

BOROUGH OF SEWICKLEY
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2011

President Robert Hague called the Committee of the Whole Meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Members in attendance were Susan Aleshire, Bill Cornman, Tom DeFazio, Charles Driscoll, Stan Ference, Carole Ford, Glenn Ford and Mike Glenn. Others in attendance were Jennifer Markus and Kirsten Stripay of Village Green, Larissa Dudkiewicz of *sewickleypatch.com*, Larry Oswald, Police Chief James Ersher, Fire Chief Jeff Neff, Mayor Brian Jeffe, Solicitor Richard Tucker, and Borough Manager Kevin M. Flannery.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Kirsten Stripay, of Village Green, provided Council an update on activities provided by Village Green for the business community. She announced that the University of Pittsburgh Institute of Entrepreneurial Excellence was going to work with Village Green on a business plan for the community. Ms. Stripay also stated that they did very well at their booth at the Harvest Festival; they registered an additional 118 people with their e-mail addresses, and received a lot of encouragement from the visitors. Village Green has had four ribbon cutting ceremonies to date, with another three planned within the next two weeks. Kirsten also indicated that the Mellon Bank Building has been sold, and that Nancy Follett will be in the Gift Corner store beginning September 24 through October 1, with various items.

Larry Oswald, of 521 Hill Street, addressed Council regarding a letter he received from Nancy Watts, Code Enforcement Officer, regarding the high vegetation in his yard. Mr. Oswald stated that he thinks the Borough's ordinance is very outdated. He stated that Allegheny County has the worse air pollution in the United States, and that a typical lawnmower makes more pollution than a car driving from Boston to Washington D.C. Mr. Oswald said and he is looking for plants to create a natural environment.

Council President Hague indicated that he has planted several flower gardens on his property and that he would like the opportunity to meet with Mr. Oswald. Mr. Oswald indicated that he would be happy to meet with Mr. Hague and Mrs. Aleshire. Borough Manager was asked to arrange a meeting with all parties and Nancy Watts.

COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT/MEMBERS/MAYOR

Mayor Jeffe thanked the Quaker Valley Rotary, the Sewickley Kiwanis and the Borough of Sewickley for an excellent Harvest Festival, stating there were approximately 10,000 people in town for the event, and the town was vibrant, with a lot of activities.

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 13, 2011
PAGE TWO**

COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT/MEMBERS/MAYOR (continued)

Mayor Jeffe advised that the Fall Gallery Walk and Music Festival will be on Friday, September 30 and Saturday, October 1, 2011, with portions of Beaver Street closed for the event and over 32 exhibits.

Mr. Ference stated he has received requests from residents of Chadwick Street to maintain stop sign at Ferry Street intersection. Borough Manager advised that Mayor Jeffe also made some request and that Chief Ersher is preparing a recommendation for consideration at the October meeting.

Mr. Ference also asked if sewer at Chestnut Street and Harbaugh Street can be looked at. It is a bus stop location.

Mr. DeFazio asked about the removal of the no right turn for Walnut Street on Route 65. Borough Manager advised that PennDOT will be reviewing and report back. Report expected within the next 30 days.

Mr. Cornman requested that the Monday, September 12 Post Gazette article on the Pittsburgh Sewer Authority be in the packet for Council to review.

Mr. Driscoll asked about the boat on Little and Thorn Streets. Borough Manager advised that the notices have been sent to the owner.

Council President Hague announced that an Executive Session would be held before the Council Meeting on Monday, September 19, at 7:00 p.m., regarding a personnel issue.

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

Council reviewed the Building Inspector's Report, indicating that eight (8) permits were issued in August, with permit fees of \$3,833.00 on \$258,300 worth of construction. Forty (40) building inspections were performed, and six (6) property maintenance inspections were performed.

Council reviewed the Public Works Report for August, highlighting the installation of a pad and recycling bin at the Walnut Street Park, repairs on the signal box at Thorn Street and Broad Street, the repairing of bricks on Beaver Street and Broad Street between the sidewalk and curb, assisting with the Jaguar Car Show, and replacing the gazebo roof at Wolcott Park.

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 13, 2011
PAGE THREE**

**REPORT ON BUILDING INSPECTION. ZONING. PUBLIC WORKS AND
WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT (continued)**

Council reviewed the Wastewater Treatment Plant Report for August, indicating that 16.604 million gallons of sewage were treated, and 0 cubic feet of digester gas was used, which is due to the renovation project. The Headworks Project road work has been completed, installation is occurring on the gates, and the final landscaping is to begin on Thursday, September 15. The control panel for the digester gas is scheduled to arrive at the site within the next two to three weeks.

Council reviewed the Consulting Engineer's Report for the month of August, indicating that a resolution is close on the Osborne Interconnect Project.

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

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Council reviewed the Solicitor's Report for August, highlighting the spot zoning challenge with MCM Ventures, the Civil Service Rules and Regulations Ordinance, the Earned Income Tax Ordinance and a Civil Rights Action.

Council reviewed the Solicitor's Invoice for the month of August in the amount of \$5,913.13.

Council reviewed several communications regarding the case of MCM Ventures, Ltd. vs. Zoning Hearing Board of the Borough of Sewickley, No. 759CD2011. Solicitor Tucker indicated that all filings have been made and that Mr. Lyons, who is the opposition party, has fourteen (14) days to file a reply brief.

Council reviewed several tax assessment appeals and the Jordan Delinquent Tax and Municipal Claims Report, as of August 15, 2011, in which \$12,724.56 was collected in delinquent taxes in July.

Solicitor Tucker advised that Ordinance No. 1297, the new Earned Income Tax Collection Ordinance, has been properly advertised and will be on the agenda for adoption at the Council Meeting on Monday, September 19th.

The Solicitor's Report was received and filed.

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 13, 2011
PAGE FOUR**

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT

Borough Manager provided an update on the 2011 Road Project. The Walnut Street work with new curbs, sidewalks and installation of the red brick should be completed by September 22nd. Paving is scheduled to begin thereafter, with paving to begin on Beaver Street, then Walnut Street, then Frederick Avenue, then Church Way. Borough Manager advised that we are monitoring this on a daily basis with both the contractor and the engineers from Lennon, Smith, Souleret Engineering. The delays are attributed to the Columbia Gas work as well as time down for Shields Paving at other locations.

Council reviewed the Pension Manager Evaluation Reports as prepared by independent consultant, of Schenley Capital. In addition, a review sheet was provided by Mr. DeFazio. Mr. DeFazio and Mr. Driscoll indicated a recommendation for Staley based upon proposed diversity of the pension plans. Mr. Hague stated his preference for Guyasuta, and stated the Guyasuta over the last 10 years have kept the pension fund at 100% funded and has done a good job. After discussion, Council was in agreement to place the matter on the agenda for selection of a pension manager at the Council Meeting on Monday, September 19th.

Council reviewed letters to the four adjoining communities regarding road salt services to be provided by the Borough of Sewickley. The Borough of Sewickley purchases and stores salt for Haysville, Glenfield, Sewickley Hills and Glen Osborne for use during the winter. In addition to the price of salt, the municipalities are charged 5% for the storage and loading of the road salt.

Council reviewed the annual Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board Retail Liquor License Fee Distribution Report listing all businesses that serve alcoholic beverages within the Borough of Sewickley.

Borough Manager reviewed the 2012 Budget Meeting dates. The Capital Budget Meeting with the Department Heads is scheduled for Monday, October 3, 2011, at 6:30 p.m.; and the meeting for review of and scheduled tentative adoption of the 2012 Borough of Sewickley General Fund Budget, Sewer Fund Budget and Capital Reserve Budget with any required Ordinances and Resolutions is scheduled for Saturday, October 22, 2011, at 7:00 a.m.

Council reviewed the Minimum Municipal Pension Obligation for 2012, as prepared by consultants, Hallett Associates. The Police Pension Plan needs to be funded at \$109,973, and the Non-uniform Pension Plan needs to be funded at \$194,346. Council was in agreement to place the matter on the agenda for the Council Meeting on Monday, September 19th.

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 13, 2011
PAGE FIVE**

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT (continued)

Borough Manager advised that the Heritage Valley Health Systems Sewickley 5K Heart and Sole Run is scheduled for Saturday, October 15, 2011, at 9:00 a.m., beginning at War Memorial Park. The race will use the same route as in previous years.

Borough Manager advised that there is a Public Hearing for the Baker/Trobe Subdivision Plan for Monday, September 19. The Planning Commission Hearing on September 7, the Planning Commission recommended approval of the Subdivision Plan.

Borough Manager indicated that the Police Officer Testing advertisements will be in the newspaper in October. The written and physical agility exam will be provided at the Allegheny County Police Academy on November 15, 2011. It is anticipated that the results will be back by the end of November. Oral interviews can be scheduled for December, and a list can then be presented to Council by January 2012. This procedure will be in compliance with the new laws enacted in 2010.

Borough Manager stated that a meeting was held with Duquesne Light regarding the December 22, 2010 electrical disturbance at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Duquesne Light is reimbursing the Borough \$13,758.35 for equipment that was damaged during a power failure, and an additional \$8,500.00 for a panel control device that was also damaged.

Council reviewed a proposed letter addressed to all residents regarding the Act 32 compliance, with the new earned income tax procedures to be effective January 1, 2012. The Borough of Sewickley is a member of the Allegheny North Tax Collection Committee. The letters will be sent to all Sewickley Borough residents. Enclosed with each letter will be Certificate of Residency form with the Sewickley section, including Sewickley's six digit code, already filled out for residents. The Borough Manager also advised that in addition, reminder postcards will be sent in October, November and December. Borough Manager stressed that while the burden is placed on the employer with this new law, these efforts are being done to ensure that that Borough maintains its earned income tax revenues during this transition.

Borough Manager advised that he would be attending the International City Managers Conference from Saturday, September 17th through Wednesday, September 21st. Mrs. Flaherty, Administrative Assistant, will be taking minutes at the September 19th Council Meeting.

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 13, 2011
PAGE SIX**

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT (continued)

Borough Manager updated Council regarding Chamber of Commerce events. As the Mayor previously stated, the Fall Gallery Walk and Music Festival is scheduled for September 30th and October 1st. The Wine Walk, started last year, will be on Wednesday, November 9, 2011, from 5:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., and the Chamber of Commerce is proceeding with an agreement with the Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce to go back to the name "Light Up Night" instead of "Light Fest" which was used last year.

Council reviewed a letter from Dan Murphy of Heritage Valley Health Systems, Sewickley Hospital, indicating that the hospital has changed its policy to allow its employees to smoke on its property. They have posted the necessary signage, advising the employees of the change and have stated in a letter that they are advising all visitors that they can smoke on the hospital property.

Borough Manager advised that a movie starring Tom Cruise will be filming in Sewickley in October. They will be utilizing the old Country Inn site for the movie.

The Borough Manager's report was received and filed.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Mr. Ference, seconded by Mr. Cornman, the meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin M. Flannery
Borough Manager/Secretary

KMF:pmf