



Borough of Ridley Park Council Regular Meeting November 17, 2015

Welcome

The Ridley Park Borough Council met in Regular Session on the above date in Council Chambers of Ridley Park Borough Hall with Council Vice-President Jim Glenn presiding. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Eberle led reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

Junior Councilor - Adam Adelsberg - Present
Councilor Dan Broadhurst - Present
Councilor Michele Endriss-Dalessio - Present
Councilor Jim Glenn - Present
Councilor Paul Mattus - Present
Councilor Holly O'Mahoney - Present
Councilor Samantha Snow – Present
Mayor Hank Eberle - Present
Council President Bob Berger - Absent

Presentations

Prior to the conducting any business, Council observed a moment of silence for the victims of the terrorist attacks in Paris, France on Friday, November 13, 2015.

Christine Valerio, Civil Service Commission Chair, presented an overview of the 2015 Rules & Regulations for the Civil Service Commission. Council is requested to review the newly adopted rule changes for adoption at a later date.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes for the Council Regular Meeting held October 20, 2015. The motion was made by Mr. Mattus and seconded by Ms. Endriss-Dalessio. With no questions or comments from Council, the motion passed unanimously.

Mayor's Report (Honorable Hank Eberle)

Mayor Eberle gave an overview of his experience during the Northeast Blackout of 1965, which occurred 50-years ago this month (November 9, 1965). The Mayor was in New York at the time of the blackout and was astonished by how friendly and accommodating the citizens were doing this event. Statistics show that the crime rate was very low during the blackout. Nine months later, the hospitals showed a significant increase in births.

Mayor Eberle presented a history of the Veterans Day holiday. On November 11th, 1918 at 11:00 AM the armistice was signed between the Allies of World War I and Germany (Armistice Day). In 1954, President Eisenhower proclaimed the day to be Veterans Day, to honor all veterans of all wars. The Mayor acknowledged the past speakers from the Borough's Memorial Day ceremony.

Mayor Eberle presented a history of the Thanksgiving holiday. In addition to telling the story of the first feast, the Mayor gave the history of how Thanksgiving became a National holiday. It is the Mayor's position that the day the day should be spent "Giving Thanks" for the great opportunities that our Nation provides. The Mayor wished everyone safety in traveling to visit friends and family.

A motion to accept the Mayor's Report was made by Mr. Mattus and seconded by Ms. O'Mahoney. With no questions or comments from Council, the motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports

Finance/Personnel (Councilor Paul Mattus)

Mr. Mattus advised that contracts for both our uniformed personnel (FOP Lodge 27) and non-uniformed employees (Teamsters Local 312) would expire at the end of this year. Negotiations have begun and will continue over the next few weeks. Healthcare information has been exchanged with the unions. The next negotiation meeting with the FOP Lodge 27 is scheduled for November 19, 2015.

Action will be taken to approve the accounts payable from the period beginning October 20, 2015 through November 16, 2015 in the amount of \$82,550.76.

Action will be taken at this meeting to adopt the Preliminary Budget, which reflects no tax increase. Additionally, the Borough's assessment value increased again this year.

A motion to accept the Finance/Personnel Report was made by Ms. Endriss-Dalessio and seconded by Ms. O'Mahoney. With no questions or comments from Council, the motion passed unanimously.

Public Safety (Councilor Holly O'Mahoney)

Fire Department – Report for the month of October 2015 was delivered by Chief Donkin and a copy is attached. On a personal note, Chief Donkin advised that he would be stepping down as Fire Chief effective January 1, 2016.

Police Department - Report for the month of October 2015 was delivered by Corporal Frazier (OIC) and a copy is attached. Corporal Frazier announced that the Heroin Alert Program would resume this month. Also, the Citizen Police Academy will be scheduled for the Spring/Summer 2016.

The Board of Health will not be meeting in November. Ms. O'Mahoney reminded all residents to schedule a flu shot.

A motion to accept the Public Safety Report was made by Mr. Mattus and seconded by Ms. Endriss-Dalessio. With no questions or comments from Council, the motion passed unanimously.

Parks & Properties (Councilor Jim Glenn)

Mr. Glenn reported that the Shade Tree Commission met to discuss pruning needs throughout the community.

Mr. Glenn reported that the Hetzel Park Civic Association, in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, completed the planting of twelfth new trees.

Mr. Glenn reported that H.A.R.B. is scheduled to meet this Thursday, November 19, 2015.

Mr. Glenn provided an overview of Code Enforcement activities for October 2015.

Mr. Glenn advised that leaf collection is ongoing and will continue through December 2015.

A motion to accept the Parks & Properties Report was made by Mr. Mattus and seconded by Ms. O'Mahoney. With no questions or comments from Council, the motion passed unanimously.

Community Resources (Councilor Samantha Snow)

Ms. Snow reported that action would be taken to accept the Trash/Recycling/Yard Waste contracts to begin January 2016 through December 2017 (with an option year for 2018). The new contracts will result in a cost savings to the Borough of approximately \$14,000.

The Library Report, submitted by Mary Alice Walsh (Library Director), was read into the record and a copy is attached which outlines upcoming events sponsored by the Ridley Park Library.

A motion to accept the Community Resources Report was made by Mr. Mattus and seconded by Ms. O'Mahoney. With no questions or comments from Council, the motion passed unanimously.

Communications (Councilor Michele Endriss-Dalessio)

Ms. Endriss-Dalessio reported that the Telecommunications Committee met to discuss 2016 goals.

Ms. Endriss-Dalessio reported that the Ridley Park Athletic Club is wrapping-up football season. The Midget Team has advanced to the Championship Game.

Ms. Endriss-Dalessio reported that the Barnstormers group is preparing for the production of the "Best Christmas Pageant Ever" starting in early December.

Ms. Endriss-Dalessio reported that the Business Association is sponsoring the "Santa Comes to Town" event on December 6, 2015 at 3:00 PM.

A motion to accept the Communications Report was made by Mr. Mattus and seconded by Ms. O'Mahoney. With no questions or comments from Council, the motion passed unanimously.

Public Relations (Councilor Dan Broadhurst)

Mr. Broadhurst reported that the Ridley School Board met on November 2, 2015. Mr. Broadhurst gave an overview of the discussion at the meeting.

Mr. Broadhurst advised that Ridley Park is eligible for a CLG Grant. Information was forwarded to both the Borough Manager and Engineer for further action.

A motion to accept the Public Relations Report was made by Mr. Mattus and seconded by Ms. Ms. O'Mahoney. With no questions or comments from Council, the motion passed unanimously.

Planning and Zoning (Council President Bob Berger)

In President Berger's absence, Mr. Glenn delivered the Planning and Zoning report.

The Planning Commission is scheduled to meet on November 18, 2015.

Administration Reports

Manager's Report (William Stewart)

Manager Stewart provided an overview PA DEP 902 – Municipal Recycling Implementation grant requesting funding consideration for a new leaf collection system.

Engineer's Report (Charles Catania, Jr. PE)

Mr. Catania delivered the Engineer's Report dated November 17, 2015 and a copy is attached.

Mr. Catania highlighted the following:

- Hillside Road Project – preparing a resubmission for the safety review.
- Sellers Avenue Sewer Backup – occurred October 1st. Blockage cleared by A to U Services. Catania is recommending to relocate the manhole to allow for inspection and maintenance.
- 301 Comerford Terrance – Catania is recommending an inlet repair to address pavement settlement.

Solicitor's Report (Ernest Angelos, ESQ)

Solicitor Angelos reported that the proposed settlement agreement with STEEN would be discussed in Executive Session.

Upcoming Meetings/Events

- 11/19/2015 @ 7:00 PM – H.A.R.B. (BH)
- 11/24/2015 @ 1:00 PM – Senior Citizen's Book Club (BH)
- 11/25/2015 @ 7:00 PM – Planning Commission (BH)
- 12/01/2015 @ 1:00 PM – Council Workshop Meeting (BH)

Public Comment

Michael Gale, 51 Collier Circle

Mr. Gale thanked the Public Works Department for removing debris associated with the Hetzel Park cleanup day on November 7, 2015.

Andy Furman, 419 Pomeroy Street

Mr. Furman discussed the curative amendment for the Parking Ordinance, which is currently in litigation.

Mr. Furman objected that no public comment was scheduled prior to Council taking action to accept the Preliminary Budget. Solicitor Angelos advised that a public comment period would be permitted prior to Council taking action.

Mr. Furman asked Ms. Snow for a clarification of cost savings for the MSW/recycle/yard waste contracts, which was provided.

Marie Simone, Century 21 Absolute Realty, Springfield PA

Ms. Simone expressed her dissatisfaction with Commonwealth Code Enforcement's approach towards requiring sidewalk replacement during the real estate transfer process. Ms. Simone provided pictures to Council depicting sidewalk, which in her opinion does not need to be replaced.

Motions

Mr. Mattus read the following motions:

- Motion to approve the accounts payable from the period beginning 10/20/2015 through 11/16/2015 in the amount of \$82,550.76. Motion was made by Mr. Mattus and seconded by Ms. O'Mahoney. With no questions or comments from Council, the motion passed unanimously.
- Motion to approve the award of the 2016-2017 MSW/Recycling/Yard Waste contract to Suburban Waste at the following prices:
MSW - \$459,149.00 (2-year combined)
Recycling - \$117,463 (2-year combined)
Yard Waste - \$54,500 (2-year combined)
Motion was made by Ms. Snow and seconded by Mr. Mattus. With no questions or comments from Council, the motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

Revision to the Floodplain Management Ordinance (to change the approved square footage of accessory structures from 600 SF to 200 SF to comply with FEMA) will be publically advertised and action to amend will occur at the next Regular Council Meeting (12/15/2015).

New Business

The 2016 Preliminary Budget Report was prepared by William Stewart and submitted to Borough Council for review and action. The Preliminary Budget reflects revenue/expenditures to be balanced at \$6,207,638.00. The County Assessment for Year 2016 is \$302,416,564.00. Potential impacts to the Final Budget include contract negotiations with both the Ridley Park PD (FOP Lodge 27) and the non-uniformed

employees (Teamsters 312). The Preliminary Budget proposes no tax increase, with a millage rate of 8.14. The Trash Fee and Sewer Fee are being reviewed for nominal increases.

Motion to open the 2016 Preliminary Budget was made by Mr. Mattus and seconded by Ms. O'Mahoney.

Public Comment included questions from Andy Furman regarding the County Assessment and CDCA sewer rental fees.

Council unanimously approved the 2016 Preliminary Budget.

Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Mattus and seconded by Ms. O'Mahoney. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Mr. Glenn announced that Council would be in Executive Session to discuss the Settlement Agreement with STEEN.

Respectfully submitted by:



William Stewart
Borough Manager
12/11/2015