

**BOROUGH OF SEWICKLEY**  
**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES**  
**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2012**

President Robert Hague called the Committee of the Whole Meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Members in attendance were Susan Aleshire, Bill Cornman, Charles Driscoll, Stan Ference, Robert Glenn and James Morrill. Others in attendance were Richard Meyer and Henry Beukema of Guyasuta Investment Advisors, Paul Farkas, Larissa Dudkiewicz of the Sewickley Patch, Jennifer Markus of Village Green, Mayor Brian Jeffe, Solicitor Richard Tucker, and Borough Manager Kevin M. Flannery.

Mr. DeFazio and Mrs. Ford were absent due to personal reasons.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Richard Meyer and Henry Beukema of Guyasuta Investment Advisors reviewed the Borough of Sewickley Police Pension and Employees Association Pension Plans. The report indicated that the time weighted return annualized to date since inception in 2001 was 5.94%. The funds ended 2011 at \$5,878,746; and for February 13, 2012, were at \$6,057,306. The funds are at 63.4% in equities, 35.2% in fixed income and 1.4% in cash. Council commended Guyasuta on a good job for the pension plans.

Jennifer Markus of Village Green addressed Council providing an update on Village Green activities. She provided a detailed financial report on *Yuletide in the Village* and Village Green will be working with the Borough of Sewickley in order to cover all of the Borough's costs associated with Yuletide in the Village.

Ms. Markus reviewed other events and announced that a Sewickley Soup Crawl is scheduled for Saturday, March 17<sup>th</sup> from Noon to 3p.m. The event will assist the Sewickley Food Bank. She also indicated that the Sharp Edge is interested in using Division Street Parking Lot on October 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> for an Oktoberfest event. Council in agreement to place matter on agenda for Monday's meeting.

Ms. Markus stated the Explore Sewickley website is being updated, there are 606 Facebook fans, and the newsletter is sent to 1,044 people, with a 36% open rate.

Council reviewed a request from the residents of Smith Alley for the placement of "No Thru Street" signs. In review with the Borough Road Engineer, Bob Firek, and Police Chief Ersher, it is not appropriate because that type of sign is a warning signing which could be placed on a cul-de-sac type street. Smith Alley is a public street connecting Graham Street and Thorn Street. Borough Manager advised that approximately 10 years ago, there was discussion on making Smith Alley a one way alley from Thorn Street to Graham Street, but it would need the endorsement of 100% of the adjacent property owners.

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**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC (continued)**

Council directed the Borough Manager to meet with Quaker Valley School officials to find out the proposed traffic plans for the school after the completion of the school renovation project.

Council reviewed a letter from Glen Oaks Girl Scout Community of Sewickley for permission to place green ribbons on 100 trees on Broad Street and Beaver Street to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> year of Girls Scouts in America. On motion of Mr. Morrill, seconded by Ms. Aleshire, Council voted, 7-0, to approve request. In addition, Mayor Jeffe will present a Proclamation on March 12, 2012 to the Girl Scouts.

Council reviewed a request for a resident handicapped parking space for 400 Ohio River Boulevard. The report included a recommendation for approval from Police Chief Ersher. Council in agreement to place on agenda for Monday's meeting.

Council reviewed a letter to the Sweetwater Center for the Arts to use the Gazebo at Wolcott Park for the Summer Music Series on June 15<sup>th</sup>, June 22<sup>nd</sup> and June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

Council reviewed a Right-to-Know Request from Paul Farkas and information provided. Mr. Farkas, of 239 Bank Street, was in attendance and criticized the police department in their failure to enforce the Jake Brake rules on trucks on Ohio River Boulevard and the speeding on Bank Street. Mr. Farkas indicated that he is awaiting additional information from the Police Department. He explained that he was hit by a car and the police department did assist in the accident. Council indicated that the Police Chief will review Mr. Farkas' concerns. Mrs. Aleshire asked for a report on the possibility of speed humps on Bank Street.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT/MEMBERS/MAYOR**

Mayor Jeffe reviewed the November 2011 Quaker Valley K-9 Committee and stated that the 2011 contribution of \$11,000 has been received.

Mayor Jeffe thanked Mr. Hague for participating in the Tuskegee Airmen Memorial installation of Founding Trustees on January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

Council President Hague announced that there was an Executive Session at 6:45 p.m., before tonight's meeting on contractual matters, real estate matters, personnel matters and the Zoning Hearing Board.

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

Council reviewed the Building Inspector's Report, indicating that fourteen (14) permits were issued in January, with permit fees of \$18,090.00 on \$1,130,000 worth of construction. Twenty-five (25) building inspections were performed.

Council reviewed the Wastewater Treatment Plant Report for January, indicating that 20.489 million gallons of sewage were treated, and 0 cubic feet of digester gas was used. The digester control panel is up and running and sludge is being activated in the dystor, which will produce gas by the end of February. In addition, Council reviewed the Catch Basin Cleaning Report and the Chapter 94 Notice.

Council reviewed the Public Works Report highlighting the collection of Christmas trees, replacement of signs, maintenance of roads and snow removal.

Council reviewed the Consulting Engineer's Report, indicating that the Glen Osborne Interconnect Project has been bid. Bids will be opened on March 12<sup>th</sup> in Council Chambers.

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

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

Council reviewed the Solicitor's Report for January, highlighting the easements for the Glen Osborne Sewer Interconnect Project, the spot zoning challenge, reassessment issues, pension plans, Edgeworth Fire Protection Agreement, and the 2012 Tax Anticipation Note.

Council reviewed the Solicitor's Invoice for the month of December in the amount of \$7,193.59.

Solicitor Tucker advised that Borough of Glen Osborne was completing the task of getting the property owners easements for the project. In addition, Glen Osborne has advertised an ordinance, scheduled for adoption on February 21, to prepare eminent domain proceedings against those owners who do not execute the easements.

Council reviewed Ordinance 1303, revising the Edgeworth Fire Services Agreement to allow the purchase of two fire vehicles from Edgeworth Borough. The ordinance is scheduled for adoption at the Council Meeting on Monday.

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**SOLICITOR'S REPORT (continued)**

Council reviewed the Jordan Delinquent Tax and Municipal Claims Report for the month in the amount of \$13,104.08.

The Sheriff's Sale for 897 Dickson Road has been postponed.

The Solicitor's Report was received and filed.

**BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT**

Borough Manager advised that the Resident Meeting for the 2012 Road Project is scheduled for Thursday, February 16 at 5:30 p.m. Mr. Driscoll asked if the reconstruction of sidewalks can be extended until October of 2012 for those property owners wishing to perform the repairs themselves. Borough Manager advised that it might increase the cost of the contract which is originally scheduled to be complete by August. After some discussion, Council was in agreement to extend the resident repair date to July 10, 2012.

In addition, Borough Manager advised that the Road Engineer, Borough Arborist and Tree Commission were recommending the removal of 19 London Plane trees on Nevin Avenue. The trees have grown into the curbs and with the curbs being replaced the trees need to be removed. Borough Arborist stated to the Tree Commission that the trees probably have about 3 to 5 years of life left. The Tree Commission, at their meeting on February 13<sup>th</sup>, asked if at least 14 trees can be replaced with 2½ inch or 3 inch caliber trees. Council was in agreement to proceed. Borough Manager will get tree removal quotations for the March Committee of the Whole meeting.

Council reviewed a quotation for work on Walnut Street. Borough Manager advised that Dickson Road and Crescent Road have had some shifting of the road due to the Gillipen series of rock. Borough staff is monitoring the roads at least twice a week.

Council reviewed an insurance claim from a person who was attempting to step over an orange construction barrier on the 400 Block of Walnut Street, and tripped and fell, striking his head. The insurance company is handling the investigation.

Council reviewed a \$20,000 payment from the Local Government Academy for completion of the Borough of Sewickley Zoning Ordinance.

Borough Manager advised that five building permits and five sewer taps were obtained for the Sweetwater Condominiums at Beaver Street and Peebles Street.

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**BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT (continued)**

Borough Manager advised that Ms. Courtney Yates, applicant of the Los Payasos Unification Plan at 541-545 Beaver Street, requested and was granted a continuance until the March 7<sup>th</sup> Planning Commission Meeting. A recommendation was made to place a motion on the Council Agenda for Monday, granting the continuance until March 19, 2012.

Council reviewed a regret letter from Allegheny County Gaming Economic Fund regarding an application for funding of the Hoey's Run Stream Restoration Project.

Council reviewed the Cochran Hose Firefighter's Relief Association Audit Report from January 1, 2008 to December 31, 2009. A motion to accept and order received and filed will be on the Council Agenda for Monday.

Borough Manager reviewed the Borough property and professional liability insurance renewal. The cost of \$82,214 represents an approximate 2% increase over the 2011 price.

Borough Manager reviewed a notice of the closing of the Ambridge-Aliquippa Bridge, which is scheduled for Saturday, March 3, 2012. There will a significant increase in vehicles using the Sewickley Bridge. Staff is working with PENNDOT regarding traffic control, not only for the Bridge intersection, but also for the Walnut and Chestnut intersections on Route 65. The Borough is planning to coordinate a stakeholders meeting after the meeting with PENNDOT.

Council reviewed a report from Trans Associates on the Broad Street Traffic Signal Inspections. The new traffic signals were installed in 2006 and require an inspection every 5 years. The inspection found a button issue and additional signage requirements, which have been completed.

Borough Manager presented the Borough of Sewickley Road Weight Limit Study completed by Lennon, Smith and Souleret. The study recommends weight limits for Broad Street, Beaver Street, Walnut Street and Blackburn Road. Borough Manager recommended that an Ordinance be prepared and advertised for adoption at the March 19, Council Meeting.

Council reviewed letter from FEMA outlining the review and appeal process for the new Flood Map for our area.

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**BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT (continued)**

Borough Manager advised that a meeting was held on January 26<sup>th</sup> with Jordan Tax Service, the Quaker Valley School District Solicitor's office and Mr. Ference. The 97 delinquent tax parcels were reviewed, and 14 are under a payment plan. We will proceed with further actions with 47 properties, including the possible sale of the property.

Borough Manager advised that the Council picture will be taken on Monday, February 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:25 p.m.

The Borough Manager's report was received and filed.

**ADJOURNMENT**

On motion of Mr. Ference, seconded by Mr. Morrill, the Council Meeting was adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin M. Flannery  
Borough Manager/Secretary

KMF:pmf