

MINUTES OF VOTING MEETING
PERKASIE BOROUGH COUNCIL
March 16, 2009

620 West Chestnut Street
Perkasie, Pennsylvania

ATTENDANCE:

Council Member:

Marty Gahman
Eadie Burke
Ray Conville
Bill Delaney (absent)
Richard Hendricks
Harry McGonigal
Chris Nicolosi
Jim Purcell
Maria Slowik (arrived at 7:36 P.M.)
J. Robert Hunsicker
Daniel P. Olpere
Joe Gura
Andrea Coaxum
Shannon Drosnock
Ann Weiss
News Herald

Mayor:

Borough Manager:

Police Chief:

Assistant Borough Manager:

Finance Director:

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 Luther Chontofalsky of 270 Parkridge Drive who thanked the Borough Public Works Department for removing the skate ramp contraption that was on the sidewalk in his neighborhood. He also thanked Borough Council for passing the parking ordinance at the last voting meeting restricting parking in his neighborhood.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

None.

RECOGNITION OF RITA'S WATER ICE

The Mayor presented Mike and Lisa Feldman, owners of Rita's Water Ice, with a plaque from the Borough recognizing the staff of the establishment for receiving a 100% score in customer service.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion by Jim Purcell, seconded by Chris Nicolosi, Council unanimously accepted the meeting minutes from the February 16, 2009 Borough Council meeting.

Upon motion by Ray Conville, seconded by Jim Purcell, Council unanimously accepted the meeting minutes from the March 2, 2009 Borough Council meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE AND REPORTS

Mayor's Report

None.

Taxes Collected

Upon motion by Chris Nicolosi, seconded by Jim Purcell, Council unanimously accepted the report of taxes collected report.

Budget Status

Upon motion by Jim Purcell, seconded by Ray Conville, Council unanimously accepted the budget status report.

Engineer's Report

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

Planning Commission Report

None.

NEW BUSINESS

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

None.

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMITTEE

None.

PARK AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

1. Upon motion by Rich Hendricks, seconded by Jim Purcell, Council unanimously approved the 3rd Annual Perkasié's Main Street Mile walk/run event on June 13, 2009. This event is to benefit Alex's Lemonade Foundation which raises money for childhood cancer.

2. Upon motion by Chris Nicolosi, seconded by Rich Hendricks, Council unanimously approved the Pennridge Community Day committee to use Lenape Park for the Annual Pennridge Community Day in Lenape Park on July 5, 2009 with a raindate of July 12, 2009.
3. Upon motion by Ray Conville, seconded by Rich Hendricks, Council unanimously approved the use of Lenape Park by the Healthy Hearts Foundation for their annual 5K fitness walk on June 7, 2009.
4. Upon motion by Rich Hendricks, seconded by Jim Purcell, Council unanimously approved the request of the Liberty Bell Wanderers to hold a walk through Perkasio during Perkasio's Fall Festival in Menlo Park on October 4, 2009.
5. Chris Nicolosi was the first to comment on this resolution. He noted that he had been at the skatepark earlier this week and saw close to 35 middle school, high school and families using the facility. He believes that the Borough should take care of the skatepark. He suggested that the Borough sell advertising space to help raise funds for maintaining the facility and offered to create the advertisements "at cost" for the Borough. Mr. Nicolosi also stated that the Borough does spend a lot of money to maintain ballfields and trails, and the skatepark should be maintained in a similar fashion.

Harry McGonigal thanked Mr. Nicolosi for his support of the facility and offer to create advertising signs. He also stated that he was at the skate park at about 1:30 pm on Saturday and counted 31 kids using the skate park. He spoke with some of the kids who all agreed that if the skate park were closed, they would be forced to find other places to skate around the Borough. Mr. McGonigal also mentioned that he has samples of better surface materials for the park.

Rich Hendricks stated that these ideas being discussed are not new ideas, and said that it is great that we are continuing to talk about the issue. He would love to see the skatepark be self-sustainable so it is not a burden on taxpayers.

Jim Purcell asked Chris Nicolosi if he mentioned his advertising idea with the Park and Recreation Board. Chris replied that he had not. Mr. Purcell stated that the Park and Recreation Board has put more time and research into this than the Council. He also noted that it is in the floodplain and a legal liability because of its current overall condition. He agrees that we should not shut it down.

Eadie Burke agreed with Mr. Nicolosi and Mr. McGonigal. She would like to see it maintained in its current location, as the whole area down there, including the fenced in area, is in a flood plain.

Marty Gahman stated that he would like to see a Skatepark Committee formed no matter which way the vote goes tonight.

Upon motion by Ray Conville, seconded by Jim Purcell, Council passed a motion to approve resolution #2009-1 to eventually close the skatepark as conditions continue to deteriorate and establish a skatepark committee to oversee and make suggestions for a new skatepark with a new layout and location by a vote of 4-3, with Chris Nicolosi, Eadie Burke, and Harry McGonigal voting no.

Marty Gahman added that the charge of the new Skatepark Committee should be clearly stated, and that the Committee should consider all options; not necessarily just build a new park.

6. Upon motion by Jim Purcell, seconded by Rich Hendricks, Council unanimously approved resolution #2009-5 supporting the Highlands Conservation Act and protection of the Highland Region in Pennsylvania.

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMITTEE

None.

PERSONNEL AND POLICY COMMITTEE

None.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

1. Upon motion by Jim Purcell, seconded by Rich Hendricks, Council unanimously approved a contribution of \$500 to Pennridge Community Day which is a budgeted expense.

Authorization to Pay Bills

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

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

None.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS

Chris Nicolosi announced that Borough Manager Dan Olpere and he met to discuss the Main Street Grant Program, and saw funding in action in Telford and Souderton. He would like the Borough to consider working with Olde Towne to see if any of this funding could be put to use in Perkasio.

PUBLIC FORUM

Present was Tom Bancroft of 311 W. Market Street who made a few comments on the skatepark issue. He stated that he understood both sides of the issue and hopes that the Borough can work hard to keep downtime of the park to a minimum.

Also present was Norm Rush, 719 S. Main Street. He stated that Hillcrest Drive was breaking up very badly, causing huge potholes in the road and asphalt in his yard. He would like to see the Borough fix the road as soon as possible.

Rich Loyek, 528 Vine Street, was present to comment about the skatepark. His son is a frequent user of the park and he wanted to let Borough officials know that he is willing to donate time and money to help keep the park open.

PRESS FORUM

Questions from the press were received and answered.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Gahman announced that Council was not going into executive session.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 P.M.

Daniel P. Olpere
Borough Manager/Secretary