017, to consider proposed **Ordinance 2017-02** regarding Police Services.

Atty. Kramer advised the draft chipper agreement was shared with Council and Pennsburg's solicitor who confirmed receipt and is reviewing. Changes were made to Atty. Garner's recycling agreement, and Atty. Kramer hopes to discuss further with him later this week.

**Water Committee:**

Ms. Hunsinger advised the monthly report was emailed. A water leak on the customer's service line at 714 Hamilton Road was repaired this morning. Mr. Fry will get the cost together and send it to Council for review.

Hydrant flushing is complete for the first half of the year.

**Zoning/Planning/Codes:**

Ms. Hunsinger advised that 12 permits were approved during April, there were 21 new violations and 93 inspections/activities reported.

A notice announcing the adoption of **Ordinance 2017-01** LI Text Amendment will be in the newspaper this week.

**Road Committee:** Ms. Moran advised that the Road Committee met and discussed the Forge Road reconstruction and Blaker Drive overlay from Third to Hamilton. The estimate to complete both projects is about \$58,000, and it was suggested to add another 40' x 50' section of Blaker Drive continuing from Hamilton Road north. It would be more cost effective to add this on as an option rather than bid it separately. Ms. Moran said they are trying to come up with a plan for each year going forward and want to do this project as soon as possible. She was waiting to see how much more the extra section would cost. Mr. Fry said it would be minimal, and he suggested soliciting bids for the reconstruction of Forge Road as the base bid and the overlay on sections of Blaker Road as options. Ms. Moran made a motion to advertise for bids for Forge Road and Blaker Drive, seconded by Ms. Thomson. Roll call: Mr. McCluskie – aye, Mr. Pugh – aye, Ms. Thomson – aye, Ms. Hunsinger – aye, Ms. Moran – aye, Ms. Connolly - aye. Motion carries.

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

Ms. Thomson made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report for April 2017 as submitted, seconded by Mr. Pugh. Roll call: Mr. McCluskie – aye, Mr. Pugh – aye, Ms. Thomson – aye, Ms. Hunsinger – aye, Ms. Moran – aye, Ms. Connolly - aye. Motion carries.

**Personnel Committee:** Ms. Moran made a motion to change the health plan to Keystone HMO Gold Proactive. Ms. Thomson asked her to revise the motion to say the base plan will be paid by the Borough and upgrade to the platinum plan can be selected by employees as a payroll deduction. Ms. Moran agreed and the motion was seconded by Ms. Thomson. Roll call: Mr. McCluskie – aye, Mr. Pugh – aye, Ms. Thomson – aye, Ms. Hunsinger – aye, Ms. Moran – aye, Ms. Connolly - aye. Motion carries.

**Property Committee:** Ms. Hunsinger advised that the dead trees are being scheduled for removal at Third and State Streets and Bieler Park.

Council discussed how to proceed with trees on Main Street that are overgrowing their tree grates. Mr. Fry advised that he received a complaint that overgrowth is causing the sidewalk to raise. Ms. Hunsinger asked for a quote to remove and replace overgrown trees in the 300 block.

Debbie Finn, 541 Colonial Drive, asked if the Borough owns the trees or if it's private property. Mayor Sloyer explained that the county gave the Borough money to perform streetscape improvements. The bricks and trees were to be maintained by the Borough, and homeowners would maintain the concrete. The trees weren't supposed to grow that big. In later phases, the Borough switched from the green Zelkova to the Snow Goose Cherry.

Joseph Rock, 200 State Street, asked if they can just be cut down and removed. Mayor Sloyer said we would have to check with the county since they provided the original funding. Mr. Fry advised that the county holds us responsible for and informs us when they see dead trees on Main Street or street lights that need to be replaced. He added the Borough has a responsibility to make sure the trees are uniformly maintained. Ms. Finn confirmed that all homeowners and businesses in the revitalization area got sidewalks for free but need to maintain them.

Joe Wenzel, 709 Morris Road, asked how long the county can hold the Borough hostage for these grants. Atty. Kramer replied that it depends on what is written in the grant documents.

**Recycling/Waste Management:** Mr. Pugh advised that all baled material, loose cans and plastic recycling materials were loaded for removal from the recycling center. The glass container was also emptied and hauling bill was paid. The Borough is waiting on a signed recycling termination agreement before advertising the equipment for sale.

Regarding chipper use, Mr. Fry has a call into the insurance office and has emailed Pennsburg regarding their approval of East Greenville's use of the chipper prior to the agreement being signed. Atty. Kramer said we may have more information on the chipper agreement by the next meeting. Mayor Sloyer asked about collecting branches and taking them to the water plant to store until we get the chipper agreement. Mr. Fry suggested looking into renting a chipper if Council didn't want to wait for the agreement. He received a quote from Ore in the past and believed it was about \$400 a day. Ms. Moran made a motion to rent a chipper not to exceed \$500, seconded by Ms. Thomson. Roll call: Mr. McCluskie – aye, Mr. Pugh – aye, Ms. Thomson – aye, Ms. Hunsinger – aye, Ms. Moran – aye, Ms. Connolly - aye. Motion carries.

**Sewer Authority:** Mr. Pugh had no report. Mayor Sloyer asked if UMJA had an updated rate schedule.

**Revitalization:** Atty. Kramer said Luanne Stauffer from UPV Chamber reached out to him and Atty. Hosterman, Red Hill solicitor, regarding an agreement for the wayfinding signs and what rules will apply on PennDOT roads. He hopes to get a sample resolution from them in the next week to review.

**Regional Planning:** Mr. McCluskie said the only topic that pertained to the Borough at the last meeting was the wayfinding agreement. One part of that agreement will be for the Borough to remove any old directional signs.

**Emergency Management:** Nothing to report.

**Borough Manager Updates:** Mr. Fry advised that Montgomery County sent a letter regarding participation in the Urban County CDBG program for the periods of 2018 through 2020. The Borough has the option to continue to participate in the Urban County program or opt out and participate in the Commonwealth's Small Communities Program instead. Mr. Fry recommends staying with the county, and Council agreed. Ms. Thomson made a motion to approve staying with the Montgomery County CDBG Program participation. Seconded by Ms. Moran and unanimously approved.

Mr. Fry advised that the MS4 pollution reduction plan is being worked on by Cowan Associates and needs to be submitted to DEP by September.

Mr. Fry informed Council that street sweeping will be scheduled once PennDOT is finished with their work on Main Street. The overlay should be finished by tomorrow, weather permitting, but it might be June until all the line painting, including parking Ts, is complete.

**Police Report:** Mayor Sloyer advised no update on the April 24, 2017, Police Commission meeting held with a blank agenda, and no action was taken after the Executive Session.

Mayor Sloyer asked for Council approval of 45% of Gazan & John Invoice #4657, which amounts to \$354.38. Ms. Thomson made a motion to approve invoice for Gazan & John #4657 for \$354.38, seconded by Mr. Pugh. Roll call:

Mr. McCluskie – aye, Mr. Pugh – aye, Ms. Thomson – aye, Ms. Hunsinger – aye, Ms. Moran – aye, Ms. Connolly - aye. Motion carries.

Mayor Sloyer reported that the monthly police allocation of \$53,631.49 is reduced to \$53,277.11 after the Gazan & John payment.

Atty. Kramer presented the consultant agreement with True North Investigative Services for Council's approval. The agreement includes scope of services, term, compensation, reimbursable expenses, termination clause and confidentiality provision. There is also an indemnification clause, a statement that terms of the agreement cannot be modified unless done in writing, and no assignment is allowed unless agreed by both parties.

John Dingler, 503 Jefferson Street, asked how the Borough found this person. Mayor Sloyer said he approached the Borough about doing consultant work. The owner grew up in the area and is a retired state trooper.

Eric Grubb, 138 Main Street, asked if it was correct that the consultant will not be assisting with hiring a police chief. Mayor Sloyer confirmed that to be true and said if this individual wants to be considered for that position, he will need to go through the process himself. The Borough is looking into hiring another consulting firm to hire a chief.

Atty. Kramer added that as a representative for East Greenville, he and Atty. Garner for Pennsburg and the Police Commission solicitor met to discuss division of assets. An appraisal of all equipment is needed before deciding on the distribution of assets. Atty. Kramer procured a quote from Alderfer Auction based in Hatfield of \$300 for the first hour and \$200 each additional hour which includes one person. Each additional person would be billed at \$50 per hour. He believes Pennsburg Borough will be discussing and making a decision at their next Council meeting. He asked Council if they were comfortable making a decision before he gets an estimate on how long it would take to do the appraisal. Ms. Thomson made a motion to proceed with the asset evaluation by Alderfer Auction at the base cost of \$300 and \$200 after as long as approved by Pennsburg Borough, seconded by Mr. McCluskie. Roll call: Mr. McCluskie – aye, Mr. Pugh – no, Ms. Thomson – aye, Ms. Hunsinger – aye, Ms. Moran – aye, Ms. Connolly - aye. Motion carries 5-1.

**Correspondence:**

East Greenville Fire Company asked for permission to close Washington Street in front of the firehouse between Fourth and Fifth Streets for their 2017 carnival. Mayor Sloyer confirmed that the EGFC will set up and remove the barricades. Ms. Thomson made a motion to approve the road closure request by EGFC for July 12 through July 15 from 4:30 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. Seconded by Mr. Pugh and unanimously approved.

**Other:**

John Dingler, 503 Jefferson Street, thanked the employees who maintain the Borough's Facebook page.

Lon Brinckman, 551 Washington Street, asked if the police ordinance advertised for public hearing next week which repeals Article 14 that established the UPPD would interfere with the liquidating and distributing of assets. Atty. Kramer confirmed that it would not.

**Motion to Adjourn:** Being no further business, Mr. Pugh made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Thomson.  
Meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

Submitted by:



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Sharon Kachmar, Borough Secretary