

BOROUGH OF SEWICKLEY
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES
TUESDAY, MAY 14, 2013

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, Charles Driscoll (arrived at 7:56 p.m.), Carole Ford, Stan Ference and Jamie Morrill. Others in attendance were Sharon Stalter of the American Cancer Society, Richie Harkness of 985 Crescent Avenue, Bobby Cherry from the Sewickley Herald, Jennifer Markus and Alex DeLoia of Village Green Partners, Mayor Brian Jeffe, Solicitor Richard Tucker, and Borough Manager Kevin M. Flannery.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Alex DeLoia and Jennifer Markus of Village Green Partners addressed Council, providing updates on activities within the Business District. They reviewed the Village Green Partners Happy Hour event on May 2nd, and announced that there will be a Night Market on the second Friday of each month in June, July and August featuring music, food and shopping on Beaver Street, from Walnut Street to Broad Street. In addition, they announced a summer promotion series called Small Business Summer in the Borough of Sewickley. They also reviewed *Sewickley Unleashed* activities, to be held this Saturday, indicating that all the vendor booths have been sold out, with over 50% of the booths being pet-related. They have raised enough money to cover all expenses plus make a sizable donation in the amount of \$15,000 to the Western PA Humane Society. In addition, Village Green Partners will be at the Planning Commission Meeting on June 5th to update the Planning Commission on business activities.

Village Green Partners also reviewed upcoming ribbon cutting ceremonies for Stitch, Yoga in Sewickley, Subway, Heart to Heart, 424 Walnut Street and Interior Design, to name a few. In addition, they reviewed the proposed Oktoberfest, to be held October 4th and 5th in the Borough of Sewickley, and requested permission to utilize the Division Street Parking Lot. Council was in agreement to place the matter on the agenda for approval at the Council Meeting on May 20th.

On motion of Mr. DeFazio, seconded by Mr. Ference, Council voted, 7-0, to approve the Sewickley Community Center request for the Juneteenth Festival to be held on Saturday, June 15th, and the closure of Chadwick Street.

On motion of Mr. Morrill, seconded by Mrs. Ford, Council voted, 7-0, to approve the block party request for Murray Street with the condition that the block party is over at 11:00 p.m. on Saturday.

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COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC (CONTINUED)

Sharon Stalter, a representative for the American Cancer Society, presented information to Council, asking everyone to sign up for the cancer screening, indicating that one of the screening locations will be at the Sewickley Valley YMCA. She indicated that they have 180,000 people presently involved in the study and they are trying to reach 300,000 people for the study.

Richie Harkness, of 985 Crescent Avenue, addressed Council regarding the condition of Crescent Avenue. Mr. Harkness indicated that a wall was designed and placed by the Borough approximately five years ago and that the wall has been moving since its installation. Mr. Harkness indicated that his family has lived in that area his entire life. He asked for the engineer to review the area again and advise what would be required to make any improvements to Crescent Ave. Council asked the Borough Manager to contact the engineer to provide a report for the next meeting.

COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT/MEMBERS/MAYOR

Mayor Jeffe reviewed the Memorial Day Weekend events taking place over four days, highlighting the flag retirement service, with a music concert and fireworks, the Memorial Service on the Coast Guard Cutter Osage, and the 122nd Memorial Day Parade. Mayor Jeffe encouraged all to attend.

In addition, Mayor Jeffe reported that on April 27th, the *Got Drugs* Program took place at the Borough of Sewickley Police Department in which people returned prescription or nonprescription drugs that are no longer being used and the drugs are taken and properly destroyed. The Borough of Sewickley collected five, 4 foot by 4 foot, boxes of drugs.

Council President Robert Hague stated that *Sewickley Unleashed* is this Saturday, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., on Broad Street and he encouraged everyone to attend.

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**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 April, with permit fees of \$6,036.00 collected on \$340,600.00 worth of construction. Twenty-eight (28) building inspections were performed.

On motion of Mr. DeFazio, seconded by Mr. Morrill, Council voted, 8-0, to approve the recommendation of the Historic Review Commission to issue a Certificate of Appropriateness for 228 Frederick Avenue, Block and Lot No. 506-D-174, to erect a rear one story addition, as submitted.

On motion of Mr. Morrill, seconded by Mr. Driscoll, Council voted, 8-0, to approve the recommendation of the Historic Review Commission to issue a Certificate of Appropriateness for 905 Beaver Street, Block and Lot No. 421-F-207, to remove and replace rear additions, as submitted.

Council reviewed Zoning Hearing Board Decision No. 13-01, on behalf of the Sewickley Community Center, which determined that the non-conforming use as a daycare center was not abandoned at the Sewickley Community Center and grants an accessory use variance to re-establish a daycare center.

Council reviewed the Public Works Report for April, highlighting the lubing and timing of 10-hour meters, the cleaning of the Sewickley Bridge area, spring leaf collection from April 1st through April 12th, cutting back branches from streets for the street sweeper, and assisting with the 2013 Spring Tree Planting Program.

Council reviewed the Wastewater Treatment Plant Report for April, indicating that 22.9 million gallons of sewage were treated. In addition, 92,637 cubic feet of digester gas was used.

Council also reviewed the Consulting Engineer's Report, indicating that the Glen Osborne Interconnect Project has begun restoration along Railroad Street and River Avenue. They are currently working on the force main installation and will be connecting on Straight Street within the next two weeks.

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 April, highlighting the spot zoning challenge, the purchase of property for Sewickley Village Theater, several appeals, and forgiveness of delinquent tax penalties and costs.

Council reviewed the Solicitor's Invoice in the amount of \$14,776.07.

Solicitor Tucker reviewed numerous assessment appeals received to date. Solicitor Tucker also indicated that the delinquent tax collections for real estate tax produced \$4,537.40 for the month of March.

Council reviewed a Notice of Land Use Appeal filed by Mike Lyons, Case No. SA-13-414, in which Mr. Lyons was appealing the land use granted for the property at 801 Ohio River Blvd.

Council reviewed a Notice of Intervention regarding Melissa Farlow and Randy Olsen versus the Borough of Sewickley Zoning Hearing Board, Case No. SA-13-342.

Council reviewed a Notice of Land Use Appeal filed by AVK Enterprises, aka Clifford Krey, regarding approval for the land development plan and conditional use submitted by One Thorn Street LLC for 417 Thorn Street.

Solicitor Tucker advised that there is a Sheriff's Sale of Real Estate for 319 Logan Street.

The Solicitor's Report was received and filed.

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT

The Borough Manager advised that bids will be opened on Monday, May 20th for the 2013 Road Project. The bid recommendation sheet will be at the Council table for the Monday, May 20th Council Meeting for acceptance of a contractor for the 2013 Road Project.

The Borough Manager indicated that Columbia Gas has installed approximately 25% of the mainline and are beginning this week to do customer's installations and then will be doing restoration the following week as they proceed.

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BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

Borough Council reviewed an update on the 2013 Borough of Sewickley Real Estate Tax Assessment, indicating that approximately 65 appeals need to be heard by Allegheny County, and that the Borough is tracking the assessments, the number of appeals and the reduction of values on a monthly basis. As of May 10, the Assessed Valuation for the Borough of Sewickley has dropped to \$444,552,210, representing a \$28,162,420 reduction in values to date.

The Borough Manager advised that a letter was received from Lane Construction, the contractor awarded the project for the Route 51 repairs, indicating that work will be conducted on Route 51 from approximately the I-79 Bridge to an area near Flaugherty Run Road. The work is similar to the work that was performed on Route 65 during the past 1½ years.

The Borough Manager advised that he had met with Mr. Glenn and that all questions regarding the 2012 Audit have been resolved, and recommended that the audit be received and filed at the May Council Meeting. Council was in agreement to place the item on the agenda.

The Borough Manager advised that the docks were taken out of storage and placed at the Chestnut Street Boat Dock and the Walnut Street Boat Ramp in mid-April. There was an additional \$1,000 charge due to the replacement of deteriorating floatation devices on the docks.

The Borough Manager advised that the Quaker Valley COG Recycling Day was held on Saturday, May 4th, and hosted by Avalon Borough. The statistics for that day will be made available in June. For the Sewickley Recycling Day, held on Thursday, May 2nd, sixty-five residents dropped off 1-½ truckloads of material which was taken to the site in Avalon on Saturday. It was a very successful event since many of our residents participate in recycling.

The Borough Manager indicated that the Borough received \$22,090 for Year 39 Community Development Block Grant monies to be used for demolition projects. For the Year 40 Grant, the Borough Manager indicated that he was requesting permission to apply for additional funds for demolition projects in order that all projects could be completed. For the Year 39 Grant, the Borough asked for \$50,000 and the Borough Manager indicated that he would like to ask for \$50,000 for Year 40. Council was in agreement to place the item on the agenda for the Council Meeting on May 20th.

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BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

Council reviewed application information for the Public Hearing for 202 Beaver Street. Two hearings are scheduled for the property on Monday, May 20th. The first hearing is for the Consolidation of Lots, which has been recommended by the Planning Commission, and has been reviewed by Allegheny County Economic Development. The second hearing is for the Land Development and Conditional Use Request for the property. This, too, has been recommended by the Planning Commission, except with the condition to not accept the location of the playground, as submitted. The Borough Manager indicated that several residents had complained about the existence of the playground and the fact that children were making noise and happy at a playground.

The Borough Manager provided an update on the Affordable Care Act as it may impact the Borough. There appears to be a number of administrative tasks associated with the new Affordable Care Act. The Borough Manager indicated that information will be provided as it is made available regarding the new requirements of the Affordable Care Act.

The Borough Manager advised that a final draft of the PA Route 65 Corridor Study, a joint project with the Borough of Edgeworth, will be included in the May 20th Council Packet. The Borough of Edgeworth is interested in obtaining a resolution of acceptance and support from the Borough of Sewickley at its June 17th Council Meeting.

The Borough Manager provided an update on the parks and advised that there was a considerable amount of graffiti placed at both of the docking areas and on the benches and fireplaces at the shelters at War Memorial Park. These items are in the process of being cleaned up by Borough personnel. In addition, the roofs have been replaced on the two shelters at War Memorial Park, and the interior painting of the shelters will occur over the next two to three weeks. The Borough Manager, in consultation with the Chief of Police, is recommending removing the hedges located in the area between the shelter and the walking bridge to create a clear site to the shelter in case anyone is hiding there. In addition, there will be a motion sensor light at both shelters that will operate between 9:30 p.m. and 5:30 a.m.

The Borough Manager provided an update on the Flood Insurance Rate Map for Sewickley. Council reviewed the official communication from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, indicating that we now must proceed with the notification to property owners and have a public meeting in order that the property owners can voice any issues. Borough Manager indicated that the Public Hearing for comments will be scheduled on June 17th as part of the regular Council Meeting. Council was in agreement.

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BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

The Borough Manager advised that Council had reviewed the proposed subdivision of Waterworks Park at last month's meeting. The Sewickley Water Authority was in agreement with the subdivision. The Borough Manager recommended that a motion be placed on May 20th Council Agenda to file an official application with the Planning Commission and Council for the subdivision of the four lots at Waterworks Park. Council was in agreement to place the matter on the agenda for the May 20th Council Meeting.

The Borough Manager reviewed a request from J.R. Henry, Executive Director of the Valley Ambulance Authority, for the establishment of "Emergency Medical Services Week" from May 19th and May 25th. Council was in agreement to have the resolution on the agenda for the Council Meeting on Monday, May 20th.

The Borough Manager's report was received and filed.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Mr. Ference, the Committee of the Whole Meeting was adjourned at 9:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin M. Flannery
Borough Manager/Secretary

KMF:pmf