

# **BECHTELSTVILLE BOROUGH COUNCIL**

## **MINUTES NOVEMBER 16, 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 November 16, 2016 at the Bechtelsville Borough Hall.

### **ROLL CALL**

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

### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Residents Tim Lawhorne and Lisa Evans were present to discuss an issue they are having with their property. A cluster mailbox is located in front of their property. Residents have been walking their dogs while getting their mail and allowing their dogs to defecate on Mr. Lawnhorne and Ms. Evans' yard. It was noted that the Borough has an ordinance prohibiting this. The Secretary will send a letter and a copy of the ordinance to all of the residents on Mensch Dr. and Nickell Drive.

### **MINUTES APPROVED FOR MEETING HELD OCTOBER 19, 2016**

It was noted that Tim Frank's name was missing from the roll call section of the minutes. The Secretary will make the correction. A motion was made by Tim Frank and seconded by David Wieder to approve the minutes, with the correction, for the regular meeting held October 19, 2016.

All ayes

Absent: James Kolb

### **TREASURER'S REPORTS**

A motion was made by Arthur Bartman and seconded by Rose Marie Bireley to approve payment of all bills up to and inclusive of 11/16/16 and file the treasurer's reports for the General Fund, Motor Aid, and Recreation Fund for audit.

All ayes

Absent: James Kolb

### **BOROUGH REPORTS**

#### **POLICE**

Officer Ellis was present and gave the police report for the month of October showing 21 vehicle arrests, 6 criminal arrests, 6 warnings, 0 accidents, 0 parking tickets and 121 incidents.

**ENGINEER**

Borough Engineer, Mark Mattucci was present to discuss various engineering issues. The first item was the West Chestnut Street project. Mr. Mattucci provided an estimate to divide the project in two phases. The repair of the retaining wall would be \$95,000 and the roadway repair would be \$55,000. It would cost the Borough more to split the project into two phases.

A survey was conducted that showed the retaining wall was within the right of way. The retaining wall needs to be replaced before the roadway is fixed. The proposed retaining wall would be made of quarry unit blocks. Council expressed that the \$140,000 needed to complete both items is not in the budget. The preliminary 2017 budget has \$40,000 allocated for the repairs. Council asked if there was anything that could be done for the amount of money that Council has budgeted. Mark Mattucci stated that he would have to go back to his office and see what could be done with those budget restraints. He noted that any repair other than the original estimate, would only be a temporary fix.

Terry and Ida Parish and Donald and Betsy Taylor, residents of West Chestnut Street, were present and asked questions regarding the repairs and repair process. Mr. Parish asked questions regarding the budget and the possibility of loaning money or grants. Council noted that they have been in contact with PENNDOT and received some information regarding possible funding sources. Mr. Parish noted that residents of a municipality can sign a petition to start the DCED process to declare a distressed municipality. Mr. Parish suggested that Council look into the possibility of declaring a distressed municipality.

Mark Mattucci also discussed MS4 issues with Council and explained a little of what is involved with a new permit as well as requirements the Borough must meet. A memo was provided to Council outlining the tasks that need to be completed, the timetable and the costs. A motion was made by Joel Weller and seconded by Tim Frank to authorize the Engineer to perform the storm sewer mapping and PRP preparation as required by the MS4 program.

All ayes

Absent: James Kolb

**ZONING OFFICER**

**Zoning Issues**

1. A Notice of Violation has been sent to 1731 S. Main Street regarding the weed growth and the accessory structure that is in disrepair. The weed growth has not been cut. Citations have been filed for the accessory structure.

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2. Notices of Violation were 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.

The following properties were sent the notices. Compliance is noted below.

1719 S. Main Street – compliant  
1721 S. Main Street – compliant  
1733 S. Main Street – citations have been filed  
1751 S. Main Street – compliant  
12 Cherry Street – compliant  
Anderson, tax parcel #26-5398-13-04-4400 - compliant

### **Rental Inspections**

There were two Notices of Violation for rental units that have the time expired. 1803 S. Main Street and 155 W. Spring Street. Both property owners have now been issued their rental permits.

There are two remaining outstanding rental property owners that have been working with us to get their properties into compliance, but are not yet complete. Michael Hartline – 1731/1733 S. Main Street and Richard Zuber – 134 E. Chestnut Street and 13 Church Street. Notices of Violation have been sent. 132 E. Chestnut St. and 13 Church St. are now in compliance and the rental permits are being issued.

### **SOLICITOR**

Attorney Ottaviano prepared changes to the ordinance to go back to a 2 year cycle. He spoke with John Stine regarding changing the deadline for submission of the documents. John Stine recommended keeping the same deadline. A motion was made by Tim Frank and seconded by Arthur Bartman to authorize Attorney Ottaviano to advertise the ordinance for adoption.

All ayes

Absent: James Kolb

At last month's meeting Council approved the adoption of the 2015 Property Maintenance Code. Attorney Ottaviano spoke with John Stine and it was noted that Council has amended the 2003 Property Maintenance Code several times. John Stine needs to evaluate what changes have been adopted and how the adoption of the 2015 code would impact those changes. John Stine suggested holding a workshop meeting once he reviews the Borough's amendments to the 2003 code.

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There was no update on the Brensinger litigation. Council can expect an update at December's meeting.

### **ROADMASTER**

The Secretary received a recall notice for the new truck. Council discussed putting lettering on the truck. Joel will contact Graber Letterin to get an estimate.

The road crew is replacing signs to comply with the reflective sign requirements.

### **RECREATION COMMITTEE**

The EIN for Bechtelsville Recreation Association has been obtained. A meeting of the Association needs to be scheduled.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **PRELIMINARY 2017 BUDGET ACCEPTED**

A motion was made by Arthur Bartman and seconded by Tim Frank to accept the 2017 Preliminary Budget of \$488,236.45 with a .5 mill tax increase.

All ayes

Absent: James Kolb

A motion was made by David Wieder and seconded by Joel Weller to authorize the Secretary to advertise the proposed budget and tax ordinance making it available for public inspection.

All ayes

Absent: James Kolb

#### **ROSE MARIE BIRELEY REAPPOINTED AS CENSUS ENUMERATOR**

A motion was made by Arthur Bartman and seconded by Joel Weller to reappoint Rose Marie Bireley as the census emumerator for the Borough.

All ayes

Absent: James Kolb

#### **SNOW PLOWING 2016-17**

A proposal was received from Russ Weller for snow plowing for \$100 per hour. Mr. Weller would be used as backup for the road crew. A motion was made by Arthur Bartman and seconded by Tim Frank to accept the proposal from Russ Weller.

All ayes

Absent: James Kolb

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**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

The Secretary received correspondence from Washington Township regarding emergency management. The Borough needs to appoint a deputy or establish our own authority. The Secretary received information regarding the duties and responsibilities of the deputy. Council asked the Secretary to email James Kolb to see if he was interested.

**STORMWATER MANAGEMENT**

It was noted that there have been some emails about possible MS4 program funding. Some municipalities have been imposing fees on residents to offset the costs. It appears that this is only for townships.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Arthur Bartman and seconded by David Wieder to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 p.m.

All ayes

Absent: James Kolb

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie A. Moll  
Borough Secretary