

**MINUTES OF PERKASIE BOROUGH
COUNCIL COMMITTEES MEETING**

July 7, 2008

620 West Chestnut Street
Perkasie, Pennsylvania

ATTENDANCE:

Council Member:

Martin Gahman
Eadie Burke
Ray Conville
Bill Delaney (absent)
Richard Hendricks
Harry McGonigal
Chris Nicolosi
Jim Purcell
Maria Slowik
J. Robert Hunsicker
Daniel P. Olpere
Andrea Coaxum
Officer Hillias
Harold Stone
Ann Weiss
Marcus Eisold
News Herald
Morning Call
Daily Intelligencer
Bucks County Herald

Mayor:

Borough Manager:

Assistant Manager:

Police Department

Electric Superintendent:

Borough Solicitor:

Borough Engineer:

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

Luther Chontofalsky, 270 Parkridge Drive, Perkasie. He questioned the rules for public comment, stating that the rules only allow Perkasie residents to speak in the public forum of Council meetings. At the last Council meeting in June, non-residents (residents of East Rockhill) were allowed to speak during the public forum. He also expressed anger over the rules being broken concerning dialogue between the public and Council members during that public forum session, which is not allowed in the rules. The non-residents were allowed to speak more than three minutes, which he also felt was against the rules.

Mr. Chontofalsky asked that the rules be fairly applied to everyone.

REPORT FROM PLANNING COMMISSION

Rich Hendricks said that there was nothing to report.

PRESENTATION

The son of Jim Algeo accepted a plaque for his father for his 30 years of service to the Borough of Perkasie.

2007 AUDIT PRESENTATION

Greg Syter, of Syter Associates, was on hand to present the 2007 Audit Report to Council. Overall, he said that everything was stated properly for the year except pool revenue. He then reviewed several of the findings with Council and answered some questions. It was discussed that a special Finance Committee Meeting would be held to go into greater detail of the findings.

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMITTEE MEETING

Review of Superintendent's Report

The Committee reviewed and accepted the Electric Superintendent's Report for June 2008. Electric Superintendent Harold Stone updated Council on the new switching unit that is in place, following the bird incident.

PMPA Electric

The Committee discussed the possibility of joining the Pennsylvania Municipal Power Agency (PMPA). Mr. Gahman was concerned about any possible financial obligations the Borough may have to the group. Solicitor Weiss explained that the group organization is very basic right now and it is being run by another solicitor. Mr. Gahman also asked about whether we would be committed to participate in every project with the group. Solicitor Weiss explained that we could opt in or out of each project, so there would only be a commitment to projects we chose to participate in. Mr. Purcell suggested that we keep an eye on the group, but not commit at this point. Manager Olpere spoke with the other Borough Manager involved, who stated that all the details have not been worked out. The group is waiting until more municipalities participate before getting more details settled. Mr. Purcell asked if there were meetings we could attend, and Manager Olpere stated that there weren't. There are a potential of 35 municipalities to join, and so far 10 have.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING

Review of Superintendent's Report

The Committee reviewed and accepted the Public Works Director's Report for June 2008.

Discuss Trash/ Recycling Costs

The Committee discussed the current status of the Borough trash and recycling collection program. Manager Olpere explained the projected deficit and the Borough's suggestions on how to move forward. A request for proposals (RFP) for a vendor to do a complete review of our trash and recycling program has been created and will be completed shortly. Manager Olpere also explained that there may be a need to increase bag prices very quickly, before the RFP is completed.

The Committee discussed past finances of the program and questioned the method of collection of recycling. Mr. Purcell and Mr. Nicolosi agreed that more research needs to be done. Ms. Slowik does not want to pass the increased cost on to the consumer without first making sure the consumer is getting a quality product. The Committee agreed to look at the RFP at the next meeting. It was also agreed that the \$0.50 bag increase would go in front of Council for a vote at the next meeting.

Main and Callowhill Streets Intersection

The Committee reviewed a letter from Rep. Clymer about the intersection of Callowhill and Main. There is a meeting set up at the intersection on Friday with Perkasio Borough, PennDOT, Rep. Clymer, and East Rockhill Township.

Resolution #2008-26, Ridge Road and Market Streets Intersection-Application for Traffic Signal

The Committee reviewed a letter from PennDOT advising that a flashing warning device at the intersection of Ridge Road and Market Street is warranted. The Committee agreed to put a resolution to apply for a permit from PennDOT to install a flashing warning device on the June 16 Council meeting agenda for consideration

Other Business

Manager Olpere reviewed information about the current financial status of the Menlo Aquatic Center.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Perkasie Historical Society Covered Bridge Parade Request

The Committee discussed the request for a Covered Bridge Parade. There were no comments. It will be passed along to Chief Gura for crowd control.

Request for Wedding Ceremony in Lenape Park

The committee questioned when the tent would be erected. They were concerned about it getting vandalized if left overnight. The Committee also questioned whether a wedding had ever been permitted in the park. The Committee agreed to put it on the agenda for the next Council meeting.

Other Business

The new Parks and Recreation Director, Joshua Aniskevich, was welcomed to Perkasie. Also, the Committee discussed a request from the Liberty Bell Walkers, who want to hold a walking event on the day of Fall Fest. It was decided that the issue should be voted on by Council at the next meeting, but the final trail route should be approved by Chief Gura.

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMITTEE

Code Enforcement Officer Report

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

Architect Review Board

The committee reviewed a proposed addition to development review. The purpose is to address the future development of the downtown overlay area to keep the characteristics of the Borough. Some members were concerned about it becoming a burden to developers. Mr. Nicolosi explained that it was not the intention of the addition to be cumbersome, just a guide to keep the character of Perkasie. Mr. Hendricks felt that there was no point in having it unless there was an ordinance to back it up.

The legality of an ordinance was discussed, and Solicitor Weiss said she would speak to the Planning Commission solicitor about it. Mr. Purcell was concerned about putting too many restrictions on the area and turning people off to moving their business to Perkasie. Ms. Burke explained that it would have been best to put this into effect right after the fire, as it may be a little late now.

Earth Disturbance Ordinance

The Committee discussed the need for the new ordinance. It was agreed that the proposal would be sent to the Planning Commission for their recommendation, and also should be reviewed by the Bucks County

Planning Commission.

BOCA Board of Appeals

The Committee discussed the need to form a new Appeals Board for the property Maintenance Code. It was decided that the available positions should be advertised.

Other Business

None.

PERSONNEL AND POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

Amend Work Rules- 90-Day Waiting Period for Health Insurance

The Committee discussed a possible change in employee work rules. Manager Olpere mentioned that two potential employees had been affected by the wait period for health insurance. Ms. Slowik asked if a probationary period for new employees was in place. Manager Olpere said that there is not a probationary period in the work rules. Ms. Slowik said that it is common in the private sector, and we should put that in place before changing the health insurance policy. Mr. McGonigal is not in favor of the change because it will cost the Borough more money. Mr. Purcell is in favor because it is an additional incentive to attract new employees. Mr. Gahman stated that he hadn't heard a good reason to change it. Mr. Nicolosi was not in favor of the change. Mr. Hendricks said that from his experience, it is difficult to recruit good employees without the benefit of offering insurance from day one. The Committee decided to put it on the agenda for the next Council meeting.

Pennridge Area Coordinating Committee Representative

The Committee discussed the possible need of a Council person to represent the Borough at these meetings. Manager Olpere said we currently do not have a representative on the Board, and wanted to know from the Committee if they felt that the group participated in things we participate in, and second, if anyone would like to volunteer.

Mr. Hendricks volunteered to attend the first meeting to see if there will be any future interest.

Revised Curves Lease

The Committee decided to put the revised Curves lease on the agenda for the next Council meeting.

Mission Statement

The Committee discussed ideas for the new mission statement. They asked Council members to contact Manager Olpere with ideas.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

2009 Budget Meeting- Set Date

Mr. Gahman suggested that the budget meetings be held on Saturday mornings. Ms. Slowik agreed, and Mr. Purcell said he preferred off Monday nights.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

There was no business to come before Economic Development.

OTHER BUSINESS

Quad 3 Proposals

Solicitor Weiss spoke with Charles F. Wheatley, Jr., of Wheatley & Ranquist about providing legal assistance to the Borough in its efforts to enter a new electric power contract for the purchase of wholesale power for the municipal electric system.

It was recommended that the proposal be put on the next Council meeting agenda.

PUBLIC FORUM

Luther Chontofalsky, 270 Parkridge Drive, Perkasio. He had an issue with the Police Department regarding parking and felt it was not handled properly.

PRESS FORUM

No questions from the press.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Daniel Olpere
Borough Manager/Secretary