

**MINUTES OF PERKASIE BOROUGH
COUNCIL COMMITTEES MEETING
FEBRUARY 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

Youth Councilor:

Maria Slowik

Mayor:

Joe Gilbert
John Hollenbach (absent)

Borough Manager:

Daniel P. Olpere

Assistant Manager:

Andrea Coaxum

Finance Director:

Shannon Drosnock

Police Chief:

Joe Gura

Public Works Director:

Dan Gilbert

Electric Superintendent:

Harold Stone

Borough Solicitor:

Ann Weiss

Press Representatives:

News Herald
Morning Call
Daily Intelligencer
Bucks County Herald

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 Joe Ferry of 648 Shadywood Drive. Mr. Ferry stated he was the newly appointed President to Perkasie Olde Towne Association and hoped to work closely with each other.

REPORT FROM PLANNING COMMISSION

There was no meeting since the last Council meeting.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING

Review of Superintendent's Report

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

Household Hazardous Waste

The Committee reviewed a letter from the Bucks County Planning Commission regarding participation in

the household hazardous waste collection program. The county is requesting the Borough commit \$1,295.40 toward the program. The Committee agreed to place the request on the February 15 Council meeting agenda.

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMITTEE MEETING

Review of Superintendent's Report

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

Other Business

Maria Slowik read a letter from The Treasure Trove asking the Borough to consider changing the demand rate for small businesses in the Borough.

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMITTEE

Code Enforcement Officer Report

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

Other Business

There was no other business to come before the committee.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Perkasie Fire Company Annual Carnival June 29-July 3

The Committee reviewed a letter from the Perkasie Fire Company requesting the use of Lenape Park to hold their annual Fire Company Carnival. The dates would be Tuesday, June 29 through Saturday, July 3, 2010. The Committee agreed to recommend approval of the event and agreed to put it on the February 15 Council agenda.

Good Time Motorvators Car Show

Committee members reviewed a request from the Goodtime Motorvators asking permission to hold the Lake Lenape Jamboree Annual Car show in Lenape Park on May 30, 2010 from 8:00AM to 4:00 PM. Further the group is asking to reserve the Skate Park Pavilion during the show. A recommendation to approve the event was placed on the February 15 Council agenda.

Approve Use of Lenape Park for Pennridge Community Day

The Committee reviewed a letter from Pennridge Community Day Inc. requesting permission to hold the 38th annual Pennridge Community Day celebration on July 11, 2010 in Lenape Park. The rain date would be July 18, 2010. The Committee agreed to place the matter on the February 15 Council meeting agenda for approval.

Approve Liberty Bell Wanderers Walk Club Event

The Committee reviewed a letter from the Liberty Bell Wanderers Walking Club requesting permission to hold a 5K and 10K event on October 3, 2010 during the Borough's Fall Festival. The event will be held from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. It was agreed to put the event on the Council meeting agenda for approval on February 15, 2010.

Other Business

Chris Nicolosi asked that the Skate Park Committee be reactivated to recognize a new Skate Park Organization and dissolve the Borough's committee. The Solicitor was asked to prepare a resolution to accomplish this turnover. It was asked that the Parks and Recreation Director Josh Aniskevich still be able to act as a liaison between the Borough and the Skate Park organization and to use the Borough's facilities to hold meetings.

PERSONNEL AND POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

There was no business to come before this committee.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Donation Request Penridge Community Day

The Committee reviewed a letter from Penridge Community Inc. requesting a donation to the annual Penridge Community Day Event. The Committee agreed to place the request on the February 15, 2010 Council agenda for approval.

2010 Budget Discussions

The Finance Committee held a special meeting on January 30, 2010 to reopen the budget and discuss it. It was agreed to keep the 2010 budget as presented and to readopt it at the February 15, 2010 Council meeting.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Other Business

Chris Nicolosi requested the Borough look at a 10 year revitalization plan for economic development at the next Committee meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

Borough Manager Dan Olpere gave a presentation on the history of the trash and recycling program, along with a discussion of current issues, costs and possible alternatives. The Manager explained that over the past 20 years trash costs for residents have risen by 86% for large bags and 125% for small bags. The Borough's recycling disposal costs have increased approximately 1,500%, fuels costs are up 223% and labor is up 200%. The Borough also had to factor in the cost of replacing a trash truck. Putting all those components together results in a current budget deficit of \$119,000 for 2010.

Solutions included charging a flat fee, raising trash bags fees, charging to haul yard waste or bulky items, raising taxes specifically to cover trash costs, require yard waste to go in Borough bags, going to a single private trash hauler or allowing residents to choose their own hauler.

After the presentation the meeting was turned back to Councilman Hendricks who asked Councilmembers their opinion on how to handle the rising costs of trash disposal in the Borough. Various opinions were voiced including: charging a flat fee, better enforcement of the rules and regulations, raising the price to pick up bulky items and requiring at least one borough bag to be set out with yard waste or any bulky item.

The floor was then opened for public comment on this topic.

First to speak was Bill Searight of Walnut Street stated he was in favor of recycling yard waste and suggested the Borough look into composting.

Susan Strickland Bowers asked where the bulky items are taken for disposal. She also suggested a better education program for residents.

Pat Stephenson was in favor of a charging homeowners and tenants a flat fee and raising the price of trash bags.

Joe Costello of Parkridge Drive was also in favor of a flat fee and increasing trash bag prices.

Jeff Supp stated he thought residents should pay for the amount of material they put out along with better enforcement of the regulations for disposal.

Joe Keliher of Strassburger Road agreed with idea that when a resident puts out bulky items and yard waste that a Borough purchased bag must also be present.

Todd Kintner of South 6th Street noted that there are residents that put trash in regular trash cans with no Borough bags and the items are picked up. He suggested placing notes on non-acceptable disposal items.

Tom Brown of 9th Street asked if the disposal tipping fees could be reduced. He suggested using some type of biodegradable bags.

Luther Chontofalsky of 270 Parkridge Drive stated he liked the Pay As You Throw Program and does not want the Borough to go out of the trash business and contract with a private hauler.

Bert Coffman of Ridge Road stated he too liked the Pay As You Throw Program because he does not use a lot of bags. He noted there are people on fixed-incomes that cannot meet the expense of trash disposal increases.

Roger Wenhold also noted the Pay As You Throw Program was the only fair way for residents to dispose of their trash. He suggested also raising bag prices and charging for more individual items that are picked up.

After public comments, President Gahman asked Borough staff to put together cost figures for several of the suggested options to discuss in the near future.

PUBLIC FORUM

No one else from the public requested an opportunity to speak on any matter.

PRESS FORUM

No questions from the press.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Daniel Olpere
Borough Manager/Secretary