

BECHTELSTVILLE BOROUGH COUNCIL

MINUTES SEPTEMBER 21, 2016

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Bechtelsville Borough Council was called to order by President, Deborah Fronheiser at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday September 21, 2016 at the Bechtelsville Borough Hall.

ROLL CALL

The following members were present: Deborah Fronheiser, Rose Marie Bireley, Arthur Bartman, James Kolb; Joel Weller, Tim Frank, David Wieder, Secretary, Valerie Moll; Solicitor, Jamie Ottaviano; Colebrookdale Police Officer Ellis. Absent: Glenn Haas

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Residents Terry and Ida Parish were present to discuss the condition of West Chestnut Street. Mr. Parish stated that the street has a lot of potholes and is in bad condition in general. He is also concerned that the retaining wall that supports the street may be crumbling. Mr. Parish is aware of the Borough's limited budget. He requests that the Borough have the Engineer look at the street and make a recommendation. A motion was made by Arthur Bartman and seconded by Joel Weller to have the Secretary contact the Engineer to inspect West Chestnut Street.

All ayes

Mr. Parish also suggested that Borough Council consider a merger with Colebrookdale Township. Other municipalities within Pennsylvania have merged. A small Borough has a limited tax base. Merging with a larger municipality, such as Colebrookdale Township, would allow for more services. Mr. Parish is very aware of the history of the Borough and the pride of the residents. He suggests Council appoint a committee to see if there is interest.

MINUTES APPROVED FOR MEETING HELD AUGUST 17, 2016

A motion was made by Arthur Bartman and seconded by David Wieder to approve the minutes, as prepared, for the regular meeting held August 17, 2016.

All ayes

MINUTES APPROVED FOR MEETING HELD SEPTEMBER 8, 2016

Council requested an addition be made to the minutes to indicate that Techicon provided us with a copy of the 2015 Property Maintenance Code. The Secretary will add this to the minutes. A motion was made by Arthur Bartman and seconded by Tim Frank to approve the minutes, with the addition, for the workshop meeting held September 8, 2016.

All ayes

TREASURER'S REPORTS

A motion was made by Tim Frank and seconded by Rose Marie Bireley to approve payment of all bills up to and inclusive of 9/21/16 and file the treasurer's reports for the General Fund, Motor Aid, and Recreation Fund for audit.

All ayes

BOROUGH REPORTS

POLICE

Officer Ellis was present and gave the police report for the month of August showing 3 vehicle arrests, 3 criminal arrests, 1 warning, 1 accident and 101 incidents.

ZONING OFFICER

Zoning Issues

1. A complaint was received for the site distance being a problem at the intersection at 1820 N. Main Street. A site visit was conducted and a letter has been sent requesting the property owner trim back any trees or overgrowth that may be causing a problem. There is a wall along the right of way and it is uncertain who is responsible for the wall. There appears it may be more of a problem with the layout of the intersection than overgrowth. We are awaiting direction from Council regarding any further action to be taken by TEI.
2. A Notice of Violation has been sent to 1731 S. Main Street regarding the weed growth that is blocking the alley and the accessory structure that is in disrepair.
3. Notices of Violation have been sent to the property owners concerning the properties that border the alley running between Cherry Street and Green Street and Main Street and Oak Street that have tree limbs/branches overhanging the alley in violation of Ordinance No. 322.

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The following properties have been sent the Notices:

1719 S. Main Street

1721 S. Main Street

1733 S. Main Street

1751 S. Main Street

12 Cherry Street

Anderson, tax parcel #26-5398-13-04-4400 (property on other side of alley)

Also, a Property Maintenance Notice of Violation has been sent to the property owner at 211 Oak Street for weed growth in the alley/alley area.

Rental Inspections

The following properties have been inspected and approved:

Borneman-112 E. Chestnut Street

Isett-1801 Main Street

Freed-6 E. Green Street

Davidheiser-1777 S. Main Street

Curry-92-1/92-2 Race Street

Raub-111 E. Chestnut Street

Second notice letters have been sent to remaining property owners regarding sending verification of minor issues being corrected or scheduling re-inspection.

There are two Notices of Violation for rental units that the time has expired. We have been in contact with them and they are working towards compliance. Would the Council recommend we file citation or recommend we grant additional time in light of the applicants making progress?

During the meeting with Technicon on 9/8/16, several recommendations were made regarding the rental inspection program.

A motion was made by David Wieder and seconded by Tim Frank to adopt the 2015 Property Maintenance Code effective 1/1/2017.

All ayes

A motion was made by Tim Frank and seconded by James Kolb to amend the rental inspection program to conduct rental inspections every two years.

All ayes

Attorney Ottaviano will draft the changes to the appropriate ordinances.

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ROADMASTER

It was noted that Thomas Hausknect, a member of the Road Crew, passed away recently. The Roadmaster needs additional help on the Road Crew. Charles Haring has experience running heavy equipment. A motion was made by Arthur Bartman and seconded by Joel Weller to appoint Charles Haring to the Road Crew on a trial basis.

OLD BUSINESS

BOROUGH TRUCK

We were able to obtain a municipal lease for the Borough truck at a rate of 5.24% through Ally Financial. Attorney Scheffey has reviewed the lease and prepared Resolution No. 2016-5 authorizing the execution of the lease. A motion was made by Arthur Bartman and seconded by Tim Frank to adopt Resolution No. 2016-5, authorizing the execution of the lease for the Borough truck.

All ayes

ROLLER

The Borough purchased the roller discussed at August's meeting for \$500.00.

NEW BUSINESS

TRICK OR TREAT NIGHT ESTABLISHED

Trick or treat night in the Borough will be 10/31. We will notify the Police and Fire Police.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

A letter was received regarding the Borough's participation with BWB Emergency Management. Currently, the Borough does not have a representative. Art Bartman is willing to attend the scheduled meetings, but is not interested in becoming a deputy Emergency Management Coordinator. A motion was made by Rose Marie Bireley and seconded by David Wieder to designate Art Bartman as the Borough's representative at emergency management meetings.

All ayes

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STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

No issues presented.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Arthur Bartman and seconded by David Wieder to adjourn the meeting at 8:16 p.m.

All ayes

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie A. Moll
Borough Secretary