

**MINUTES OF PERKASIE BOROUGH
COUNCIL COMMITTEES MEETING
JULY 6, 2010**

620 West Chestnut Street
Perkasie, Pennsylvania

ATTENDANCE:

Council Member:

Martin Gahman
Matt Aigeldinger
Stephen Algeo
Florence Frei
Richard Hendricks
Barbara Krantz
Chris Nicolosi (arrived 7:33pm)
Jim Purcell
Maria Slowik
Joe Gilbert
John Hollenbach
Daniel P. Olpere
Andrea Coaxum
Shannon Drosnock
Joe Gura
Dan Gilbert
Harold Stone (absent)
Josh Aniskevich
Ann Weiss (absent)
Josh Ganz
News Herald
Daily Intelligencer

Youth Councilor:

Mayor:

Borough Manager:

Assistant Manager:

Finance Director:

Police Chief:

Public Works Director:

Electric Superintendent:

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

Charles A. Shermer V, 125 S. 2nd Street Apt. A-15, commented on the new \$35 annual trash and recycling fee. He said that he has to use the trash service that his apartment complex contracts with, so using the Borough's trash collection is not an option.

Howard, Koenig, owner of 609 Market Street, explained to Borough Council that he had wanted his tenants to participate in the Borough's trash collection service but has no where to store Borough bags until collection day.

Norm Godshall, 115 S. 4th Street, handed Council a petition for Council to address the storm water runoff on 4th Street. It is a safety issue. He had sent a letter to the Borough Manager in 2008 and got a response dated April 3, 2008 directing him to get an easement. After getting the easement, he has been notified that the Borough won't fix the problem because of cost. He is in front of Council today asking Council to install piping in the ditch.

Fernando Cabera, manager with Affiliated Management that manages Southgate Apartments, was at the meeting representing the 160 residents that live in South Gate. He has received calls from 75% of them. None of the residents participate in trash collection but 5 or 6 do set out recycling for the Borough to collect on Fairview Avenue.

Luther Chontofalsky of 270 Parkridge Drive asked Council to put the decision of what to do about the trash program on to the November ballot.

Amy MacArthur, 512 Spring Court, commented the electric rate increases. She also questioned raises that were given to Borough employees in 2008 and 2009.

Nathan Weikel, 620 Fairview Avenue (Southgate Apts.), stated that he does not agree with the annual recycling and trash fee being charged to apartment dwellers that don't use the Borough's trash and recycling services.

Bob Galdo, member of the 3rd District Republican Committee, stated that many residents had turned to him about the \$35 "tax". He gave a signed petition to Rich Hendricks showing opposition to it.

REPORT FROM PLANNING COMMISSION

None.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING

Review of Superintendent's Report

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

Road Project Bid Approval

Borough Engineer Joe Nolan reviewed the 2010 road bid. The low-bidder was Joseph E. Sucher & Sons, Inc. of Eddystone, PA. The bid was for \$163,727.50. An alternative add-on for \$10,416 to add five decorative crosswalks was also discussed.

Because the bids came in much lower than expected and budgeted, it was further recommended that Park Avenue from 9th to 12th be added as a change order for base repair paving. The engineer's estimate is \$13,000 which is 6% more than the bid amount. Any increase of less than 10% would be generally acceptable to PennDOT without going through a more extensive re-approval process. Final repairs on Park Avenue would be done next year. The engineer also stated that in general the bids were very competitive this year.

Council member Rich Hendricks stated that he was in favor of the stamped crosswalks.

Jim Purcell asked if the low-bidder was approved by PennDOT, and Joe Nolan confirmed that the company is approved. He also asked if the solicitor had reviewed the bid, and Manager Olpere responded that the solicitor does not normally review the road bids; it is usually handled by the engineer. This was confirmed by Josh Ganz, representing the Borough's solicitor. Joe Nolan added that they use all PennDOT forms when doing this type of bid.

Rich Hendricks questioned whether the Borough could go 10% over the bid amount and Joe Nolan did answer that this was allowed by PennDOT. Any amount over 10% could not be paid for with Liquid Fuels money without resubmitting PennDOT paperwork.

Discussion on the width of the crosswalks and the design pattern.

Flo Frei asked if the railroad company would pay for roadwork done between the railroad tracks, and Mr. Nolan responded that he was not aware of that happening.

On a motion by Jim Purcell, seconded by Nicolosi, Council unanimously approved the road bid with the addition of the crosswalk alternative add-on and the change order to do base repair on Park Avenue between 9th and 12th.

Trash and Recycling \$35 Annual Fee

Rich Hendricks asked Council to discuss the new \$35 annual fee. He stated that he believes the fee to be a nuisance fee that was designed to make the Borough whole. But after discussing it with the public, he thinks that Council has made a mistake by charging apartment dwellers.

Jim Purcell echoed his feelings, saying that the fee should be put on hold for big apartments.

Rich Hendricks stated that Borough Council needs to come to a decision tonight and should do the right thing.

Chris Nicolosi asked Public Works Director Dan Gilbert what kind of big trash is collected from the large apartment complexes. Dan Gilbert replied that no large bulk items are collected, just some recycling set out by a handful of Southgate residents along Fairview Avenue.

Mr. Nicolosi followed by stating that the purpose of the fee was to level the playing field for people who don't buy Borough bags but take advantage of free bulk waste and recycling collection.

Flo Frei agreed with Mr. Nicolosi and wants to make sure that all people that drive to the Recycling Center to drop-off recycling get charged. She asked about an exception for apartment complexes with 4 or more units.

Mr. Nicolosi added that any apartment complex that puts out trash should pay, and those that have a private hauler that charges residents in their lease for trash and recycling collection should not have to pay.

Mrs. Frei asked Manager Olpere if the Borough was tracking who paid and Manager Olpere confirmed.

Marty Gahman added that he wanted to be clear that there is a difference between those that are required by their landlord to use a private hauler and those that just choose to not use the Borough's program.

Rich Hendricks addressed the audience and asked for residents of large apartments to tell Council what services their apartment complex provided.

Fernando Cabrera from Southgate confirmed that the complex provided refuse and bulk waste collection and lawn maintenance, but did not offer recycling.

Bob Galla stated that Covered Bridge Apartments provides the same services, and has residents set recycling in the back of a shed. It was later confirmed by Dan Gilbert that the recycling was dumped with the rest of the refuse and never recycled properly.

Benfield Mills offers trash, bulk waste removal and recycling to its residents. Olde Towne Manor and Shadywood also offer all services.

An unnamed Borough resident spoke from the back of the room about apartment complexes having a problem with outsiders dumping trash in their dumpsters. Chief Gura confirmed that he had been called previously to try to track down the offenders.

Borough Resident Nathan Weikel suggested that the Borough put a pin code system in place at the recycling center and only give the code out to those that paid the \$35 fee.

Maria Slowik asked staff to get confirmation from the large apartment complexes about what trash and recycling services they offered. Chris Nicolosi agreed with Maria.

The Mayor clarified that Perkasio Park would not be included in this discussion because they do use the Borough's trash and recycling removal system for six months of the year.

Matt Aigeldinger stated that the Borough has a responsibility to balance a budget and provide an appropriate infrastructure for all residents. He agreed that Council needs to be careful and clarify those that choose not to use the Borough's program and those that don't have a choice.

Jim Purcell reiterated that Council should put a hold on those that live in large apartment complexes that provide trash and recycling removal services.

Barbara Krantz stated that she had heard from a lot of seniors that are having a tough time making ends meet.

Marty Gahman stated that if an apartment dweller does not have trash collection through a commercial hauler by their landlord, then they should be paying the annual fee. The Borough has an ordinance in place stating that resident must dispose of their trash with the Borough's trash removal system. People choosing to not participate in the system is how the Borough got in it's current situation.

Borough Resident Tom Bancroft stated that he thought Borough Council was doing a great job, and suggested that apartment complexes that have private trash collection but utilize the Borough's recycling collection could get a pro-rated annual fee.

Justin Stottler commented that Borough Council should just take the money from reserves to cover the budget deficit.

Marty Gahman stated that if Borough Council does not want to follow the current trash ordinance in effect they should change it. And if they don't want to change it then they should enforce it.

Council agreed to put the ordinance change on the agenda for the next meeting so further research could be done.

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMITTEE MEETING

Review of Superintendent's Report

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

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMITTEE

Code Enforcement Officer Report

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

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Council member Chris Nicolosi asked the committee to discuss pool parties at the pool. A local business was interested in renting the pool after hours and would like to offer free food and drinks to those that attend. The business also wishes to sell admission to the event in advance.

Maria Slowik asked if any other group had charged for admission in the past, and Manager Olpere stated that it has not happened to his knowledge.

Marty Gahman said that he did not care because they would be paying to rent the pool just like everyone else. The Borough is getting money from renting it for that block of time.

Josh Ganz, representing the Borough's solicitor, stated that it would not be an issue as long as the Borough allowed equal access. If other groups come and want to do the same thing, then the Borough cannot turn them down.

Chris Nicolosi asked if the business was renting under the business name or that of a single person, and Shannon Drosnock confirmed that they would be renting it under the name of the business.

The Mayor stated that many of the recreation groups sell stuff at the parks. It is not unusual for groups to use public property as long as there are rules to protect the Borough.

Josh Ganz added that the Borough can't bar access based on where the money from sale of the tickets to that event would be going.

Chris Nicolosi stated that he thought renting it to the business would help a local business and the pool, and he was in favor of both. Barbara Krantz said that it doesn't matter if they charge, they are renting the pool.

Council agreed to place the topic on the next agenda for vote.

Council member Slowik asked if the Borough had received any feedback from any of the Perkasio

Pride Award winners. Manager Olpere stated that he had not received any feedback.

PERSONNEL AND POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

None.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Marty Gahman asked the Borough's Finance Director, Shannon Drosnock, to put together the 2011 budget session schedule. He also stated that the allegation going around about a staff member receiving a 41% raise in 2008 was inaccurate. He also stated that the notion that the Borough's reserves being taken from \$3.9 million to \$1.1 million was also wrong. In 2008, \$500,000 was taken from reserves to enable Council to not pass along the entire electric increase in one year.

He went on to encourage residents who are interested to get together with the Borough Manager Dan Olpere, Assistant Manager Andrea Coaxum, and Finance Director Shannon Drosnock to get factual information on the Borough.

Maria Slowik also stated that previous years audits were available. Jim Purcell made sure to let the public know that they are invited to sit in on all budget meetings.

Marty Gahman warned the audience to be careful when talking about fund balance versus cash reserve or available cash.

Manager Olpere stated that the Finance Director was creating a spreadsheet showing the fund balance and cash reserves with footnotes to clarify the Borough's actual balances over the last five years.

Other Business

Chris Nicolosi asked about the fallen porch on the house at the corner of Park Avenue and 9th Street and was told that a car ran into it. The homeowner was working to get it fixed.

Barbara Krantz commented that the carnival went great this year.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

None.

PUBLIC FORUM

Lee Ann Czerwonka of 624 East Walnut Street stated that she was appalled that Council did not know that they could go 10% over a bid using liquid fuels funding. She then asked who would pay for the consultant fees to make any addendums to the trash and recycling bid document. Also who will pay for the cost of postage on the trash bills that were sent to apartment complexes?

Fernando Cabrera, with Southgate Apartments, suggested that the Borough give out a decal to those that pay the fee authorizing them to use the Recycling Center.

Luther Chontofalsky of 270 Parkridge Drive stated that he didn't feel anyone had the intention of picking up trash at the large apartment complexes because it would be a hassle. He said that recycling has been mandated in the Borough since 1988 to save the landfills.

Amy MacArthur, 512 Spring Court, said that she only produces one bag of trash a week, but suggested that the Borough switch to private haulers to solve the nonsense. She said that it would cost her a lot more money but she would be in favor of it. She told Borough Council to give the \$35 back, take the money from where ever it is, and get out of the trash business. She also said that the person who received the 41% raise was making \$51,020 in 2008 and now makes \$73,500. She said that only police officers deserve a raise, but said that Council thinks that all employees should get the same raise as the police get in their contract.

Marty Gahman reiterated that those who wish to know more about the budget should sit down with Borough staff.

PRESS FORUM

None.

The meeting adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

Daniel Olpere
Borough Manager/Secretary