

**BOROUGH OF EAST GREENVILLE**  
**BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
**January 26, 2016**

**Call to Order:** Council President Mr. Young called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**Attendance:** The following Council members were present: Tracey Hunsinger, Robert McCluskie, Ryan Pugh, Leon Steinert, Marita Thomson 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 Ms. Thomson to approve the minutes of the January 4, 2016, meeting. Seconded by Mr. Pugh and unanimously approved.

**Visitors:** Jeromy Schulz-Arnold; Ann Uhl; Debbie Finn; Brendan Davis; Bradley Schlegel, Town & Country

**Visitor Comments:** Brendan Davis, 1005 Brookview Drive, Pennsburg, was in attendance to gain approval for his proposed Eagle Scout project at the Borough parking lot on Bank and Washington Street. His plan is to place two picnic tables and one planter box at the location as well as mulch around the trees with a rough estimate for the project of \$750.00. Mayor Sloyer inquired about his plans to seek donations to cover the costs. Brendan said the mulch has been donated and he is looking for additional donations. Mayor Sloyer mentioned that a maximum of \$500 was budgeted in the event the entire cost was not funded by donations. Brendan's time frame for the project is to begin in April and be completed by the beginning of June. He will be presenting the project to his troop next month. He will need to meet certain criteria to get it approved such as a minimum amount of hours and approval of his design. Mr. Young asked him to come back after approval by his troop. Mr. Pugh made a motion to move forward with his proposal. Seconded by Ms. Thomson and unanimously approved.

Debbie Finn, 541 Colonial Drive, addressed council to dispute a water bill for usage on her old meter. She got a low water reading on her December 2015 water bill and called the office. When a meter replacement was performed, it was determined that the outside reader was not receiving the correct usage from the inside meter. The meter registered 286,000 gallons of usage that went unbilled. Her invoice for the water usage was \$1,403.19, which was calculated based on current rates. Ms. Thomson replied that, as done in the past, a payment plan could be established. Mr. Young asked for some time to research how we handled payment plans for customers who had similar situations. Ms. Finn asked if information can be put on the website encouraging residents to proactively check the outside reading device against the actual inside meter reading. Mr. Fry replied that not everyone has an outside register, but we can look into posting pictures in an attempt to educate people who do have that setup. Anna Uhl asked if the outside register is affected by the elements. Mr. Fry explained that it is an electrical pulse that turns the digit on the register and is not affected by temperature. The wire that runs from the meter to the outside remote can become damaged if it is stapled or cut. The Borough code states that the inside reading is conclusive because that is the actual device that records the quantity of water used. The water meter can be tested at the customer's request. Ms. Finn said the outside remote was changed at one time but she never checked to make sure it matched the inside reading. She also asked if her meter was original to the house, which they have owned since 1980. Ms. Uhl asked if old meters were ever re-used. Mr. Fry explained how they are recycled. Ms. Uhl asked Council to consider all the factors such as perhaps the usage happened when the rates were lower, not just that they must have used the water. Council discussed holding off on any finance charges while they are researching the issues. Ms. Thomson made a motion to waive the late fees for 541 Colonial Drive. Seconded by Mr. Pugh and unanimously approved.

**Police Commission Report:** Mayor Sloyer advised that at the meeting last night, Bob McCluskie was named as chair, Kris Kirkwood as vice chair and Vicki Lightcap as treasurer. Pension and other bills were paid. Commendations were done for officers and Vets for Vets presented a thank you plaque. Crime statistics increased by 1% in both boroughs in 2015. The information is on file for review.

**Mayor's Report:** Current status on the completion of the action park is unknown. Mr. Fry said he thought there was still cleanup and surfacing yet to be done. Ms. Hunsinger inquired how inclement weather will affect our liability once the action park becomes open. Mayor Sloyer said we should check with the insurance provider to see if they want it posted with certain language. Signs that say, use at your own risk, should be posted.

Mayor Sloyer advised that Gemini Hair Salon sent a message thanking the road crew for clearing the snow on Main Street today. The UP Police helped with traffic control for a couple of hours. Mr. Fry advised that they will be hauling snow from the other side of Main Street tomorrow. Titanium Finishing offered their empty lot on Third Street to pile snow. Other locations to pile snow are along Second Street by the old YMCA pool, the dead end of Washington Street and Arlington Street as a last resort. Mr. Fry explained that with 26" of snow, it's difficult to clear the center lane of a street when there is only a 10 or 11 ft. distance between the parked cars and a 9 ft. plow. The snow gets pushed up and then fills back in after the plow. Mayor Sloyer said plowing during this snow storm was handled no differently than any other but there was just no place to go with all the snow. Mr. Fry said another challenge late in the day on Saturday was the wind. The snow was blowing, and they had to wait while there was zero visibility.

**Solicitor Items:** Atty. Forsell presented **Resolution 2016-03** Appointing Joseph Arahill to fill the vacancy on the Zoning Hearing Board as alternate for approval. Mr. Pugh made a motion to pass **Resolution 2016-03**. Seconded by Mr. Steinert and unanimously approved.

Atty. Forsell advised that Comcast sent a letter regarding the cable franchise renewal up in 2018. A public meeting should be scheduled to identify future community needs and interests and to review Comcast's performance. Mayor Sloyer asked if this means we can open it up for other companies to negotiate. Atty. Forsell advised that they requested we begin the formal process and then we can ask them to submit a proposal plus open it up to anyone else who provides cable service. Atty. Forsell suggests scheduling the public meeting in March or April.

**Water Committee:** Mr. Fry advised that DEP evaluated the operation of the filter plant last week. Preliminary results indicate that it is run well and there are no issues. We don't expect to have the official written report until April.

**Zoning/Planning/Codes:** The flood plain ordinance went to PEMA for state review. PEMA will review and then send it back for a public hearing. Once it is adopted, we send it to FEMA. Mr. Fry is anticipating we will hear from them in early to mid February and the hearing can be scheduled for the last meeting in February. Atty. Forsell is working on getting the ordinance into the proper format.

**Road Committee:** Mr. Steinert advised that Corey Gressley and Toby Cole went out of their way to get the roads cleared after the storm. They worked from 7 p.m. Friday until 11 a.m. Sunday with 3 and 4 hour breaks. Grant Boyer also worked for 10 hours. Joel Pilgert and Jim Fry did clean up on Sunday and shoveled sidewalks. Mr. Steinert made a motion to give \$200.00 each to Corey Gressley and Toby Cole for outstanding work they did for the Borough, seconded by Ms. Hunsinger. Roll call vote: Mr. McCluskie – aye, Mr. Pugh – aye, Ms. Thomson – aye, Mr. Young – aye, Ms. Hunsinger – aye, Mr. Steinert - aye. Motion carried.

Ms. Thomson asked how incentive pay is distributed and whether it is available to all employees. Mr. Fry indicated that the last couple of years it has been used to recognize performance over and above normal duties and there are different things in each employee's job description that allow them to earn incentive pay.

A complaint was received on Saturday that the side street at Third Street and Blaker Drive was not plowed. The reason it was plowed later is because when the plow driver was there a car was stuck in the middle of the road, and he couldn't plow it at that time. Mr. Steinert asked if there was any way the Borough could make a list of bus stops and insure piles of snow are not left at those corners. Mayor Sloyer reminded everyone of the unusual amount of snow during the recent storm and how difficult it is to clear all bus stops due to this amount of snow as well as all intersections. Clearing sidewalks is the responsibility of the homeowner, and according to Borough ordinance, they are supposed to be cleared 24 hours after the snow stops. Mr. Steinert inquired what will happen to homeowners who do not clear their sidewalks. It was advised that they will get a notification about their responsibility. The policy for snow plowing the streets has always been curb to curb, but that is not always possible due to cars parking on the street. Mr. McCluskie said perhaps residents can contact the school when bus stops are not safe to see if they can use a slightly different stop temporarily.

The tentative date to accept bids for the Second Street reconstruction project is February 24, 2016, with the awarding of the bid performed in March. This would allow for a start date the beginning of April if the weather cooperates. Currently there is curbing in the original plans but no new sidewalk. Mayor Sloyer inquired why sidewalks were not part of the original plan. Mr. Fry indicated that when looking at the project initially, Cowan did not think we would get a HUD grant approved for the sidewalk. However, he indicated Todd Nagle agreed that if it doesn't affect the grant, they will try to add it. Mayor Sloyer stated he is not in favor of doing the project without the sidewalks. He added an overlay would not call for installing sidewalks, but a complete reconstruction should. The south side of Second Street between Main and Washington Streets has fairly new sidewalks.

A quote to repair the traffic light box at Sixth and Main Streets is just under \$9,000. The box was damaged by a hit and run driver. It has been reported to the Borough's insurance company.

During the snow storm, the Borough's backhoe caused minor property damage to a resident's fence. This has been turned over to the Borough's insurance company.

Another load of salt will be ordered soon. The road crew will also be making sure storm drains are open because of warmer temperatures on the way.

**Finance Committee:** Ms. Thomson indicated that with changes in Council, new check signers need to be established for Borough accounts. Ms. Thomson made a motion to approve Council President James Young, Council Vice President Tracey Hunsinger, Finance Chair Marita Thomson, Borough Manager Jim Fry and Secretary/Treasurer Sharon Kachmar as check signers on the accounts. Seconded by Mr. Steinert and unanimously approved.

The police radio financing proposal was broken into five years of payments. The total amount due increased slightly due to warranties for the radios. Rather than changing the ordinance, Ms. Thomson made a motion approving a one-time separate payment of \$217.28, seconded by Ms. Hunsinger. Roll call vote: Mr. McCluskie – aye, Mr. Pugh – aye, Ms. Thomson – aye, Mr. Young – aye, Ms. Hunsinger – aye, Mr. Steinert - aye. Motion carried.

**Personnel Committee:** Nothing.

**Property Committee:** Mr. Fry received a proposal by Tyco to update the security panels at 442 Washington Street and the water tank at a cost of \$1,458.66. The panels are obsolete and they recommend updating them

within two years, but ADT will continue to service them for up to four years. It was suggested to wait until budget time and get additional quotes at that time.

**Waste Management Committee:** Mayor Sloyer asked Mr. Pugh if there was a meeting set up yet to discuss the waste management contract which expires at the end of 2016. Mr. Pugh indicated there was not at this time.

**Recycling Committee:** Mayor Sloyer asked Mr. Pugh if Pennsburg Borough requested a meeting to discuss recycling. Mr. Fry indicated he has kept both Borough committee chairs informed about the recycling expenses, but hasn't had any feedback recently. Mr. Fry attended a county recycling meeting and got information about electronics. Pennsylvania seems to have the worst legislation about getting televisions recycled. Best Buy currently takes them for free, but Mr. Fry heard they will be charging for that service. One suggestion is to make arrangements with the trash hauler to take televisions, perhaps with a special sticker purchase. Ms. Hunsinger indicated she would be interested to see what the trash hauler would offer. It was thought Red Hill Borough may be the lead Borough in the negotiations for this trash contract. Mr. Fry offered to email their office to see if they are scheduling the meetings.

**Sewer Authority:** Mayor Sloyer asked Mr. Pugh where UMJA is with the expansion project. Mr. Pugh indicated they are working on bid specs and financing. He added they continue to need DEP approval before they can release EDUs. That is done on a case by case basis. That process should end once the project is complete.

**Revitalization:** Nothing to report.

**Regional Planning:** Nothing to report.

**Emergency Management:** Mr. Fry is working on a resolution to update the EOP.

**Borough Manager Updates:** Mr. Fry met with the Upper Perkiomen Middle School principal and transportation director about safety concerns at the school crossing at Fifth and Main Streets. They wanted to look at the situation themselves. They asked that we retain a crossing guard at that intersection for at least the remainder of the school year. They said the school does not have control over the students once they leave the property so it's difficult to have authorized walking routes. They were going to look into how many children live on the east side of Main Street and if they can use the Sixth and Main Street intersection where there is a traffic light. One of the Borough's crossing guards recently resigned, and currently the other two crossing guards are covering that location; Larry Seip in the morning and Nancy McGrath in the afternoon. Larry has been using flares in the morning to alert drivers. The school officials indicated they are in contact with PennDOT about getting school zones in front of their elementary schools and will ask their rep if they would allow a regulatory school zone a block away from the middle school near Fifth and Main Streets.

**Correspondence:** None.

**Other Business:** Mayor Sloyer and Mr. Fry attended a seminar on January 5, 2016, that addressed the municipal pension crisis in Pennsylvania. East Greenville Borough does not have an issue with pension funding. Also discussed were the Act 89 transportation funding, lease and lease back program, and GASB 68 review.

Ms. Thomson initiated a discussion concerning the resolution to allow participation and voting by telecommunication device. She was concerned with how it was used recently to vote on the budget. Atty. Forsell confirmed that the resolution is silent on the timing of when a councilperson can join a meeting. Council discussed having the resolution state some kind of time frame to avoid someone voting without having heard all of the discussion. It is understood that even if the caller is present for roll call, they cannot be used to make a quorum. Mr. McCluskie suggested they be there for roll call, but can leave whenever they wish. Mayor Sloyer

asked if the current resolution can be amended or clarified. Atty. Forsell said it would be easier to just adopt another resolution and add in language establishing a call in time. Council directed Atty. Forsell to work on updating the resolution and bring it back to council for their approval.

**Motion to Adjourn:** Being no further business, Ms. Thomson made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. McCluskie. Meeting adjourned at 9:09 p.m.

Submitted by:



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Sharon Kachmar, Borough Secretary