

BOROUGH OF EAST GREENVILLE
BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
February 23, 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, 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 Mr. Pugh to approve the minutes of the February 1, 2016, meeting. Seconded by Ms. Thomson and unanimously approved.

Visitors: Jeromy Schulz-Arnold; Ed & Kathy Hummel; Debbie Finn; Anna Uhl; Bradley Schlegel, Town & Country

Visitor Comments: Ed Hummel, 410 Blaker Drive, offered his services to paint the speed bumps in Colonial Village. He also remarked that people drive too fast over them. Mayor Sloyer said we can reach out to the police chief and ask them to repaint their lines and look for speed violators. Mr. Hummel also asked about roaming cats and kittens. He was directed to speak with Jim Fry, Code Enforcement Officer concerning trapping cats that are causing problems.

Debbie Finn, 541 Colonial Drive, asked if Borough Council had made a decision about her water usage invoice from her old meter. Ms. Thomson explained that a bucket test was performed on the old meter and the results showed that it is 98.7% accurate. Based on that information, Ms. Thomson worked on the most reasonable way to reduce the cost to her without jeopardizing the responsibility to the customer base. For usage of 286,000 gallons, rather than basing the cost all on the most recent years, it was spread out with rates from 1980 to 2015, taking into account that all minimums were met. This reduced the amount to be billed to \$776.45. Ms. Thomson explained that she understands it's a hardship and therefore proposes to Council that they use this billing schedule and a 22-month payment plan. Ms. Finn suggested being charged \$100.00. She is claiming negligence on the Borough's part due to Chapter 94-6 (F) of the Borough Code. Mr. Fry read the section of the code mentioned: *If for two successive quarters the quantity of water recorded by the remote reading device reveals consumption that differs by more than 10% from the amount consumed in the same quarters the previous year, or immediately upon the meter ceasing to register any flow to a property, the Borough may request an opportunity to test and, if necessary, to replace the meter.* Mr. Fry stated the code uses the word 'may' in the last sentence rather than 'shall'. Ms. Finn requested her water bills dating back to 1979. Mayor Sloyer asked Ms. Finn if they have ever noticed a fluctuation in the billing over the years. Ms. Finn replied she did not call the Borough until they received their December 2015 bill because she knew then that the water bill was too low. She asked every board member to review every bill from 1979 to 2015 and not make a decision tonight. Ms. Thomson said if additional information is received, the issue can be revisited. Mr. Young stated they have the information needed to make a decision including readings. Ms. Thomson made a motion to adjust the bill based on the spreadsheet prepared that shows the amount to be billed of \$776.45 and to extend the payment plan opportunity for 22 payments of \$35.00 each with the last payment being \$41.45 due on 12/29/17. Seconded by Mr. McCluskie and unanimously approved.

Ms. Finn asked how much stuff can be stored on your personal property, for how long and what the repercussions are if you are in violation of storing items that are not allowed. Mayor Sloyer replied that according to our ordinance, it depends on what she means by stuff. She was given the website for the property maintenance code

and a suggestion to send Mr. Fry a list of the items she wants to start storing on her property. The violation process was also discussed.

Ms. Finn asked if they are allowed to store cars, campers and boats in the grassy area near the Colonial Village clubhouse. Mayor Sloyer replied that the Police Department handles illegally parked trailers. As soon as the signs get put up at the clubhouse, the police can address those vehicles parked in the grass on the Borough's property.

Police Commission Report: Nothing to report.

Mayor Sloyer made the following remarks about social media, *"This borough and myself included, as elected officials, we are here to govern and to make decisions we feel are in the best interest of the residents and tax payers of this Borough. There are some in our neighboring municipalities that have trashed us on social media back when we were looking at hiring or not hiring a ninth officer. That trashing has still continued up to today where Mr. Keith Gerhart talked about two of us being clowns up here on the drug bust that Upper Perk Police had posted on their Facebook page. I think they are a bunch of cowards to sit behind a computer and to criticize us sitting up here when every single one of us puts in a lot of time and energy to try to do what's right for us, the borough and the residents, and what's in the best interest. There is not a single one of us that don't recognize what Upper Perk police do and the drug busts and the drugs that they get off the streets when it happens. I have pages and pages and pages of documented where they have trashed us over the last six months. I have not responded figuring that it would go away. I took away my Mayor Facebook page because it got so bad that I took it offline. I would hope that our neighboring municipalities, the ones that have been trashing us here in our Borough, would come up here and say it here in public instead of sitting behind a computer and stop the intimidation and disrespect that they have shown us. And this includes officers that sat here one time at a meeting over the last five to seven years that they have been with this department. We welcome anybody to come here, and we'll sit here and listen to concerns and we might not agree. We've seen tonight that we may not agree but that's the process that should be taking place. It needs to stop, and respect should be given to the elected officials because we are not being paid a salary that's paying our bills. We're not doing it for the money."*

Mayor's Report: Mayor Sloyer reported that the skate park will be open in the near future pending the weather. He and Scott Roth will plan a kick off for the opening. He is hopeful the kids will respect it. According to the posted rules, no one is permitted there after dark. The UP police will enforce that rule and the curfew ordinance which can help us maintain the property so everyone can use it. You can call the nonemergency number if the rules are violated. Atty. Forsell suggested signage include an age limit and bad weather restrictions. She also proposed it be fenced and locked when it's not supposed to be open. It was recommended she meet with Mr. Fry to discuss her thoughts further. Mayor Sloyer reminded Council that we had the insurance company review what was needed by the Borough before we even agreed to take the equipment. The goal was to provide free entertainment to the community, get kids off the street and give them a place to skate and bike. It was placed at that particular location because the macadam was already in place.

Solicitor Items: Nothing.

Water Committee: Nothing.

Zoning/Planning/Codes: The flood plain ordinance public hearing is coming up. Once approved, the ordinance will go to FEMA.

Road Committee: The Second Street Reconstruction Project bid opening is scheduled for February 24, 2016. Mayor Sloyer inquired whether sidewalks will be included. Plans show sidewalk and curbing on the south side from Main to Washington Street, but on the north side there were design issues with a fence. ADA recommends five foot sidewalks and an LTAP bulletin said it must be compliant except for the slope of the roadway. Mr. Fry replied that Cowan Associates believes based on construction estimates that there will be money available to add sidewalks, and they put in a bid quantity with county permission. It depends on how the bids come in. Mayor Sloyer said he would hate for us to not abide by past practice of putting in sidewalks. Mr. Fry said in the minutes he has found it's been done two ways, street reconstruction being charged to the homeowners for sidewalk and sidewalk paid for by the grant. One bonding company complained that the requirements are too strict and they felt we wouldn't have enough bidders. They objected to the clause that if the subcontractors don't pay the suppliers, the general contractor is responsible and not the Borough. Cowan Associates did not recommend removing that from the bond; it is there to protect the Borough.

Traffic light repairs by Signal Service at Sixth and Main Street were approved by the insurance company and are being scheduled.

The COSTARS road salt contract for 2016-2017 was submitted for 125 tons, which is the same as the previous year. This obligates the Borough to purchase at least 60% of this quantity and up to 140%. The contract can be changed up to March 15, 2016. The only new requirement is that a purchase be made before the end of this year. Ms. Thomson made a motion to approve the COSTARS salt contract. Seconded by Mr. Pugh and unanimously approved.

Finance Committee: Nothing.

Personnel Committee: Nothing.

Property Committee: The agreement was received from Montgomery County to proceed with the CDBG grant for handicap accessible improvements to the clubhouse and Borough hall. Mr. Pugh made a motion to execute the agreement. Seconded by Ms. Thomson and unanimously approved.

Waste Management Committee: The first joint trash contract meeting and recycling meeting is scheduled for March 15, 2016, at 6:00 p.m.

Recycling Committee: Nothing.

Sewer Authority: Nothing.

Revitalization: Nothing.

Regional Planning: Nothing.

Emergency Management: Mr. Fry will have the biannual Emergency Operations Plan resolution for approval on March 7, 2016.

Borough Manager Updates: East Greenville Borough is responsible to plan the Montgomery County Borough's Association dinner this May. Mayor Sloyer and a couple of council members will look at The Globe before the next meeting to see if it will meet the needs. Mayor Sloyer will also work on obtaining a speaker for the evening.

Correspondence: The Sons of the American Legion, Squadron #184 asked for permission to have an escort of first responders in a procession on Main Street through East Greenville Borough. Mr. McCluskie made a motion to assist in closing off the side roads pending approval from PennDOT and required certificates of insurance. Seconded by Ms. Thomson and unanimously approved. Ms. Thomson made a motion to authorize the fire police and road crew if needed that day as well to assist with the procession. Seconded by Mr. McCluskie and unanimously approved.

Mayor Sloyer inquired if a request came in from The Perkiomen School to close the road for graduation in May. It has not yet been received.

Motion to Adjourn: Being no further business, Ms. Thomson made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. McCluskie. Motion unanimously approved and meeting adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

Submitted by:



Sharon Kachmar, Borough Secretary