

**MINUTES OF PERKASIE BOROUGH
COUNCIL COMMITTEES MEETING
MARCH 1, 2010**

620 West Chestnut Street
Perkasie, Pennsylvania

ATTENDANCE:

Council Member:

Martin Gahman
Matt Aigeldinger
Stephen Algeo
Florence Frei
Richard Hendricks
Barbara Krantz
Chris Nicolosi
Jim Purcell
Maria Slowik (arrived 7:10 pm)
Joe Gilbert (absent)
John Hollenbach
Daniel P. Olpere
Andrea Coaxum
Shannon Drosnock
Joe Gura
Josh Aniskevich
Ann Weiss
News Herald
Daily Intelligencer

Youth Councilor:

Mayor:

Borough Manager:

Assistant Manager:

Finance Director:

Police Chief:

Parks and Recreation Director:

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 Luther Chontofalsky of 270 Parkridge Drive. Mr. Chontofalsky stated the only way the trash system program would work is if everyone participated the same way. He stated he didn't think the proposed bulk trash sticker program would work.

Present was Marti Bennethum of 11 South 5th Street. Ms. Bennethum stated Council has not addressed what happens when trash starts accumulating in people's back yards. She further stated she doesn't want to see people's composting piles in their back yards.

Amy McArthur of 512 Spring Lane was present and made comments regarding the high electric bills. She stated the high cost of electricity could cause homes to go into foreclosure and drive people out of the Borough.

REPORT FROM PLANNING COMMISSION

Rich Hendricks reported that at the last Planning Commission meeting the commissioners were presented with a presentation by the Bucks County Planning Commission regarding open space. The Committee reviewed a draft of the Open Space Plan. It was agreed the Open Space Plan should be forwarded to the Parks and Recreation Board for their review and input.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING

Review of Superintendent's Report

The Committee reviewed and accepted the Public Works Superintendent's Report for February 2010.

Trash and Recycling

Manager Olpere reiterated the options for the trash and recycling programs. They included increasing the refuse bags sale prices, annual fee charged to all households, a combination of several options including annual fee and bulky waste stickers or an increase in bag prices.

Also discussed were options for the disposal of yard waste which included curbside pick up once a month in a biodegradable paper bag sold by the Borough or adding free yard waste drop-off to the recycling center one day a month.

Several Councilmembers had comments on the proposed options. Chris Nicolosi recommended a flat fee for all households and encouraged composting. Matt Aigeldinger also favored a flat fee. Florence Frei also agreed with a flat fee and raising bag prices slightly as well as putting yard waste in a biodegradable bags. Mayor Hollenbach stated staff should look a little harder at the labor and equipment costs compared to contracting out. Marty Gahman stated about 95% of Borough residents do not want trash pick-up outsourced. He felt that a flat fee as well as using biodegradable bags for yard waste was a good idea and that residents must put out a Borough trash bag with their bulky waste. Maria Slowik stated many of the residents in her ward were in favor of privatization of trash pick-up. She also was in favor of a flat fee. Barb Krantz stated she too was in favor of a flat fee, that residents like the recycling system and do not want outside contracts for trash disposal.

After a lengthy discussion, it was agreed by consensus to keep the current trash system but to charge a flat fee to all households, no increase in trash bags, and bulky waste can only be put out with a Borough trash bag. The Solicitor was asked to prepare a resolution with the noted recommendations for review at the March 15 Council meeting.

Request for Fire Police Assistance-Plumstead Township

The Committee reviewed a request from Plumstead Township requesting Perkasio Fire Company fire police assistance for traffic control for a 5K race on March 27, 2010. The Committee agreed to place the matter on the March 15 Council agenda for approval.

Bike Path Crossing

Council reviewed a memo from Manager Olpere regarding upgrading major crosswalks for bike paths at Constitution Avenue, Callowhill Street and Walnut Street. Committee consensus was that it was a worthwhile capital project for 2011 and agreed to put it on the Council agenda for March 15.

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMITTEE MEETING

Review of Superintendent's Report

The Committee reviewed and accepted the Public Utility Superintendent's Report for February 2010.

Hydroelectric Projects

The Committee discussed a memo from Manager Olpere regarding technical and economic feasibility study for two power generating facilities in Ohio. He stated that since Perkasio Borough is a member of AMP

and as a power purchasing entity, the Borough was asked if it was interested in participating in the financing

and construction of the project. The Committee agreed to table the matter for discussion at the Special Public Utility Committee meeting scheduled for later in March.

Consider Electric Mutual Aid Agreement

The Committee reviewed a Mutual Aid Agreement, organized and managed by AMP, the Boroughs electric utility provider, which would allow the Borough to contact interstate and intrastate participating municipalities with municipal electric systems in order to receive and provide mutual assistance during times of emergencies through the interchange and use of personnel and equipment. The Solicitor stated she would like to review the agreement more thoroughly. The matter was tabled until the April Committee meeting.

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMITTEE

Code Enforcement Officer Report

The Committee reviewed and accepted the Code Enforcement Officer's monthly report for February 2010.

Subdivision Ordinance Amendment-Plan Filings

The Committee reviewed an amendment to the subdivision and land development ordinance clarifying the number of plans to be filed with a subdivision application, the number of final plans to be filed for recording, and requiring final plans to be in a digitized format. Committee members agreed to forward the ordinance to the Bucks County Planning Commission as well as the Perkasio Planning Commission for their review and comments.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Request from Healthy Hearts Foundation

The Committee reviewed a letter from the Healthy Hearts Foundation requesting permission to hold their 10th annual Heart to Heart 5K race/fun run in Lenape Park on Sunday, June 6, 2010. The Committee agreed to recommend approval of the event and placed the matter on the March 15 Council meeting agenda.

Request from Perkasio Olde Towne Association (POTA)-Hot Ribs Cool Music

The Committee reviewed a letter from the Perkasio Olde Towne Association requesting permission to have their annual Hot Ribs Cool Music event on Saturday, June 5, 2010 from 10am to 6pm. Committee members agreed to permit POTA to hold the event and placed the matter on the March 15 Council meeting agenda.

Request from Perkasio Olde Towne Association-Under the Stars Car Show

The Committee reviewed a letter from the Perkasio Olde Towne Association requesting permission to hold their annual Under the Stars Car Show on Saturday, August 14, 2010. The Committee agreed to approve the event and placed the matter on the March 15 Council meeting agenda.

Request from Seylar Elementary School

Committee members reviewed a request from Seylar Elementary School to donate a "prize" to their Race for Education fundraiser held on May 7, 2010. The Committee recommended donating 4 daily guest passes for 2010 to the Menlo Aquatic Center. The matter will be placed on the March 15 Council meeting agenda.

Video Cameras in Park

The Committee reviewed a memo from Manager Olpere regarding the placement of video cameras throughout the Borough such as at the skatepark and at the Perkasio Square Shopping Center. Assistant Manager Coaxum was looking into getting grants that would be available for funding. Police Chief Gura was obtaining price quotes for the equipment. The Committee agreed to forward the matter to the Perkasio Parks and Recreation Board for their recommendation and comment.

Permission to Hold "Main Street Mile"

Committee members reviewed a request from Tricia Croyle organizer of the Fourth Annual Perk's Main Street mile race that would take place on May 22, 2010 starting at 9:00 am. The Committee agreed to recommend approval of the event and placed the matter on the March 15 Council meeting agenda.

PERSONNEL AND POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

Recognize Noteworthy Achievements

Mayor Hollenbach explained he would like Council to support initiating a new program whereby the Borough would recognize noteworthy achievements of individuals, groups, and programs periodically as accomplishments identified. The Mayor suggested he would like to recognize the Pennridge Meals on Wheels program at the next Council meeting by presenting them with a certificate of appreciation. Committee members concurred with his request.

Non-Uniform Pension Plan Amendment

The Committee reviewed a memo from Finance Director Shannon Drosnock regarding two issues with the Borough's pension plan. The first is to include the words "non-uniformed" which are not in the plan. The second issue is whether to allow part-time employees to be enrolled in the pension plan. It was the consensus of Council that part-time employees should not be enrolled in the Borough's pension plan. The matter was tabled until April pending preparation of an ordinance by the Borough's pension plan administrator Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement System.

Pennridge Fish-Promote Charity

The Committee reviewed a recommendation from Finance Director Shannon Drosnock to promote FISH (Fellowship in Serving Humanity) as a resource for those looking to help those in need locally. A couple different ideas were discussed but it was agreed to simply put information on the Borough's website. It was stated that if anyone wished to donate, they could contact FISH directly or visit their website at www.pennridgefish.org.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

There was no business to come before this Committee.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

There was no business to come before this Committee.

PUBLIC FORUM

Perkasie's Fire Chief Dave Worthington was present to invite Councilmembers to an Open House at the firehouse on April 5, 2010 at 6:00 PM.

Luther Chontofalsky of 270 Parkridge Drive thought he saw some improvements in the discussion of the new trash program.

Amy McArthur of 512 Spring Lane questioned why bulky trash pick-up is every week when it used to be once a month.

PRESS FORUM

No questions from the press.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:45 PM.

Daniel Olpere
Borough Manager/Secretary