

BOROUGH OF SEWICKLEY
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES
TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 2015

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, Jamie Morrill, Jeff Neff, and Larry Rice. Carole Ford was absent due to illness, and Todd Renner was absent due to vacation. The others in attendance were Alex Lancianese and Jennifer Markus of Explore Sewickley, Fred Jezzie, Alexis Communale of the Chamber of Commerce, Mark Jones, Tim Fusco, Holly Campbell, Susan Campbell, John Dunn, Judy and John Hilliard, Lou Borgia, Peter McMillan, Mayor Brian Jeffe, Solicitor Richard Tucker, and Borough Manager Kevin M. Flannery.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Jennifer Markus and Alex Lancianese of Explore Sewickley provided an update on the Soup Crawl, indicating that 494 tickets were sold. There were several grand openings and ribbon cutting ceremonies at Art Space 616, Posh Monkey, and the Grand Reopening of Spoiled Chics. Explore Sewickley is hosting a Clean Up Day in conjunction with the Borough's Tree Planting Day on Saturday, April 25th, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Explore Sewickley reviewed the Main Street application update and asked if the municipal resolution for the Main Street designation could be on the April 20th Council Agenda.

Explore Sewickley also provided notes from the Explore Sewickley Happy Hour of April 2nd, with comments and suggestions on the proposed plan for the loading zones.

Alex Lancianese also indicated that the group is working on the four Main Street Committee functions and will be continuing that process over the next several months.

Council President Susan Aleshire indicated that this was the time to discuss the Centennial Avenue Tree Petition. Council President Aleshire reminded everyone to please step forward, state their name and address and comments were limited to five minutes.

Mark Jones, of 720 Centennial Avenue, indicated that he was the leading contact on the petition to save the Centennial Ave. trees. He presented the petition with 195 signatures, which included 164 residents, and 24 residents of the 700-800 block, indicating that the removal of approximately 28 to 34 large trees would create a devastating impact on the road. Mr. Jones indicated that there needs to be more communication on projects in the future, that removal of the trees would be a negative effect on real estate values, and offering that he would be responsible for all of the sidewalk replacement of his property if the trees could remain.

Tom Retzlaff, of 710 Centennial Ave., is aware of the street paving program. He knows that he is responsible for maintaining sidewalks, but asked that as many trees as possible could be saved.

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COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC (Continued)

Tim Fusco would be sad to lose the trees, and he would hope that as many trees as possible could be saved.

Holly Campbell, of 521 Nevin Ave., echoed the same things about saving the trees, as they represent the soul of the street.

Susan Campbell, of 738 Cochran St., asked if Council could save the trees.

John Dunn, of Straight St., asked Council if they could save as many trees as possible.

John and Jody Hilliard, of 321 Centennial Ave., asked if some of the trees could be saved, indicating that it seemed as if this project was rushed through and they will be upset if the trees are cut down.

Lou Borgia, of 755 Church Way, indicated that taking trees down would be devastating.

Council Vice-President Bill Cornman indicated that he has been part of the Tree Commission for twenty-one years, since 1995, and while he understands people's comments, there are times that trees need to be removed in order that new trees can be planted and infrastructure improvements made.

Mr. Driscoll made a motion, seconded by Mr. Morrill, to approve the deduction of curb and sidewalk replacement in the 700-800 block of Centennial Ave. on Borough of Sewickley Contract No. 15-RO1 Roadway Improvement, and required that the residents of the 700-800 block to be responsible for all sidewalk repairs.

Mayor Jeffe spoke in favor of the compromise to save trees in the 700-800 block.

Councilperson Jeff Neff indicated that as a child, he grew up in that area and that he knows that the curbs and sidewalks need replaced; that sidewalks have never been walkable, and that this would be the right thing to do.

Council President Aleshire called for a Roll Call Vote. Roll Call Vote No. 64 indicated: Mr. Driscoll – yes, Mrs. Ford – absent, Mr. Morrill – yes, Mr. Neff – no, Mr. Renner – absent, Mr. Rice – no, Mrs. Aleshire – no, Mr. Cornman – no, Mr. DeFazio – no; 2 votes yes, 5 votes no, 2 absent. The motion is defeated.

Council reviewed a Right-to-Know Request from Mr. and Mrs. Murrer regarding 883 Dickson Road and Mr. and Mrs. Jones of 720 Centennial Ave. regarding the Borough's Road Project and issues associated with sidewalks on Centennial Ave.

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COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC (Continued)

Council reviewed a complaint and satisfaction of complaint by Mr. and Mrs. Klaber regarding earned income taxes.

Alexis Communale, President of the Sewickley Valley Chamber of Commerce, was in attendance and requested approval of the Brew and Barbecue Event, scheduled for Friday, May 29, 2015. On motion of Mr. Neff, seconded by Mr. Cornman, Council voted, 4-3, with Mr. DeFazio, Mr. Driscoll and Mrs. Aleshire voting no, to approve the Brew and Barbecue Event for May 29, 2015, contingent upon all requirements for licensing and insurance being received by May 11, 2015.

There was discussion between Mrs. Communale and Members of Council regarding the event. The Borough Manager indicated that a letter had been forwarded to Mrs. Communale and the Chamber of Commerce indicating certain requirements for insurance and licensing, all of which the Chamber agreed they would do.

Sweetwater Center for the Arts addressed Council, indicating that while they are a Member of the Chamber of Commerce, they were a little concerned that the event is really close in time to their event, as well as it has a similar name to their event.

Alexis Communale reviewed the Night Marts proposal for June, July and August, which would be the last Fridays of the month. The Borough Manager indicated that a request was suggested to the Chamber of Commerce in that Explore Sewickley was now doing the Summer Concert Series, formerly done by Sweetwater Center for the Arts, and was looking to have the music the same nights as the Night Marts. Mrs. Communale indicated that the Chamber's Night Mart with their music has been very successful and would ask that the events be approved.

On motion of Mr. Driscoll, seconded by Mr. Morrill, Council voted, 7-0, to approve the request for Night Marts on the last Fridays of June, July and August.

Council reviewed a letter from the United States Coast Guard, indicating their desire to participate in a National Coast Guard Program, Run to Remember. The Borough Manager indicated that the Coast Guard was advised that the Borough already has four 5K races in the center of town, and that the Borough would work with the Coast Guard should they wish to utilize the Quaker Valley Middle School or a portion of Chadwick Street.

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COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT/MEMBERS/MAYOR

Mayor Brian Jeffe indicated that the Tuskegee Airmen Memorial Ceremony would be held on Saturday, April 25, 2015, beginning at 2:00 p.m., at the Sewickley Cemetery.

Mayor Jeffe indicated that the annual May Mart will be on Saturday, May 9th, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., on Broad Street. The 6th Annual Sewickley Unleashed will be on Saturday, May 16th, which includes a 5K Race, a Pet Parade and booths until 3:00 p.m.

Mayor Jeffe displayed the 2015 Allegheny County League of Municipalities Banner Community designation for the Borough of Sewickley. The Mayor indicated that this is the third straight year that the Borough has received this distinction and he wanted to compliment Council, staff and employees in achieving this designation.

Vice President Bill Cornman reminded all that the Spring Tree Planting will be held on Saturday, April 25th, beginning at 9:00 a.m.

Council President Susan Aleshire introduced Kim Turnley for a review of the 2014 Borough of Sewickley Audit. Mrs. Turnley reviewed the exhibits of the audit, indicating that the Borough was able to save additional monies this year and that the Borough is compliant with all generally accepted accounting principles. Council was in agreement to place a motion on the Council Agenda to accept and order received and filed the 2014 Borough of Sewickley Audit.

The Borough Manager indicated that upon Council's action, the audit will be on the Borough website, copies forwarded to the Sewickley Public Library and will be loaded up onto the EMMA Site in compliance with bond issue directives.

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

Council reviewed the Building Inspector's Report, indicating that 3 permits were issued, with fees of \$489 collected on \$18,900 worth of construction. There were 15 building inspections performed, and 3 property maintenance inspections.

Council reviewed the Public Works Report for March, highlighting cleaning debris from Hoey's Run in War Memorial Park, getting the parks ready, working on the MS4, and removing extension cords from tree lighting in the Business District.

The Borough Manager indicated that the Public Works Report will now list vehicle mileage as well as reports on the parks in order that Council is fully aware of all activities.

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

Council reviewed the Wastewater Treatment Plant Report for March, indicating that 28.462 million gallons of sewage were treated. In addition, 298,364 cubic feet of digester gas was used. Wastewater Treatment Plant personnel are working on the odor control study and will be presented to Council by the end of May.

Council reviewed the Consulting Engineers Report, indicating that the Waterworks Road Project will be beginning next month.

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 the month of March, highlighting the Green Street Parking Garage, the Firearm Regulation Ordinance, the Beaver Street Parking Ordinance, work on the pension plans, legal clearance for the demolition of properties, the Larry Oswald Appeal, and tax assessment appeals.

Council reviewed the Solicitor's Invoice in the amount of \$13,424.55.

Solicitor Tucker stated that the real estate tax assessment appeals listed were generated by the Quaker Valley School District, as they do annually, regarding the sale of properties and the assessed value.

The Solicitor advised that in the case of Michael M. Lyons vs. the Zoning Hearing Board of the Borough of Sewickley et. al., Case No. 178-CD-2014, that no additional appeals have been filed by Mr. Lyons. Therefore, the case is officially over.

Council reviewed the Jordan Delinquent Real Estate Tax Municipal Claim Report in the amount of \$8,424.37.

Council reviewed proposed ordinance for permit parking on Walnut Street. Borough Council was inclined to proceed. The Borough Manager indicated that early reaction to the proposed areas indicated that more than 27 spaces could possibly be rented. The Borough Manager indicated that he would provide to Council a number that would include all of the spaces available from Rose Alley, proceeding down to Bank Street. Council was in agreement to proceed that way. A motion to advertise the ordinance will be on the agenda for the April 20, 2015 Council Meeting.

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SOLICITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

Solicitor Tucker reviewed application for exemption of real estate taxation. Council had no objections to the application.

Council reviewed the caller log response to questions regarding the Green Street Parking Garage. Council was in agreement with the Manager to have a meeting with the Carl Walker representatives and to see if they would be available to meet with Council regarding further discussions.

The Solicitor's Report was received and filed.

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT

The Borough Manager advised that the 2015 Road Project is underway. The curbs have been replaced on Centennial Avenue, from Boundary Street to Cochran Street, and they are working to complete the curbs on Cochran Street, from Beaver Street to Nevin Avenue.

The Borough advised that an additional Residents Informational Meeting on April 7th. It should be noted that the only legal requirement on behalf of the Borough for any road project is a notification of deficiencies of curbs and sidewalks which must be sent by certified mail, and that was done. Over the years, and especially since 2005, the Borough has developed having a Residents Meeting, in which the Borough presents the Road Project, explaining how it is part of the master plan associated with infrastructure, and indicating all of the work to be performed, including curbs, sidewalks, road paving and any tree work.

The Borough Manager advised that the Tree Removal Bids were opened on Monday, April 13th for the removal of the Centennial Avenue trees. We have requested the bids in such a way that if there are trees not to be taken down, we may strike them from the list.

On motion of Mr. Rice, seconded by Mr. Cornman, Council voted 7-0, to approve the Tall Timbers, Inc. bid for the removal of 28 Centennial Avenue trees in the amount of \$34,540. The six trees that will not be removed from the original list are:

- Sugar Maple - 911 Centennial Ave.
- London Plane - 900 Centennial Ave.
- Maple - Corner of Nevin Ave. & Centennial Ave.
- Shingle Oak - 535 Centennial Ave.
- (2) London Planes - 600 Blackburn Road

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BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

In an effort to develop a better communications plan, the Borough Manager recommended that the Road Projects proceed in the following manner:

- In June or July of each year, Council will direct the engineers to prepare the quote estimate for roads to be performed in the upcoming year.
- The bid specs will be prepared and the Tree Commission will be advised.
- The Tree Commission will then meet in September/October and review any tree issues to be associated with the upcoming years Road Project. The Tree Commission will specifically send notices to everyone on a particular block if there are any trees to be removed. This way, the trees will be addressed by the Tree Commission, with a recommendation forwarded to Council.
- Council will then bid the project out in our normal December/January format, with an award by the January/February Council Meeting in order that the project can start by the end of March.
- Council will still do a Residents' Road Project Meeting in February of each year.

The Borough Manager reviewed the loading and unloading zones comments made at the Explore Sewickley Happy Hour on Thursday, April 2nd. Mayor Jeffe recommended tabling any further discussion until he meets with other similar communities.

The Borough Manager reviewed the utility agreement for the Waterworks Road Relocation Project.

The Borough Manager reviewed the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board notice to us that a license application has been filed for the Slippery Mermaid. Council has approved the transfer of the license; this is the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board notice to the municipality.

Council reviewed the list of property owners who receive the Senior Citizen discount for the 2015 Real Estate Taxes in the Borough of Sewickley.

The Borough Manager advised that the Elgin Street Sweeper, approved by Council at its January 19th meeting, has arrived at the Borough. Personnel are being trained to run the sweeper, and the Borough's decals are being placed on the machine. We intend to have it in service next week, and we are arranging informational sessions with Members of Council and staff to see the new street sweeper and all it can do.

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BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

Council reviewed an Emergency Management Coordinator Training Certificate received by the Borough Manager from Allegheny County Emergency Management.

The Borough Manager advised that the Village Theater Land Development Plans have been received. The Planning Commission Meeting is scheduled for May 6, 2015, and the Borough Council Meeting is scheduled for May 20, 2015. The property has been posted and notices will be going out next week to all of the properties within 100 feet.

The Borough Manager reviewed a Verizon request to place small cell technology on some of the street light poles in the Borough of Sewickley. They would require a 12 inch wide by 7 inch deep by 4 foot high cabinet on the pole and would include a 2 foot cylindrical antenna on five poles in the Borough. They are willing to make payments in the amount of \$250 per month per cell site, and a \$50 payment for Verizon's power needs. The proposal was reviewed by Mr. Dan Cohen, Special Counsel. Mr. McMillan, of Verizon, was in attendance to answer questions. Council is in agreement to have Attorney Cohen and the Borough Manager meet with Mr. McMillan of Verizon.

Council reviewed the Chapter 94 Report for 2014.

The Borough Manager indicated that the executed Developers Agreement and Subdivision Bond in the amount of \$ 852,071 for the project at 801 Ohio River Blvd.

The Borough Manager's Report was received and filed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council went into Executive Session regarding the Commonwealth v. Larry Oswald at 10:00 p.m. The Executive Session concluded at 10:20 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Mr. Rice, the Committee of the Whole Meeting was adjourned at 10:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin M. Flannery
Borough Manager/Secretary

KMF:pmf