

**MINUTES OF PERKASIE BOROUGH
COUNCIL MEETING
AUGUST 5, 2013**

620 West Chestnut Street
Perkasie, Pennsylvania

ATTENDANCE:

Council Member:

Matt Aigeldinger
Stephen Algeo (absent)
Florence Frei
Barbara Krantz (arrived 7:05 PM)
Suzanne Kravitz
Steve Pizzollo
Jim Purcell
Jim Ryder
Justin Stottlar
John Hollenbach
Daniel P. Olpere
Andrea Coaxum
Joe Berardi
Steve Hillias
Dan Gilbert
Harold Stone
Carolyn Hanel
Nate Fox
News Herald
Daily Intelligencer

Mayor:

Borough Manager:

Assistant Manager:

Finance Director:

Interim Police Chief:

Public Works Director:

Electric Superintendent:

Interim Parks and Recreation Director:

Borough Solicitor:

Press Representatives:

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

PUBLIC FORUM

Bill Delaney, who resides at 250 North 3rd Street, was concerned that a local business was overcharging for Perkasie Borough trash bags. The bags were being sold for \$0.05 more than the price set by Borough Council. He stated that the Borough should look up how many bags have been sold to the business since the last contract was signed between the Borough and that business, multiply that number by the \$0.05, and ask them to make a donation to Pennridge FISH in that amount.

REPORT FROM PLANNING COMMISSION

The next meeting to review economic development in the Comprehensive Plan is scheduled for Wednesday, August 14, 2013.

QUALITY OF LIFE COMMITTEE

Cigarette Smoking Ban

This matter was moved up on the agenda by Vice-President Jim Purcell to accommodate the schedule of the speaker. Lee Rush of the Upper Bucks Healthy Communities-Healthy Youth Coalition encouraged Borough Council to consider banning those under the age of 18 from possessing tobacco products.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING

Council Vice-President Jim Purcell thanked the Public Works Department for the fast blacktop job on 4th Street. He noted that they were quick to respond.

Review of Superintendent's Report

The Committee reviewed and accepted the Public Works Superintendent's Report for July 2013.

Street Trees – Town Center

Public Works Director Dan Gilbert reviewed his memo to Council that he previously prepared on the topic. 52 of these trees were originally planted, and the species was, at the time, on the list of approved street trees. They have since been removed from the list because of the branches on the trees. He then asked Council for direction on what to do about the trees in front of the gym. Several members of Council had questions about the trees. He was directed by Council to remove the tripping hazard and replace with mulch.

Engineers Report on Bidder Qualifications & Selection

The Borough's engineers had prepared a memo on the qualifications of the roadway bidders and recommended that the Borough selected the lowest qualified bidder. There were no questions from Council.

Fire Police Assistance to Plumstead Township

On a motion by Council President Matt Aigeldinger, which was seconded by Steve Pizzollo, Council approved the request by a vote of 8-0. Council decided to act on the request because the date of the event.

Sump Pump Discharge Ordinance

There was discussion on the proposed ordinance. Jim Ryder stated that he thinks more people will be impacted than we think and wants to make sure the public knows about the discussion and ramifications of the proposed ordinance. Mr. Purcell suggested the Borough ask residents to tie sump pumps and drainage into the storm water system when the Borough resurfaces their road, lessening the expense. Public Works Director Dan Gilbert estimated the cost to the Borough and a homeowner for what he thinks would be the farthest house from the storm water system. He thinks the average would be 30-40 feet, but will have to be determined on a case-by-case basis.

Borough Council asked the staff to prepare the ordinance and advertise for the September meeting of Borough Council.

Fuel Bid

The Borough did not receive any responses to the fuel bid that was advertised over the summer. Borough Council asked the Borough Manager to re-advertise the bid for fuel.

Street Sweeping Schedule

At the July Constituent Outreach Committee meeting, a resident had asked why the Borough did not schedule street sweeping and then post the roads for “No Parking” so that the street sweeper could more effectively clean the curbs instead of trying to navigate around parked cars. The Public Works Director explained that the Borough outsources the street sweeping and asking the contractor to follow a schedule may cost the Borough more money. He stated that the Borough already budgets \$4,000 a year for this service and it helps prevent some debris from entering into the Borough’s storm sewer.

There was discussion on the costs and benefits of purchasing a street sweeper for the Borough to sweep the streets more often and on a regular schedule. There was also discussion about buying a used machine or borrowing one from a nearby community. Dan Gilbert will look into this more before presenting his 2014 budget.

Weed Control Along Curbs

This was another issue that was brought up by a resident at the July Constituent Outreach Committee meeting and put on this Committee’s agenda for further discussion. Mr. Gilbert explained that there are about 26 miles of curb line in the Borough that need to be sprayed. He did receive a quote from TruGreen previously for \$7,128 for one application. He does not expect one application of the weed spray to keep the weeds at bay for the whole summer. The Borough has a 5-gallon backpack sprayer for application and it takes a lot of time.

Council Member Justin Stottlar asked if we could add this to the Borough’s ordinances and require homeowners to maintain the weeds on the curb. Suzanne Kravitz agreed with his suggestion and asked about how the Borough would enforce the change. The Borough Manager stated that he would look into adding it and added that it could be enforced similarly to other property maintenance issues, like high grass.

Other Business

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMITTEE MEETING

Review of Superintendent's Report

The Committee reviewed and accepted the Public Utility Superintendent's Report for July 2013.

Other Business

Jim Purcell asked Electric Superintendent Harold Stone about the status of the ground wire replacement on electric poles. The copper wire had previously been stolen off of some Borough electric poles. Mr. Stone explained that they had found a ground wire that was aluminum and coated in copper, so worth a lot less money.

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMITTEE

Code Enforcement Officer Report

Borough Manager Dan Olpere presented the report in the new format.

Regulation of Bamboo

Manager Olpere stated that there have been several complaints over the last few years about fast growing bamboo spreading onto neighbor's properties. The neighbors involved were very frustrated because of how difficult it is to remove bamboo and prevent its regrowth. Solicitor Nate Fox explained that some municipalities have banned bamboo completely because of how fast it grows and how hard it is to stop. It could also be defined as a "nuisance".

There was more discussion on the topic and Council directed the Manager and Solicitor to create an ordinance for consideration that would restrict, not ban, bamboo.

Open Space Options

The Borough Manager explained that the Borough has until the end of 2014 to spend Open Space money appropriated to the Borough or it will lose it. The Borough must contribute a 25% match to obtain the funding, and it has been set aside in the capital reserve fund. The Borough Manager listed several options that were identified in the Open Space Plan. Council requested more information on four of the options.

Penridge FISH

Daryl Hackman, the treasurer of Penridge FISH, thanked the Borough for their help with their recent move into the building at 8th and Chestnut Streets in the Borough. They are currently leasing the property but hope to buy it very soon. They have raised \$135,000 and have outstanding pledges for all of the remaining needed for the purchase except \$10,000. He thanked Borough Council and staff members who donated pool passes to the organizations. Mr. Hackman then asked Borough Council to consider expanding the well ordinance requiring properties to connect into the public water system to cover their property.

Council Vice-President Jim Purcell suggested that for 2014 Borough Council consider giving Penridge FISH a yearly donation, similar to what is done for the Penridge Community Center.

Other Business

None at this time.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Perkasie Lions Club Park Reservation

The President of the Lions Club, JR Hunsburger, thanked the Mayor and Borough Council for the plaque that was given to the Lions Club at a previous meeting. He is a third generation Lions member and the recognition meant a lot to him and the rest of their

membership. On a motion by Purcell, seconded by Krantz, Borough Council approved the Menlo Park reservation for the Lions Club annual barbeque event on a vote of 8-0.

Other Business

None at this time.

PERSONNEL AND POLICY COMMITTEE

Resolution #2013-18, Record Retention Disposition

Manager Olpere explained that a resolution had been prepared to authorize Borough staff to discard of certain files in accordance with the State Records Retention guidelines. Council member Just Stottlar asked if this was something that was done regularly. Manager Olpere answered that it is done regularly.

Police Tip Line Update

Interim Chief of Police Steve Hillias announced that the anonymous tip line was up and working. It accompanies the semi-anonymous e-mail tip line that was established earlier in the summer. The phone number for the new tip line is 267-517-0099 and he stated that the line does not have caller identification. He reiterated that the line will not be monitored, but will go directly to an answering machine. If there is an emergency or a crime in action, the public was reminded to call 911. Interim Chief Hillias added that the investigative power of the Department is greater when a person does not remain anonymous, but still hopes the tip line will help encourage people to report crimes.

Police Patrol Frequency

Interim Police Chief Hillias stated that by nature, he is leery about getting into detail about the patrol shifts. The Department strives not to have a routine. Council member Jim Ryder asked if there were an average number of miles per shift. Interim Chief Hillias responded that it really does vary depending on the nature of activities performed by each officer on any given day.

Other Business

None at this time.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Consider Police Radio Order from Bucks County

Interim Chief Hillias briefly reviewed information about the upcoming purchase of police radios that will need to be placed before the end of September. It was the consensus of Borough Council to put the approval of the placement of the order on the next agenda.

Other Business

None at this time.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

SEPTA Land

Borough Manager Dan Olpere said that they were still waiting for a term sheet from SEPTA. Solicitor Nate Fox added that we need the parameters from SEPTA before moving forward with any recommendation.

Other Business

Council President Matt Aigeldinger stated that he attended the Perkasio Olde Town meeting held that morning. He let everyone know that the plans for the car show were progressing nicely and reiterated that there was a big push to get businesses to attend the August Comprehensive Plan meeting.

CONSTITUENT OUTREACH COMMITTEE

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 10, 2013. Council member Jim Ryder stated that the issues needing follow-up from the last meeting had been discussed under their respective Committee earlier in the meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

Council Vice-President Jim Purcell said that the 2014 budget meeting dates would be finalized soon. He asked Borough Manager Dan Olpere to announce the final outcome of the electric purchase recently approved by Council. Manager Olpere stated that the prices came in \$2.10/ KWH lower than the anticipated \$54.50. The “all-in” rate would go from the current \$104/ KWH to about \$98.50. Council member Justin Stottlar thanked Manager Olpere for his work on the purchase and he hopes to pass those savings on to the residents when looking at the 2014 budget.

Council Member Flo Frei added her opinion on the trash bag overcharge that was brought up by a resident during the first public comment. She stated that the Borough should not supply them with bags to sell and end the contract. Manager Olpere said that the business did not want to sell the bags without the nickel increase.

Council Vice-President Jim Purcell brought up the possible smoking ban that was discussed earlier in the meeting. He does not think that the Borough should pass the ban. Council member Stottlar agrees, stating that in his opinion it is a household/ parental issue. Council President Matt Aigeldinger said that Mr. Rush is a prevention specialist and he looks forward to the Interim Chief of Police’s opinion at a future meeting.

PUBLIC FORUM

None at this time.

PRESS FORUM

No questions from the press.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Borough Council held an Executive Session to discuss the AFSCME contract, which is permitted under §708(a)(1) of the Pennsylvania Sunshine Law which allows Executive Session: “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.” 65 Pa.C.S.A. § 708(a)(1).

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:54 PM.

Daniel P. Olpere
Borough Manager/Secretary