

BOROUGH OF EAST GREENVILLE
BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
May 23, 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, Chrystal Connolly, Tracey Hunsinger, Ryan Pugh, and Marita Thomson. Absent: Robert McCluskie & Jennifer Moran. Also present were Mayor Ryan Sloyer, Atty. Kramer, Solicitor, James Fry, Borough Manager, and Sharon Kachmar, Borough Secretary/Treasurer.

Executive Session: Ms. Hunsinger advised that an executive session was held this evening at 6:25 p.m. for personnel.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Ms. Thomson to approve the minutes of the May 1, 2017, meeting as submitted. Seconded by Mr. Pugh and unanimously approved. A motion was made by Ms. Thomson to approve the minutes of the May 8, 2017, special meeting as submitted. Seconded by Mr. Pugh and unanimously approved.

Visitors: 33 visitors were present.

Public Comment: Jeanne Cove from Upper Perk Library thanked Council for the funding donation this year and updated them on programs they are offering.

Keith Gerhart, 143 Cherry Street, asked if Council will be honoring the remaining seven months of the UPPD contract and the chief's contract. He also asked that the persons hired as chief and officers be put on probational status for one year from date of hire and be informed that they may not have jobs after 2018 when a new Council takes office. Mr. Gerhart asked if Mayor would resign. Mayor Sloyer responded that he will not resign mid-term, but will fulfill his term. Ms. Thomson said she disagrees with Mr. Gerhart's assessment of numbers and asked how he determined East Greenville's plan for their own department will cost more money.

John Dingler, 503 Jefferson Street, implored Council and people who ran in the primary to read the recent editorial in the Town & Country.

Mayor's Report: No report.

Solicitor Items: Atty. Kramer said Comcast is still in the process of reviewing the franchise agreement.

Atty. Kramer said the mandatory recycling ordinance is currently being reviewed.

Resolution 2017-12 authorizing the purchase of a fully outfitted 2017 Ford Police Interceptor was presented for approval. Ms. Thomson made a motion to approve Resolution 2017-12 for police vehicle purchase application, seconded by Ms. Connolly. Roll call: Mr. Pugh – no, Ms. Thomson – aye, Ms. Hunsinger – aye, Mr. Arahill – aye, Ms. Connolly - aye. Motion carries 4-1. Atty. Kramer advised that once the application is approved, a lease purchase agreement will be sent to be executed.

John Dingler, 503 Jefferson Street, asked how soon it would be before you might see this vehicle in the Borough. Mayor Sloyer said at the end of this week.

Diane Criddle, 274 Washington Street, asked if the vehicle will be able to hold a prisoner by the end of this week. Ms. Hunsinger said it will need to get outfitted which will take several days to get installed.

Paul Savarese, 211 Sixth Street, asked if the Comcast Franchise Agreement is a done deal. Atty. Kramer explained that the agreement is just to allow Comcast to use our right of way to lay their cables. It doesn't prevent competitors from coming into the Borough.

Melanie Cunningham, owner of Titanium Finishing, asked about the cost of the police vehicle and financing. She was told the total purchase price is \$36,477.77 to be financed through a lease purchase.

John Dingler, 503 Jefferson Street, asked about the term of the lease. Atty. Kramer advised it is four years.

Keith Gerhart, 143 Cherry Street, brought up the matter of surcharge and suing Council members individually. Atty. Kramer said this was discussed previously at a public meeting and asked if he was consulting with an attorney. If so, he told Mr. Gerhart he would be more than happy to talk with him.

Water Committee: Ms. Connolly said she has reviewed the tiered rate structure and it's under review. She recommends leaving rates as they are for now.

Concerning the 714 Hamilton Street water leak on the customer side service line, the office is getting a work order together and will have a fee to be billed by the June 5th meeting.

Ms. Connolly provided updates on current projects as follows: Well pipe replacement is scheduled for the week of June 5, 2017. Sed basin repairs pre-bid meeting will be May 31, 2017, at 10:00 a.m. Quotes are being gathered for window replacements at the treatment plant.

Zoning/Planning/Codes: Mr. Arahill reported that the developer for the S.O.S. project is not yet ready to submit land development plans. UMJA is aware of the need for EDUs.

Two properties were placed on notice for not complying with landlord-tenant reporting and are ready to be cited. Requests for summary citation forms through UPPD were denied.

Road Committee: Ms. Hunsinger reported that the Borough is waiting to hear back from Cowan Associates about specifications and project schedule for the Forge Road and Blaker Drive projects. The Old Fifth Street overlay is on hold until late summer. The road crew is working on fixing the inlet at Bank Street and Hickory Alley. Weed spraying began last week. The road supervisor is working on firming up a date for street sweeping.

Finance Committee: Nothing to report.

Personnel Committee: Ms. Hunsinger advised a letter of resignation was received from UMJA Board Member Grant Boyer effective May 31, 2017. Mr. Pugh made a motion to accept the resignation with regret. Seconded by Ms. Thomson and unanimously approved. Ms. Hunsinger advised the Borough is accepting letters of interest for the open position.

Property Committee: Mr. Arahill advised that the CDBG application was filed seeking additional funds for the handicap renovations. The Borough will need to commit the matching amount of \$15,000. Currently, the submission is under the review period.

A quote was received from CS Kalb to remove and replace dead trees, those in poor condition or those lifting the sidewalk. The removal and replacement cost per tree is \$400.00. Mr. Fry identified a tree in front of the Owl's (315 Main) as pushing up the sidewalk and 243 Main Street as overrunning the grate. The tree at 431 Main Street is also missing. Ms. Thomson made a motion to approve removal of two trees recommended by Mr. Fry, seconded by Mr. Arahill. Roll call: Mr. Pugh – aye, Ms. Thomson – aye, Ms. Hunsinger – aye, Mr. Arahill – aye, Ms. Connolly - aye. Motion carries unanimously.

Ms. Hunsinger advised that Landmark Dividend approached the Borough about purchasing the lease of the cell phone tower. She asked if Council was interested in pursuing this. Mr. Pugh said the Borough still needs the recurring revenue from lease payments and is opposed to it. Ms. Thomson and Ms. Connolly also expressed that they were not in favor. Council advised they were not interested at this time and asked for it to be taken off the agenda.

APG&E was the lowest bidder for electric rates. Council discussed the various options in length of term for the agreement. Mr. Arahill made a motion to contract with APG&E for 36 months at a rate of \$0.0557 (per kWh), seconded by Ms. Thomson. Roll call: Mr. Pugh – aye, Ms. Thomson – aye, Ms. Hunsinger – aye, Mr. Arahill – aye, Ms. Connolly - aye. Motion carries unanimously.

Discussion on the new phone system proposal was tabled.

Recycling/Waste Management: Mr. Pugh advised the recycling and chipping agreements are under review by the solicitors. Atty. Kramer clarified that all reviews were done on East Greenville's end, and we are waiting for Pennsburg's review.

An invoice was received from Pennsburg Borough for recycling equipment insurance for February, March, April and May of 2017. Mr. Fry advised there is money in the joint account to pay the insurance for both Boroughs. Council tabled further discussion concerning the invoice until the June 5, 2017, meeting.

Mr. Pugh reported that due to the Memorial Day holiday, trash and recycling will be collected Tuesday, May 30, 2017, and branch chipping will take place May 31, 2017.

Sewer Authority: Nothing to report.

Revitalization: Nothing to report.

Regional Planning: Nothing to report.

Emergency Management: Nothing to report.

Borough Manager Updates: Mr. Fry received the MS4 pollution reduction plan draft. A public meeting and public comment period needs to be scheduled. Mr. Fry would like to have that done in June so the plan can be submitted to DEP by the September 15 deadline. The plan addresses stream bank stabilization in the nature meadow. The location was selected because it would not involve any easements, and the Borough would have five years to implement the plan.

Mr. Fry advised that he attended the tax collection association meeting last month where the Act 172 emergency responder tax credit was discussed at length. There is a sample ordinance available. Mr. Fry will sit on their steering committee. The fire company would not need to do anything new; they already do the record keeping needed.

Police: Mayor Sloyer asked for motion from Council to advertise for a full time police officer. Ms. Thomson made a motion to authorize advertisement for a full-time officer, seconded by Ms. Connolly. All were in favor, except for one. Motion carries.

Mayor Sloyer asked for a motion to purchase uniforms and equipment for the interim police chief not to exceed \$29,000. The cost for one mobile and one portable radio is estimated at \$9,000. He also asked for approval of psychological and background checks as well as physical examination costs for interim police chief.

John Dingler, 503 Jefferson Street, asked about receiving assets from current UPPD. Atty. Kramer advised that he doesn't have a definite date yet for the appraisal of equipment.

Angie Fegely, 501 Third Street, said that the letter outlining costs stated \$5,000 per officer. Ms. Hunsinger explained that each additional officer outfitted was estimated to cost that amount. Mayor Sloyer added that other startup items needed like computers, gun cabinet and radios make up the difference.

Ms. Thomson made a motion to approve payment of three tests and equipment, outfitting, radios and computer for chief to get started at \$29,000.00, seconded by Ms. Connolly. Roll call: Mr. Pugh – no, Ms. Thomson – aye, Ms. Hunsinger – aye, Mr. Arahill – aye, Ms. Connolly - aye. Motion carries 4-1. Atty. Kramer asked if the motion could be separate for the equipment.

Ms. Thomson amended the motion to approve payment of testing for physical, psychological, and background testing not to exceed \$1,000.00, seconded by Ms. Connolly. Roll call: Mr. Pugh – no, Ms. Thomson – aye, Ms. Hunsinger – aye, Mr. Arahill – aye, Ms. Connolly - aye. Motion carries 4-1.

Ms. Thomson made a motion to authorize the purchase of equipment, outfitting uniforms, mobile radios and computers not to exceed \$29,000.00, seconded by Ms. Connolly. Roll call: Mr. Pugh – no, Ms. Thomson – aye, Ms. Hunsinger – aye, Mr. Arahill – aye, Ms. Connolly - aye. Motion carries 4-1.

Mayor Sloyer advised that a Meet and Greet occurred last night for interim police chief, Andrew Skelton, and Lt. Nosal from the State Police.

David Schwenk, 201 Main Street, asked if the Mayor will get a uniform. The answer was no.

Correspondence:

Love Upper Perk requested road closure for the Halloween Parade on October 22, 2017, and permission to hang their banner for two weeks prior to the event. Mr. Arahill made a motion to approve closing of the road on October 22, 2017, with a rain date of October 24, 2017, and hanging of the banner. Seconded by Ms. Thomson and unanimously approved. Mr. Fry advised that the pole used to hang banners was recently changed, and he will have to review what might be needed there. Mayor Sloyer added that barricades will be needed for the event.

A request was received from 206 Jefferson Street asking for relief of the trash fee because the house is vacant. Ms. Hunsinger advised that the Borough is billed for each residential unit, even if no one is living there. Council took no action on the request.

Motion to Adjourn: Being no further business, Ms. Thomson made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Connolly. Meeting adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

Submitted by:



Sharon Kachmar, Borough Secretary