

MINUTES
BROOKHAVEN BOROUGH COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING
MONDAY, APRIL 22, 2019

At 7:00 PM Council President Vawn Donaway called the regularly scheduled Workshop Session of Brookhaven Borough Council to Order. Mr. Donaway led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

The record shows the meeting was held in Council Chambers at the Brookhaven Municipal Center, 2 Cambridge Road, Brookhaven, PA 19015 and the following people were seated at the Council Table. Councilpersons Mr. Donaway, Ms. Sawicki, Mr. Heller, Mr. LaPera, Mr. Pappas, Mayor Hess, Borough Engineer Mrs. Mulvena and Solicitor Mr. Stone. Planning Commission Secretary Mrs. Boyle recorded the minutes. Ms. Leslie was not present and Mrs. Fooks came late to the meeting due to a conflicting meeting.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Mr. John DiProjetto, Hillside Avenue, came before the Council for discussion. Mr. DiProjetto is the President of the Brookhaven Babe Ruth League and was asking to start a discussion about the possibility of getting lights on the Scott Park field. The league is involved in tournaments and would like to be offer more tournaments in the future but they need lights. The Babe Ruth League held the Ralph Garzia Tournament which is a big event in Brookhaven; last year we had 50 teams in the Tournament and this year we expect to have 65 teams participate. The league also has a goal of starting a Fall Ball League but would need lights. Our kids now have to go to Aston for Fall Ball. They want to get lights on this field because it can accommodate kids from 8 to 12 years of age. Mr. DiProjetto said that he was not asking for any answers this evening; just to begin a conversation about getting lights.

Mr. LaPera said that he and Mr. Heller were talking about this on Opening Day of baseball. Mr. LaPera said the last time anyone got estimates about having lights on the field, the estimate was upward of \$80,000. Mayor Hess asked Mr. DiProjetto if he had done any research on the cost of this. Mr. DiProjetto said that he will not do the research until he gets approval from the Borough. He said that as a volunteer, he is not going to meet with people unless he has approval for the lights. Mr. Heller asked if we could put this proposal on a referendum. Ms. Sawicki said that this would not be a referendum item.

Mr. DiProjetto said that he would like to poll the residents of Hilltop about this. The league cannot do any fund raising for the lights until they would be approved. Mr. DiProjetto said that Aston Valley Baseball is in the process of installing lights and the cost is \$60,000 and that is the same size field that we have. Mayor Hess asked Mrs. Mulvena if there were any drawbacks from having lights; she said no. Mr. DiProjetto said that there are 300 kids now in the league and he projects it growing every year. Mr. DiProjetto said that he thinks we would need four lights. Mr. DiProjetto said that he expects that they would need the lights on until 9 pm. They would abide by the Ordinance.

Kathy Foster, Victor Avenue, said that she was here this evening to discuss a water problem that she has had for almost two years. She said that when she first came before Council to discuss it, everyone said that it could be taken care of. Mrs. Foster said that when she spoke to Mr. Bob Grant about this, he said that it was not his job – it was the Engineer’s job. When Mrs. Foster talked to Mrs. Mulvena, the Borough Engineer, she said that she could not do anything. Mrs. Foster said that she still has the water problem. Mr. Jon Grant said that he stopped by the Foster house today but no one was home. Mr. Grant said that the neighbor has a down spout that slopes to the Foster property. There is an extension on the down spout. The Foster property slopes down and it is like a little valley. Mr. Grant said that the neighbor has a sump pump in the front of the yard. Mr. Donaway asked if the neighbor had been cited and the answer was no. Mrs. Foster talked to the neighbor about the problem and there was no resolution. Mr. Grant said that he doesn’t know what the law is about this. Mr. Stone said that he would have to look at the Ordinance. Mr. Stone said if the neighbor was told to shorten the down spout and he did, there is not much else we can do. Mrs. Mulvena told Mrs. Foster that there is a solution that can be put on her property, but that it would be costly. Mrs. Mulvena said she can offer solutions. She has no authority to issue citations. Mrs. Mulvena and Mr. Stone said that they were not involved in Brookhaven two years ago but they would look into it again to see if anything can be done.

Mr. Shively, Sir Galahad Drive, said that he saw the Public Works Department today at the Retention Basin near the new Shopping Center and asked what is happening. Mr. Donaway said they were preparing it. All of the vegetation that was ordered came this week and will be put in. Mr. Donaway said that when it was cut previously, everything started to grow and people did not like the way it looked. Mr. Donaway said that we cite people throughout the summer that do not maintain their properties and people complained that it was not being kept up at the Retention Basin.

The previous Solicitor and the Board of Health told the Borough that it had to be cut. Mr. Donaway wants the Council to be prepared that people will complain that it is not being cut. Mr. Donaway said that maybe we could erect a sign about this so the people can understand. All the seeds have been purchased and will be put back in the basin. Mr. Donaway said that it will have to be cut once a year. Mrs. Mulvena said that it was designed to be a rain garden. We will look into if it can be a protected area. Mrs. Mulvena suggested that it might be a school project for a research project about rain gardens. Mr. Shively asked if we are going to seed the entire area. Mrs. Mulvena said that it was proposed as part of a Land Development Project for the Shopping Center. Mrs. Mulvena said we are providing exactly what was on the original plans. There will be a mixture of flowers, grasses and plants.

Ms. Victoria Brown, a resident of Brookhaven, said she is a Girl Scout and is a Junior at Sun Valley High School. She is asking permission to put three wood libraries around; one would be in the Municipal Center's foyer; one would be on Sir Galahad Drive and one would be on Mt. Vernon Avenue. This project would be part of her Gold Award for Girl Scouts. The idea is that someone could take a book from the library and someone could donate a book to the library. Ms. Brown said that she would like this project to be completed by the end of 2019. Mayor Hess said that Council would encourage this project and all agreed. Mr. Donaway asked if Ms. Brown could put the description of this together with more details and present it to Council. Mr. LaPera asked who would build these libraries. Ms. Brown said she would have to put a team together. Mr. Donaway asked Councilman Pappas to work with Ms. Brown on this project.

Ms. Karen Brooks, N. Clearwater Lane, asked if there was any update on the Solar Permit. Ms. Brooks asked if she could have a price so she could get the project going. Mr. LaPera and Mr. Heller said that the Committee decided that it would be 2% of the cost of the project and not to exceed \$800. Mr. Stone said that the Ordinance still has to be written. Mr. Stone asked if this applies to just solar or to all green initiatives. Ms. Brooks said that it has to be done by the end of the year so she can get her tax credit. Mr. Donaway said that they will put the Ordinance together and it should be finished within a few months.

SOLICITOR REPORT

Mr. Stone reported that he and Ms. Sawicki are going to meet within the next two weeks to discuss the existing cell tower lease at the pumping station. The owners have asked for an extension; they want to know that it will be around for many years so they can make infrastructure repairs. We will talk through this.

Mr. Stone said that he has been working with the owner of the shopping center for an easement for the sidewalk. There should be no problem and it will be discussed at the April Council meeting.

Mr. Stone said that the U.S.D.A. is coming out this week to assess the Lantern Fly problem. We are waiting for an assessment so we can treat the problem.

MAYOR HESS

Mayor Hess had no report this evening.

PRESIDENT PRO-TEM, CHAIR ARBOR/SHADE TREE COMMISSION, CHAIR FINANCE AND INSURANCE, COMMITTEE, MEMBER LONG RANGE DEVELOPMENT AND COMPREENSIVE PLANS, MEMBER FIRE COMMITTEE AND CHAIRMAN GRANT COMMITTEE – MS. SAWICKI

Ms. Sawicki gave an update on the Recycle Bins. They have been ordered from the vendor and we hope to have them in June. They will be delivered to the homeowner's front steps. It is a one 25-gallon green bin and it states "Brookhaven Recycling" on the front. It is to comingle the recycling items. The State pays 90% and the Borough pays 10% of the cost of the bins., This will be for homeowners only; not for condos and apartments.

CHAIR TECHNOLOGY AND COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE, CHAIR BOARD OF HEALTH, LIAISON TO CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION, CHAIR HISTORICAL COMMITTEE AND MEMBER POLICE COMMITTEE – MR. HELLER

Mr. Heller reported that he would have his full report at the Council meeting. He wanted to talk about one item; the Historical Committee is going to launch a "Go Fund Me" Campaign to help fund the Hometown Hero Banner's Program. Ms. Sawicki said that we can not do a "Go Fund Me" for this. We are a Municipality and we cannot collect money that way. Ms. Sawicki said that we are audited frequently and we can not do it. There is no money in the budget for this. Mr. LaPera asked if an individual could do it; Ms. Sawicki said that if someone sends a check into the Borough as a donation, that is fine. There was much discussion about this. Mr. Donaway asked if we can ask the auditors their opinion about this. Mr. Stone said that "Go Fund Me" is basically a donation program. Ms. Sawicki said that we do not have money in the budget for this; Mr. Heller said that we are not asking the Borough for any money. Upland Borough did the Hometown heroes and the families that did the ordering for the banners paid for half of the cost and Upland paid for the rest.

Mr. Heller said that the Historical Committee has been working on the details for this for over a year. In conclusion, Mr. Stone will look into seeing if we can use a “Go Fund Me” Campaign.

PLANNING COMMISSION LIAISON, CONDO ASSOCIATION CHAIR, MEMBER FIRE COMMITTEE AND MEMBER HISTORICAL COMMITTEE – MR. PAPPAS

Mr. Pappas reported that the Planning Commission did not meet in April; he had no further report.

BUSINESS AND REVITALIZATION COORDINATOR, CHAIR ORDINANCE COMMITTEE, MEMBER CONDO ASSOCIATION, MEMBER LONG TERM AND COMPREHENSIVE PLANS, SCHOOL BOARD LIAISON, CHAIR TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE, CHAIR GRANT COMMITTEE – MRS. FOOKS

Mrs. Fooks was not present but Mr. Heller read her report.

The Ordinance Committee did not meet in April.

The Website planning is still in the process.

Mrs. Fooks wanted to thank the Recreation Board and all the volunteers who made the Easter Egg Hunt a fun experience for all the kids! Even though it needed to be held inside, and it was a bit hectic, the board and volunteers worked hard to make it seamless for all.

VICE PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL, CHAIR LONG RANGE AND COMPREHENSIVE PLANS, MEMBER GRANT COMMITTEE, LIAISON TO ZONING EARING BOARD, LIAISON TO RECREATION COMMITTEE AND CHAIR INSPECTORS – MR. LA PERA

Mr. LaPera reported that there was no Zoning Meeting in April.

There were over 200 children at the Easter Egg Hunt last Saturday. Mr. LaPera wanted to thank the Recreation Board for all their work.

Mr. LaPera will contact Musco Lighting to get an estimate/proposal for the lights for Samson Park and Memorial Park. Mrs. Mulvena said to get the estimate based on prevailing wages and bonding. We will get other estimates also.

We will look into grants. Aston Baseball just recently received a large grant for their field. There was a discussion about the cost of the lights.

It was discussed that the netting at the baseball field will be looked at and to make sure it is secure. Mr. Heller asked that they use metal clips.

There will be a rededication at Durkin Field at 10 am on Saturday, April 27th. Some members of the Durkin Family will be present.

The cameras at Samson Park will be up soon. We are waiting t get dimensions. Mr. Garvey will get the dimensions.

CHAIR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ADMINISTRATION, CHAIR RECYCLING/TRASH COMMITTEE, CHAIR FIRE COMMITTEE, CHAIR VETERANS' COMMITTEE AND CHAIR POLICE COMMITTEE – MS. LESLIE
Ms. Leslie was not present and there was no report.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Mrs. Mulvena reported the survey for the spot elevations has been completed on Shepherd Street. We will be working on the grading plan to try to fix the flooding.

Mrs. Mulvena said that there is one bid to be opened tonight. It is for the left-hand turn signal on Coebourne Blvd. and Cambridge Road. The bid is from Lenni Electric. All required paperwork was included in the bid.

Item 1.1 – the lump sum bid is \$22,000.

Lot 2 is the construction of the accessible routes. The unit price per block is \$1,000 for a total price of \$12,000 and is based on prevailing wages.

Lot 3 – these are unit pricing in case something comes up that we did not see but we will have pricing. Mrs. Mulvena read the numbers.

Lot 4 is the price for non-prevailing wages. the work for the signals is \$20,865. The total price is \$10,860. Mrs. Mulvena read other prices for the bids. She said that we will review the entire bid and will get back with it at the May Council Meeting.

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL, CHAIRMAN PUBLIC WORKS AND BUILDING, HOLIDAY PARADE LIAISON, MEMBER POLICE COMMITTEE – MR. DONAWAY

Mr. Donaway reported that they received a price on the damaged guard rail at Hilltop and the estimate is \$2,850. It has to be repaired and Mr. Donaway asked the Council members what they wanted to do. The consensus was that it has to be fixed and we have to do it. There was a discussion that no one knows where the truck was from that damaged the guard rail. Mr. Donaway said that he does not want to keep replacing it whenever it is taken out. Mayor Hess said that he would ask the Police Department about having signs posted there and what should be on the signs. Mrs. Mulvena will coordinate this with the Mayor.

Mr. Donaway said they are in the process of pricing the street paving. We will meet with the Public Works and try to prioritize the paving. The residents will be aware of what we are doing.

Mr. Donaway reported that some off the residents at Trimble Run were complaining of an odor. The DEP came out and did a thorough inspection of our Sewer Plant and did not find anything. We later found out that there was an odor coming from Bldg. A at Trimble Run Condo and the complex cleaned out their sewer system in house. Mr. Donaway found out from the State Representative's office that Trimble Run Condos is going to clean their entire sewer system so it seems that the problem with the odor is coming from Trimble Run Condos.

Mr. Donaway said that the DEP gave a glowing report about our Sewer System and our Operators.

INSPECTORS' REPORTS

BOARD OF HEALTH – MR. BOB GRANT

There was no report.

FIRE MARSHAL – MR. LESLIE

There was no report.

ZONING OFFICER – MR. HAMPTON

There was no report.

FIRE CHIEF – CHIEF MONTELLA

There was no report.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Ms. Karen Brooks, N. Clearwater Lane, wanted to thank the Council members for all they do. She said the more often she attends the meetings, the more she appreciates everything that the Council members do.

Ms. Lynn Delgott, School Lane, said that she was curious if Mrs. Fooks was aware of the Solar Ordinance that was discussed previously. Mr. Donaway said that Mrs. Fooks is on the Committee for this.

Mrs. Fooks, Council member, was at the meeting at this time and she said that she wanted to reiterate how successful the Easter Egg Hunt was this year. It had to be held in the gym and Mrs. Fooks wanted to thank everyone for their hard work. Mr. Donaway agreed that the Committee did a fantastic job.

Ms. Christina Johnson, Adams Drive, said she would like to urge everyone to consider putting the lights on the baseball field. Mr. Donaway said that the Council members will talk about it.

Mr. Donaway said that there would be an Executive Personnel Meeting immediately following this meeting for all the Council members.

ADJOURMENT

There was no other business to come before Council. Mr. Heller made the motion and Mr. LaPera made the second motion to adjourn. Motion carried by unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mrs. Joan Boyle
Brookhaven Planning Commission Secretary

