

BOROUGH OF SEWICKLEY
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES
TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 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, Jamie Morrill, Jeff Neff, Carole Ford, Todd Renner, and Larry Rice. Charles Driscoll was absent due to personal time. The others in attendance were Fred Jezzie, Diana Netzer, Darlene Deck, Cindy Mullins, Margaret Lawton, John and Julie Hilliard, Tom Mcgee of the Sewickley Herald, Mayor Brian Jeffe, Solicitor Richard Tucker, and Borough Manager Kevin M. Flannery.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Council reviewed a request of Cuttings Flower & Garden Market on Locust Place, to close Locust Place, from Beaver Street to Division Street, for a Vintage Fair on Saturday, September 12th, from approximately 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The Vintage Fair will have approximately 15 vendors displaying wares. The Borough Manager indicated that all necessary insurance certificates and street closure requests have been received. Margaret Lawton, of Cuttings, indicated that all the businesses on Locust Place have been advised and are in agreement.

On motion of Mr. Morrill, seconded by Mr. Neff, Council voted, 8-0, to approve the request of Cuttings Flower & Garden Market for a Vintage Fair on Saturday, September 12th.

The Borough Manager reviewed an e-mail from and letter to Richard Skorpenski regarding trees on Centennial Avenue.

John Hilliard, of 321 Centennial Avenue, addressed Council regarding 326 Sprott Way, requesting the status of the demolition of the property.

The Borough Manager advised that Council has on its June 15th Council Meeting Agenda a motion to approve the Quaker Valley COG Housing Demolition Grant, in the amount of \$30,000, for 923 Dickson Road and 326 Sprott Way, which will then be forwarded to the Quaker Valley COG in order to advertise for the demolition.

Diana Netzer, of 808 Lake Street, addressed Council regarding the proposed ordinance for the regulation of vegetation growth and maintenance, indicating that she was not in favor of the new ordinance as she believes that a flower garden should be permitted, and questioned why would grass need to be cut to a height of 6". It was explained to Ms. Netzer that the Borough desires to have a uniform height established for the grass, and welcomes gardens to be planted as long as they are maintained. The Borough does not want to have grass at a height over 6" as it may attract rodents, snakes, and deer ticks.

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COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC (CONTINUED)

Darlene Dech, of Ackley Terrace, addressed Council regarding the proposed regulation of vegetation growth and maintenance ordinance and indicated that gardens can really add to the value of one's property if done properly. She indicated that she had not read the entire ordinance and a copy was provided to her.

COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT/MEMBERS/MAYOR

Mayor Brian Jeffe wanted to publicly thank the Borough and the Memorial Day Committee for an excellent Memorial Day Weekend. He also wanted to thank Patty Flaherty for her work with the Memorial Day Committee.

Mayor Jeffe announced that the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at Coccothe' was a very nice, and that the Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies for J.McLaughlin and The Slippery Mermaid are scheduled for this week.

Mayor Jeffe stated that the Quaker Valley Recreation Association 5th Annual 5K Annual Run and Walk is on Saturday, June 20th, at 8:30 a.m., and that the Sewickley Garden Tour is on June 19th and June 20th.

Mayor Jeffe reviewed a letter from the Tuskegee Airmen Memorial Board of Trustees, thanking the Borough for their participation in the Memorial Day Parade and events.

Mayor Jeffe also indicated that he would like to have a motion on the June 15th Council Meeting Agenda to place a loading zone on Broad Street in front of Wolcott Park.

Council President Susan Aleshire stated that the Chamber of Commerce Night Mart is Friday, June 26th, July 31st and August 28th.

Council President Aleshire also stated that the David Nimick Family Foundation made a donation of \$10,000 to the Borough of Sewickley.

President Aleshire stated that Stan Ference and Associates made a \$2,000 donation for the Memorial Day Fireworks.

Carole Ford indicated that she had attended the Borough's Association Meeting, and commented on Act 32 for background checks.

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

Council reviewed the Building Inspector's Report, indicating that 7 permits were issued, with fees of \$3,355 collected on \$200,114 worth of construction. There were 23 building inspections performed, and 8 property maintenance inspections.

The Borough Manager indicated that Howard Hanna has obtained their permit for the rebuilding of Howard Hanna on Broad Street and Thorn Street, and that One Thorn Street LLC has obtained their permit for the 30,000 square foot office building. The Borough Manager indicated that the parking meters were removed on the westerly side of Thorn Street for the two projects in order that more space is available and there will be less congestion for both vehicles and pedestrians. This was done as a safety feature on a temporary basis.

Council reviewed the Public Works Report for May, highlighting all the work involved with May Mart, Sewickley Unleashed and the Memorial Day Weekend activities. In addition, leaf compost was taken to War Memorial Park and there were tree plantings.

Council also reviewed the Safety Checklist for all Borough parks and playgrounds.

Council reviewed the Wastewater Treatment Plant Report for May, indicating that 19.887 million gallons of sewage were treated. In addition, 246,175 cubic feet of digester gas was used. Wastewater Treatment Plant personnel worked on various maintenance projects throughout the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Council reviewed the Consulting Engineers Report, indicating that the Odor Control Study will be delivered to the Borough within the next week as well as the 5-Year Capital Plan and the Wastewater Treatment Plant Disinfection Study.

The Borough Manager advised that a notice to proceed date has not been established for the Waterworks Road Relocation Project.

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

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SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Council reviewed the Solicitor's Report for the month of May, highlighting the De Facto Condemnation Case, the Murrer Right-to-Know Request, legal clearance for the demolition of properties, the Village Theater Lease, the Vegetation Growth and Maintenance Ordinance, and the Developer's Agreement for One Thorn Street LLC.

Council reviewed the Solicitor's Invoice in the amount of \$11,078.32.

Council reviewed tax appeal settlements. The Solicitor indicated that the appeals are starting to wind down.

Council reviewed the Jordan Delinquent Real Estate Tax and Municipal Claim Report in the amount of \$12,639.19.

The Solicitor reviewed the proposed Regulation of Vegetation Growth and Maintenance Ordinance, which has been advertised for adoption at the June 15th Council Meeting.

Solicitor Tucker reviewed the proposed ordinance on dimensional requirements for the Zoning Ordinance, as recommended by the Planning Commission. Council was in agreement to place on the June 15th Council Meeting Agenda, to advertise and schedule a public hearing for August for adoption of the changes to the Zoning Ordinance.

Solicitor Tucker reviewed the Pennsylvania Office of Open Records Decision on Erik and Sherri Murrer's appeal of the Borough of Sewickley's answer regarding a Right-to-Know Request. The Pennsylvania Office of Open Records denied the Murrer appeal and indicated that the Borough was not required to take any other actions.

Solicitor Tucker reviewed the Murrer De Facto Condemnation, with hearings set for August of 2015.

Council reviewed a letter from Solicitor Tucker, updating the progress of the Haysville Sewer Service Agreement, indicating that the agreement will address Phase I and Phase II. It is expected to be forwarded to the Haysville Solicitor for their meeting at the end of June.

The Solicitor's Report was received and filed.

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BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT

The Borough Manager provided an update on the 2015 Road Project, indicating that the curb and sidewalks were being completed up to Broad Street. The contractor will begin working on the handicapped accessibility ramps as well as the storm sewer placements.

The Borough Manager stated that there have been 21 respondents to the Tree Replacement Program. At the Tree Commission Meeting on Monday, June 8th, the Tree Commission was in agreement to plant as many trees as possible in the summer, with approximately 17 trees being planted, and 4 trees being planted in the fall.

The Borough Manager stated that Columbia Gas is 2-½ weeks behind schedule with the gas line replacement on Cochran Street, and is expected to be on site by June 22nd.

The Borough Manager advised that the 2016 Road Project estimates will be presented to Council at the July 14th meeting in order that the Tree Commission can be advised and resident meetings can be held.

The Borough Manager stated that the Tree Commission continues to review Ordinance No. 1152, adopted in October of 1995. It should be noted that the Tree Commission did approve the recommendation of the Borough Manager to have a temporary policy, providing notifications of plantings or removals in a newspaper for 2 consecutive weeks, indicating the type of work to be done. In addition, the policy also recommends that there will be no advertising for memorial trees, as the applicant is paying for the memorial tree, and the tree will simply be approved by the Borough Arborist and Tree Commission.

The Borough Manager reminded Council that the Vanguard Theater Groundbreaking Ceremony is scheduled for Thursday, June 11th, at 10:00 a.m., at the site.

Council reviewed a letter from Jen Markus and Alex Lancianese of Explore Sewickley, indicating that they are in the final stages of having their Main Street Application ready to go. They are asking for a resolution to be adopted by Council, indicating a 5-year support for the Main Street Program. The Explore Sewickley group is willing to follow through, as indicated in the letter, to continue to have an annual review and an annual financial commitment per the evaluation and review of Council. The Borough Manager is proposing that the resolution would indicate a dollar amount not to exceed the current funding level provided by the Borough of Sewickley. Council was in agreement to place the resolution on the June 15th Council Meeting Agenda.

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BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

The Borough Manager advised that Duquesne Light has forwarded communication indicating that there will be a meeting on Wednesday, June 17th, at the Leetsdale Municipal Building, regarding plans for compliance with Act 129, with Duquesne Light changing the meters for all properties. Duquesne Light will be placing 600,000 meters in Allegheny and Beaver Counties. The Borough Manager stressed that Duquesne Light will be asked to provide notification to the Borough in order that the Borough can remind its citizens to ask for necessary IDs should someone come to their home.

Council reviewed the Haines House Plan of Lots for the combination of two lots, the lot at the end of Duquesne Way, which was the location of the previous church playground, and the previous church house. This is a simple subdivision in which the properties would be combined. The owners had indicated to potential buyers that all items would be completed by the middle of June. When they obtained legal counsel, Attorney Charlie Jones reached out to the Borough, indicating that in accordance with the Municipalities Planning Code, a public hearing is only needed before Council, and asked if the Borough could advertise the hearing in order that the subdivision could be approved at the June 15th Council Meeting. The Borough Manager advised that he consulted with Solicitor Tucker, and we were able to accommodate the request. The Planning Commission reviewed, and unanimously recommended approval of, the subdivision request. The Planning Commission indicated that this would not be a precedent setting action. The Borough Manager indicated that everything has been advertised in accordance with the Municipalities Planning Code, and Council has scheduled a public hearing for Monday, June 15th.

Council reviewed a preliminary report from Mackin Engineering and John Orndorff, of Glen Osborne Borough, regarding a proposed bike trail within the Boroughs of Edgeworth and Sewickley. Mr. Orndorff has indicated that he would like to come to the Council Meeting on June 15th to give a five minute presentation. Council was in agreement

The Borough Manager reviewed a letter and an agreement from the Quaker Valley Council of Governments, indicating that Community Development Year 40 Project 3.11.4 – Housing Demolition Grant for 923 Dickson Road and 326 Sprott Way is to be approved. A motion will be placed to approve the agreement, which provides up to \$30,000 for the demolition of the two properties. The Borough Manager noted that all notification issues have been met for the demolition of these two properties.

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BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

The Borough Manager reviewed the new service agreement with Lugaila Mechanical, Inc., to provide services to the Borough of Sewickley Borough Building for the heating, venting, and air conditioning units. This is an increased service contract, providing additional services over the previous provider. There is also a price difference, with an \$840 a year savings.

The Borough Manager reviewed the latest update regarding Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems, commonly known as MS4, indicating that the Borough will be performing a Borough-wide assessment of all of its facilities. The Borough will be working on a public education program for its residents, and will be establishing education classes for all of its elected leaders and employees. The Borough Manager reviewed several of the new highlights, giving a few examples as follows:

- Our salt shed sits on an elevated hill of blacktop. However, when it rains, there are times that the rain is sufficient enough to wash some of the salt out into the street, then into the river; that is a major violation. Temporarily, we can design a simple trough system to keep that water from going onto public right-of-way areas. A long term goal would be to rebuild our salt shed, making it an indoor versus an outdoor facility.
- We need to assess all components of chemicals and industrial items that are stored within all of our facilities to be sure that they are used correctly.
- We need to educate all employees who drive Borough vehicles about proper procedures when filling up gas tanks. In the event that gas is spilled or dripped, it must be reported. It has given gotten to the point that you need to address how our lawns are treated; that type of thing.
- With snow removal equipment, we are now not going to be able to hose the salt off our equipment. It will have to be hosed off indoors, and basically, allow that material to go into a sanitary sewer. It is very easy to address the sidewalk issue and salt. Where we don't use salt, we simply use urea, which is pure nitrogen, and you can meet that component for compliance.
- Municipal vehicles cannot be washed on the street anymore; they must be washed in a location where the water can go to a sanitary sewer system.

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BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

- While this sounds like a lot for the municipality, it gets better. Under these MS4 regulations, all elected Members of Council, Department Heads and employees will be required to participate in Webinars, and afterwards will be provided an assessment indicating that you have met and passed certain courses.

The Borough Manager's Report was received and filed.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Mr. Rice, at 9:04 p.m., the Committee of the Whole Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin M. Flannery
Borough Manager/Secretary

KMF:pmf