

**BOROUGH OF SEWICKLEY**  
**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES**  
**MAY 10, 2016**

President Susan Aleshire called the Committee of the Whole Meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Members in attendance were Bill Cornman, Mark Davidson, Tom DeFazio, Charles Driscoll, Jeff Neff, Todd Renner, and Larry Rice. The others in attendance were Alex Lancianese of Explore Sewickley, Jed VonHofen, Mary Lyn McGinn, John Dunn, Larissa Dudkiewicz of the Sewickley Herald, Mayor Brian Jeffe, Solicitor Richard Tucker, and Borough Manager Kevin M. Flannery.

President Aleshire asked for a moment of silence in honor of Elizabeth Pflugh, former Borough Secretary, and Jack Herbst, former Fire Chief and Member of Cochran Hose Company.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Alex Lancianese, of Explore Sewickley, reviewed the Main Street orientation that was provided on April 29<sup>th</sup>. Alex also indicated that Sewickley Unleashed is on Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, and that there is an increase in registrations for the 5K and for participation in the Pet Parade.

Explore Sewickley will also be hosting this year's Oktoberfest on Friday, September 30<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, October 1<sup>st</sup>. It will, again, be in the Division Street Parking Lot, and they are partnering with the Sharp Edge Restaurant.

On motion of Mr. Neff, seconded by Mr. Driscoll, Council voted, 8-0, to approve the road closure on Centennial Avenue, between Straight Street and Fountain Street, on May 29<sup>th</sup> for the Skorpenske 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party.

Mary Lyn McGinn, of Centennial Avenue, addressed Council regarding the proposed traffic study on Route 65, indicating that if any action is taken on Graham Street and Route 65, the action will have a strong impact on Smith Alley. Mrs. McGinn indicated that she has been before Council previously, that cars travel too fast on Smith Alley, and that signs have been added, but speed is still an issue. She indicated that of particular note, cars coming up Smith Alley from Graham Street have a tendency to come up the alley with 50% turning right and 50% turning left. Mrs. McGinn indicated that there are 12 cars in the alley, and 9 kids, and requested that the police start being more involved in monitoring the area with the issuance of tickets. She inquired if the Borough would look into abandoning Smith Alley. Several Members of Council indicated that they would need to have a petition signed by everyone with that request before any legal comment or research is done. Mrs. McGinn indicated that she will get back to Council.

John Dunn, of Straight Street, addressed Council, requesting that Straight Street, from Centennial Avenue to Hill Street, be a Resident Only parking area. Borough Manager Flannery indicated to Mr. Dunn that there is an actual application and study to be formed in compliance with certain rules and regulations. The Borough office will mail those to Mr. Dunn, and he can review and decide if he wishes to submit an application to the Borough.

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**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC (CONTINUED)**

Jed VonHofen, of 660 Charette Place, addressed Council regarding the No Left Turn issue as reported in the Sewickley Herald. Mr. VonHofen indicated that he commonly uses Pine Street to exit onto Ohio River Blvd., and then proceeds to Graham Street to make a left to get into the Business District of Sewickley. Mr. VonHofen inquired about the data used for the determination and recommendation of no left turns. It was explained to Mr. VonHofen that PennDOT came down to review no left turns at the request of Chief James Ersher, and the data collected was from the Police Department and related to accidents. Mr. VonHofen further stated that if there are no left turns at Graham Street and Boundary Street, then anyone traveling on Route 65 would be required to go to the Haysville Light and either make a left turn back into Beaver Road, through Glen Osborne into Sewickley, or would make a U-turn on Route 65. Mr. VonHofen asked if this has been advertised to all. The Borough Manager explained that comment letters were sent to the major stakeholders on Route 65, being the Sewickley Water Authority, the Elmhurst Development, the Critmore Medical complex, the Quaker Valley School District, and the Borough of Glen Osborne. Two replies are included in the packet, but no letter has been received from the Borough of Glen Osborne or the Quaker Valley School District. The Borough Manager explained further the process, indicating that if Council is inclined to prohibit no left turns, they would authorize establishing an ordinance to be drafted and advertised, and the tentative adoption date of a new ordinance would be at a future Council Meeting. That is dependent upon Borough Council voting to proceed with the no left turns suggestions.

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

Mayor Jeffe stated that the Sewickley Unleashed 5K and Pet Parade are on Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, from 7:30 am to 1:00 pm. The Sewickley Valley Chamber of Commerce Country Brew & BBQ is scheduled for Wednesday, May 25<sup>th</sup>, from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Mayor Jeffe reviewed the items related to the 125<sup>th</sup> Memorial Day Parade. There will be a Flag Retirement Ceremony and Celebration of Service to Veterans Fireworks on Friday, May 27<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 7:00 pm. On May 28<sup>th</sup>, a service will be held at the Coast Guard Station. On Sunday, there is a service scheduled at the Sewickley United Methodist Church. The 125<sup>th</sup> Memorial Day Parade is on Monday, May 30<sup>th</sup>, which will be the largest parade yet.

Council Vice President Bill Cornman indicated that the Borough crews, the Shade Tree Commission and volunteers planted and mulched 58 trees during the Spring Tree Planting from April 19<sup>th</sup> through April 23<sup>rd</sup>. In addition, Jim Edson, of Bartlett Tree Service, provided free seedlings to those who visited the Shade Tree Commission Booth at the May Mart.

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

Council reviewed the Building Inspector's Report, indicating that 15 permits were issued, with fees of \$16,414.00 collected on \$1,455,417.00 worth of construction. There were 30 building inspections performed.

Council reviewed the Public Works Report for April, highlighting the preparation of parks, the preparation of Historic District poles and signs installation, and continued work on the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System compliance issues.

Council reviewed the Wastewater Treatment Plant Report for April, indicating that 22.140 million gallons of sewage were treated. In addition, 292,146 cubic feet of digester gas was used. In addition, the Wastewater Treatment Plant personnel responded to 61 Pennsylvania PA One Calls.

Wastewater Treatment Plant personnel assisted with a sewer line break at the intersection of Ferry Street and Henry Avenue and completed the repairs. The resident was very thankful. The repair was related to the work performed in 2014 on Ferry Street.

In addition, Council reviewed a sewer backup at 604 Blackburn Road. It was discovered that the sewage backup was caused by Miller Pipe Company having an extra line in the sewer which eventually broke loose and caused the backup. Miller Pipe worked to satisfy all issues with the neighbors.

Council reviewed the Consulting Engineers Report.

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 April, highlighting a review of Tax Assessment Appeals and work on the Aleppo Sewer Fees for billing of their sewage services.

Council reviewed the Solicitor's Invoice in the amount of \$6,720.25.

Solicitor Tucker reviewed the Conciliation Hearings for Real Estate Tax Assessment Appeals by Allegheny County.

Council reviewed the Jordan Delinquent Real Estate Tax and Municipal Lien Claim Report of April 25, 2016, in the amount of \$24,288.50.

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**SOLICITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)**

Solicitor Tucker advised that a Sheriff's Sale was held for 900 Crescent Avenue.

Solicitor Tucker provided a letter regarding the Historic Review Commission request of changes in which some can be addressed and others are not allowed to be changed due to the Pennsylvania statutes.

Solicitor Tucker reviewed a Bankruptcy Court Hearing in Case No. 15-23068-GLT.

The Solicitor reviewed an application on a Spill Prevention Plan from Hull Associates related to the Giant Eagle Okay Grocery location in Ingram, PA.

Council reviewed DEP Permit Renewal Notice filed by Hanson Aggregates Company for the dredging of the Ohio River.

The Solicitor's Report was received and filed.

**BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT**

The Borough Manager stated that a pre-construction meeting was held on April 28<sup>th</sup> with Liberoni Construction. Liberoni is planning to be on site beginning the week of May 16<sup>th</sup>. The company will be doing concrete repair work first, beginning work on Broad Street, from Beaver Street to Hill Street. There will be no work on Broad Street, from Route 65 to Beaver Street, until after the Memorial Day Parade.

The Borough Manager advised that Columbia Gas changed their refurbishment plan. Originally they were planning to run the gas line down Straight Street, in the street. They have now opted to run the gas line on the odd numbered side of the street, in the sidewalk. This will mean that residents will not have to bear the cost of the sidewalk replacement on the odd numbered side of Straight Street.

Before the work begins on Broad Street, from Route 65 to Beaver Street, a two week pre-notice will be provided to all property owners and residents. The preliminary plan is to begin the work on a Monday, at 4:00 p.m., continuing until 6:00 a.m., then returning the next night at 4:00 p.m., and completing all of the paving. This will cause minimal disturbance of the Business District as there are a number of stores that are closed on Mondays in Sewickley, and half of the work planned affect institutions that basically have little operations on Mondays and Tuesdays.

The Borough Manager provided the beginning language for a General Fund Balance Policy Statement for the Borough of Sewickley. Council is requested to review the document in order that additional policy language can be prepared. Specifically, Council is asked to consider if they want the policy to be reviewed every year by ordinance or resolution.

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

The Borough Manager advised that the Planning Commission met on May 4<sup>th</sup> and recommended approval of proposed Ordinance No. 1343, the C-1 Front Yard Proposed Dimensional Ordinance, and also recommended to officially amend the Borough of Sewickley Zoning Map for 416 Ohio River Blvd. A public hearing on these two requests will be at the Monday, May 16<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting.

The Borough Manager provided an update on the Duquesne Light Utility Pole Project. Specifically, Duquesne Light has created tickets notifying all outside carriers to have all items removed on their poles. Upon completion of the other carriers removing their items, the poles will begin to be removed. It is anticipated that this will begin the week of May 23<sup>rd</sup>.

The Borough Manager indicated that since 2014, the Borough of Sewickley participated in the LED Replacement Program and has replaced 30 cobra heads in 2014 and 39 lights in 2015. It should be noted that the 2015 work has recently been completed on Centennial Avenue and Thorn Street, with all the requested lights changed over to the LED lights. For 2016, the Borough Manager is recommending that Walnut Street, Bank Street, Henry Street, Frederick Street, Elwick Street and Chadwick Street be submitted to Duquesne Light. The Borough Manager also stated to Council that the Auditors for the Liquid Fuels Department in Harrisburg have okayed that the expense for the light conversions may be taken out of the Liquid Fuels money instead of the General Fund. The Borough Manager advised that a motion will be placed on the agenda for Monday's meeting.

The Borough Manager indicated that the final listing on the Statement of Financial forms due May 1, 2016 was attached.

The Borough Manager indicated that crews are working on the Historic District sign and pole project. The anticipated completion is the week of May 24<sup>th</sup>.

The Borough Manager indicated that the Broad Street Center Island Project is 50% complete, with 10-½ inches of clay soil removed and replaced with the new material made up of 3 parts top soil, 2 parts mulch, and 1 part PittMoss, a peat moss product that is produced locally. This is the same product that you may have seen on the television show Shark Tank and invested in by Mark Cuban. The Bidwell Horticulture Group will be doing plantings on Tuesday, May 24<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, May 25<sup>th</sup>.

The Borough Manager indicated that on the Route 65 no left turns issue, two comment letters were received, one from a citizen in Leetsdale, and one from a chiropractor in the Critmore Building. In addition, a letter was received today from Dr. John Straka, representing the Critmore Complex. The Borough Manager indicated that there has been no response from the Borough of Glen Osborne or the Quaker Valley School.

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

Mayor Jeffe indicated that Glen Osborne is preparing a response and will work with Glen Osborne officials to be sure that Sewickley receives that response.

Mr. Neff wished to offer several comments on the no left turns, indicating that no left turns at Boundary Street and Graham Street would highly impact Ward III in Sewickley. It would mean that most people on Route 65 would be required to go to the Haysville Light and either do a U-turn or turn up Beaver Street and have to backtrack to get to places. Mr. Neff further commented that if traffic were to simply go up Broad Street, we are putting additional traffic on Broad Street and Beaver Street to facilitate traveling to Glen Osborne and up Glen Mitchell Road to other areas.

Mr. Neff also believes that changing anything at the Graham Street intersection would be very critical to the bus transportation system utilized by the Quaker Valley School District. He indicated that if a tree on Ohio River Boulevard needs to be removed, then maybe Council should look into removing the tree on the Boulevard. Mr. Neff indicated that previously, Mr. Davidson asked for a stop sign to be moved up, and Mr. Neff wished to request that it be done in order to see if that would facilitate a better flow of traffic on Boundary Street. The Borough Manager indicated that the stop sign can be moved up and that it probably can be done by this coming Friday. Several Members of Council questioned whether there should be any future discussions regarding no left turns.

The Borough Manager advised Council that the Pennsylvania Local Government Investment Trust recently held a review of the new Act 10 of 2016, which provides additional investment opportunities for municipal funds as approved by the Pennsylvania State Legislature.

The Borough Manager indicated that for Monday's agenda there will be the scheduled adoption of Borough of Sewickley Resolution No. 2016-008, which indicates that for 2015 and 2016, the Police Pension Fund is actuarially sound and no contributions are necessary from the officers.

Council reviewed documentation from Zito Media Voice, LLC, a public utility company, requesting permission to place a pole in the public right-of-way at Harbaugh Street and Logan Street to provide internet services. Council asked that this be forwarded to Dan Cohen for his review and comment.

The Borough Manager reviewed a request from the Sewickley Valley YMCA, received on April 26<sup>th</sup>, indicating that the Penguins Foundation wanted to apply for a grant in order that a deck hockey unit could be placed at the YMCA. The YMCA indicated that there was not any space on the YMCA property, and suggested the field adjacent to the paddle hut, commonly known as the Walter Brennan Community Hut, could be utilized for deck hockey. It was explained to Ms. Hooper at the YMCA that making the request on April 26<sup>th</sup> and expecting an answer on April 29<sup>th</sup> was allowing a very short timeframe, and the earliest Council Meeting for any possible discussion would be at tonight's meeting on May 10<sup>th</sup>.

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

Council reviewed the grant application. The Borough Manager indicated that the Penguins Foundation appeared to be teaming up with the County of Allegheny and utilizing gaming money to provide several deck hockey facilities in various communities. Council indicated that they did not want to give up the field that is commonly used by the young baseball players for t-ball. Council also indicated that they would like written confirmation from the YMCA that they will absorb what is technically called the municipal responsibilities, and provide the maintenance and administration of the deck hockey unit. Council also was of the opinion to ask the YMCA to place this on the Chadwick Street location where the basketball and tennis courts are located. The Borough Manager is to forward a letter to Trish Hooper at the YMCA, outlining those items.

The Borough Manager advised that the employee training held this day was Active Shooter Training. The Borough Building was closed from 7:30 am to 12:30 pm. The training was well received by the employees and was considered very informative.

The Borough Manager indicated that the janitor, Mike Mastroianni, will retire as of August 26<sup>th</sup>, with his last day worked being May 26<sup>th</sup>.

The Borough Manager announced that Franco Verbene has been selected as the new Foreman of the Department of Public Works. Several Members of Council applauded the appointment.

The Borough Manager advised that Diane Vierling, one of the bookkeepers in the Administration Department, will be off for approximately 2 months for some elective surgery, and that a temporary service will be utilized during the time that she is off.

The Borough Manager advised that one application for the Council vacancy was received and one application was received for the Zoning Hearing Board vacancy.

The Borough Manager's Report was received and filed.

**ADJOURNMENT**

On motion of Mr. Renner, the Committee of the Whole Meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin M. Flannery  
Borough Manager/Secretary

KMF:pmf