

HATFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL
WORKSHOP MEETING
February 4, 2009

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL:

- (X) John H. Weierman, President
- (X) Kenneth V. Farrall, Vice President
- (X) Michael J. DeFinis
- (X) Bryan A. Moyer
- (X) Lawrence G. Stevens

- () Mayor, Robert L. Kaler III

The record shows that five members of Council were present at roll call, as well as, Interim Borough Manager, William J. McCauley, III, Joshua Ganz from Timoney Knox and Assistant Secretary, Linda L. Watts. The media was present.

2. APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA:

Motion: A motion was made by Councilmember Farrall to approve the Agenda of February 4, 2009. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Moyer and unanimously approved with a vote of 5-0.

3. PUBLIC INPUT: President Weierman asked if there were any comments or questions.

Christine Capasso residing at 12-B N. Girard Avenue and her mother, Deborah Steacy residing at 10-A N. Girard Avenue were in attendance. Mrs. Capasso informed Council that the conduct of the Interim Manager and the electric department was unprofessional. Mrs. Capasso informed Council that her mother pays her bills on time and that her mother received a delinquent notice that she felt was unfair. Mrs. Capasso stated that she herself tries to pay her electric bills on time but has had some difficulty paying her bills and has had to acquire the assistance of LIHEAP. Mrs. Capasso believes the Borough electric company behaves like a monopoly and if she could she would move out of the Borough.

President Weirman assured Mrs. Capasso and Deborah Steacy that the procedures will be reviewed as well as the timing of the notices in terms of the dollar amount.

Councilmember DeFinis informed Mrs. Capasso and Deborah Steacy the Borough has over the years made agreements with the residents, waived fees, made payment

agreements and has given the manager the right to review notices. Councilmember DeFinis thanked Mrs. Capasso and Deborah Steacy for coming to the meeting.

Interim Manager, William J. McCauley III, informed Council that for the record he would like to rebut Mrs. Capasso's acquisitions. Mr. McCauley has worked with Mrs. Capasso in the past and that he waived nine dollars from the delinquent bill and Mrs. Capasso and her mother still were not happy. Mr. McCauley did inform Mrs. Capasso that the Borough was not PUC and that he had no problem with her calling them.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS: President Weierman made the following announcements:

- Mr. McCauley informed Council that he spoke with Brian O'Leary at the County regarding available grant money on the Liberty Bell Trail and Plaza project. Mr. O'leary was not sure if he could move some money to the Plaza and parking lot, and recommended Mr. McCauley will submit a request to the County.
- Plaza Clock - Mr. McCauley informed Council Borough Engineer, Mark Mattucci not knowing how the bids would come in for the clock he went with the more economical clock. If Council agrees to pursue the change order, it is my recommendation to upgrade the clock to the deluxe model as described in the attached memo as well as construct 48 inch decorative style fence around the clock and a larger monument sign. It was the consensus of Council to accept the recommended upgrades.

Councilmember Moyer recommended planting flower around the base underneath the clock as a more-friendly buffer zone.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilmember Farrall to approve the recommended changes and available grant monies. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Moyer and unanimously approved with a vote of 5-0.

- Councilmember Farrall informed Council The Hatfield Community Revitalization Task Force will hold a public hearing on February 11, 2009 at the Hatfield Volunteer Fire House at 7:30 PM.
- Mr. McCauley informed Council letters went out January 30, 2009 advising business owners the Borough has retained Simone Collins Landscape Architecture and Urban Partners to assist the Revitalization Task Force. The Revitalization Plan is being funded by the Montgomery County Community Revitalization Program. On Wednesday February 4 and Monday February 9 Chris Lankenau from Urban Partners will be dropping in on as many business owners as possible to get a better understanding of the business climate and the challenges business owners face.
- Mr. McCauley updated Council on the meeting with Burt Proulx owner of Crystal Rose Catering, and Rich O'Brien from Keystone Municipal Services, Inc.

Mr. Proulx is not clear on the waiver of land development, but now understands what needs to happen. Mr. Proulx may have to go to the Zoning Hearing Board to get relief, depending what he would use the building for.

Councilmember Farrall informed Mr. McCauley there are certain provisions for non-conforming use in the ordinance.

5. REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES

HERC: Councilmember Stevens informed Council HERC awarded a \$3500.00 grant to Schlosser Steel Building. The Committee continues to meet monthly.

Utilities: Councilmember DeFinis informed Council the electric and sewer delinquencies continue to run around twenty eight percent delinquent.

Assistant Secretary Linda L. Watts answered questions regarding Earth Day. This year Hatfield Borough and Hatfield Township will coordinate Earth Day together. The Borough will participate in flower planting at key points in the Bough and along the Liberty Bell Trail, as well as trash pick-up and participating in recycling and back yard composting at the Township building.

Budget, Finance and Labor: President Weierman informed Council the Treasurer and Manager met with Larson Allen on Monday, February 2, 2009 as required under Sarbanes - Oxley Act of 2002. They were in and out in one day and everything went well. The auditors will be back in on March 23, 2009 for complete audit under strict guidelines.

- President Weierman updated Council on the Borough investments and the interest rates.

Mr. McCauley answered questions regarding the Borough back-up system for the phone lines in case of an emergency. A discussion ensued.

6. Motion - Consideration To Approve Ordinance 469, To Allow the Borough of Hatfield To Opt of the FERC Order 719.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilmember Moyer To Approve Ordinance 469, To Allow the Borough of Hatfield To Opt of the FERC Order 719. The motion was made by Councilmember DeFinis and unanimously approved with a vote of 5-0.

7. Motion - Consideration to take Appropriate Action on Request for Donation for Lansdale PEAK Center.

Councilmember Stevens informed Council that he had received a call inquiring if the Borough contributed to SAAC in Souderton. The PEAK Center, formerly known as North Penn Senior Center strives to improve the quality of life for older adults in the community, and just as many people attend SAAC in Souderton as they do PEAK. Councilmember Stevens recommended a \$500.00 donation to PEAK.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilmember Stevens to donate \$500.00 to the PEAK Center of Lansdale. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Moyer unanimously approved with a vote of 5-0.

8. MANAGER'S REPORT: The Manager's Report was previously reviewed. General Report and Project Updates.

- Borough Engineer, Mark Mattucci informed Council he sent a letter to Mr. Brian O'Leary of the Department of Housing & Community Development regarding the Trolley Stop Parking Lot, Liberty Bell Trail Extension/Plaza and the Liberty Bell Parking Lot Improvements on February 6, 2009. The project is funded by three grants. Hatfield Borough awarded the project and hopes to schedule a pre-construction meeting by February 14, 2009.
- The Lincoln Avenue Bridge and railing are completed.
- Mr. Mattucci updated Council on the Ron Gross property.

9. DISCUSSION:

- Sexual Predator Ordinance.
- Hatfield Borough Domain Names
- Tax Collector Ordinance No. 371
- EIT Report
- Electric/Sewer Report
- Winter Maintenance for Liberty Bell Trail Parking Lot
- Proposal for Donations of 250 books to Borough
- Enforcement of Sign Ordinance
- 2009 Founder's day

Sexual Predator Ordinance: Councilmember Stevens informed Council that Delaware Valley Insurance Trust has recommended that Council does not adopt the sexual predator ordinance. Councilmember Stevens recommended keeping an eye on the ordinance.

Joshua Ganz recommended that his office, Timoney Knox be involved with any sexual predator ordinance. There are challenges that could end up in court.

Councilmember Stevens recommended Council look into if other communities are adopting these ordinances.

Domain Names: President Weierman informed Council that there could be a potential risk that someone else could use the domain names. Mr. McCauley recommended purchasing all the domain names to avoid any potential risk. It was the consensus of Council to purchase the first five domain names.

Tax Collector Ordinance 371: President Weierman informed Council that the Tax Collector to issue re-certifications has been \$10 since 1993. Council is suggesting \$20 which is not compensation it is to cover costs. The Ordinance would have to be advertised. Joshua Ganz from Timoney Knox will advertise the Ordinance.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilmember Farrall to Approve advertisement of Ordinance No. 371; which would change the Tax Re-certifications from \$10 to \$20.00. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Moyer and approved with a vote of 4-0-1. Councilmember DeFinis abstained from the vote.

EIT Report: President Weierman reviewed the EIT Report.

Winter Maintenance for Liberty Bell Trail Parking Lot: It was the consensus of Council for the Borough Solicitor, Catherine M. Harper and Joshua Ganz to find out what the expectations for the maintenance and act accordingly.

Proposal for Donations of 250 Books to Borough: Interim Manager William J. McCauley, III informed Council he received a call from a gentlemen regarding a program where they will donate books and bookshelves to a government or privately owned building. In turn the recipient would have to match the number of books and make them available for public access. The program is to try and establish small libraries around the United States. It was the consensus of Council for Mr. McCauley to send a letter to business and Churches.

Enforcement of Sign Ordinance: Councilmember Stevens informed Council now that the Borough has a new sign ordinance adopted it should be enforced. It was the consensus of Council to instruct the Zoning Officer to enforce the sign ordinance.

2009 Founder's Day: Councilmember Stevens informed Council the Borough will have a Founder's Day celebration once again this year only not as big as last year's. When would Council like to put Cool Beans on the calendar?

Councilmember Farrall suggested contacting Hatfield Township and seeing if they would be interested coordinating one of their Music Fest days in one of the Borough Parks.

It was the consensus of Council for Assistant Secretary Linda L. Watts and staff to coordinate games and events for 2009 Founder's Day.

10. OTHER BUSINESS:

- Interim Manager, William J. McCauley III, answered questions regarding the insurance proposal for the tax collector.
- Councilmember DeFinis suggested adding the Book Mobile Schedule and the Pool Notification to the newsletter and HTV.
- Councilmember DeFinis informed Council that he hereby tendered his resignation effective immediately and that for the last fourteen years and six months it has been a pleasure to work for the borough.

President Weierman informed Council they have thirty days to appoint someone for the position.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilmember Moyer to accept the resignation of Councilmember DeFinis. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Stevens and approved with a vote of 4-0.

- Consideration to reappoint John Gallatig to the Pool Advisory Board for a one year term.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilmember Farrall to appoint John Gallatig to a one year term to the Pool Advisory Board. The motion was seconded by councilmember Moyer and unanimously approved with a vote of 5-0.

11. ADJOURNMENT:

Motion: A motion was made by Councilmember Moyer to adjourn the meeting of February 4, 2009. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Farrall and unanimously approved with a vote of 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:25 PM.

Executive Session

Respectfully Submitted
Linda L. Watts
Assistant Secretary