

**MINUTES OF PERKASIE BOROUGH
COUNCIL COMMITTEES MEETING
JUNE 1, 2009**

620 West Chestnut Street
Perkasie, Pennsylvania

ATTENDANCE:

Council Member:

Martin Gahman
Eadie Burke (absent)
Ray Conville
Bill Delaney
Richard Hendricks
Harry McGonigal (absent)
Chris Nicolosi
Jim Purcell (arrived at 7:44 PM)
Maria Slowik (arrived at 7:23 PM)
J. Robert Hunsicker
Daniel P. Olpere
Josh Aniskevich
Andrea Coaxum
Shannon Drosnock
Dan Gilbert
Joe Gura
Harold Stone
Ann Weiss
News Herald

Mayor:

Borough Manager:

Parks and Recreation Director:

Assistant Manager:

Finance Director:

Public Works Director:

Police Chief:

Electric Superintendent:

Borough Solicitor:

Press Representatives:

Borough Council Vice-President Rich Hendricks convened the meeting at 7:03 PM. Mr. Gahman gave an invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC FORUM

Present was Greg Brenner of 420 W. Chestnut Street to speak about resident fees for the Menlo Aquatic Center.

Present was Tom Bancroft of 311 W. Market Street, a resident of the Borough and member of the Park and Recreation Board. He informed Council of several new or proposed dog parks in neighboring municipalities and also told them that this issue would be discussed at Wednesday's Park and Recreation Board meeting.

REPORT FROM PLANNING COMMISSION

No report.

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMITTEE MEETING

Review of Superintendent's Report

The Committee reviewed and accepted the Public Utility Superintendent's Report for May 2009.

LED Street Light Grant

Upon motion by Mr. Gahman, seconded by Mr. Nicolosi, Council unanimously approved, by a 5-0 vote, a joint application by Perkasio Borough and Quakertown Borough to the PA Energy Development Authority for a grant to replace 880 of the Borough's current sodium, mercury, and metal halide street lights with energy savings LED lights. The amount of the grant to be requested is \$727,256 which represents 75% of the total project costs.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING

Review of Superintendent's Report

The Committee reviewed and accepted the Public Works Superintendent's Report for May 2009.

Fence Easement Agreement

Mr. Conville asked the solicitor if she agrees with the concept of this agreement. Ms. Weiss replied that she does agree with the concept but has a few changes to the document before it is considered for approval. Ms. Slowik asked Mr. Olpere about how much of the yard is affected, to which Mr. Olpere replied that he believed it was most of the entire side yard. Mr. Delaney was concerned about how this could affect paper alleys in the Borough. Mr. Olpere believes that it would not affect paper alleys because they are used for ingress and egress, while this easement is designed for storm water or electric easements that rarely need access. Mr. Nicolosi and Mr. Hendricks both felt the agreement was reasonable and because it will be filed with the deed, visible for future property owners. Mr. Gahman reminded Council to think of the entire Borough while considering this request, and any implications it may have on other properties.

Solicitor Weiss will add an indemnification line to the agreement and check the Borough Code Book to see if fences are mentioned. Mr. Olpere will put a hold on enforcement action against the homeowner and the issue will go on the July Committee Meeting.

Handicap Parking Request- 526 Race Street

The Committee agreed to place the request for a handicap parking spot at 526 Race Street on the June 15 Council agenda for approval.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Request from Samuel Pierce Branch of the Bucks County Free Library

On a motion by Mr. Gahman seconded by Mr. Conville, Council unanimously approved the use of Menlo Park pavilion on Saturday, June 20, 2009 from 12:00 noon until 4:00 PM by the Bucks County Free Library, Samuel Pierce Branch for the performance by the Upper Bucks Alliance for Creative Expression and Christopher Miller.

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMITTEE

Code Enforcement Officer Report

The Committee reviewed and accepted the Code Enforcement Officer's monthly report for May 2009.

Deed Restricted Property – Hunters Run Development

The Committee reviewed the information and agreed that the space was intended to be open space. Mr. Conville and Mr. Nicolosi stated that they were not in favor of allowing a shed to be placed in the open space. Mr. Gahman also recommended that it not be passed. It was decided that the issue would not go on the agenda for June. The property owner will be advised.

SEPTA Transportation

Mr. Olpere explained the current situation of the property and how SEPTA is interested in allowing the Borough to have a five-year “free lease” of the property. The Borough could keep the current tenants, charge rent, but must also be responsible for any maintenance. Mr. Nicolosi expressed interest in pursuing the potential lease. Mr. Hendricks said the Borough should go for it and try to keep business at the location. He mentioned that the catch he sees is the liability and having to maintain the property. He also suggested that the Borough could look for a grant to renovate it if the railroad comes through again. Mr. Purcell thinks it is a great idea and also hopes the rail comes back through Perkasio. We would then be able to control the property when the rail came through but we would allow SEPTA to have a ticket booth.

This item will be put on the agenda for the June 15 Council meeting.

Resolution #2009-16, Appoint Open Space Committee

Mr. Hendricks volunteered to be a member of the Open Space Committee and also asked for another resident to volunteer to serve on the Committee. He suggested that Kate Nicolosi be contacted to see if she'd be interested. If there are not enough volunteers, the Planning Commission can be used for updating the plan.

PERSONNEL AND POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

Upper Bucks County Municipal Cooperative

Mr. Olpere asked Council if they have any interest in joining the group. Mr. Hendricks commented that the presentation by representatives of the group at the last meeting swayed him. He sees value in multiple organizations working together and would like to see Perkasio join the group.

Mr. Purcell asked what the cost would be for joining and Mr. Hendricks replied that it would be \$0.25 per capita or about \$2,000 for Perkasio to join. Mr. Hendricks added that if the group worked together and obtained one grant, then it would be worth the Borough spending the money to join. Maria asked Mr. Hendricks to clarify how the group could help the Borough obtain grants. Mr. Hendricks said that this group is mainly consisting of Borough's which are more like Perkasio and have some of the same needs and wants as Perkasio.

Mr. Purcell added that he would like the Borough to proceed with caution. Mr. Gahman added that he is not sold on the concept. He said that all he heard from their presentation were good things that Perkasio was already doing. Borough managers are doing those things for the Borough's so he sees no need to join. Maria added that she felt there had always been good communication, trust and cooperation between the communities involved and thought this may be a first step toward regionalization. Mr. Nicolosi said that he agreed with Mr. Hendricks and does not believe that it could hurt to join the group. He also noted that he would be in favor of looking into this.

Mr. Conville as Mr. Olpere to contact Dave Nyman about when the group meets and suggested that Managers of the municipalities and Council members try to attend.

Approval to Initiate Promotional Testing for the Position of Police Sergeant

The Committee reviewed the request of the Civil Service Commission to begin the examination process for the position of Sergeant in the Police Department. Committee members agreed with the request and placed the matter on the June 15 Council agenda.

Consideration of Candidates for Mayor

Mr. Hendricks asked other Council members if we should advertise the open position publicly. Mr. Olpere noted and Solicitor Weiss agreed that it is not mandatory to advertise but the Borough staff could send out a press release and place the information on the Borough Web site. Mr. Purcell agreed with the idea of advertising. Mr. Gahman suggested that the Borough publicize the vote date and Council gave concurrence on advertising the position and reviewing candidates at the Committee meeting in July.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Five-Year Capital Plan

Shannon Drosnock, Borough Finance Director, explained the set up of the five-year plan. Mr. Gahman commented that the plan makes the Borough look more like planners than reactors. Mr. Gahman went on to tell the Committee that he is not looking for approval of the plan, just looking at changes to see if the Committee agrees with the direction of the Finance Director.

Ms. Slowik said that she understood the concept and felt that Ms. Drosnock had breathed life into the plan making it a living, breathing document. Mr. Nicolosi agreed with Ms. Slowik's comments and is excited to use it as a planning tool. He thinks it is a great idea to save money rather than borrow money.

Mr. Purcell asked Ms. Drosnock to further show the breakdown of the \$600,000 debt service. Mr. Hendricks thanked the staff for helping the Borough save money by applying for grant funding.

Tax Collection Committee- Resolution #2009-18

Mr. Gahman suggested and the Committee agreed to place this issue on the June 15 Council meeting agenda.

Extension of NOVA Lease

The Committee agreed to place this item on the June 15 Council meeting agenda.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Other Business

Mr. Nicolosi mentioned that he had attended the Hot Ribs, Cool Music event put on by Perkasio Olde Towne over the weekend. He said the event went very well. Mr. Gahman said that he spent several

hours at the event and also had a great time.

PUBLIC FORUM

Present was Laurie Mazenko of 344 Kent Lane, homeowner of the property and fence in question earlier in the meeting. She noted that she had already contacted the Coventry Homeowner's Association about placement of the fence, and they approved it. She also said that the easement covers almost her whole property, so without the Fence Easement Agreement, she would be left with very little property to fence in.

PRESS FORUM

None.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Daniel P. Olpere
Borough Manager/Secretary