

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

President Robert Hague called the Committee of the Whole Meeting to order at 7:38 p.m. Members in attendance were Susan Aleshire, Bill Cornman, Tom DeFazio, Charles Driscoll, Carole Ford, Glenn Ford and Robert Glenn. Stan Ference was absent. Others in attendance were Mayor Brian Jeffe, Solicitor Richard Tucker, and Borough Manager Kevin M. Flannery.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Council reviewed a Handicapped Parking Request and recommendation by Chief Ersher for 518 Centennial Avenue. Council was in agreement to place the resolution on the agenda for adoption at the Council Meeting on December 19th.

COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT/MEMBERS/MAYOR

Council President Hague announced that an Executive Session was held at the beginning of the regular order of business for a personnel review of the Police Chief. In addition, public interviews were conducted, from 6:30 p.m. until approximately 7:25 p.m., before the Committee of the Whole Meeting. Additional interviews will be conducted, beginning at 6:30 p.m., before the regular Council Meeting on Monday, December 19th.

Council President Bob Hague, Mayor Jeffe and several Members of Council commended the Borough staff and Village Green for a wonderful Light Up Night on Friday, December 2nd and a great Santa Parade on Saturday, December 3rd.

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

Council reviewed the Building Inspector's Report, indicating that six (6) permits were issued in November, with permit fees of \$3,073.00 on \$162,450 worth of construction. Twenty-seven (27) building inspections were performed, and three (3) property maintenance inspections were performed.

Mr. Cornman asked if Building Permit No. 3889 had the correct permit fee. Borough Manager indicated that he would check and advise Mr. Cornman.

Council reviewed the Public Works Report for November, highlighting the preparation of Yuletide in the Village, Light Up Night, the collection of leaves, the placement of *Explore Sewickley* banners and preparation of the snow equipment.

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

Council reviewed the Wastewater Treatment Plant Report for November, indicating that 16.262 million gallons of sewage were treated, and 0 cubic feet of digester gas was used. The company providing the control panel for the digester is on site and the digester will be operational by December 21st.

Council reviewed the Consulting Engineer's Report, indicating that the necessary easements have been mailed to the property owners. Mr. Glenn requested that the report indicate actual timelines for projects and not "in the coming months".

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 November, highlighting the easements for the Glen Osborne Sewer Interconnect Project, the spot zoning challenge, an employee issue, debt limit certifications and the tax assessment litigation.

Council reviewed the Solicitor's Invoice for the month of November in the amount of \$7,717.83.

Council reviewed tax assessment appeals.

Council reviewed the Jordan Delinquent Tax and Municipal Claims Report for the month in the amount of \$10,378.75.

Solicitor Tucker indicated that the Police Policy and Procedure Manual corrections will be completed for a review at the January Committee of the Whole Meeting.

Solicitor Tucker advised Council that Judge Wettick has had several meetings regarding the new Allegheny County assessment for 2012. The Judge has indicated that he may issue an order that municipalities are to provide two separate billings for their real estate tax, with one bill being mailed on the date that taxes are normally mailed, and that it would allow 50% of the 2011 value. When the 2012 assessments come in, a recalculation will be done so that no community is over 105%, and then the second bill can be mailed out.

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SOLICITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

Borough Manager expressed his concerns as a public administrator, indicating that this process would be very confusing to the general real estate tax payer, it may create cash flow issues and may hamper capital projects, including the road project for 2012.

Solicitor Tucker received approval from Council to attend the Thursday, December 15th meeting with Judge Wettick.

The Solicitor's Report was received and filed.

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT

Council reviewed the final outstanding items per the field walk-through on the 2011 Road Project. In addition, Council reviewed payment No. 2 in the amount of \$263,257.37. There is an outstanding balance due of approximately \$19,853.58. The estimated balance in the Road Construction Fund is \$190,000.

Borough Manager reviewed a listing of Board & Commission Interviews. Some interviews were held before the Committee of the Whole Meeting and the remaining interviews will take place before the Council Meeting. As Council has done in the past, appointments can be made at the December Council Meeting on Monday, December 19th.

Borough Manager reviewed the ordinance for the adoption of the amendments to the Zoning Ordinance. At the public hearing at the Planning Commission Meeting on December 7, the Planning Commission voted, 7-0, to recommend to Council the adoption of the amendments. Council's public hearing is scheduled for Monday, December 19, 2011.

Borough Manager advised that that there will be public hearings for a subdivision/unification and a zoning change for the properties at 549 and 551 Beaver Street and 553 Beall Way. The Planning Commission public hearing is advertised for Wednesday, January 4, 2012; and the Borough Council public hearing is advertised for Monday, January 16, 2012.

Borough Manager advised that Council had agreed to participate in a walking tour of delinquent real estate properties starting with the northeastern portion of the Borough. Mr. Driscoll, Mrs. Aleshire, Mr. Hague and Mr. Ford indicated that they would be willing to participate. They will send an e-mail to the Borough Manager, indicating the times of their availability which will then be coordinated with Mayor Jeffe and Nancy Watts of the Borough staff.

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BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT (continued)

Council reviewed the Act 44 Compliance forms for Ameriserv, Hallett Associates and Schenley Capital, Inc. regarding pensions for the Borough of Sewickley employees.

Council discussed a Domestic Animal Ordinance which would regulate the number of domestic animals allowed at each residence. After some discussion, Council asked that the matter be placed on the Issues Update if Council would like to consider this issue at a later date.

Borough Manager reviewed the GASB 54 Fund Statement Resolution. The resolution would establish specific funds for reserve money.

Council was in agreement to place the resolution on the agenda for adoption at the Council Meeting on Monday, December 19th.

Borough Manager previewed the E-Waste package from Waste Management of Pittsburgh, which is part of the new garbage and recycling contract.

Borough Manager advised that Sewickley applied for an Allegheny Energy Program Grant in the fourth quarter of 2010. On June 9, 2011, the Borough was awarded 75% funding. The job has been completed and the total cost is \$47,728, of which the Borough is only responsible for \$7,726.50. In addition, the Borough should see an approximate \$2,000 savings in electric bills over the first year.

The Borough Manager reminded Council that the Reorganization Meeting will be held on Monday, January 2, 2012, at 7:30 p.m. The newly elected and re-elected Members of Council will need to provide their Certificates of Election. As in the past, a judge will be in attendance for the Swearing In Ceremony. In addition, the agenda will have other actions including the selection of the official newspaper and the selection of the Municipal Officers. Mrs. Ford and Mr. Glenn indicated that they may not be available on that date and will need to be sworn in at a later date.

The Borough Manager reminded Council that the Appreciation Dinner response forms are due back to the Borough by Monday, December 12.

Council reviewed the proposed Franchise Agreement with Comcast as Cohen Law Group and Comcast have reached an agreement. In addition, an Executive Summary of the new agreement was reviewed. The new agreement is a 10-year agreement with a 5-year option, maintaining the cable franchise fee of 5%, and providing a \$7,600 grant to the Borough of Sewickley for its PEG Channel.

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BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT *(continued)*

Council was in agreement to place the ordinance for adoption on the agenda for the Council Meeting on Monday, December 19th.

The Borough Manager's report was received and filed.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Mr. DeFazio, seconded by Mr. Ford, the Council Meeting was adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin M. Flannery
Borough Manager/Secretary

KMF:pmf