

BOROUGH OF EAST GREENVILLE
BOROUGH COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
May 8, 2017

Call to Order: Council President Ms. Hunsinger called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Attendance: The following Council members were present: Joseph Arahill (via telephone), Chrystal Connolly, Tracey Hunsinger, Robert McCluskie, Ryan Pugh, and Marita Thomson. Absent: Jennifer Moran. Also present were Mayor Ryan Sloyer, Atty. Kramer, Solicitor, and Sharon Kachmar, Borough Secretary/Treasurer.

Executive Session: Ms. Hunsinger advised that an executive session was held today at 6:30 p.m. for personnel.

Visitors: 14 visitors were present.

Public Hearing:

Proposed **Ordinance 2017-02** was presented for public comment which will repeal Chapter 14 Police Services in its entirety and terminate the Borough of East Greenville's agreement with the Borough of Pennsburg regarding East Greenville's participation in the Upper Perk Police District and create Article I establishing the East Greenville Borough Police Department. There was no public comment. Ms. Thomson made a motion to approve **Ordinance 2017-02**, seconded by Mr. McCluskie. Roll call: Mr. McCluskie – aye, Mr. Pugh – no, Ms. Thomson – aye, Ms. Hunsinger – aye, Mr. Arahill – aye, Ms. Connolly - aye. Motion carries 5-1.

Police Report: Mayor Sloyer advised that SafeCity Solutions was contacted about hiring a chief of police for the Borough. Their proposal included help with advertising, resume screening and bringing the top candidates to East Greenville for selection. The total cost for the selection process is \$5,000. Any additional need for services outside of the proposal would be at \$120 per hour. The proposal is valid through 7/31/17. Ms. Thomson made a motion to authorize proceeding with SafeCity Solutions to advertise and select candidates for East Greenville Borough's chief of police position at a cost of \$5,000, seconded by Mr. McCluskie. Roll call: Mr. McCluskie – aye, Mr. Pugh – no, Ms. Thomson – aye, Ms. Hunsinger – aye, Mr. Arahill – aye, Ms. Connolly - aye. Motion carries 5-1.

Concerning a police vehicle, Mayor Sloyer advised that Fred Beans in Doylestown has in stock a 2017 AWD Utility Police Interceptor which was ordered by another police department and then cancelled. The sticker price is \$33,860. COSTARS price for the Borough is \$28,016.72. This cost includes tag, detail, full tank of gas and delivery to the Borough. The vehicle would also need a light package and interior cage. Mayor Sloyer recommended a motion not to exceed \$38,000.

Eric Grubb, 138 Main Street, asked where the money would come from for the payments on the car. Ms. Thomson said it would come out of the police budget.

Ms. Thomson made a motion to approve the purchase of a 2017 Utility Police Interceptor at a price of the vehicle at \$28,016.72 and when including the cost of outfitting with light package at a not to exceed cost of \$38,000 using financing over a 4-year period based on updated financing numbers, seconded by Mr. McCluskie. Roll call: Mr. McCluskie – aye, Mr. Pugh – no, Ms. Thomson – aye, Ms. Hunsinger – aye, Mr. Arahill – aye, Ms. Connolly - aye. Motion carries 5-1.

Mayor Sloyer said he would like a motion to get bid documents together and advertise for bids for the renovation of the clubhouse. Ms. Thomson made a motion to proceed with having the engineers prepare bids for renovations to the clubhouse and advertise accordingly, seconded by Mr. McCluskie. Roll call: Mr. McCluskie –

aye, Mr. Pugh – no, Ms. Thomson – aye, Ms. Hunsinger – aye, Mr. Arahill – aye, Ms. Connolly - aye. Motion carries 5-1.

Mayor Sloyer asked if Council is interested in appointing an interim chief to start on June 1, 2017, while the search is being conducted for a permanent chief. Ms. Hunsinger confirmed they interviewed the current police consultant for the interim chief position.

Seth Howard, 500 Penn Street, Pennsburg, asked if Council considered using police on bicycle and on-foot patrol so the residents would get to know the officers better. Ms. Hunsinger said they have talked about purchasing a bicycle for an officer to use, and the interim chief candidate they interviewed was certified for bike patrol.

Keith Gerhart, 143 Cherry Street, asked what the salary would be of the interim chief and the time frame. Ms. Hunsinger said they would be keeping him at the same rate as paying him to be a consultant. He would not be eligible for pension or health benefits. Mayor Sloyer added that the time frame is 45 to 90 days. Mr. Gerhart asked if that would be \$45.00 hour, and Ms. Hunsinger confirmed that was correct. Mayor Sloyer said he will be an at-will employee and the only benefit would be worker's compensation.

James Raftery, 319 State Street, asked if he would be paid as a subcontractor or if taxes would be taken out. Mayor Sloyer confirmed he would get paid like an employee.

Keith Gerhart, 143 Cherry Street, asked for the estimated start date. Mayor Sloyer confirmed it to be June 1st.

Angie Fegely, 501 Third Street, asked if it would be a conflict of interest to hire him as interim chief since he's the consultant looking at budget numbers. Ms. Hunsinger replied she saw that as advantageous since the chief would ultimately work with budgets. Mayor Sloyer added that he sees it as a positive. Atty. Kramer clarified that this appointment is not for the full-time chief position, and to be considered, he would still have to go through the hiring process through the consultants.

Mr. McCluskie made a motion to hire Mr. Skelton as interim East Greenville police chief pending satisfactory completion of a physical, psychological tests, background checks and solicitor approval of agreements. This would take effect on June 1, 2017. Seconded by Ms. Thomson. Roll call: Mr. McCluskie – aye, Mr. Pugh – no, Ms. Thomson – aye, Ms. Hunsinger – aye, Mr. Arahill – aye, Ms. Connolly - aye. Motion carries 5-1.

Correspondence:

A written request was received from Josiah and Jennifer Pierson requesting a street closing for a neighborhood block party. Mr. Pierson addressed Council to request that Fifth Street from Washington Street to Hickory Alley be closed to traffic on Saturday, June 3, 2017, from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Ms. Thomson made a motion to approve the road closure. Seconded by Mr. Pugh and unanimously approved.

Public Comment:

Keith Gerhart, 143 Cherry Street, asked Mayor Sloyer if he would consider a moratorium on further spending until after the election. Mayor Sloyer replied that they need to keep moving forward to provide public safety. Ms. Hunsinger asked Mr. Gerhart if he was suggesting they be on state police for the rest of year. Mr. Gerhart said he was talking about just until after the primaries.

Joseph Rock, 200 State Street, asked what was allocated in the budget for police. Ms. Thomson said about \$645,000 was allocated for police. Mr. Rock asked about fees incurred for creating the ordinance. Advertising cost was around \$400 per legal ad.

Tanya Nicolai, 325 Blaker Drive, thanked Council for everything they are doing despite the backlash and added that many support Council and agree with what they are doing.

Anna Finn, 541 Colonial Drive, hopes that moving forward people can keep rude comments and misquoting and judgmental statements to themselves to set an example for younger people in this community.

Seth Howard, 500 Penn Street, Pennsburg, wants to see the community move forward and wished both parties good luck at the primaries.

Mr. Pugh made a motion to extend the withdrawal deadline to December 31, 2017. Motion failed for lack of a second.

Motion to Adjourn: Being no further business, Ms. Thomson made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Pugh. Meeting adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

Submitted by:



Sharon Kachmar, Borough Secretary