

MINUTES
BROOKHAVEN BOROUGH COUNCIL WORKSHOP
MONDAY, AUGUST 25, 2014

Council President, Susan Truesdale, called the regularly scheduled Workshop Session of Council to order at 7:00 PM. The meeting was held in the Brookhaven Municipal Center. She welcomed all present and led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

The record shows the following people seated at the Council Table: Mr. Camma, Ms. Sawicki, Mrs. Fooks, Mr. Wilwert, Mrs. McKinley, Mrs. Truesdale, Solicitor Maddren, Ms. Leslie, and Engineer Catania. Mr. Linowski was absent because he is on vacation and so is Mayor Hess.

Public Discussion

Carl Meinhold, 3608 Williamson Avenue spoke on behalf of himself and his neighbors. About the proposed Brookhaven Green Estates development. The property sat idle for at least the past 3 years. A month ago, they cut down the trees and the now there is no buffer zone between the Green Estates and the residents on Williamson Avenue. There is supposed to be a burm with plantings on it. The residents of Williamson Avenue can clearly see the Brookhaven Shopping Center day and night. They want their privacy back. It is Mr. Meinhold's understanding that the developer has returned many buyers' deposits to them. Mr. Meinhold said that the developer owes Faith Community Church money too. What is going on? Mr. Maddren said that he and Mr. Catania will be meeting with Mr. Lindsay tomorrow afternoon. Mr. Wilwert told Mr. Meinhold that we agree 100% with what he is saying.

Solicitor's Report – Mr. Maddren

Mr. Maddren said he did advertise the proposed Group Home Ordinance. Permission to do so was given at a previous meeting. We must have a Public Hearing on this proposed ordinance.

On August 28 at 6:00 PM there will be a Public Hearing only on the proposed zoning change for a portion of the Chester Water Authority Property. This matter has already been before the Brookhaven Planning Commission and they recommend the change with conditions.

Ms. Leslie made the motion and Mrs. Fooks the second to properly advertise an ordinance creating the position of Public Fire Safety Official. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Mr. Maddren announced that Council met in Executive Session immediately prior to this Workshop to discuss potential real estate litigation.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Hess is on vacation.

Liaison to Zoning Hearing Board, Chair Finance and Insurance Committee, Chair Long Range Development Committee, Member Civil Service Commission and Chair Condo Association Committee – Mr. Linowski is on vacation.

Council Reports

Chair Public Works Department, Co-Chair Inspectors and Fire Marshal, Member Fire Committee, Deputy Emergency Management, Chair Building/Rental Committee, Member Grant Committee and Member Police Committee – Mr. Wilwert

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Mr. Wilwert said that Parkside Borough would like to store their salt at our bin like they did last year. Everyone worked well together last year and Mr. Wilwert recommended we continue this again for the 2014/2015 season. Mr. Maddren said we do not have to vote on this. Council agreed to continue this program.

Prior to the meeting tonight, Mr. Wilwert showed members of the fire company and others a “walk switch” like the ones on the traffic light poles throughout the Borough. When the button is pushed in to allow the walk feature to activate, the button does not come out which causes the walk signal to be on all the time. This is causing problems with the opticon devices—it won’t switch over so emergency vehicles can go through. Mr. Wilwert said he got a price quote from Higgins Electric for some of the intersections. Mr. Wilwert said he has replaced 8 or 9 already. Fire Marshal Leslie asked if this is a manufacturer problem. We can check that out.

Chair Emergency Management Administration, Chair Recycling/Trash Committee, Chair Fire Committee, Chair Police Committee and Member Personnel Committee – Ms. Leslie

Before Ms. Leslie began her report, Mrs. Truesdale complimented Ms. Leslie and all of the other organizations that participated in the WWII Senior Citizen’s Welcome Home celebration on Saturday, August 23. Ms. Leslie thanked Mrs. Truesdale and said she would give a complete report on this celebration at the September 8 Council Meeting.

Business and Revitalization Coordinator, Chair Ordinance Committee, Member Condo Association, School Board Liaison, Chair Technology Committee, Member Personnel Committee, Member Finance Committee and Chair and Council Liaison to Grant Committee – Mrs. Fooks

Mrs. Fooks said the Ordinance Committee did meet via e-mail on August 20 to discuss the creation the position of Public Fire Safety Official which must be done by ordinance.

Chair Arbor/Shade Tree Committee, Liaison to Board of Health Committee/Public Safety Committee, Member of Grant Committee, Liaison to Planning Commission and Member Long Range Development Committee – Ms. Sawicki

Ms. Sawicki said the Planning Commission did meet on August 19 to discuss the Chester Water Authority Property. Ms. Sawicki said she and the Arbor/Shade Tree Committee Members and other volunteers are working on the Butterfly Garden. They will be adding some new plants.

She said she will give a more complete report on her areas of responsibility at the September 8 Council Meeting.

Mr. Maddren said that there was no intention to vote on the 28th of August on the proposed Zoning Change for the Chester Water Authority property.

Chair Historical Society, Liaison to Holiday Parade Committee, Traffic Calming/Speed Humps Assignor, Chair Comprehensive Plans, Chair Inspectors and Fire Marshal– Mr. Camma

Mr. Camma also thanked Ms. Leslie for the Senior Citizen’s Welcome Home celebration on Saturday. He said he has two sons in the service. On October 10 one of them will be back.

Engineer’s Report – Mr. Catania

Mr. Catania said that the opening of quotations for the 2014/2015 rock salt purchase will occur at the

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September 8 Council Meeting.

Regarding 133 Charles Avenue, another deadline has been missed. The court is preparing a re-drafted schedule. We should know about that around September 9.

Inspectors' Reports

Fire Marshal – Mr. Leslie

Mr. Leslie asked Mrs. Fooks who is a member of the Condo Association Committee to discuss at their next meeting the fact that people who are living in condos are cooking on their balconies with grills. This is unsafe and dangerous but there appears there is nothing we can do about it. Mrs. Fooks said they do not meet on a regular basis. Mr. Leslie said maybe this can be handled via the condo associations by-laws.

Board of Health – Mrs. Elmer for Mrs. Warfield

Mrs. Elmer said that Mrs. Warfield was very busy before she went on vacation. Mrs. Elmer asked to speak with Mr. Maddren after the meeting.

Mrs. Fooks asked about the condition of the former Blast Fitness on Chester Creek Road. It doesn't look good. It appears there are holes in the building as well as other problems. Messrs. Wilwert, J. Grant and Leslie will Get together and inspect the property.

Fire Chief Montella was present but did not have anything to report at this time.

Liaison to Recreation Committee, Chair Personnel Committee, Member Finance Committee, Member Fire Committee and Member Police Committee – Mrs. Truesdale

Mrs. Truesdale said she would save her report for the September 8 Council Meeting.

There being no other business to come before Council, Ms. Leslie made the motion and Mrs. Fooks the second to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Ellen McKinley
Borough Secretary