

BOROUGH OF EAST GREENVILLE
BOROUGH COUNCIL "SPECIAL" MEETING MINUTES
November 18, 2016

Call to Order: Council acting President Ms. Hunsinger called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Attendance: The following Council members were present: Joseph Arahill, Tracey Hunsinger, Robert McCluskie, Jennifer Moran, Ryan Pugh, and Marita Thomson. Also present were Mayor Ryan Sloyer, Atty. Stephen Kramer, Solicitor, James Fry, Borough Manager, and Sharon Kachmar, Borough Secretary/Treasurer.

Visitors: 14 visitors signed in.

Executive Session: Ms. Hunsinger advised that an executive session was held this evening at 6:55 p.m. due to possible litigation and also on Tuesday, November 15, 2016, at 7:30 p.m. for possible litigation.

Public Comment: None.

Finance Committee: The budget worksheets were reviewed and discussed by Council. Ms. Thomson advised that the Highway Aid budget is balanced at \$73,461.64. The Water Fund budget is balanced at \$776,022.96 and includes a 5% water rate increase. Various line items were adjusted for the General Fund. There is a current deficit of \$171,812.42. Council took the purchase of the Arlington Street lots out of the 2017 budget. The grant accepted for this purchase is available for use up until June 30, 2019. There is currently no signed agreement with the sellers. Atty. Kramer was asked to look into whether the Borough is obligated in any way if they decide to not go through with the purchase. For the General Fund budget, the staff was instructed to update budget figures to show an increase in permit fees by 5%, U&O inspections by \$25.00 and rental inspections by \$10.00.

Correspondence: In a November 16, 2016, email from Kristopher Kirkwood, President of Pennsburg Borough Council, Pennsburg Borough offered to fund 57.5% of the police allocation for 2017. This offer was made on the condition that East Greenville rescind its decision to pull out of the UPPD and remain a member through December 31, 2017, without discussion of pulling out until after that date. The offer is good through November 22, 2016. Ms. Hunsinger said while she thinks it's a great offer, and she appreciates them wanting to work with us, she is not comfortable rescinding the decision until mediation is given a chance to work. Atty. Kramer added that the ordinance put into place when forming the UPPD defines that the apportionment of appropriations is established by a ratio determined by variables. Their offer circumvents the ordinance established. Mr. McCluskie added that their offer does not cover the projected increase or address other underlying issues such as the structure of the Police Commission. Mr. Pugh added that a permanent fix is needed; not a quick fix. Council expressed their disappointment that it's taken this long for mediation to start and are hopeful a pre-mediation meeting will occur the end of November or beginning of December. The first meeting was cancelled due to a quorum and the second meeting was cancelled by the former solicitor's office. Atty. Kramer advised he has reached out to Pennsburg Borough's solicitor and is waiting to hear back from him.

An email followed up by a letter and check was received from Mr. Ed Buchinski, Grand Theater, on November 17, 2016, offering to pay the difference of \$1,675.48 for the 2017 police allocation. Atty. Kramer advised he was not comfortable with the offer as well as his other offer to purchase Borough owned properties, which would violate Borough Code bidding requirements. Atty. Kramer also advised not to enter into any contractual arrangements with private citizens.

There was public comment on positive ways to raise money for the Borough. Atty. Kramer advised there are ordinances in place and amendments would have to be made to that law to insure it's done the right way, if

Council so advises. Mayor Sloyer asked if it would be easier to fundraise and donate through the Police Commission because it's not governed by Council. Those funds could then be reflected in the police budget to offset the Borough allocations. Atty. Kramer was asked to look into the suggestions and about holding events in the community.

Mr. Fry advised he'd like to explore different ways to tax, such as utilizing a fire tax or street light tax as well as a fee in lieu of tax for tax exempt properties. Concerning the unfunded mandates being imposed, he advised Council may want to look into a storm water tax to fund the MS4 or into establishing a Storm Water Authority.

Mayor Sloyer added that the goal is to enhance the Borough by keeping taxes affordable which encourages people to come into the Borough but infrastructure must be maintained. Mr. Fry explained how he handles Borough Code violations and suggested educating new residents about local ordinances.

Council acknowledged that the resident group, Strengthen Upper Perk Community, is organizing a street clean up which will show pride in ownership of the community.

Ms. Thomson made a motion to reject the offer from Pennsburg Borough and the Grand Theater and return the check to the Grand Theater, seconded by Mr. Pugh. Roll call: Mr. McCluskie – aye, Mr. Pugh – aye, Ms. Hunsinger – aye, Mr. Arahill – aye, Ms. Moran – aye, Ms. Thomson – aye. Motion carries.

Motion to Adjourn: Being no further business, Ms. Thomson made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Pugh. Meeting adjourned at 9:47 p.m.

Submitted by:



Sharon Kachmar, Borough Secretary