

BOROUGH OF SEWICKLEY
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES
JUNE 14, 2016

President Susan Aleshire called the Committee of the Whole Meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Members in attendance were Bill Cornman, Charles Driscoll, Jeff Neff, Todd Renner, Larry Rice and Sean Figley. Mark Davidson was absent due to work and Tom DeFazio was absent due to illness. The others in attendance were Larissa Dudkiewicz of the Sewickley Herald, Mayor Brian Jeffe, Solicitor Richard Tucker, and Borough Manager Kevin M. Flannery.

Mayor Brian Jeffe administered the Oath of Office to new Councilperson Sean Figley, representing Ward I until December 31, 2017.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

The Borough Manager presented the Explore Sewickley report as Ms. Markus and Mrs. Lancianese were out of town at the annual Pennsylvania Downtown Center Conference. It was noted that the Design Committee is working with the Borough to demonstrate the size of the proposed welcome sign at the intersection of Broad Street and Route 65. The Design Committee will then reevaluate and prepare a final draft which will be forwarded to the Borough and the Planning Commission and make available for public input. The Promotions Committee has been working on various events including the Fall Gallery Walk plan and advertising opportunities for the businesses in the Borough of Sewickley.

Council reviewed an e-mail from Beverly Cobern regarding placement of signs on telephone poles.

Borough Council reviewed a letter to Craig Holland regarding his application for a position on Council and a possible opportunity on the Planning Commission and Zoning Hearing Board.

COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT/MEMBERS/MAYOR

Mayor Jeffe expressed his thanks to the Memorial Day Parade Committee, the Borough Police Department, the Borough Public Works Department and the general public for a very successful Memorial Day Weekend. The Mayor stated that he has received numerous compliments regarding the events of the weekend.

Mayor Jeffe advised that the Quaker Valley Recreation Association 6th Annual Family 5K Run and Walk is on Saturday, June 18th, beginning at 8:15 am, at War Memorial Park.

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COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT/MEMBERS/MAYOR (CONTINUED)

Mayor Jeffe indicated that he is working with Brent Stater, and will be providing additional information for the Monday Council Meeting, but would like on the agenda for Monday, a motion to approve “Rockin’ at River” on Saturday, August 13, 2016, from 2:00 pm to 9:00 pm. This would entail a concert series performed by local bands, provided for family entertainment, and possible coordination with the Sewickley Community Center for food and drink.

Council President Susan Aleshire indicated that Night Mart will be on Friday, June 24th, from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm; and “Balance on Broad, the Festival of Wellness”, is on Saturday, July 9th, from 8:00 am to 10:00 am.

Council President Aleshire indicated that Stan Ference and Associates submitted a \$2,000 donation to the Memorial Day Fireworks Event. Council was very grateful for Mr. Ference’s donation.

Council President Aleshire stated that she will be absent from the Council Meeting on June 20th due to vacation, and Mr. Cornman will be conducting the meeting.

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 \$6,964.00 collected on \$396,696.00 worth of construction. There were 53 building inspections performed.

Several Members of Council asked questions about Building Permit 4294, renovations to the School of Nursing at Heritage Valley Sewickley. The Borough Manager indicated that Heritage Valley Health System School of Nursing, located on Blackburn Road, is contemplating renovating three of the five floors in the old School of Nursing building.

Council reviewed Zoning Hearing Board Decision No. 16-04, Request for Dimensional Variance at 847 Thorn Street, which was denied by the Borough of Sewickley Zoning Hearing Board. The Borough Manager further indicated that no appeal has been filed as of yet regarding that decision.

Council reviewed the Public Works Report for May, highlighting work on Broad Street Island, installation of the Historic District poles, continued work on the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System compliance issues, and assistance with the Memorial Day Weekend 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 May, indicating that 22.90 million gallons of sewage were treated. In addition, 426,037 cubic feet of digester gas was used.

Council reviewed the Consulting Engineers Report, providing a progress report on the McDonald Street Project and the renovation of the wet well and room.

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 May, highlighting the Historic Review Commission, the tax status of Borough real estate, tax assessment appeals, and work on the Department of Environmental Protection claim.

Council reviewed the Solicitor's Invoice in the amount of \$1,590.54.

Solicitor Tucker reviewed tax assessment appeals for settlement and discontinuance.

Council reviewed the Jordan Delinquent Real Estate Tax and Municipal Lien Claim Report of May 19, 2016, in the amount of \$16,624.88.

Solicitor Tucker advised that he is still working on the exemption from real estate taxation on real estate Block and Lot Nos. 421-A-100 and 508-N-19, which is the Green Street Parking Lot; and Block and Lot No. 509-K-10, Waterworks property. All paperwork is in order, and Mr. Tucker is working to have County Real Estate Office confirm that the properties are tax exempt.

Solicitor Tucker advised that a Stay of Sheriff's Sale has been issued on the 432 Green Street property.

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SOLICITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

Council reviewed a letter to the Borough of Haysville in reply to the May 11, 2016 letter from Haysville Solicitor Michael Seymour. The letter to Haysville indicates that the Borough of Sewickley prepared a 537 Plan in 2014 for the Borough of Haysville, and prepared a Sewer Services Agreement in 2015 for the Borough of Haysville. Haysville, in its May 11th letter, indicated that they were looking for changes, with reductions of tap-in fees. The Borough of Sewickley has spent over \$50,000 to assist the Borough of Haysville in completing these requirements. The Borough of Sewickley can no longer afford to do so. The letter further indicates that the Borough of Sewickley will make the information available to Haysville through KLH Engineers, but that the Borough believes the last Sanitary Sewer Services Agreement with the Borough of Haysville was sufficient and does not wish to make any changes. On motion of Todd Renner, seconded by Charlie Driscoll, Council voted, 7-0, to send the letter to the Haysville Solicitor and to have Solicitor Richard Tucker sign the letter.

Solicitor Tucker advised that the Verizon Small Cell Agreement has been signed and returned, and Verizon hopes to begin the installation in the Broad Street area by the end of July.

The Solicitor's Report was received and filed.

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT

The Borough Manager advised that the concrete sidewalk replacement work is continuing on Broad Street, from Hill Street to Beaver Street. Upon completion of concrete repairs, the contractor will then move onto Straight Street for curbs and sidewalks.

The remaining 3 large trees were removed on Wednesday, June 7. These trees were entangled in the electric lines and required assistance from Duquesne Light to be able to remove the trees. The Shade Tree Commission approved the recommendation of the Borough Arborist Jim Edson for the replanting areas. There will be 12 trees in the location of Beaver Street to Centennial Avenue and the tree chosen is a London Plane tree that will be pollarded during the off season.

The Borough Manager advised that Columbia Gas began sidewalk and spot curb rehabilitation on Monday, June 6, 2016. They plan to have all work completed by July 10th or sooner. This is the work associated with the gas line repair for Hill Street, from Broad Street to Nevin Avenue.

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BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

The Borough Manager advised that two Public Hearings are scheduled on Monday, June 20. The first hearing is on proposed dimensional Ordinance No. 1343, and the second hearing is on the Rock Plan of Lots Consolidation. The Borough of Sewickley Planning Commission has recommended approval for both Ordinance No. 1343 and the Rock Plan of Lots Consolidation Plan. It should be pointed out that at the Planning Commission Hearing on the Rock Plan of Lots, the applicant was agreeable to continue to pay Sewickley Borough taxes on the portion of the lot to be consolidated in Sewickley.

The Borough Manager reviewed the Duquesne Light Internal Control Sheet. So far, Duquesne Light has removed 2 poles. The Borough Manager has established having a conference call every two weeks with Duquesne Light in order to facilitate the movement.

The Borough received a Resident Only Handicapped Parking Application for 818 Centennial Avenue. Council reviewed a letter from Police Chief James Ersher, recommending approval of the application. Borough Council was in agreement to place the matter on Monday's agenda for adoption.

The Borough Manager advised that Aleppo Township has forwarded their final tap-in fee payment of \$100,000, which completes the 4-year payment schedule of Aleppo Township's payments to the Borough of Sewickley.

The Borough Manager indicated that 6 poles need to be placed and adjustments are needed to surrounding signage, including Stop signs, "Children at Play" signs, One-Way sign indicators, etc. for the Historic District Sign Pole Project. The Borough Manager indicated that all work should be completed the week of June 20th, and a walk-through will be conducted with Mr. Tomana of the Sewickley Valley Historical Society.

Council reviewed the Broad Street Center Island flower design, which utilized different 37 different plantings. The flowers are really growing, and the Borough has received many compliments.

The Little Garden Club planted 9 planting areas on Walnut Street with liriopes. The Borough was asked to provide the mulch, which the Borough has done. The Borough addressed the 4 other planting areas on that street.

Planting areas are complete in the Division Street Parking Lot with liriopoe and flowers.

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BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

The Borough Manager reviewed the request of the Sewickley Civic Garden Council for 50% payment on the hanging baskets. It was noted that the payment request was \$3,910.00, as a 50% cost to the Borough. In 2015, the Borough's 50% contribution was \$2,345. The Borough Manager will forward a letter to the Sewickley Civic Garden Council, indicating that the 2017 Borough of Sewickley commitment for the project will be \$2,750. The hanging baskets have received numerous compliments.

The Borough Manager reviewed the Auditor General pension comments for the 2014/2015 audit. There were 3 observations in the Police Pension Plan and 3 observations in the Non-Uniformed Pension Plan. Solicitor Tucker and the Borough Manager are preparing language to correct the questions that were raised. It is intended to have this on Council's July agenda for adoption.

The Borough Manager indicated that Municipal Benefit Services, which administers the Short Term Disability Program for the Borough of Sewickley, announced the 2015 Dividend payment. The dividend paid to the Borough of Sewickley was \$2,285.44.

The Borough Manager advised Council that the Quaker Valley Council of Governments Board of Directors would be meeting on June 15th and is expected to approve the Quaker Valley Council of Governments Garbage and Recycling Bid. The bid opening date would be scheduled for late July or early August. In addition, the Borough Manager advised that an amendment to the Road Salt Agreement, to accommodate municipalities with the storage of salt regarding completion of minimum purchasing requirements, will be on the agenda for approval by the Borough of Sewickley. This will assist the Borough in storing salt pursuant to its contract.

Council reviewed a drawing that is proposed at the end of Academy Avenue in the Borough of Edgeworth. A small portion of land is in Sewickley. A letter from Nancy Watts, Code Official, was also included. The Borough Manager indicated that he is meeting with the owners of the property to discuss sewage and any other items.

The Borough Manager presented a Memorandum of Understanding with the Allegheny County Conservation District. This was reviewed at last month's meeting and the recommendation is that it be adopted by Resolution at the Monday, June 20th Council Meeting. Council was in agreement to place the matter on the agenda for Monday. This will assist the Borough in meeting all of its Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System goals and objectives.

Council reviewed a chart showing changes to some of the collection days as scheduled by Waste Management for the collection of garbage and recycling.

The Borough Manager's Report was received and filed.

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council went into Executive Session at 8:28 p.m. The Executive Session concluded at 8:47 p.m. and Council went back into Regular Session.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Mr. Rice, the Committee of the Whole Meeting was adjourned at 9:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin M. Flannery
Borough Manager/Secretary

KMF:pmf