

**MINUTES OF PERKASIE BOROUGH
COMMITTEE MEETING
NOVEMBER 5, 2012**

620 West Chestnut Street
Perkasie, Pennsylvania

ATTENDANCE:

Council Member:

Matt Aigeldinger
Stephen Algeo (arrived at 7:15 pm)
Florence Frei
Barbara Krantz (absent)
Suzanne Kravitz
Steve Pizzollo (absent)
Jim Purcell
Jim Ryder (absent)
Justin Stottlar
Amanda Brooks
John Hollenbach
Daniel P. Olpere
Andrea Coaxum
Joe Gura
Joe Berardi
Dan Gilbert (absent)
Harold Stone
Josh Aniskevich
Nathan Fox
News Herald
Daily Intelligencer

Youth Councilor:

Mayor:

Borough Manager:

Assistant Manager:

Police Chief:

Finance Director:

Public Works Director:

Electric Superintendent:

Park and Recreation Director:

Borough Solicitor:

Press Representatives:

Borough Council Vice-President Jim Purcell convened the meeting at 7:00 PM. Mr. Hollenbach gave an invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC FORUM

Andy Rumbold of 502 S. 8th Street commented on the Borough's response to Hurricane Sandy. He thanked the Public Works and Electric Department's for their hard work. He also suggested that the Borough utilize the ReadyNotify PA system to get instant text messages and e-mails out to the community during emergencies. Mr. Rumbold also noted that other municipalities are waiving permit fees for victims of the storm who need to do repairs on their home.

Luther Chontofalsky of 270 Parkridge Drive stated that the hurricane was the worst storm that he could remember. His power was only out for about 12 hours and he didn't lose much. He was satisfied that despite the storm, he put his trash out on Tuesday morning and it was collected by Borough crews as usual, which surprised him. He was thankful for their dedication.

Rebecca Militec, 254 N. 4th Street, wanted to thank the Electric Department for their hard work during the storm. She also wanted to speak about Pennridge FISH and their continued search for a new building in Perkasio. She stressed the importance of keeping their facility in Perkasio because they provide such a valuable service.

REPORT FROM PLANNING COMMISSION

Borough Manager Dan Olpere reported that the Planning Commission held a meeting at the firehouse in October related to the comprehensive plan update. He stated that the meeting was successful, with many residents and businesses attending to work with the Bucks County Planning Commission and the Borough to identify what they like and don't like about the Borough. It was a town hall style meeting. While they may not have another meeting of this style, the group expects to continue working on the comprehensive plan update over the next nine months. Over that time, they will continue to meet monthly.

HURRICANE REPORT

Borough Manager Dan Olpere gave a detailed overview on the Borough's response to the storm and the actual damage to the Borough. He stated that the Borough was very lucky because the storm was not as bad as it could have been. He also said that good planning and preparation for the storm helped prevent many potential hazards.

He went on to talk about some of the notable responses during the storm. The Police Department had four or five officers on duty available to respond, and the Borough's volunteer Fire Department was staffed for 20 hours straight to ensure a fast response to the 12 incidents that occurred during the storm. Public Works worked tirelessly before the storm to prepare by vacuuming up leaves out of the street to prevent storm drains from getting clogged, and then during and after the storm to clear inlets and put up barricades. They also continued with regular refuse collection on Monday and Tuesday, despite the storm, and did an extra collection of the Tuesday route on Wednesday so that customers who were afraid to set their trash out during the storm would still get their weekly service.

The Borough's Electric Department had power restored to 99% of residents within 24 hours. The crew, including one staff member from administration, worked 16 hour days to quickly address problems with the lines.

The Borough's Emergency Response Coordinator, Steve Reichman and Assistant Coordinator Cheryleen Strothers, stayed at Borough Hall during the storm along with the Borough Manager to monitor the storm and coordinate the Borough's response. The Chief of Police was also in the Borough's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to assist. Administration employees were in the office on Monday and Tuesday to answer phone calls and help residents with questions. The Borough's website was kept up-to-date with power outage, storm clean up, and trash related information throughout the storm.

He thanked Borough residents and businesses for their patience and for staying off the roads while crews worked to ensure that all hazards were cleared.

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMITTEE

Council Vice President Jim Purcell moved this item up on the agenda to accommodate the speakers. Council heard from Gary Winton, Director of the Perkasio Regional Authority, and their Hydrologist, Bruno Mercuri of Mercuri and Associates. Mr. Winton and Mr. Mercuri are suggesting that the Borough amend the well ordinance and expand the ground water restricted area to cover the entire Borough.

Both representatives reviewed the available data and suggested implementation of the ordinance, including requiring all houses that have wells (165 total) connect to the water system upon sale of the property.

Perkasie has several known sources of TCE contamination, and the purpose of the recommendation is to protect the health and safety of residents.

Council supported a recommendation to move forward with creating the amended ordinance and advertising the required public meeting.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING

Review of Superintendent's Report

The Committee reviewed and accepted the Public Works Superintendent's Report for October 2012.

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMITTEE MEETING

Review of Superintendent's Report

Because of the storm, the Electric Department Superintendent was not able to prepare his monthly report. He will have it for the next meeting.

Consider Request from Businesses to Connect to Public Electric for Lighting

Borough Manager Dan Olpere gave an overview of an e-mail from a Borough business that is requesting use of electric outlets during the First Friday events. The businesses on 7th Street that participate in the monthly event have vendors requiring electric, but because they set up their tents on the opposite side of the street, they do not have access to outlets without running an extension cord across the road. Therefore, they are asking if they can use the outlets on the Borough's town center light poles.

The Borough Manager gave Council a draft resolution that would guide staff members and businesses in understanding what usage would be acceptable, since the electric being used would be Borough electric. The committee was in favor of forwarding the draft resolution to Council for a vote.

Other Business

Council President Matt Aigeldinger asked Council if they would consider trying to find enough money in the budget to replace the white lights that historically have been strung on the trees in town center. He explained that storms last year, along with the natural growth of the trees, had destroyed them last year right before the holiday season. Electric Superintendent Harold Stone stated that the lights could be purchased for about \$1,000. Further, he explained that they could spend a little more and get LED lights, but there are no lights that have stronger wire to withstand harsh storms and the stretching related to the growth of the tree. Until they find a better solution, the lights will have to continue to be replaced every 1-2 years.

Members of Council were in favor of pursuing the purchase of new lights this year so that they can be strung before the holiday season. Upon motion by Aigeldinger, seconded by Stottlar, Council unanimously agreed to buy the white lights at a cost not to exceed \$1,000.

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMITTEE

Code Enforcement Officer Report

The Committee reviewed and accepted the Code Enforcement Officer's monthly report for October 2012.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Youth Delegate to Park & Recreation Board

Youth Delegate applicant Delia Ascher was introduced. Council member Flo Frei introduced Delia by stating some of her past volunteer experience, including helping with Family Friday events.

Ms. Ascher stated that she would like to be a member of the Park & Recreation Board so that she can give back to the community. She was a Girl Scout and has volunteered at an animal shelter in the past, among other places.

Mr. Aigeldinger thanked her for attending the meeting and stated that there have been no other applicants for the open position. Ms. Frei asked that she be appointed as the youth delegate to the Park & Recreation Board. The motion was seconded by Justin Stottlar. The appointment was approved by a vote of 9-0.

PERSONNEL AND POLICY COMMITTEE

Other Business

Committee Chair Barbara Krantz stated that she had received the reviews for Borough Manager Dan Olpere from all Council members and would have a summary ready at the next meeting.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Authorize Annual contribution to the Pennridge Community Center

Council member Steve Algeo reviewed the annual contribution given to the Pennridge Community Center for \$8,828. He received a consensus from the committee to forward the request to all of Borough Council for approval.

Recommendation of 2013 Preliminary Budget

It was the consensus of the Committee to forward the preliminary 2013 budget to all of Council for a vote at the November 19th meeting.

Other Business

None at this time.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Other Business

None at this time.

CONSTITUENT OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Other Business

Committee member Jim Ryder stated that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday, November 13th beginning at 7:00 pm at Borough Hall.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Aigeldinger addressed a topic that was brought up during the first public comment period of the meeting. He reiterated the importance of Pennridge FISH to the community and suggested that the Borough

invite them in to the next meeting to give an update on their progress in finding a new building.

Council member Justin Stottlar suggested that the Borough act on the suggestion given during the public comment earlier in the meeting and vote to waive permit fees for residents that can prove they are making repairs due to damage from hurricane Sandy. There was discussion on how the resident could prove that the damage was related to the storm. Mr. Stottlar made a motion to temporarily waive those fees for storm-related damage submitted before the end of 2012. The motion was seconded by Mr. Aigeldinger and approved by a vote of 6-0.

PUBLIC FORUM

Borough resident Joe Esposito of 407 Race Street spoke about a recent incident in his neighborhood. He was told that the police were not going to continue the investigation, even though there were many witnesses that still had not been interviewed. He was disappointed that the investigation was not on-going and wanted an update.

Police Chief Joe Gura addressed his concerns, stating that the investigation was not complete and was on-going. The detective was actively trying to get in contact with the County and witnesses to continue the investigation.

Rebecca Militec of 254 North 4th Street handed out a binder of information to several members of Council. She went on to explain that it was a manual from the federal Department of Justice and wanted the Borough to consider reading the manual and implementing their recommendations to do a complete review of the police department.

Council member Jim Purcell reminded residents and members of Council about the open house and other events being held by the Historical Society on November 10th and 11th.

PRESS FORUM

No questions from the press.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Borough solicitor Nate Fox announced that Council would be meeting in Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter regarding the Police Department. Under Section 8(1) an executive session can be held:

“To discuss any matter involving the employment, appointment, termination of employment, terms and conditions of employment, evaluation of performance, promotion or disciplining of any specific prospective public officer or employee or current public officer or employee employed or appointed by the agency, or former public officer or employee, provided, however, that the individual employees or appointees whose rights could be adversely affected may request, in writing, that the matter or matters be discussed at an open meeting. The agency's decision to discuss such matters in executive session shall not serve to adversely affect the due process rights granted by law, including those granted by Title 2 (relating to administrative law and procedure). The provisions of this paragraph shall not apply to any meeting involving the appointment or selection of any person to fill a vacancy in any elected office.”

The meeting would not be reconvened.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Daniel P. Olpere
Borough Manager/Secretary