

BOROUGH OF SEWICKLEY
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 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, Tom DeFazio, Stan Ference, Carole Ford, Robert Glenn and James Morrill. Councilman Charles Driscoll was absent due to illness. Others in attendance were Kirsten Stripay and Jennifer Markus of Village Green, Police Chief James Ersher, Tree Commission Chairman Larry Rice, Gerry Gloekler, Mark Raso, Mike Mastroianni, Mayor Brian Jeffe, Solicitor Richard Tucker, and Borough Manager Kevin M. Flannery.

President Hague asked for a moment of silence in observance of the 11th anniversary of 9/11. He asked everyone to think of the victims and heroes of that day.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Jennifer Markus and Kirsten Stripay, of Village Green Partners, addressed Council and provided an update on activities in the Borough. Currently, they are working on a Welcome Packet containing information regarding Village Green, local businesses, the Borough, and a Calendar of Events. They are working on bringing in two eating establishments to the Borough of Sewickley. The Oktoberfest is scheduled for Friday, October 5th and Saturday, October 6th, with one band on Friday, and two bands on Saturday. In addition, Village Green Partners will be forwarding a contract renewal package and be present at the Council Meeting on September 24th to answer questions.

On motion of Mrs. Ford, seconded by Mr. Ference, Council voted, 8-0, to approve the request of Robert Veltre for the second annual Brave American 5K Race for March 2, 2013.

On motion of Mrs. Ford, seconded by Mr. Morrill, Council voted, 8-0, to approve the Penn State THON request to solicit on October 20th or 21st. The solicitations will be confined to the sidewalks, with no participants allowed to be in streets or highways.

Council reviewed a request for a block party on Fountain Street and the approval. The residents of Fountain Street were unaware that requests for block parties are needed by the Borough prior to a Council Meeting. The approval was granted, with a reminder that in the future they will need to present the request to Council.

Council reviewed a request from the Sewickley United Methodist Church to attend a very special worship service on September 16th, at 11:00 a.m., in the church.

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COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC (CONTINUED)

Larry Rice, Chairman of the Tree Commission, of 310 Peebles Street, appeared before Council asking if Council could assist in finding an additional member for the Tree Commission because of a resignation earlier in the year. The Tree Commission has officially advertised the opening for the position, but they are still one member short. Council Members indicated that they would get back to Mr. Rice with a potential member.

Mark Raso, of Tony R's Pizza, 850 Nevin Avenue, addressed Council regarding the Nevin Avenue Road Project. Mr. Raso indicated that the road has been opened and closed since May 6th, that he has lost thousands of dollars, and that Tony R's Pizza is the oldest business in the Borough of Sewickley. He is asking Borough Council, under their liability insurance, for distribution of a business loss, seeking a couple of thousands of dollars. Mr. Raso stated that the road project closed his business down, indicating that he brings a lot of business to town by people waiting for his pizzas. He indicated that his store does approximately seventy-five (75) orders a day. Several Members of Council asked Mr. Raso questions. Mr. Raso continued that his pizza is known around the country, that several movie stars come to get pizza at his shop, including Tom Cruise, Fabio and Lynyrd Skynyrd, to mention a few. Mr. Raso indicated that he is all about public relations, and he is demanding that Council respect him and his business.

Mr. Ference indicated that the road work is in progress and that the work that has already been completed on the road cannot be undone. Mr. Hague stated that notices were provided to all property owners on Nevin Avenue, an informational meeting was held on February 16, 2012, and there were two mailings.

Mr. Hague indicated that he has used the road frequently over the last four years while he was dating his wife, whom he just recently married. He indicated that it is long term road improvement, that roads are planned in advance, that Sewickley is old infrastructure, and that trees will need to be removed and gas and water lines will need to be replaced. Mr. Hague indicated that it is a permanent improvement that will benefit Mr. Raso's business, and that section of Nevin Avenue was one of the worst rated roads in the Borough. Mr. Hague further indicated that the road in front of Tony R's Pizza was actually closed on August 28th, not May 6th.

Mr. Raso was advised by several Members of Council and the Solicitor that if he wishes to make a claim against the Borough, he should contact his lawyer and forward the claim to the Borough Manager's office for proper processing.

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COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT/MEMBERS/MAYOR

Council President Bob Hague stated that the Sewickley 5K Heart and Sole Run/Walk is scheduled for Saturday, September 22, 2012, beginning at 8:30 a.m., with the race starting at War Memorial Park.

Council reviewed Voter Identification Card information. Several Members of Council indicated that this is very important information and that it needs to be distributed to all citizens. President Hague asked all Members of Council to work with their political parties as well as residents in their wards to ensure they all have proper voter identification information.

Mayor Jeffe extended his compliments to the Borough crews for their assistance at the Harvest Festival, as well as the Quaker Valley Rotary and the Sewickley Kiwanis, in their efforts in providing a quality festival, despite the rain.

Mayor Jeffe also indicated that the quarterly K-9 Report is available and will be included in the September 17th Council Packet.

Mr. Glenn indicated that two manhole covers are loose and need attention on Pine Road.

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

Council reviewed the Building Inspector's Report, indicating that seventeen (17) permits were issued in August, with permit fees of \$6,046.00 on \$1,953,400.00 worth of construction. Twenty-Eight (28) building inspections were performed, and two (2) property maintenance inspections were performed.

Council reviewed the Public Works Report for August, highlighting the replacement of street signs in compliance with the reflectivity standards, and the continued painting of the crosswalks and curbs. In addition, there were repairs made to a sink hole on Broad Street and plantings put in around the Borough Building and on Walnut Street.

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

Borough Manager also provided pictures of Hoey's Run at War Memorial Park, which was affected by a two hour rain on September 1st. These pictures were provided to remind Council that through the efforts of the Public Works staff, mainly Howard Miller and Tony Verbene, any damage was prevented to the park or adjoining properties. However, the pictures clearly showed that ninety percent (90%) of the debris came down the stream from properties above the park. Borough Manager reminded Council that the War Memorial Park Master Plan indicates a plan to remedy this occurrence of Hoey's Run. This issue will be discussed further during the budget meetings.

Council reviewed the Wastewater Treatment Plant Report for August, indicating that 14.637 million gallons of sewage were treated, and that natural gas is beginning to be made and is expected to be producing significant amounts by the end of September or middle of October.

Council also reviewed the Consulting Engineer's Report, indicating that work has begun on the Railroad Street Pump Station Project and that the Boundary Street Pump Station is approximately twenty-five percent (25%) complete.

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

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Council reviewed the Solicitor's Report for August, highlighting the continuing work on the Glen Osborne Sewer Interconnect Project, a proposed second amendment, the spot zoning challenge and tax assessment appeals.

Council reviewed the Solicitor's Invoice in the amount of \$13,499.37; however, approximately \$10,000.00 of that amount is reimbursable for sewer services and will be reimbursed out of the financing bond.

Solicitor Tucker reviewed the bankruptcy filing for 245 Frederick Avenue.

Council reviewed the Jordan Tax Service Delinquent Tax and Municipal Claims Report for August, 2012, indicating that \$1,113.00 was collected in delinquent taxes.

Council reviewed numerous tax assessment appeals and decisions on tax assessment appeals.

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SOLICITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

Council reviewed Ordinance No. 1308, the Second Addendum to the Glen Osborne Sewer Agreement, which has been advertised for adoption on Monday, September 17, 2012. Solicitor Tucker indicated that the Borough of Glen Osborne will be adopting the same agreement on September 18, 2012.

Council reviewed a Notice of a Voluntary Dissolution of a Limited Liability Company registered at 921 Beaver Road.

Council reviewed a Notice of a Sheriff's Sale for 640 Pine Road.

The Solicitor's Report was received and filed.

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT

Borough Manager provided an update on the 2012 Road Project, indicating that the new crosswalks were finished in the Sewickley Business District on August 29th.

Borough Manager advised that Nevin Avenue closed on Tuesday, August 28th, with bricks and eight inches of sand and dirt removed. Borough Manager provided pictures indicating that a fiber barrier was laid, and eight inches of crushed stones installed. The contractor is now installing the curbs. Once the curbs are installed, the aprons to all driveways will be done and then a 2½ inch asphalt base and 1½ inch top coat will be placed. In addition, a top coat paving will be installed from the end of the project area to Hill Street on Nevin Avenue; this portion of the project will be billed to the Water Authority and Columbia Gas.

Council reviewed letters forwarded to the four communities that are provided road salt through the Borough of Sewickley. These communities must acknowledge their acceptance of the price and the procedures required for usage of the road salt.

Borough Manager reminded Council that the Budget Meeting with the Department Heads and discussion of capital budget items will be on Monday, September 24, 2012, at 7:00 p.m. A second Budget Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, October 20, 2012, at 7:00 a.m., which will include a presentation of the tentative 2013 Budgets for the Borough of Sewickley General Fund, Sewer Fund and Capital Reserve Funds.

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BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

Council reviewed the 2013 Minimum Municipal Pension Obligation as prepared by Hallett and Associates. There is a significant increase in the amortization amount due to the 2011 Valuation Report being used for each fund. For the 2012 Report, the 2009 Valuation Report was used. This reflects the market conditions of 2009 and 2010. The Borough is permitted to take a 25% amortization payment in 2013 and 2014. Council was in favor to work with the 25% amortization payment for 2013 and 2014. Council reviewed the 2012 State Aid Unit Value, which is \$3,576.11. In accordance with the Department of the Attorney General Standards, each non-uniform participant certified is worth one (1) unit, while each uniform participant is worth two (2) units.

Borough Manager reviewed an article from the Pittsburgh Business Times, reviewing the new requirements of the Government Accounting Standards Boards that go in affect June 15, 2013.

Borough Manager reviewed the Railroad Street Pump Station Groundbreaking Ceremony which took place on Tuesday, August 28th. Borough Manager advised that a letter was received from the Township of Aleppo asking for Sewickley to coordinate a meeting with the three communities involved in the joint municipal sewer project. Council concurred with arranging a meeting, with Mr. Hague, Mrs. Aleshire, Mr. Cornman and the Borough Manager representing the Borough of Sewickley at the meeting.

Council reviewed a Right-to-Know Request from Michael Hogan, of ABF Freight Systems, asking for our road limit study due to the issuance of a traffic citation to a member of his organization.

Council reviewed a letter indicating that the Borough of Sewickley will be receiving \$12,500, the final balance due to the Borough for the Sewickley River Conservation Project.

Council reviewed a letter from the Pennsylvania Department of Economic Development, indicating that Contract No. C00045890 is officially closed. This \$10,000 grant was for assistance in establishing the K-9 Unit.

Attached is a letter from Allegheny County District 2 Councilperson Jan Rhea, indicating her support for the Tax Increment Finance District Project. In addition, a presentation is scheduled for September 18th before the Quaker Valley School Board, with the anticipation that a letter of support will be approved at the September 25th meeting. After that meeting, Ray Strul, of the Allegheny County Economic Development Office, will be coordinating future meetings.

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BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

Council reviewed three banking services proposals. Borough Manager advised that Citizens Bank indicated at the beginning of the year that they were getting out of government banking services. The plan is to select a new depository now in order that a smooth transition can occur over the next 90 days, which would coincide with the end of 2012. The Borough received proposals from Northwest Savings Bank, First National Bank and PNC Bank. Council indicated that they would like a comparison chart to be included in the Council Packet for the September 17th Council Meeting and to also place a motion for the selection of a new bank on the agenda.

Council reviewed the RealStats July Report on Pittsburgh area home sales, indicating a 23.1% increase in sales.

In addition, a report prepared by RealStats indicated that Sewickley was mentioned twice as one of the top thirty-five communities in Western Pennsylvania per the Metropolitan Pittsburgh Gold Medal Communities Report. The Borough of Sewickley ranked 33 out of 35.

Council reviewed an announcement from Guyastua Investment Advisors, indicating that Matthew Teplitz, Co-Director of Equity Research, has become a partner at Guyastua Investment Advisors. This is pursuant to the new rules and regulations.

Borough Manager advised that the Borough of Edgeworth and the Borough of Sewickley are working on a joint project to do a feasibility study on PA Route 65, the Ohio River Boulevard Beautification Feasibility Study. After reviewing five proposals for consultant services, the committee is recommending the acceptance of the proposal as prepared by Environmental Planning and Design. Since this is a joint project, Sewickley Borough Council indicating to place a motion on the agenda to approve the selection of Environmental Planning and Design for this project.

Borough Manager advised that the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance that was presented to Council has been forwarded to the adjoining municipalities and the County of Allegheny for comment and has been advertised. Public Hearings have been scheduled before the Planning Commission on October 3rd and before Council on October 15th. Borough Manager asked all Council Members to forward any comments or questions to his office by Friday, September 21st.

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BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

Borough Manager reviewed two unification plans. One plan is designated as One Village Square Unification Plan, which is the former parking lot across from Ascot Motors. The other plan is designated as One Thorn Street LLC Unification Plan, which is the current pink building on Thorn Street that was used by Ascot Motors, and if you are facing the building, the empty lot to the left. Both of these plans have been reviewed by Allegheny County, and an approval letter has been received from Allegheny County Economic Development. The Public Hearings will take place before the Planning Commission on October 3rd and before Council on October 15th.

Borough Manager advised that he will be attending the International City Management Association Conference from Saturday, October 6th through Wednesday, October 10th. The Manager will be taking an additional three days of personal time. Patty Flaherty, Administrative Assistant, will attend the Committee of the Whole Meeting in the absence of the Borough Manager. Borough Manager will be available to participate in the meeting by conference call, if needed.

Borough Manager also thanked those Members of Council who assisted with the Planning Assessment Guide, which enabled the Borough Manager to have his International City Management Association Professional Development Plan completed.

The Borough Manager's report was received and filed.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Mr. Cornman, seconded by Mr. Ference, the meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin M. Flannery
Borough Manager/Secretary

KMF:pmf