

BOROUGH OF SEWICKLEY
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES
TUESDAY, JULY 10, 2012

Vice President Susan Aleshire called the Committee of the Whole Meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Members in attendance were Bill Cornman, Tom DeFazio, Charles Driscoll, Stan Ference, Carole Ford, Robert Glenn and James Morrill. Councilman Robert Hague was absent due to being on his honeymoon. Others in attendance were Jennifer Markus of Village Green, Bobby Cherry of the Sewickley Herald, Larissa Dudkiewicz of the Sewickley Patch, Mayor Brian Jeffe, Solicitor Richard Tucker, and Borough Manager Kevin M. Flannery.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Jennifer Markus, of Village Green Partners, addressed Council and provided an update on activities in the Borough. Ms. Markus passed out the latest edition of Pittsburgh Magazine which included several highlights of the Sewickley Business District. Ms. Markus indicated that they have hired Alex DeLoia as a communications specialist with Village Green. Ms. Markus reminded Council that the Grand Opening for Sewickley Sporting Goods takes place this Saturday, July 14th. In addition, a kitchen store will be opening soon. Ragged Row, a women's clothing store will be opening next to the Sewickley Hotel.

COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT/MEMBERS/MAYOR

Mayor Jeffe presented a donation from the Sewickley Memorial Day Fund, in the amount of \$7,000, to the Borough to defray the costs for the four day Memorial Day Weekend activities.

Mr. DeFazio offered his appreciation to the Police Department and Public Works Department for the installation of the mirror at Division Street and Locust Place.

Mr. Cornman asked if a stop bar line can be placed on Chestnut Street at the Route 65 intersection.

Mr. Ference presented an e-mail from a resident regarding parking during street cleaning on Chestnut Street and Harbaugh Street. The Mayor indicated that he will speak to Chief Ersher regarding the enforcement of "no parking" on the streets during street cleaning posted times.

Mr. Glenn indicated that he has seen a lot of illegal left turns, from Walnut Street onto Beaver Street and from Locust Place onto Beaver Street. Mayor Jeffe indicated that he would work with Chief Ersher on this issue.

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

Council reviewed the Building Inspector's Report, indicating that six (6) permits were issued in May, with permit fees of \$1,452.00 on \$42,186.00 worth of construction. Twenty-Nine (29) building inspections were performed and three (3) property maintenance inspections were performed.

Council reviewed the Zoning Hearing Board Decision in Case No. 12-04, submitted by Charles Merriman, Managing Partner of the 700 Hopkins Street Partnership.

Council reviewed the Public Works Report for June, highlighting work in all of the Borough Parks, the removal of weeds in the parking lots and business district, the cutting of tree branches that were blocking stop signs, and repairs to the wall on Crescent Avenue.

Council reviewed the Wastewater Treatment Plant Report for June, indicating that 15.792 million gallons of sewage were treated and that there is a valve malfunctioning in the Dystor, hampering the making of digester gas. In addition, the exterior bricks were pressure washed and there was some concrete patching of the digester building.

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

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Council reviewed the Solicitor's Report for June, highlighting the continuing work on the easements for the Glen Osborne Sewer Interconnect Project, the Village Theater Project, and the completion of the General Obligation Note for 2012.

Council reviewed the Solicitor's Invoice in the amount of \$10,319.69.

Council reviewed a Tax Assessment Appeal for 513 Beaver Street and an Order of Settlement and Discontinuance for 632 Pine Road.

Council reviewed the Jordan Tax Service Delinquent Tax and Municipal Claims Report for June, 2012, indicating that \$11,038.02 was collected in delinquent taxes.

Solicitor Tucker updated Council on the lawsuit by Franklin J. Pounds against KLH Engineers, the Borough of Sewickley and Pipeline Systems. In addition, Shawn and Marla Haynes have provided notice of a lawsuit against the Borough of Sewickley for this same incident in July of 2010.

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SOLICITOR'S REPORT (continued)

Solicitor Tucker asked for an Executive Session regarding the Glen Osborne Interconnect Project and land matters.

Vice President Aleshire indicated that the Executive Session would be at the conclusion of the Regular Order of Business.

The Solicitor's Report was received and filed.

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT

Borough Manager advised that the milling and paving of Beaver Street will occur on Tuesday, July 10th and Wednesday, July 11th. The work will be done at night, from approximately 7:30 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. The Borough crews have already marked the parking spaces so they can be repainted on Beaver Street, which will occur on Thursday morning, from approximately 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. In addition, Laurel Asphalt visited the Borough on Monday and all measurements have been taken for the brick inlay crosswalks which will be placed the last week of July and the first week of August. On July 16th, T.A. Robinson Asphalt Paving will also begin work on the Nevin Avenue portion of the Road Project.

Borough Manager advised that a short film, *The Lifeguard*, is being filmed in the Sewickley area beginning this week. Council reviewed a list which includes areas where filming will take place. Scenes were shot in the business district today. The film company will be back in town on the afternoon of Sunday, July 15th, Saturday evening, July 21st, and Sunday evening, July 22nd at the corner of Chestnut Street and Beaver Street. The Borough will be reimbursed for all costs associated with the Borough's assistance in making this film.

Council reviewed a letter from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government for the 2012 Innovations in American Government Award. The Borough application, titled "Look, Listen and Learn", detailing the Sewickley Borough infomercials, did not make it to the final round of applications.

Borough Manager advised that a meeting was held with Maurice Strul of the Allegheny County Department of Economic Development and the Tax Increment Financing (TIF) process was reviewed. Tax Increment Financing utilizes the gain received on the current value of taxes versus the increase of the potential development in taxes to pay for public improvements. The process requires that the Borough approves a Resolution of Intent regarding their work with the two other governmental agencies, namely Allegheny County and the Quaker Valley School Board.

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BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT (continued)

Borough Council would need to create a Tax Increment Finance Committee and appoint someone as the Borough's representative. Borough Manager reviewed a Process Chart from Allegheny County Department of Economic Development, indicating the required steps. Borough Manager indicated that the Tax Increment Financing would be good economic tool for the Theater Project development. After some discussion, Council was in agreement to place a Resolution of Intent for the Tax Increment Financing Committee on the Agenda and to establish the initial project area to be Broad Street to Walnut Street and Thorn Street to Beaver Street, including all of the adjacent side streets of Thorn Street, Walnut Street, Beaver Street and Broad Street.

Borough Manager advised that a check, in the amount of \$11,855.92, has been received from the insurance company for the cost of repairs to the 1997 Aerial Fire Truck. Parts for the necessary repairs have been ordered by Glick, the company doing the repairs. At a date in the near future, the truck will be taken out of service for approximately four to five weeks.

Council reviewed a check in the amount of \$1,000 from the "Click It or Ticket" Program, reimbursing Sewickley for police officer costs.

Council reviewed the Municipal Risk Management Loss Run Activity Report for the month of May 2012 and the MRM *Trust Notes* publication for June of 2012.

Council reviewed a report from Guyasuta, the Borough's Investment Advisor, pursuant to a new amendment to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, commonly known as ERISA. In addition, the Borough will be receiving information from AmeriServ under the same requirement.

Borough Manager advised that the Pennsylvania Legislature has passed Senate Bill 1321, clarifying certain portions of Act 47 - the Municipalities Financial Recovery Act. The Bill is in response to an October 2011 Pennsylvania Supreme Court Decision that severely reduced the ability of distressed municipalities to regain fiscal health by taking arbitrational awards out of jurisdiction of Act 47.

In addition, Borough Manager advised that Senator Jane Earll is introducing legislation amending Act 111, known as the Policemen and Firemen Collective Bargaining Act. The new legislation will consider evidence based upon a municipality's ability to pay, prohibit post-retirement health care and pension benefits not required by statute from being the subject of collective bargaining, begin the bargaining process earlier in the year, and expand the list of arbiters to 7 instead of 3, require the cost to be shared equally between the bargaining units and the municipalities, and require some of the arbitration procedures to be open to the public.

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BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT *(continued)*

Council reviewed the list of bidders for the Peebles Street Tree Removal Project. Four bids were received. On motion of Mrs. Ford, seconded by Mr. Cornman, Council voted, 8-0, to accept the bid of Carl's Tree Service, located at 3908 Homestead Duquesne Road, West Mifflin, PA, in the amount of \$13,500.

Council reviewed a letter and press release from the Leetsdale Municipal Authority, and declined to take any action on the letter or the press release.

The Borough Manager's report was received and filed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council went into Executive Session at 8:35 p.m. The Executive Session concluded at 9:08 p.m.

On motion of Mr. Ference, seconded by Mr. DeFazio, Council voted, 8-0, that the President and/or President of Borough Council is authorized to sign a Letter Agreement pertaining to the Arden River Development easement for the Glen Osborne Sewer Interconnect Project.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Mr. Ference, seconded by Mr. Driscoll, the Committee of the Whole Meeting adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin M. Flannery
Borough Manager/Secretary

KMF:pmf