

MINUTES
BROOKHAVEN BOROUGH COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 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, Mrs. Fooks, Ms. Leslie, Mr. Pappas, Mayor Hess, Borough Engineer Mrs. Mulvena and Solicitor Mr. Stone. Planning Commission Secretary Mrs. Boyle recorded the minutes. Mr. LaPera was absent.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

There was no public discussion.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Stone reported that the draft ordinance adopting The International Residential Code has been sent to Council in an email for their review.

Solicitor Stone said that we do have a draft agreement for the Shoppes of Brookhaven. The plans were modified with the intention of bringing Chick-Fil-A in as a tenant. In order to do that they need to make some site adjustments. They have agreed to the money in escrow for financial security for those improvements. We do have a draft of the amendment. We are going to hold off until the March 4th Council Meeting to approve this. If anyone on Council has any questions about this, please let Mr. Stone know before the meeting.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Hess had no report.

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

Ms. Sawicki reported that Mr. Swayngim has been working on the AT&T Phone System. We decided to go with AT&T because they gave us a \$200 credit and the best cost. The Fire Company and the Emergency Management will all be on the same system and in an emergency, we will be covered. This will save us money.

Ms. Sawicki reported that the Newsletter will be put out this Spring. She asked the Council members to email their articles to Pat Natale by Friday, March 15th and to try to keep them to two paragraphs since the Newsletter is only eight pages. The Newsletter should be out by May 1st.

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 the Historical Committee had no meeting this month. They are working on plans to have “Hometown Heroes” flags throughout the Borough (similar to what Upland Borough did last year) to honor Brookhaven residents that served in any of the military branches. The plan is to have the Borough pay for half of the cost of the flag and for the person requesting a flag to pay for half. We are going to try to set up a Go Fund Me account to help the Borough for the cost of this project. When Brookhaven put up banners the last time, the cost was between \$3000 to \$4000 for the banners which includes the cost of the materials and the labor of putting them up and taking them down. There was a discussion as to where they should be displayed.

The Technical Committee Meeting was cancelled for February. The next meeting will be March 19th.

Mr. Heller reported that he emailed Mr. Hill (Shoppes of Brookhaven) regarding the charging units and he has not received a response as of now.

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 February; 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 reported that the Ordinance Committee did not meet this month. The next meeting will be March 21st.

Mrs. Fooks reported that the work on Freddy's has begun. Ms. Sawicki said that they do not have building permits. Solicitor Stone explained that the owner of the shopping center is building the pads for Freddy's and then he will give the pads to Freddy's, so the work being done is by the owner of the shopping center. It was discussed that we have no permits for Chilli's either.

The Chip Vaccination Clinic will be held in the gym on April 2nd.

Mrs. Fooks reported that the Faith Community Church is sponsoring a 5 K Fun Run on April 2nd for the benefit of the Fire Company.

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 was absent and there was no report.

CHAIR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ADMINISTRATION, CHAIR RECYCLING/TRASH COMMITTEE, CHAIR FIRE COMMITTEE, CHAIR VETERANS' COMMITTEE AND CHAIR POLICE COMMITTEE – MS. LESLIE

Ms. Leslie had no report.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Mrs. Mulvena reported that we can use our existing Sewer Maintenance contract to perform the work on West Brookhaven Road to replace a portion of the sanitary sewer main and lateral connections. We will apply for a PennDOT permit.

Regarding the Sewer Plant, we have the item available on Costars and the cost is \$119,760. We obtained two proposals for the Engineering. Cedarville Engineering Group at \$7,850 and Keystone Engineering at \$3,800. We are requesting a motion to accept Keystone Engineering's proposal of \$3,800 at next week's Council meeting.

The camera parts are in. They will be put together.

Mrs. Mulvena reported about the traffic control at Edgmont Avenue and Coebourn Blvd. The job is to install cameras and signal heads. With the cameras, the cost is over the threshold and we will have to advertise the work for bids. Mrs. Mulvena provided a picture of the traffic light in her packet and it shows that it is not compliant to ADA standards. The location of the light is not compliant.

The Department of Justice covers accessibility issues so if anyone complains about it not being ADA accessible, we will have to fix it. According to ADA standards, there has to be four (4) feet of width for a wheelchair to get by. Mrs. Mulvena said that the decision in front of Council at this time is to fix the problem or just wait to see if anyone complains about not being able to get a wheelchair through. Ms. Sawicki asked if we can go back to Mr. Hill and to get it corrected. Mrs. Mulvena said that the light is not on his property. Solicitor Stone said that we have to decide if we fix everything at once or leave it until we get a complaint. We don't have information about how the light got placed in that location to begin with. Solicitor Stone said that if we do work at that location, then we have to bring it up to code. If we put in a traffic control device, then the Borough is responsible for having it to code. If a utility pole is in the wrong position, then it is the responsibility of the owner of the property to take care of it. There was much discussion among the Council members as to why it was not installed correctly. Solicitor Stone said that if we go to the developer of the new Shopping Center and ask for money, he will most likely tell us that he gave us money for street repair. It was agreed that it is worth a try to get the developer of the Shopping Center to give us money to fix this.

Mrs. Mulvena said that she received the drawings from Brookhaven Green Estates that she had previously requested.

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

Mr. Donaway reported that he received a letter from the Acting Police Chief regarding a problem on East Brookhaven Road on February 20th during a snow event. There was a backup on the road and when they called PennDOT they were told they were very busy. The Police then put in a call to the Public Works employees who came and helped out and Chief Martin wanted to thank us for their assistance.

Mr. Donaway reported that we have reached a tentative agreement with the Teamsters on the Public Works agreement. The two lawyers are now working on it to sign off on the agreement.

Mr. Donaway said that the Tax Bill Calculations were correct when they were sent out. There was a mistake when it was sent to the printer. Some people complained about the increase but it did include the increase in Delcora and the Trash increase.

Mr. Donaway said that it came to our attention that our building sprinklers should be inspected every five years. Keystone Company sent an estimate for \$1,008 for the cost of an inspection and Mr. Donaway is going to recommend that Council approves this.

Mr. Donaway said that there will be a Council Personnel Meeting immediately following the Workshop Meeting regarding the hiring of a Police Chief. We are still taking applications.

Mr. Donaway reported that we are running two men short from Public Works – one is out on a non-work-related injury and the other is on a scheduled vacation. So far it has not been a problem.

Mr. Donaway reported that the Borough has lost a longtime public servant in the death of Conrad Olenik, Sr. He has been with the Borough for over 20 years as a volunteer for the Zoning Committee and the Recreation Board. Our prayers are with Conrad's family this evening.

Mr. Donaway asked Mr. Jon Grant (Brookhaven Electrical Inspector and Code Enforcement Officer) about solar panels. Mr. Grant gave a report on some of the fees that are charged in neighboring boroughs: Eddystone charges 2.5% of the job; Aston asks for \$2,000 in escrow and charges 3% of the job; Norwood – 3% of the job; Upland – 5% of the job plus \$100 per hour for plan review; Ridley – 3% of the job; Concord Township – 3% of the job. Some towns have lower fees but require underwriters to do the job and do not have them done in house.

The cost of the inspection includes the building inspector going into the attic and checking all the studs to make sure that the panels do not blow out. The electrical inspection includes two hours reviewing the prints and two hours of doing the inspection of the panels. A building contractor or an electrical contractor gets \$100 an hour but when we do the inspections in-house we only get half that amount and the other half goes to the Borough.

Mr. Donaway invited Ms. Karen Brooks and Ms. Sharon O'Hanlon, N. Clearwater Lane, Brookhaven, to discuss getting solar panels for their home. Ms. Brooks said she came to the Council in January to discuss the cost of the permit that she would have to pay for getting the solar panels. She said that it is a simple installation and her permit fee would be \$1,172.99. She said that her costs are higher because she needs 40 panels and she is buying the panels and not renting them.

She asked what was the cost of other fees in the Borough. Mr. Grant said that he did not have the fees for the 63 solar panel installations in the Borough. She is paying \$40,000 for panels and will get 30% back from the Government in the form of a tax credit if the work is done before December 2019. Mr. Grant said that we do not have many big jobs such as this. Mr. Donaway asked Council if they want to make a change in the fees. We do have an Ordinance in place for the fees – how do we change the Ordinance. We should make sure that we cover all of our costs. Mr. Heller said that he would be for waiving some of the fee as long as the Borough does not lose any money. It was decided that there would be a Committee consisting of Mr. Heller, Mr. Pappas and Mrs. Fooks and the Inspectors to discuss this further with Ms. Brooks and Ms. O’Hanlon.

INSPECTORS’ REPORTS

BOARD OF HEALTH – MR. BOB GRANT

There was no report.

FIRE MARSHAL – MR. LESLIE

Mr. Leslie reported that he has received 11 phone calls about the fire hydrant being placed on the handicap ramp at Edgmont Avenue and Brookhaven Road. It is going to be removed.

Brookhaven Summit contacted Mr. Leslie and they are planning to test all their hydrants and to possibly put more in.

Mr. Leslie asked Mr. Stone to reach out to the owner of the Brookhaven Shopping. The owner wants his escrow money back but he has not brought everything up to code as was required. Mayor Hess said that they had three meetings planned with the owner to discuss this but the owner never attended the meeting. Mr. Leslie asked that no money be given. Out until all things are fixed according to code.

ZONING OFFICER – MR. HAMPTON

There was no report.

FIRE CHIEF – CHIEF MONTELLA

Chief Montella reported that he talked to Chester Water Authority about the intersection at Brookhaven Road and Edgmont Avenue. They fixed it up somewhat.

The \$50 fire lane tickets are working out well. We have less complaints from people getting the tickets than we did when the tickets were less money.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Mr. Tom Dykes, W. Brookhaven Road, asked about the paving of the roads in Brookhaven. Many of the intersections have deep holes. Are we going to repave or repatch the roads. Mrs. Mulvena said that the PennDOT permit will determine what will be done.

Mrs. Mulvena reported that PennDOT will be working on Edgmont Avenue and wanted to know if they can work at night. They also requested to deposit the soils at Eaton Park or else they will have to truck it out of the Borough and it will add more time to the job. Mr. Donaway said that the Council would talk about it further at another time.

ADJOURNMENT

There was no other business to come before Council. Mrs. Fooks made the motion and Mr. Pappas 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