

BOROUGH OF SEWICKLEY
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2012

President Bob Hague called the Committee of the Whole Meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Members in attendance were Susan Aleshire, Bill Cornman, Tom DeFazio, Stan Ference, Carole Ford and Robert Glenn. Mr. Driscoll was absent due to business and Mr. Morrill was absent due to vacation. Others in attendance were Jennifer Markus and Alex DeLoia of Village Green Partners, Mandy Semple and Doug Seubert of Sewickley Academy, Bobby Cherry of the Sewickley Herald, Larissa Dudkiewicz of the Sewickley Patch, Mayor Brian Jeffe, Solicitor Richard Tucker, and Borough Manager Kevin M. Flannery.

President Hague advised that the Borough conducted publicly advertised interviews from 6:20 p.m. to the beginning of the meeting this evening for possible appointments to Boards and Commissions of the Borough.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Mandy Semple and Doug Seubert of Sewickley Academy presented a check to the Cochran Hose Fire Company, which was accepted by Chief Jeff Neff and Assistant Chief Jed VonHofen. The check was a result of the students' Public Safety Pancake Breakfast held in November. This is an annual event in which Sewickley Academy students raised money from sponsoring the Pancake Breakfast for the public safety services in Sewickley and Edgeworth.

Jennifer Markus, of Village Green Partners, addressed Council indicating that over 9,000 people attended Sewickley Light Up Night. She indicated that businesses have expressed their appreciation for the event, which drew a record number of people to town, and that fireworks were appreciated by everyone. Ms. Markus indicated that a detailed report will be provided at the January Council Meeting, reviewing economic issues for the business district, and in general, how Yuletide in the Village fared with the business community for the entire month of December.

Carole Ford indicated that she thought this year's Light Up Night was a horrible event and that it did not reflect Christmas; that there were no strolling carolers. She stated that she was in Florida the previous two years and did not think the event went very well. Mayor Jeffe indicated that everyone that he has talked to and the numerous e-mails and phone calls were exactly the opposite; they thought it was the best Light Up Night ever.

Susan Aleshire stated that the side streets had very nice activities for the Light Up Night, which were well received by the public.

Council reviewed a letter from and a response to Lynn Smith regarding trees on Chestnut Street.

Council reviewed a Right-to-Know Request regarding the Public Works contract.

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COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT/MEMBERS/MAYOR

Mayor Jeffe again thanked Village Green Partners, the businesses, and the Borough of Sewickley for all their efforts associated with making Light Up Night a huge success, and the Quaker Valley Rotary for sponsoring the Santa Parade on Saturday.

Mr. Ference commented that the town was cleaned up after Light Up Night in an excellent fashion by midnight and extended congratulations to the Public Works Department.

Mr. Cornman indicated that the bridge traffic seems to be lighter with the opening of the Ambridge Bridge; however, he did ask if the Borough Manager would contact the state regarding the timing issues at the Chestnut Street lights and Walnut Street lights.

REPORT ON BUILDING INSPECTION. ZONING. PUBLIC WORKS AND WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

Council reviewed the Building Inspector's Report, indicating that thirteen (13) permits were issued in November, with permit fees of \$740.00 collected on \$44,000.00 worth of construction. Twenty-One (21) building inspections were performed, and one (1) property maintenance inspection was performed.

Council reviewed the Public Works Report for November, highlighting the assistance with Yuletide in the Village, the placement of Christmas Lights, the repair of sidewalks on Peebles Street due to tree roots, and the installation of the new Christmas Flags in the Business District.

Council reviewed the Wastewater Treatment Plant Report for November, indicating that 14.021 million gallons of sewage were treated. In addition, a new odor control pump was installed in the dewatering building, and the rebuilding of drip traps for the digester. Borough Manager indicated that the 300,000 gallons of gas in the digester is at approximately 92 degrees. Once it reaches 98 degrees, it will start to produce gas for reuse at the plant, which is expected to occur within the next week.

Council also reviewed the Consulting Engineer's Report, indicating that the Glen Osborne Interconnect Project is on schedule. The Boundary Street Pump Station Project is scheduled for startup and is to be placed in operation within the next 30 days.

The Building Inspector's Report, Public Works Report, Wastewater Treatment Plant Report and the Consulting Engineer's Report were received and filed.

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SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Council reviewed the Solicitor's Report for November, highlighting work on the Haysville sewer easements, the 2013 Budget and Millage Rate, the Sewickley Village Theater, the Employees' Association Collective Bargaining Agreement, and tax assessment appeals.

Council reviewed the Solicitor's Invoice in the amount of \$3,124.00. Solicitor Tucker indicated that an additional 14 tax assessment appeals have been filed with the Board of Property Assessment Appeals and Review.

Council reviewed the Delinquent Real Estate Tax Report from Jordan Tax Service, indicating that \$8,299.59 was collected in October.

The Solicitor's Report was received and filed.

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT

The Borough Manager indicated that all replacement trees have been planted on Nevin Avenue and that the Borough has already received two payments for sidewalk billings issued last month.

Council reviewed a letter from the Borough Manager to the Water Authority indicating that they will need to come back and repair Division Street in accordance with the Borough of Sewickley's ordinance.

The Borough Manager provided a notice that has been mailed to all of the property owners in the Dickson Road area. The Dickson Road Informational Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 18, at 6:30 p.m., in the Council Chambers. We are making a copy of the report for everyone who attends the meeting, minus the 36" x 42" maps.

The Borough Manager indicated that all interviews have been conducted for this year's Board and Commission positions and the names would be placed on the Council Agenda for Council to make the appointments. Council was in agreement to do so.

The Borough Manager reviewed a memo to all employees, requesting their participation in the design of the 2013 Wellness Program for the Borough of Sewickley. The Wellness Program has been very beneficial to the Borough as it has helped reduce or maintain healthcare costs for the Borough of Sewickley.

Solicitor Tucker and the Borough Manager will be attending a Petition Hearing to Approve an Increase of Tax Rate in the Court of Common Pleas on Wednesday, December 12, 2012 at 1:45 p.m. before the Motions Judge.

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BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

The Borough Manager indicated that an additional 16 appeals and 5 stipulations have been received from the Allegheny County Board of Viewers. This has further reduced the assessed value by an additional \$4,000,000 when combined with the 38 cases included in the Committee of the Whole Packet.

In addition, the Borough Manager was advised that the Quaker Valley School District Solicitors have negotiated settlements with lawyers in the area on approximately 250 appeals. That information should be available to the Borough by the end of December or early January.

Council reviewed the RealSTATS Sales Report for October, indicating that new home sales within the Pittsburgh metropolitan area are up.

The Borough Manager indicated that the January 15, 2013 Committee of the Whole Meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. with an informational session in which Christine Ehringer of Hallett Associates, and Mr. Richard Meyer of Guyasuta, will be in attendance to review pension matters, including an expected rate of return. In addition, the Borough Manager is waiting for additional information from the Rhoades firm, as requested at the November 13th Committee of the Whole Meeting, to review fiduciary responsibility issues.

The Borough's Appreciation Dinner will be held on Saturday, January 5, 2013. Invitations have been forwarded to all Members of Council, employees, and Board and Commission Members.

Council reviewed a copy of a letter and a billing to Castle Builders Trucking Co. regarding an incident that occurred on the Borough of Sewickley streets on Tuesday, December 4, 2012. One of their trucks was carrying cement and a load was placed on the Borough of Sewickley roads which required cleanup by the Public Works Department and assistance from the Cochran Hose Fire Company to wash down the street.

The Borough Manager's report was received and filed.

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council went into Executive Session at 8:22 p.m. to discuss litigation matters, a land matter, contract negotiations and a personnel review for the Police Chief.

The Executive Session concluded at 9:37 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Mr. Cornman, the Committee of the Whole Meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin M. Flannery
Borough Manager/Secretary

KMF:pmf