

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
PERKASIE BOROUGH COUNCIL
OCTOBER 20, 2008

620 West Chestnut Street
Perkasie, Pennsylvania

ATTENDANCE:

Council Member:

Marty Gahman
Eadie Burke
Ray Conville (absent)
Bill Delaney
Richard Hendricks
Harry McGonigal (absent)
Chris Nicolosi
Jim Purcell (absent)
Maria Slowik
J. Robert Hunsicker (absent)
Daniel P. Olpere
Andrea Coaxum
Dan Gilbert
Joe Gura
Harold Stone
Heather Van Horn
Amy Montgomery
Ann Weiss
News Herald
Daily Intelligencer
Bucks County Herald

Mayor:

Borough Manager:

Assistant Borough Manager:

Public Works Director:

Police Chief:

Electric Superintendent:

Finance Director:

Borough Engineer:

Borough Solicitor:

Press Representatives:

Perkasie Borough Council President Marty Gahman convened the meeting at 7:00 P.M. Mr. Hendricks gave an invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC FORUM

Present was Executive Director of the Pennridge Chamber of Commerce Betty Graver. She stated that the meeting earlier in the day with Prodesco hosting a meeting between multiple business owners, and Perkasie Borough about the proposed rate increase was very productive.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

President Gahman reiterated Mrs. Graver's sentiments and thanked the businesses for attending the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion by Hendricks, seconded by Nicolosi, Council unanimously approved the Council meeting minutes of September 15, 2008.

Upon motion by Hendricks, seconded by, Council unanimously approved the Council Committees meeting minutes of October 6, 2008.

Upon motion, Hendricks, seconded by Nicolosi, Council unanimously approved the Special Finance Committee meeting minutes of September 13, 2008.

Upon motion by Hendricks, seconded by Slowik, Council unanimously approved the Special Council meeting minutes of October 13, 2008.

CORRESPONDENCE AND REPORTS

Mayor's Report

The Mayor was absent so there was no report.

Taxes Collected

Upon motion by Nicolosi, seconded by Hendricks, Council unanimously accepted the report of taxes collected for September 2008.

Budget Status

Upon motion by Hendricks, seconded by Nicolosi, Council unanimously accepted the budget status report for September 2008.

Engineer's Report

Upon motion by Nicolosi, seconded by Hendricks, Council unanimously accepted the engineer's monthly report.

Planning Commission Report

There was no Planning Commission meeting since the last Council meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Request from POTA for Christmas Event

Upon motion by Nicolosi, seconded by Slowik, Council unanimously approved a request from the Perkasio Olde Towne Association to hold their annual Christmas tree lighting and holiday festivities on December 6, 2008.

Bid #2008-8-Small Trash Bags

Upon motion by Hendricks, seconded by Burke, Council unanimously approved awarding the bid for small trash bags to Central Poly Corp. in the amount of \$4,620 for 30,000 bags or \$.0154 each.

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMITTEE

Quad 3/Utility Engineers

Upon motion by Hendricks, seconded by Delaney, Council considered a motion to formally approve using Jim Havrilla and Norm Baron of the Quad 3 Group who left Quad 3 to form their own consulting company "Utility Engineers" for the Borough's electric consulting engineers. Also authorized was the retroactive billing to October 1, 2008 to recognize the work they had done for the month. Councilmembers Gahman, Slowik, Hendricks, and Nicolosi voted in favor of the motion. Burke and Delaney voted against the motion. The motion passed by a 4-2 vote.

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMITTEE

There was no business to come before this committee.

PARK AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

There was no business to come before this committee

PERSONNEL AND POLICY COMMITTEE

Appointments to Perkasio Borough Authority

President Gahman asked if any of the applicants for the vacancy for the Perkasio Borough Authority board would like to speak before Council.

Present was applicant Dave Watts of 111 Woodbridge Court, Sellersville. Mr. Watts gave a brief history of his background and experience.

Applicant Wade George of 923 West Market Street stated why he wanted to be on the board explaining he wanted to be involved in the community.

Mr. Gahman opened nominations for a 4 year unexpired term on the Perkasio Borough Authority Board ending 2011. Eadie Burke nominated Wade George which was seconded by Delaney. Rich Hendricks nominated Bob Wasson, which was seconded by Maria Slowik. Rich Hendricks motioned to close nominations which were seconded by Maria Slowik. By a roll call vote, Councilmembers Nicolosi, Hendricks, Gahman, and Slowik voted for Bob Wasson. Councilmembers Delaney and Burke voted for Wade George. By a 4-2 vote, Bob Wasson was appointed to the Perkasio Borough Authority Board through 2011.

Nominations were then opened for 4 year unexpired term on the Perkasio Borough Authority Board ending 2009. Rich Hendricks nominated David Watt which was seconded by Bill Delaney. Maria Slowik nominated Wade George, which was seconded by Burke. Chris Nicolosi nominated Jim Van Etten which was seconded by Gahman. Chris Nicolosi made a motion to close nominations which was seconded by Rich Hendricks. Upon roll call vote, Councilmembers Nicolosi, Hendricks, and Delaney voted for David Watt. Councilmembers Burke, Gahman, and Slowik voted for Wade George. The vote was a 3-3 tie.

The floor was again opened for nominations. Chris Nicolosi nominated Jim Van Etten

which was seconded by Gahman. Rich Hendricks nominated David Watt which was seconded by Delaney. Mr. Hendricks made a motion to close nominations which was seconded by Nicolosi. Upon roll call vote, Councilmembers Hendricks, Burke, Slowik and Delaney voted for David Watt. Councilmembers Nicolosi and Gahman voted for Jim Van Etten. By a 4-2 vote, Mr. David Watt was appointed to the Perkasio Borough Authority Board through 2009.

Work Rule Amendments

Upon motion by Burke, seconded by Slowik Council unanimously approved an amendment to the Borough employee's work rules to include probationary period, overtime, compensatory time, conferences, training time and travel expense reimbursement for all employees and the Borough Manager.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Authorization to Pay Bills

Upon a motion by Nicolosi, seconded by Hendricks, Council unanimously accepted payment of the bills as presented.

Review 2009 Budget

President Gahman stated that updated budget information was included in Council's packet from the following Special Council meeting of October 13, 2008.

Electric Rate Ordinance

Borough Manager Olpere updated Council regarding a productive meeting with Borough businesses held at Prodesco regarding the proposed electric rate increase earlier in the day. Lengthy discussion occurred on options on how to phase in the electric rate increase for 2009. It was agreed another Special Council meeting was necessary to review the different suggested scenarios and review a revised 2009 preliminary budget with the adjustments made from the October 13, 2009 Council meeting. Until a preliminary 2009 budget is adopted, an ordinance to amend the electric service rates cannot be considered.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

There was no business to come before this committee at this time.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS

Councilman Rich Hendricks thanked the Borough's police department for a quick response to an incident in Lenape Park October 11, 2008.

PUBLIC FORUM

Present was Cathy Weirbach, owner of Perkasio Florist at 5th & Arch Street. Ms. Weirbach questioned why the Borough cannot re-bid the electric contract and get out of its current contract with Quad 3 now.

Present to speak again was Betty Graver, President of the Pennridge Chamber of Commerce. She stated with the Borough's proposed electric rates being so high people are not going to move into Perkasio and as a result the transfer tax will decrease.

Bob Tate of 119 Strassburger Road suggested phasing in the electric rate increase and having a budget plan available to homeowners.

Jim Felicione of 120 Stonycrest Drive suggested starting the electric rate increase a month early to decrease the rate overall.

PRESS FORUM

There were no questions from the press.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:07 PM.

Daniel P. Olpere
Borough Manager/Secretary