

Clifton Heights Borough Council
September 21, 2021 Council Meeting Minutes

Council Members Attending:

Mike Humphreys, Council President
Mark Campbell, Council Vice President
Destiny Borelli, Councilwoman
Louis Cabrelli, Councilman
Timothy O'Hara, Councilman
Leona Papale, Councilwoman
Karen Peterson, Councilwoman
Harris Resnick, Councilman

Officials Attending:

Joseph Lombardo, Mayor
Tom Micozzie, Borough Manager
Timothy Rockenbach, Chief of Police
Nick DePompeo, Fire Chief
John Gould, Code Enforcement
John McBlain, Borough Solicitor
J.P. Kelly, Borough Engineer
Cynthia Leitzell, Borough Financial Advisor

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance:

Borough Council President Mike Humphreys presided over the meeting and called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Lombardo offered an opening prayer.

Resolution Honoring Clifton Heights' firefighter Thomas Royds:

Mayor Lombardo read a resolution honoring Clifton Heights' firefighter Thomas Royds, who was killed in the line of duty while responding to a call with the Belmont Fire Company.

Roll Call:

President Humphreys took a roll call of Council members in attendance. All council members were present.

Public Comment:

Tim Bruno, 58 N. Penn St., discussed making the meetings more accessible to the public through digital options of streaming and posting content.

Meeting Minutes:

A motion was made by Vice President Campbell to accept the August 2021 meeting minutes as presented; seconded by Vice President Campbell; and carried unanimously by a vote of 8-0. (Resnick – yes, Borelli – yes, Papale – yes, O’Hara – yes, Humphreys – yes, Campbell – yes, Peterson – yes, Cabrelli – yes)

Solicitor McBlain announced that the Council met before the meeting at 6:30pm in Executive Session to discuss police collective bargaining and police personnel matters.

Financial Reports/Bills:

Financial Advisor Leitzell presented the report and expenses.

A motion was made by Councilman Cabrelli to approve the treasurer’s report and pay the bills as presented; seconded by Councilman Resnick; and carried unanimously by a roll call vote of 8-0.

Police Report:

Written reports provided to Council.

A motion was made by Vice President Campbell to accept the Police Report as presented; seconded by Councilman Resnick; and carried unanimously by a vote of 8-0.

Fire Report:

Written reports provided to Council.

A motion was made by Councilman O’Hara to accept the Fire Report as presented; seconded by Councilman Resnick; and carried unanimously by a vote of 8-0.

Engineer’s Report

Borough Engineer Kelly presented the report.

Mr. Kelly reported that the Road Program bid opening was held today and only Couzins of North Wales submitted a bid.

A motion was made by Vice President Campbell to award to the 2021 Road Program with the 2 alternate parking lot options to Couzins of North Wales for the bid amount of \$157,790; seconded by Councilwoman Peterson; and carried unanimously by a vote of 8-0.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Peterson to approve the Engineer’s Report as presented; seconded by Councilman Resnick; and carried unanimously by a vote of 8-0.

Solicitor's Report:

John McBlain had no action items the Solicitor's Report.

Community Development & Code Enforcement Report:

John Gould submitted a written report to Council.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Papale to accept the Code Enforcement report; seconded by Vice President Campbell; and carried unanimously by a vote of 8-0.

Manager's Report:

Borough Manager Micozzie said that they were looking to another successful Farmer's Market tomorrow.

Borough Manager Micozzie reported that claims were filed for the 2 incidents involving vehicles striking the Memorial Wall and brick wall respectively.

A motion was made by Vice President Campbell to hire Duncan Smith as a full-time police officer with the Clifton Heights Police Department, subject to the terms of the Collective Bargaining agreement; seconded by Councilwoman Peterson; and carried unanimously by a roll call vote of 8-0. (Resnick – yes, Borelli – yes, Papale – yes, O'Hara – yes, Humphreys – yes, Campbell – yes, Peterson – yes, Cabrelli – yes)

A motion was made by Councilman Resnick to ratify the promotion of Officer Caputo to the position of Sergeant per the Civil Service testing completed by the Borough's Police Department; seconded by Councilwoman Papale; and carried unanimously by a roll call vote of 8-0. (Resnick – yes, Borelli – yes, Papale – yes, O'Hara – yes, Humphreys – yes, Campbell – yes, Peterson – yes, Cabrelli – yes)

A motion was made by Councilman Resnick to appoint John Gould as the emergency manager for L&I; seconded by Councilwoman Papale; and carried unanimously by a vote of 8-0.

A motion was made by Vice President Campbell to adopt the Resolution authorizing the Borough Manager, Tom Micozzie, to participate in the Borough Manager's Association Caucus of PA; seconded by Councilman Resnick; and carried unanimously by a vote of 8-0.

Borough Manager Micozzie reported that the Municipality Minimum Obligation (MMO) for the pensions would be \$200,259 and that would be for next year's budget's purposes.

A motion was made by Councilman O'Hara to accept the Manager's Report as presented; seconded by Vice President Campbell; and carried unanimously by a vote of 8-0.

Committee/Ward Reports

Councilwoman Papale: Clifton Heights Swim Club will be hosting their 2nd annual Halloween party at the pool on Saturday, October 23rd from 1-5pm, open to anyone and \$10 for adults and \$5 for children.

Councilman Resnick: The Boy Scouts will be hosting their annual Food Drive on the 2nd & 3rd Saturdays in November. They will be doing a drive through drop off option at Borough Hall on the 3rd Saturday and picking up and sorting food at Today's Child on East Berkley. He invited any and all volunteers to join them from 9am-3pm on either or both days.

Councilman Cabrelli: No report.

President Humphreys: The Boys' Club will be hosting their annual Cow Pie Bingo event at the field on this coming Saturday.

Councilman O'Hara: No report.

Councilwoman Borelli: Trucks have pulled down the wires at the corner of Berkley and Cherry Street.

Vice President Campbell: They are still working on the lights that they would like to have installed because of some issues with the poles, but they are continuing to work on the issues.

Councilwoman Peterson: There are complaints about cars parking on the grass behind homes on Wyncliffe Ave. but the parking may not be occurring during times that John Gould is on business hours.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Lombardo thanked the Clifton Heights Fire Company for all of the hard work that they put into their 9/11 ceremony this year.

Mayor Lombardo said that in regards to the proposed school construction, there is no signed agreement between the School District and Borough, but they did meet with the Judge yesterday and the Judge wants an agreement signed by October, so he was hopeful that they would move forward on that.

Solicitor McBlain noted that there was an overlooked agenda item for a Resolution to authorize the Borough Engineer to submit the application to PENNDOT for the requested traffic control changes at the intersection with the new Big Lots and Lidl buildings.

A motion was made by Vice President Campbell to adopt the Resolution to authorize the Borough Engineer to submit the required TD-160 application; seconded by Councilman Resnick; and carried unanimously by a vote of 8-0.

Old Business

Councilwoman Papale asked the timeline on the sidewalk project that was part of the phased construction for the Big Lots/Lidl/Dollar Tree property.

Borough Engineer said that part of that improvement requires the PENNDOT permit, so the Resolution just voted on would advance that permit and move them closer to that phase of construction.

New Business

No new business.

Closing Public Comment:

John Todd, 29 W. Broadway Ave., said that in reference to the tractor trailer taking down the wires, the water company did road work over the last year or so and never returned the “one way” and “no trucks” signs that they took down during their construction. He also asked about the bridge across the creek and asked if that was for the train station.

Borough Manager Micozzie said that this was considered a “gateway entrance” to allow access to the County Trail system in that area.

Fred Rich, 82 Chester Ave., said that there are additional wires hanging low on Chester Ave.

John Cannon, 132 N. Glenwood Ave., congratulated everyone on the memorandum of understanding on the fields. He asked about maintenance now that the Borough and its residents would be taking ownership of the fields.

Mayor Lombardo assured him that they would be working on memorandum of understandings for all of the facilities and their uses from both the Borough and the School District and he hoped it would all work smoothly.

Terry Bruno, 58 N. Penn St., said that she has ongoing complaints with B&L Trash. She also expressed concerns about neighbors operating an Airbnb on the street and if that was an allowable use.

President Humphreys reminded her that she could always phone her issues in as soon as they come up so that the Borough can try to address them as soon as they are occurring and she would not have to wait for a meeting.

Jackie Haarsma, 69 N. Penn St., said that the Airbnb property is advertising the “Falls” on Rockbourne Rd. as a local attraction and she believes that and the coming and going is going to quickly become a security problem.

Councilwoman Papale asked if they had made any progress on the previous complaints involving B&L Disposal.

Borough Manager Micozzie said that they were attempting to stay on top of the complaints. He said that they would like to log the complaints through Borough Hall if residents could call directly to Borough Hall and let the Borough look at trends and recurring issues through that log.

The Fire Company announced that after much discussion within the Fire Company and with the larger Fire Community, they have decided to not host their Fire Prevention Night this year. They said that they will revisit if they are able to host anything later in the year.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Papale to adjourn; seconded by Councilman Resnick; and carried by a vote of 8-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kimberly A. Duffy
Clifton Heights Borough Secretary