

**BOROUGH OF SEWICKLEY**  
**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES**  
**TUESDAY, JUNE 10, 2014**

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, Todd Renner, and Larry Rice. Jamie Morrill was absent due to work. The others in attendance were Jennifer Markus and Alex DeLoia of Village Green Partners, Matt Chapman, Robert Glenn, Oliver Poppenberg, Mrs. Zacharias, Kara Figerty, Mayor Brian Jeffe, Solicitor Richard Tucker, and Borough Manager Kevin M. Flannery.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Jennifer Markus and Alex DeLoia, of Village Green Partners, provided an update to Council regarding the Sewickley Unleashed Event, indicating that approximately \$10,000 was raised for the Humane Society. They are working on a new brochure for distribution, highlighting businesses and restaurants in the Borough of Sewickley. They also will have a new canvas bag, promoting the “Shop Local” logo, for the Farmers Market on June 28, 2014. They indicated that four new businesses are coming to Sewickley, with Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies scheduled.

Matt Chapman, of 708 Centennial Avenue, addressed Council regarding a petition to discontinue the fire horn. Mr. Chapman started the petition 2½ weeks ago. He indicated that it is very inconvenient for families. Mr. Chapman said that he had met with Fire Chief Jeff Neff and discussed the UHF Radio System. Mr. Chapman is convinced that the fire horn is not needed and that the Cochran Hose Company has an excellent radio system, with a backup system.

Mr. Ference asked Mr. Chapman if he was aware that the fire horn also provides a notice to people in the community so that they know that the first responders are coming to the Borough Building and will be going out to a fire.

The Borough Manager indicated that Fire Chief Neff had provided an e-mail, indicating that he was out of town this week, but will attend the Council Meeting on Monday, June 16<sup>th</sup>.

Mrs. Aleshire asked that the subject be placed on the June 16<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting Agenda.

Council reviewed a Right-to-Know Request from Fox Rothschild, LLP, of Exton, PA, requesting all information related to construction at the Village of Sweetwater. The Borough Manager indicated that this includes over 8 years of documents and close to 4 large boxes of material. Several Members of Council did not think that this was a proper Right-to-Know Request and asked the Solicitor to review the request and get back to the Borough Manager regarding the Right-to-Know status.

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**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC (CONTINUED)**

Kara Figerty of Linden Place addressed Council in support of having the fire horn removed.

Robert W. Glenn, of 51 Woodland Road, addressed Council regarding the Pension Consultant Form. He requested that Council be very careful while looking look at the fees because there will be fees for pension management services as well as custodial services. He also suggested that Council look into a sound system in order that members of the audience can hear Council's comments from the dais.

Oliver Poppenberg addressed Council regarding the Ferry Street Traffic Study. Mr. Poppenberg had several questions of which the Borough Manager addressed by indicating that the Consulting Engineer stated that Ferry Street is only 21 feet wide at its widest points and that creates an insufficient width for two-way traffic; thus, the 1-way traffic suggestion was made. The on-street parking for residents was maintained on the north side of the street. The existing stop sign on Frederick Avenue can remain and is not obscured behind parked cars. With regard to creating fewer conflicts at the intersection of Grant Street, Bank Street, Ferry Street, Linden Place Apartments and the tunnel from Chadwick Street, there will now be 4 approaches instead of 5. Mr. Poppenberg indicated that those were reasonable answers to his questions, but he would have like some indication of those comments in the report. The Borough Manager indicated that the engineer has been asked to add 2 or 3 beginning preliminary paragraphs.

Mrs. Zacharias addressed Council regarding the Traffic Study and asked if someone were coming from Henry Avenue or Frederick Avenue and they came to Ferry Street, if they would have to make a right turn and go up Ferry Street. The Borough Manager responded that yes, they would have to make a right turn. Mrs. Zacharias indicated that she was satisfied with that.

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

Mayor Brian Jeffe reviewed the Memorial Day Weekend Events, indicating that 271 people attended the Flag Retirement Ceremony, 188 people attended the Coast Guard Memorial Service, 66 people attended the Church Service, 88 people stayed for the program at Wolcott Park, and approximately 200 people attended the program in Sewickley Cemetery. The Mayor thanked all Borough Staff and all Borough Departments for their assistance with this event. Mayor Jeffe indicated that it was the best year in fundraising for the Memorial Day Fund, which is a good thing, building equity for future parades. Mayor Jeffe indicated that a check in the amount of \$2,500 was given to the Borough of Sewickley for their assistance with the 4-day event.

Mayor Jeffe requested a report on the status of building repairs at 531 Beaver Street; the sidewalk needs replaced instead of sand, and there is a hole in the wall of the building.

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**COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT/MEMBERS/MAYOR (CONTINUED)**

Council President Susan Aleshire thanked Mayor Jeffe for his leadership with this Memorial Day Weekend Event.

Mayor Jeffe reviewed the Juneteenth Events for Friday, June 13<sup>th</sup> on Chadwick Street and Saturday, June 14<sup>th</sup> on Broad Street.

Mayor Jeffe stated that the Quaker Valley Recreation Association 5K Run and Walk will be Saturday, June 14<sup>th</sup>, beginning at War Memorial Park.

Mayor Jeffe indicated that the Sweetwater Center for the Arts Art Brew is Saturday, July 12<sup>th</sup>, and over 7 breweries are participating in this event. The Mayor encouraged everyone to attend.

Mr. Ference wanted Council to know that he was not in attendance at the last meeting due to his son being in the WPIAL Championship Lacrosse Match in which his son's team won. However, they lost in the PIAA playoffs.

Council President Susan Aleshire indicated that the Officers of Council were reviewing the Council Goals in an attempt to prioritize before presenting to Council. Mrs. Aleshire indicated that they will also be prioritizing the goals of the Parking Feasibility Study for review and work by Borough Council.

Mr. DeFazio asked that a motion be placed on Monday's agenda to appoint First National Bank as the Pension Manager and the Custodian for the Borough of Sewickley Pension Funds. This is a result of a unanimous recommendation by the Pension Manager Review Committee comprised of Mr. Rice, Mr. Renner and Mr. DeFazio. The recommendation was reached after significant time spent by the Committee reviewing the individual proposals of all of the firms who submitted, as well as holding individual meetings with the final 3 candidates. Mr. DeFazio indicated that the recommendation by the Committee will not only serve the pensions well, but will also result in a substantial cost savings to the Borough of Sewickley.

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

Council reviewed the Building Inspector's Report, indicating that 6 permits were issued, with fees of \$13,420 collected on \$1,292,000 worth of construction. There were 19 building inspections performed, and 4 property maintenance inspections.

Council reviewed Zoning Hearing Board Decision on Case No. 14-02, which granted a variance pertaining to the property at 547 Hill Street.

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

Council reviewed the Public Works Report for May, highlighting work associated with the many May events including May Mart, Sewickley Unleashed, the Flag Retirement Ceremony, Fireworks, the Coast Guard Service, and the Memorial Day Parade. In addition, the report indicated preparation of parks for the summer months and the planting of flowers and the hanging of baskets within the Business District.

Council reviewed the Wastewater Treatment Plant Report for May, indicating that 27.157 million gallons of sewage were treated. In addition, 120,435 cubic feet of digester gas was used. Repairs were made to the Digester Building, water leaks were repaired in the Secondary Building, and the Headworks Building was cleaned.

Council reviewed the Consulting Engineers Report, indicating that the Seibert Avenue Pump Station is near completion, and the final paperwork is being prepared by KLH Engineers.

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

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

Council reviewed the Solicitor's Report for May, highlighting the Spot Zoning Appeal, the 2014 Bond Issue, preparation of the Haysville Sewer Service Agreement, and the AVK Enterprises substantive validity challenge.

Council reviewed the Solicitor's Invoice in the amount of \$7,120.82.

Council reviewed the Jordan Delinquent Tax and Municipal Claim Report in the amount of \$18,950.44.

Council reviewed 12 real estate tax assessment appeals, and 11 Orders of Settlement and Discontinuance with respect to appeals of property in the Borough of Sewickley.

Solicitor Tucker reported that Pennsylvania has forwarded a letter regarding the Cable Franchise Agreement, indicating a new name and addresses regarding Cable Franchise Agreement Notices.

Council reviewed the proposed Ordinance for the Sewer Tapping Fee. The Borough Manager advised that the advertisement did not make the Sewickley Herald publication in time for adoption at the Monday, June 16<sup>th</sup> tentative date. The adoption of the ordinance has been rescheduled for July 21<sup>st</sup>.

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**SOLICITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)**

Council reviewed an ordinance for an Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement with the Borough of Haysville for sewer service. The Borough Manager advised that the Borough of Haysville has forwarded some comments that we are reviewing and requested that the ordinance would be brought up again at the July Committee of the Whole Meeting.

Council reviewed correspondence regarding AVK Enterprises Ltd. v. Borough of Sewickley and Sewickley Borough Council, No. 2046 CD 2013, in Commonwealth Court, regarding the filing of the brief by June 13<sup>th</sup>.

Council reviewed a Sheriff's Sale regarding 897 Dickson Road.

The Solicitor's Report was received and filed.

**BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT**

The Borough Manager reviewed the 2014 Road Project, indicating that the contractor has experienced 13 days of rain since the last Council Meeting. The contractor is asking for 25 additional working days on top of the contracted timetable, which was scheduled to be completed by June 16<sup>th</sup>. In review, we are recommending that we extend the contract no more than 20 working days in order that the project can come to completion.

As many of you know, the contractor has been adequate in his performance, but at times has been sloppy and constantly needs to be reminded of maintaining a proper work site. We are meeting and reviewing the situation on a daily basis.

The Borough Manager advised that the 2013 Columbia Gas Project repairs have been completed, and a walk-through with Columbia Gas is scheduled for the week of June 16<sup>th</sup>. With regard to the 2014 project, Columbia Gas has begun their work and they are working near White Street at this time. They are working with the Borough Arborist to ensure that any work in the sidewalk does not damage Borough of Sewickley trees.

The Borough Manager indicated that the Pension Management finalists were C.S. McKee, LP, First National Bank, and VALIC/ING Financial Advisors, Inc. With the Pension Investment Committee's report presented earlier in the evening, the action will be on the June 16<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting Agenda.

During Citizens portion of the meeting, Council discussed the Ferry Street Traffic Study Report. Council was in agreement to place the matter on the agenda for the adoption of a resolution at the June 16<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting.

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

Council reviewed the 3 bids submitted on the specifications for the Hoey's Run Storm Culvert Enclosure Project. Bids were received from Michael Facchino Contracting, Inc., \$225,000; Mann Construction, Inc., \$384,000; and Allison Park Contractors, \$545,000. Council reviewed the Engineer's Report and recommendation. On motion of Mr. DeFazio, seconded by Mr. Driscoll, Council voted, 8-0, to accept and award the Hoey's Run Storm Culvert Enclosure Project to Michael Facchino Contracting, Inc. of Pittsburgh, in the amount of \$225,000, contingent upon the issuance of a permit by DEP.

The Borough Manager reviewed the Pennsylvania Floodplain Ordinance Workshop held at the Franklin Park Municipal Building. The Borough Manager indicated that a draft will be presented to Council in July, which must be forwarded to the state for their review, and hopefully, an ordinance can be adopted in August, and meet the deadline of September 26<sup>th</sup> for the filing. In addition, the Borough Manager advised that the official Floodplain Maps for all of Allegheny County were received by the Borough last week.

The Borough Manager reviewed an appraisal for the 30.2 acreage parcel in Waterworks Park. This is the parcel that Allegheny Land Trust has indicated they would like to purchase. Solicitor Tucker prepared a letter defining the procedure, indicating that the land would need to go out for bid. Council asked for additional information regarding the appraisal of \$520,000.

Council reviewed the Moon Township Impact Fee Program Land Use Assumption Report which Moon Township has sent to all adjoining municipalities. The report is designed to establish impact fees against new development for transportation capital improvements in the Municipality of Moon Township.

Council reviewed the Quaker Valley Council of Governments (QVCOG) request on Deer Management. The Sewickley Police Department is reviewing and comparing three years' worth of statistics on vehicle and deer accidents in the Borough of Sewickley.

The Borough Manager advised that there will be two Public Hearings for the Planning Commission on July 9<sup>th</sup>, and two Public Hearings for Borough Council on July 21<sup>st</sup>. The first hearing will be on the request from the Sewickley Valley YMCA for a Subdivision Request and Amendment to the Official Zoning Map. The second hearing is requested by Mr. and Mrs. Jim Rock. They have submitted a Subdivision Request and are asking for 4 acres to be zoned Residential.

Council reviewed Senior Citizen Tax Relief additions for two individuals who pay their taxes through their condominium associations.

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

On motion of Mr. Ference, seconded by Mr. DeFazio, Council voted, 8-0, to ratify Academy Avenue Emergency Storm Water and Road Repairs by Petrakis Contracting. This was necessary due to the storm water pipe on Academy Avenue, which was approximately 8-1/2 to 9 feet deep, that came apart at approximately 4 to 4½ feet. This caused a lot of undermining to occur.

Council reviewed a May 28<sup>th</sup> accident with Fire Engine No. 1. The driver was unaware that one of the doors of the truck was open, and the door collided with the building. The estimated cost is \$11,155. It has been turned over the insurance company. The driver has been removed from driving fire trucks for Cochran Hose Company.

Council reviewed pictures from the June 2<sup>nd</sup> Chadwick Street Playground Dedication. The Montessori School was very appreciative of the opportunity to work with Borough Council and the neighborhood in designing this playground. The Montessori School has indicated they will be purchasing another piece of playground equipment for the front section. In addition, the Borough Manager advised that the sidewalk will be replaced in front of the playground/ball field area, and the basketball court is being moved approximately eight feet closer to Walnut Street.

Council reviewed the Examination Report for Liquid Fuels Tax Fund Usage in 2012, as prepared by the Pennsylvania Auditor General. The report will be placed on the June 16<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting Agenda for acceptance.

The Borough Manager's Report was received and filed.

**ADJOURNMENT**

On motion of Mr. Ference, the Committee of the Whole Meeting was adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin M. Flannery  
Borough Manager/Secretary

KMF:pmf