

**MINUTES OF PERKASIE BOROUGH
COUNCIL COMMITTEES MEETING
APRIL 7, 2008**

620 West Chestnut Street
Perkasie, Pennsylvania

ATTENDANCE:

Council Member:

Martin Gahman
Eadie Burke
Ray Conville
Bill Delaney
Richard Hendricks
Harry McGonigal
Chris Nicolosi
Jim Purcell
Maria Slowik
J. Robert Hunsicker (arrived 7:20 PM)
Daniel P. Olpere
Joe Gura
Dan Gilbert
Matt Lynch
Mark Eisold
Amy Riddle Montgomery
Ann Weiss
News Herald
Morning Call
Daily Intelligencer
Bucks County Herald

Mayor:

Borough Manager:

Police Chief:

Public Works Foreman:

Electric Department Foreman:

Borough Engineer:

Borough Solicitor:

Press Representatives:

Borough Council Vice-President Rich Hendricks convened the meeting at 7:00 PM. Mr. Gahman gave an invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC FORUM

Present was John D. Burke of 220 Ridge Avenue who had concerns regarding the poor condition of the Herzstein property on Ridge Avenue.

Leslie Truscott of 216 Ridge Avenue advised Council that \$15,000 worth of trees were removed from her property by the owner of the property next to hers at 208 Ridge Avenue. She further asked Council to reconsider allowing a multiple dwelling unit/rental on that property.

Joan D'Auito of 1015 Race Street also commented on the deplorable conditions of the Herzstein property on Ridge Avenue. She asked Council to require the property owner to remove the structure and only allow him to construct a single family dwelling on that property.

Matt Fricker of 234 Ridge Road asked Council why the property at 208 Ridge Avenue was allowed to stay in the poor condition it is in. He stated the structure is a fire hazard as well as a safety issue for children. He asked that the property be demolished and a lien put on the property.

Present was William Swope of 141 Ridge Road. Mr. Swope stated he was against any type of townhouse or rental unit to be constructed at 208 Ridge Avenue.

REPORT FROM PLANNING COMMISSION

Rich Hendricks reported that at the March 26, 2008 Perkasie Planning Commission a preliminary plan for the Perkasie Square Shopping Center was reviewed.

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMITTEE MEETING

Review of Superintendent's Report

The Committee reviewed and accepted the Public Utility Superintendent's Report for March 2008.

Proposals for Electrical Consulting Services

Committee members reviewed proposals received from the Quad 3 Group and Downes Associates for selection of a new electric consultant. Also considered was the Borough's current electric consultant Dr. Robert Romancheck who did not submit a proposal. Several Councilmember suggested retaining Dr. Romancheck since he had done such a good job negotiating a contract four years ago. Upon motion by Purcell, seconded by Conville, Council considered hiring the services of the Quad 3 Group of Wilkes Barre. Councilmembers Burke, Delaney, and McGonigal voted to retain Dr. Romancheck. Since a majority of Council agreed to hire the Quad 3 Group, the Borough Manager was directed to contact them to begin working on a request for proposal for electric services contingent upon the Solicitor reviewing the proposal submitted for electrical engineering services. A formal vote will be taken at the April 21, 2008 Council meeting.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING

Review of Superintendent's Report

The Committee reviewed and accepted the Public Works Superintendent's Report for March 2008.

Request for Fire Police Assistance-Trumbauersville Borough

The Committee reviewed a letter from Trumbauersville Borough requesting Perkasio Fire Police assistance for the celebration of its 100 year anniversary on June 7, 2008. Committee members concurred with the request and placed the matter on the April 21 Council meeting agenda.

Other Business

Councilman McGonigal reported he had several complaints about the skate park that needed repairs. Public Works Foreman Dan Gilbert said he would look into it.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

2008 Fee Schedule-Ball Field Charges

The Committee reviewed an amended fee schedule for the utilization of baseball fields in the parks. After reviewing a memo from Parks and Recreation Director Andrea Brody, Committee members felt the revised fees were comparable to other municipalities. It was agreed to place the amended consolidated fee schedule on the April 21 Council meeting agenda for approval.

Other Business

It was requested that the Park and Recreation Board minutes be distributed to Borough Council in the future.

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMITTEE

Code Enforcement Officer Report

The Committee reviewed and accepted the Code Enforcement Officer's monthly report for March 2008.

Final Approval Zavitsanos

The Committee reviewed a resolution granting final approval to the Zavitsanos subdivision at Ridge Road and Park Avenue. The applicant's engineer Cheryleen Strothers of Cowan Associates was present to review the plan. Committee members agreed to place the resolution on the April 21 Council meeting agenda for approval.

Herzstein Discussion

Real Estate Agent, John Herzstein and owner of property located at 208 Ridge Avenue was in attendance. Mr. Herzstein reviewed a detailed time line of events regarding the former Sell property at 208 Ridge Avenue. He stated his intent was to purchase the property and construct twins which required him to go to the Zoning Hearing Board twice. Borough Council appealed both Zoning Hearing Board's decisions and the cases went to the Court of Common Pleas.

The Solicitor and Mr. Herzstein entered into a dialogue on the series of events. Mr. Gahman suggested the matter be discussed in executive session. Councilmembers concurred and moved onto the next agenda item.

Other Business

Rich Hendricks asked the Manager what was the status of the 2nd Street baby pool. Mr. Olpere explained that in order to properly assess the condition of the water lines, the weather needs to be warmer.

PERSONNEL AND POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

Accept Resignation from Dale Peters from Perkasio Planning Commission

The Committee agreed to accept, with regret, the resignation of Dale Peters from the Borough Planning Commission after 20 years of service. Formal approval of the matter will be placed on the April 21 Council meeting agenda.

Sexual Harassment and Sexual Misconduct Policy

The Borough Manager explained that the Borough's insurance company recommended a policy change to the employee work rules regarding sexual misconduct back in 2007. The policy was adopted in July 2007 and replaced the current work rules on sexual harassment. Due to a misunderstanding, the work rules were amended by Council to delete the previous harassment policy and replace it with a sexual misconduct policy, when in fact it should have been a complimentary policy. The Manager stated in order to maintain work rules that are consistent with the insurance company's recommendation and the current labor law, he asked the old policy be reinstated so that the new policy is a combination of anti-sexual harassment and anti-general harassment and prohibition of sexual misconduct of any type. The Committee concurred with the recommendation and agreed to put the matter on the April 21 Council meeting agenda.

Hire Police Secretary

Committee members reviewed a memo from the Borough Manager regarding a recommendation to hire a police secretary. Upon motion by Purcell, seconded by Slowik Council unanimously agreed to hire Jeanne Hofman at a starting salary of \$32,000 per year contingent upon approval of a background check.

Consultant's Review

Chair Maria Slowik began discussion on review of the Borough's consultants performing work for the Borough. She first explained that the Borough auditor would not be discussed until after the April tax season.

The next consultant discussed was the Borough's labor attorney Scott Blissman of Reed Smith. It was the consensus of all present to retain this firm for its services.

Next discussed was the engineering firm of Boucher & James. Some concerns were voiced regarding high invoices. Mr. Conville agreed it would be beneficial to seek additional proposals from other engineering firms. Mr. Purcell agreed to continue using Boucher and James but still suggested getting proposals from other firms. However, since the majority of Council expressed satisfaction with the firm, it was agreed to retain Boucher and James as the Borough's engineer.

Present were engineers Mark Eisold and Amy Riddle Montgomery who stated it was a pleasure working for Perkasio and they would do anything requested of them in a complete and accurate fashion. It was asked that Boucher and James try to adhere to a manageable billing system.

Next discussed was the Borough's attorney, the firm of Timoney Knox, Ann Weiss Solicitor. It was the consensus of all Council members present to retain the firm and Mrs. Weiss as the Borough Solicitor.

Other Business

Chris Nicolosi asked where the Manager was at in the interview process for an Assistant Borough Manager. The Manager reported he is in the process of conducting second interviews and should have a recommendation to hire in a few weeks.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Contribution to Pennridge Community Day

The Committee reviewed a request from the Pennridge Community Day Inc. for a contribution to help the organizations operating budget. It was noted that \$200 is budgeted annually for this event. Committee members agreed to place approval of the contribution on the April 21 Council meeting agenda.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

General Code Link to Website

The Committee discussed whether there should be a link on the Borough's website for access to the Perkasio Borough Code on-line. The matter will be placed on the April 21 Council agenda.

PUBLIC FORUM

Joan D'Aiuto, 1015 Race Street spoke again and asked what the zoning regulations were for the property at 208 Ridge Avenue. The Solicitor stated she would check into it.

Leslie Truscott, 216 Ridge Avenue spoke again stating she questioned Mr. Herzstein's time line of events and who had cut down the trees along her property that border 208 Ridge Avenue. She asked if the residents could get a copy of Mr. Herzstein's time line of events regarding the Sell property.

Matt Fricker of 234 Ridge Road stated there had been many complaints and violations against the Sell property at 208 Ridge Avenue when owned by Mr. & Mrs. Sell despite Mr. Herzstein stating there was no record of any violations.

PRESS FORUM

No one from the press requested an opportunity to speak.

ADJOURNMENT

There was no executive session, and the meeting adjourned at 10:00 PM.

Daniel Olpere
Borough Manager/Secretary