

BOROUGH OF EAST GREENVILLE
BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
December 22, 2015

Call to Order: Mr. Huff called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Attendance: The following Council members were present: Timothy Huff, Tracey Hunsinger, Josiah Pierson, Ryan Pugh, Andrew Rock and James Young. Also present were Mayor Ryan Sloyer, Michelle Forsell, Solicitor, James Fry, Borough Manager, and Sharon Kachmar, Borough Secretary/Treasurer

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Mr. Pierson to approve the minutes of the December 7, 2015, meeting. Seconded by Mr. Young and unanimously approved.

Visitors: Marita Thomson; Stephanie Brinckman-Eisenhard; Jeromy Schulz-Arnold, Keith Gerhart, Robert McCluskie plus six others

Visitor's Comments: Ms. Stephanie Brinckman, Main Street, told Council she wants them to stay connected to the public and see policies through to the end and work as a team. She then apologized for her letter to the editor and questioned the Mayor about personal issues and a conversation she claimed to overhear while in the restroom at the last meeting.

Mayor's Report: Mayor Sloyer presented Josiah Pierson with a plaque recognizing his 14 years of service to the Borough. Josiah served on Borough Council since 2002 and on the Upper Perk Valley Association helping with Hometown Christmas and Halloween parades. Mr. Huff thanked him and said the Borough is a better place for his service.

Finance Committee: Mr. Rock made a motion to pay the bills, seconded by Mr. Pugh. Roll call vote: Mr. Rock – aye, Mr. Pugh – aye, Mr. Pierson – aye, Mr. Huff – aye, Mr. Young – aye, Ms. Hunsinger – aye. Motion carried.

Mr. Rock made a motion to adopt the 2016 budget as advertised, seconded by Mr. Pugh. Roll call vote: Mr. Rock – aye, Mr. Pugh – aye, Mr. Pierson – aye, Mr. Huff – aye, Mr. Young – aye, Ms. Hunsinger – aye. Motion carried.

Solicitor Items: Atty. Forsell presented Ordinance 2015-04 to fix the tax rate for 2016. It was duly advertised and is ready for adoption. Mr. Rock made a motion to approve Ordinance 2015-04, seconded by Mr. Pugh. Mr. Huff stated that the tax rate will be the same as it was in 2015. Roll call vote: Mr. Rock – aye, Mr. Pugh – aye, Mr. Pierson – aye, Mr. Huff – aye, Mr. Young – aye, Ms. Hunsinger – aye. Motion carried. Mayor Sloyer utilized his veto of Ordinance 2015-04 due to his concern for future sustainability to provide infrastructure improvements, maintain services which include police, and continue to improve quality of life for all. He cited concern that \$92,000 is needed from the savings along with a \$30,000 rollover to fund the budget which includes a \$34,000 increase for police services.

Atty. Forsell advised that since the Mayor has exercised his right to veto, Council would need a majority vote plus one to override the veto and pass Ordinance 2015-04 without the mayor's approval.

Mr. Rock made a motion to overturn the veto, seconded by Mr. Pierson. Roll call vote: Mr. Rock – yes, Mr. Pugh – abstain, Mr. Pierson – yes, Mr. Huff – yes, Mr. Young – no, Ms. Hunsinger – no. Mr. Pugh had no grounds to abstain so he changed his vote to no. Motion did not pass by a vote of 3 – 3.

Council discussed planning another meeting and reworking the budget. Mr. Huff asked if those who voted no were looking to change the police allocation line item. Ms. Hunsinger remarked that she was concerned with using \$92,000 from savings. Mr. Huff said he believes the issue is the 5% increase to the police line item and stated he wants police coverage to be affordable and effective as well. Mr. Pugh suggested a small tax increase.

Mr. Keith Gerhart, 143 Cherry Street, shared his research on Sergeant Seville's contract as it pertains to his post-retirement health and life insurance benefits and asked who negotiated the contract. He estimates it will cost the police commission \$250,000 over a 10-year period.

Mr. Robert McCluskie, 301 W Sixth Street, asked Council if they have any data to show that the citizens in East Greenville have had an increase in their incomes to make up a 5% increase in the police budget.

Ms. Marita Thomson, 215 Bank Street, agrees that the police budget is a problem and another officer should not be hired unless the Borough can afford it.

Council discussed looking at the budget as a whole again and scheduling another meeting next week. Mr. Pierson stated it is frustrating when you work on a committee and then there is no faith in the committee members. Ms. Hunsinger reiterated her concern over using savings or cutting from roads and suggested getting some public input. Mr. Huff asked what percentage everyone is comfortable with for the police allocation. He believes 1/3 of the budget is reasonable.

Mr. Fry addressed the rollover of \$30,000 from the roads budget in 2015. The road improvement plan was not completed by the engineers in 2015. They are working on determining the age, traffic impact and construction details of all the roads in the Borough. The \$30,000 was intended as a rollover so the Borough can do an overlay in 2016. Mr. Fry also recapped the road projects performed in 2015 and discussed the projects we will be doing with grant money in 2016.

Councilman Lee Steinert joined the meeting via cell phone at 8:29 p.m.

Mr. Rock made a motion to override the veto, seconded by Mr. Pierson. Roll call vote: Mr. Rock – aye, Mr. Pugh – no, Mr. Pierson – aye, Mr. Huff – aye, Mr. Young – no, Ms. Hunsinger – no, Mr. Steinert - aye. Motion to override a veto did not pass by a vote of 4 – 3.

Council discussed options such as meeting next week. Mr. Rock suggested cutting donations. Mr. Pierson wants to work together to get the budget passed. Mr. Pugh suggested another roll call vote.

Mr. Rock made a motion to overturn the veto, seconded by Mr. Pierson. Roll call vote: Mr. Rock – aye, Mr. Pugh – aye, Mr. Pierson – aye, Mr. Huff – aye, Mr. Young – no, Ms. Hunsinger – no, Mr. Steinert - aye. Motion passed by a vote of 5 – 2.

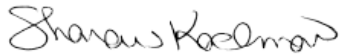
Mayor Sloyer encouraged the new council to not re-open the budget next year.

Executive Session: Mr. Huff called an executive session at 8:40 p.m. to discuss possible litigation.

Regular meeting reconvened at 8:57 p.m.

Motion to Adjourn: Being no further business, Mr. Young made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Rock and unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

Submitted by:



Sharon Kachmar, Secretary/Treasurer