

BOROUGH OF PATTERSON HEIGHTS

COUNCIL MINUTES

June 21, 2017

The meeting was called to order by Vice-President Jim Turnbull at 7:00 pm.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council members present: Vice-President Jim Turnbull, Bryan Landman, Tim Weisenburger, Fran Levinger, and Sue Pokego.

Also present were Mayor Phyllis Aluseo, Solicitor Frank Paganie, Police Officer Curt Couper, Fire Chief Jason Medlin, Tax Collector Sue Philipp, and Secretary/Treasurer Jack Doyle.

It was announced that the meeting was being recorded by one of the visitors.

OATHS OF OFFICE: Mayor Aluseo administered the Oath of Office to Ruthanne Bentley, as she has been appointed to the Zoning Board.

MINUTES: Bryan Landman moved that the minutes from May be approved as presented. Sue Pokego seconded the motion, and it was approved by voice vote.

POLICE REPORT: Officer Crouper presented the May Police Report. He noted the use of additional patrols at night due to drug activity, and extra patrols for parking detail.

FIRE REPORT: Fire Chief Medlin presented the May VFD report, noting that they responded to five incidents during the month.

VISITORS: Xander Wilkinson, of 504 4th Avenue, described the success of the Block Party and Yard Sale held on June 3, as did the Council members who attended. He also told the Council that there has been no progress on the Borough website. Finally, Xander asked about having a cleanup day in the near future, and the Mayor said she has a list of volunteers.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: Please see the attached report, submitted by Mr. Paganie, plus the notes below regarding the report.

Item (1) Please see report.

Item (2) Please see report.

Item (3) Please see report.

Item (4) Frank Paganie presented a resolution which he had prepared, appointing Lawrence (Dave) Hurley to the position of Elected Borough Auditor, effective March 15, 2017, and continuing through December 31, 2023. Bryan Landman moved that Resolution 17-6-1 be approved. The motion was seconded by Tim Weisenburger, and approved by voice vote.

In order to fill the other two auditor positions, Mr. Paganie will present to the Court of Common Pleas a petition naming Sandy O'Shea and Martha Peitsch. The petition will first be verified by Caren Turnbull, Chair of the Patterson Heights Vacancy Board. Mr. Paganie also

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explained that the two auditors appointed by the court will have staggered terms, one running until 2019, and the other until 2021. There will be a \$150 filing fee for the petition.

Item (5) Please see report.

Item (6) Please see report.

Item (7) The Borough Secretary was instructed to check on requirements for selling the Caterpillar backhoe.

Item (8) Mr. Paganie had prepared Resolution 17-6-2 reorganizing the Borough Zoning Board with regular members Tony Sedaka (serving through December 31, 2017), Ruthanne Bentley (serving through December 31, 2018), and Joe Spratt (serving through December 31, 2019). There will be one alternate member, Rosemary Bellan, who will serve through December 31, 2019. Bryan Landman made a motion to approve the Resolution, it was seconded by Tim Weisenburger, and passed by voice vote.

CODE ENFORCEMENT: Jim Turnbull presented the report submitted by Dawna Pella.

COMMUNICATIONS: 1) A letter from the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation informing us that we would be sent a payment \$200.91 for State Police Fines for June, 2017.

TAX COLLECTOR: Sue Philipp reported deposits of real estate taxes in the amount of \$26,225.60 in the month of May. She also informed the Council that her books need to be audited for 2016.

SECRETARY/TREASURER: With the closing of the Junior Council Account, five remaining accounts (Earned Income Tax, Liquid Fuels, Capital Improvement, Storm Sewer, and Sanitary Sewer) were converted to money market accounts on June 6. Checks will continue to be written from the General Fund (not converted). Payments which are covered from other accounts (primarily Liquid Fuels and Sanitary Sewer) will also be made through the General Fund, with the money transferred from the proper money market account.

Notable deposits since May 1 included \$176 in real estate transfer taxes, \$706 in delinquent real estate taxes, \$64 in per capita taxes, \$201 in state police fines, a \$500 Zoning Board hearing fee, \$16,845 in sewer fees, and \$14,637 in earned income taxes.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE: Bryan Landman recommended vigilance by the members of the Council and other Patterson Heights residents regarding people using the playground that they do not recognize.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS: Nothing new to report.

STREETS AND SEWERS: Bryan noted that the crack filling project requires two people, and Jim Turnbull offered to drive the truck for him.

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RECREATION: Nothing new to report.

RECYCLING AND REFUSE: Bryan showed the Council three items, two pieces of steel and a battery, that were placed in one of the paper recycling bags in the Borough. These items were not seen by the man operating the shredder at the recycling center in Brighton Township before going into the machine. The steel appears to have done considerable damage to the shredder, and the battery caught on fire, igniting a large pile of shredded material. After some discussion, it was decided that Bryan and Jack would compose a letter regarding the disposal of yard waste, and Bryan would deliver it door to door. At Frank's suggestion, the Mayor and Council President will sign the letter.

BUDGET AND FINANCE: Nothing new to report.

RENTAL PROPERTY: Nothing new to report.

NEW BUSINESS: Bryan Landman questioned whether there were restrictions on home-based businesses in the Borough, particularly regarding signage and on-street parking of customers. He also asked if the businesses should be taxed. Jack will locate and review any relevant ordinances, and report at the next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS: Items on the agenda were already covered during the meeting. Jim Turnbull reported that Patterson Township was receptive to the idea of talking about a merger.

OFFICER REPORTS:

Mayor - Mayor Aluseo reported the sales of two houses, and having sent 4 cards to 2017 graduates.

COG Representative- Nothing to report

Emergency Management Coordinator - Nothing to report

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None

FISCAL AND CONTRACTUAL: It was recommended that the invoice from Intertech not be paid at this time, as it was understood that a recent training session should have been covered with the original installation. Jim Turnbull took the invoice, and said he would handle it. Tim Weisenburger moved, and Sue Pokego seconded, that the bills be approved and ratified as presented. The motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT: Bryan Landman moved, and Fran Levinger seconded, that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried.

The next meeting will be held July 19, 2017.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT ON GENERAL MATTERS

(1) **FIRE DEPARTMENT CLASSES**

At the March meeting, the issue was raised concerning what the Borough could do concerning fire classes, profits derived therefrom and what regulations would have to be followed. I am awaiting the particulars and will advise after being provided that information.

(2) **BOROUGH/TOWNSHIP AGREEMENT ON LABOR AND/OR EQUIPMENT SERVICES**

At prior meetings, discussion concerning the sharing of mutual labor and equipment between the Borough and Township was had.

I have obtained an Ordinance for mutual aid and pooling of resources during emergencies or other unexpected situations requiring immediate attention that was never adopted by either the Borough or the Township.

Further direction from Council is required to determine what is desired regarding shared services between the Borough and Township.

(3) **JUNIOR COUNCIL BALANCE**

This matter was completed at the May meeting.

(4) **BOROUGH AUDITOR(S)**

At prior meetings, discuss concerning the Borough's auditors was had.

Currently, there is one (1) borough elected auditor (appointed in March 2017), with the other two (2) elected auditor positions vacant. There are two (2) borough residents who are willing to fill these vacant positions.

I have prepared a Resolution and separately, a Petition on behalf of the Borough's Vacancy Board, to present to the Court of Common Pleas, for Council's consideration.

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(5) BOROUGH ORDINANCE – TREES, SHRUBS, ETC.

At the March meeting, concern was raised regarding trees overgrowing into roads and/or alley ways, which prevent Borough trucks from passing through. The Borough has two (2) ordinances that Mr. Doyle has located and I have reviewed: Ordinance No. 91 from 1938 and Ordinance No. 215 from 1996.

Ordinance No. 91, the 1938 Ordinance, seems to permit the Borough the ability to cut or maintain “weeds or vegetation.”

Ordinance No. 215, the 1996 Ordinance, created a Shade Tree Commission in the Borough.

If no further discussion is required, this item will be removed from next month’s report.

(6) BOROUGH ORDINANCE – BRUSH AND/OR BURNING ORDINANCE

At the March meeting, discussion was had regarding the hauling away of brush, burning of that brush and the Borough’s obligation to provide such service(s).

Jack is attempting to locate any such Ordinance(s).

After further inquiry into what Ordinance(s) the Borough has, if any, further discussion will occur.

If no further discussion is required, this item will be removed from next month’s report.

(7) CATERPILLAR BACKHOE SALE

This matter will be discussed further at the meeting.

(8) ZONING HEARING BOARD

This matter will be discussed further at the meeting.