

Clifton Heights Borough Council
Meeting Minutes
January 21, 2020

Present:

Ronald Berry, Council President
Leona Papale, Vice President
Mark Campbell, Councilman
Mike Humphreys, Councilman
Timothy O'Hara, Councilman
Harris Resnick, Councilman
Fred Rich, Councilman

Absent:

Karen Peterson, Councilwoman

Others Present:

Francis Catania, Solicitor
J.P. Kelly, Engineer
Cynthia Leitzell, Treasurer
John Perfetti, Interim Borough Manager
Timothy Rockenbach, Chief of Police

Pledge of Allegiance

Prayer led by Mayor Lombardo

Public Comment:

No opening public comment.

Meeting Minutes:

A motion was made by Councilman Humphreys to accept the December 2019 meeting minutes and January 2020 Reorganization meeting minutes as presented; seconded by Councilman Campbell; and carried unanimously by a vote of 7-0.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Lombardo presented a letter that he received from resident Greg Hartel resigning from the Planning Commission effective immediately.

President Berry thanked Greg for his time on the Commission and knowledge.

A motion was made by Councilman Humphreys to accept the resignation as outlined; seconded by Vice President Papale; and carried unanimously by a vote of 7-0.

President Berry asked if they had a name in mind for a replacement for the Planning Commission.

A motion was made by Councilman Humphreys to appoint Suzanne Briddes to the Planning Commission; seconded by Vice President Papale; and carried unanimously by a vote of 7-0.

Police Report:

A motion was made by Vice President Papale to accept the Police Report as presented; seconded by Councilman Humphreys; and carried unanimously by a vote of 7-0.

Fire Report:

A motion was made by Councilman Campbell to accept the Fire Report as presented; seconded by Vice President Papale; and carried unanimously by a vote of 7-0.

Treasurer's Report/Bill List:

A motion was made by Councilman Humphreys to approve the Treasurer's Report and pay the bills; seconded by Vice President Papale; and carried unanimously by a roll call vote of 7-0. (Papale – yes, Resnick– yes, Berry – yes, Humphreys – yes, O'Hara – yes, Rich – yes, Campbell – yes.)

Manager's Report:

Borough Manager Perfetti announced that he had a renewal contract for the year 2020 for Signal Service Inc. for a base contract price of \$3,950 for the preventative maintenance and repair work if accidents were to occur with no changes from 2019.

Borough Manager Perfetti welcomed the new officers who were sworn in at the reorganization meeting on January 6, 2020 and wished them all luck in their terms.

Borough Manager Perfetti said that after discussions about the lease with the Historical Society at 2 W. Baltimore Ave., he was working with the solicitor to finalize those documents and they would have them prepared for a vote at the February 2020 meeting.

Borough Manager Perfetti reminded all Clifton Heights residents that they have a joint venture with the Borough of Aldan with an e-cycling event scheduled for this Saturday, January 25, 2020 from 10am-2pm at Clifton Heights Borough Hall with the shredding event taking place at the same location but running from 10am-1pm.

Borough Manager Perfetti said that Committee appointments would take place later in the meeting. He said that they had discussed a few personnel items in Executive Session.

Borough Manager Perfetti said that they had some discussion about the Fire Company and the personnel. He said that currently Borough employees James Salmon, John Gould and Tom Young have permission to leave their duties as a Clifton Heights Borough employee in the event of a fire to drive or assist with the Fire Company at a Clifton Heights emergency. He said that the Clifton Heights Fire Company has now contracted with the Borough of Aldan to respond to emergencies in their Borough as well, and the Borough Council has decided that they will grant the same privileges

to those 3 employees to respond to emergencies in Aldan Borough as well for a 6 month period, at which time they would review all the data. He said that they would also review all of the worker's compensation coverages as necessary with the Fire Chief Jim Kneass.

Borough Manager Perfetti said that the computer system is now up to date and running and as of 9pm the previous evening, the tax collector was prepared to run the 2020 tax bills. He said that they hoped to finalize the upgrades by having the website up and running in the next 4-6 weeks.

Borough Manager Perfetti said that the Financial Interest forms for 2020 were available. He asked that they be completed and returned to the Borough Manager ASAP.

Borough Manager Perfetti informed Borough Council that Portnoff, who is the Borough's 3rd party collection service for delinquent trash and sewer fees, is now online and the mailings have gone out, so they will provide an update at the next Council meeting.

A motion was made by Vice President Papale to accept the Manager's Report as presented; seconded by Councilman Rich; and carried unanimously by a vote of 7-0.

Code Enforcement Report:

A motion was made by Councilman Humphreys to accept the Code Enforcement Report as presented; seconded by Councilman Campbell; and carried unanimously by a vote of 7-0.

Engineer's Report:

J.P. Kelly presented the Engineer's report.

Mr. Kelly said that the plans and documents for the 2019 CDBG project for the municipal parking lot have been submitted to OHCD for review and comment and, as such, have been approved. With this approval, they are seeking Council's approval to advertise and solicit bids for the project.

A motion was made by Councilman Humphreys to authorize the Borough Engineer to advertise the 2019 CDBG project and solicit bids for the Borough Hall's municipal parking lot; seconded by Councilman Rich; and carried unanimously by a vote of 7-0.

Mr. Kelly noted that per Council's direction, they submitted the 2020 CDBG application for repairs to Garchinsky Park and will await feedback on the awards.

Mr. Kelly also noted that the completion report for last year's Road Program has been accepted and approved by PENNDOT.

A motion was made by Councilman Humphreys to accept the Engineer's Report as presented; seconded by Councilman Campbell; and carried unanimously by a vote of 7-0.

Solicitor's Report:

Francis Catania presented the Solicitor's Report.

Solicitor Catania reported that the Upper Darby School District is still litigating with the Borough of Clifton Heights. He noted that Judge Dozor had ordered mediation and a stay/timeout on all proceedings. He said that the School District has indicated that their view of that stay is that it does not apply to Land Development approvals. He said that he would get that clarified tomorrow with a letter to the Judge. He said that it seems kind of pointless to move forward with the mediation if it does not include a stay of all proceedings.

Solicitor Catania said that they discussed in Executive Session of the need for the Council President to appoint a 3 person Sewer Committee. He said that in Executive Session, they discussed litigation and police personnel matters. He said that they discussed the School District's request that the Borough sign a memorandum of understanding which is dissimilar to what they have signed in the past and needs more evaluation.

Solicitor Catania said that they he had the opportunity today to speak to the Borough's appointee to the Darby Creek Joint Authority, Mr. Phil Fabrizio, who was kind enough to provide copies of the Authority's 2020 budget. He said that he was looking for the amount of delinquencies that the Authority has. He said that as of June 30, 2018, Darby Borough was behind \$1.5 million in payments. He said that some other municipalities were behind payments quarter to quarter but always paying. He said that Darby Borough owed from the 3rd & 4th quarters of 2016, the 3rd & 4th quarters of 2017 and the 2nd quarter of 2018. He said that is a significant sum of money for an Authority of that size. He said that Darby Borough represents the 2nd highest percent member of the municipalities of that Authority, representing 11.33% of the Authority. The Borough of Clifton Heights represents 6.8% of the Authority, so their share of Darby Borough's delinquency was about \$110,000. He said that means that the residents of the Borough of Clifton Heights pay \$110,000 more than they have to because Darby Borough is not paying their portion. Solicitor Catania asked Mr. Fabrizio to keep them updated on any new information and any other members who may be behind on their payments.

Solicitor Catania asked Mr. Fabrizio if they had any discussions about the DELCORA transfer at their meetings.

Mr. Fabrizio said that they were told it is moving forward, just not finalized yet.

Solicitor Catania asked if they voted on anything.

Mr. Fabrizio said yes.

Solicitor Catania asked if he could get a copy of what was approved to Borough Council. He also asked if it was the recommendation of the Authority's professionals that the vote be approved.

Mr. Fabrizio said yes.

Solicitor Catania noted that it would be helpful to have meeting minutes as well.

Solicitor Catania said that completed his report.

Old Business:

No old business.

New Business:

President Berry said that part of his responsibility as Council President is to select Committees so he is going to go through the various Committees and his appointments.

Recreation/Historical Committee:

Leona Papale

Police Committee:

Mike Humphreys & Timothy O'Hara

Economic Development:

Fred Rich & Mike Humphreys

Highway Committee:

Timothy O'Hara & Fred Rich

Manager/Council Liaison: new position keeping members of Council aware of anything particular to their wards

Mark Campbell

Finance:

Ron Berry, Timothy O'Hara, Mark Campbell

Building:

Karen Peterson & Harris Resnick

Law, Ordinance & Communications:

Harris Resnick & Leona Papale

Sewer Committee:

Mark Campbell, Karen Peterson, Timothy O'Hara

He said that they will appoint a School Board liaison at the February meeting.

Ward Reports:

Councilman Resnick had nothing to report.

Councilwoman Papale said that they have the plaques of the annual house decorating contest. She announced the winners for 2019.

Single homes:

1. 29 Harrison Ave.
2. 209 N. Oak Ave.
3. 316 Prospect Ave.

Twin homes:

1. 50 W. Broadway Ave.
2. 113 Radnor St. & 36 S. Penn St (tie)
3. 120 E. Berkley & 33 E. Washington (tie)

Row homes:

1. 101 W. Madison Ave.
2. 245 Revere Rd. & 100 W. Berkley Ave (tie)
3. 130 Madison Ave.

New Category: BUSINESS

1. Nina's Nails

Vice President Papale thanked all of the residents who participated in the decorating contest and thanked all of the volunteers who came up to judge the houses.

Vice President Papale also noted that the calendars went out a couple of weeks ago. She said that calendars were available at Borough Hall, but she would also like to hear from residents who may not have received a calendar so that she can narrow down and see if they can identify any issues with distribution.

Vice President Papale announced that the Boys Club would be hosting a beef & beer this Saturday at the American Legion from 7-10pm. Tickets are \$30 and available at the door.

Vice President Papale also noted that the Clifton Quarterly would be coming out again if there were any submissions to send, she would be accepting them.

Councilman Humphreys commended the Code Enforcement Department because in calendar year 2019, they brought in \$715,078.94

President Berry had nothing further to report.

Councilman Rich said that things are looking good in the 3rd ward. He said that he is still receiving complaints about the light at West Madison & Springfield Road. He said that sometimes it is fine and sometimes it doesn't work.

Borough Manager Perfetti said that they have had PENNDOT out 3 times. He said that in the spring, they are going to come back out and check the five points in Aldan to see if that might be contributing to the issue.

Councilman O'Hara had nothing to report.

Councilman Campbell thanked Mrs. Suzanne Briddes for accepting the appointment to the Planning Commission. He reiterated the congratulations to John Gould and the Code Department. He said that they constantly discuss the Getty station at Church and Baltimore, and they will be headed back to Court on January 28th, hopefully to get that project moving again.

Closing Public Comment:

None.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Vice President Papale to adjourn; seconded by Councilman Humphreys; and carried unanimously by a vote of 7-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kimberly A. Duffy
Clifton Heights Borough Secretary