

WORK SESSION

January 16, 2018

Attendees: Beverly Wolfe, Council President; Barbara Heffelfinger, Vice President; John Stratz, Kali Sodano, Louise Dicken, Rich Flanagan and Laura Germain, Borough Council; Bob Winkler, Mayor; Carol Schuehler, Engineer and Ben Hauser, Solicitor

The meeting was called to order by Council President Beverly Wolfe at 7:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Announcement

John Stratz – Yesterday, Americans once again honored the memory and message of the reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. by a national day of service. Dr. King once said “Life’s most urgent and persistent question is: What are you doing for others”. In that regard, I would like to thank all of Pennel’s volunteers no matter what they do for us, past, present and future.

MOTIONS MADE:

1. MOTION BY BARBARA HEFFELFINGER TO PAY PA DEPT. OF LABOR & INDUSTRY INVOICE DATED 12/29/17 FOR \$684.00 FOR WORKERS’ COMPENSATION INSTALLMENT. SECONDED BY LOUISE DICKEN. All ayes, carried.
2. MOTION BY BARBARA HEFFELFINGER TO PAY BROWN & BROWN OF LEHIGH VALLEY INVOICE #86362 DATED 12/26/17 FOR \$4,897.00 FOR POLICE PROFESSIONAL INSURANCE. SECONDED BY JOHN STRATZ. All ayes, carried.
3. MOTION BY BARBARA HEFFELFINGER TO PAY PECO INVOICE DATED 1/10/18 FOR \$29.18 FOR RECREATION FIELD ELECTRIC. SECONDED BY LOUISE DICKEN. All ayes, carried.
4. MOTION BY BARBARA HEFFELFINGER TO PAY PECO INVOICE DATED 1/11/18 FOR \$353.34 FOR POLICE DEPARTMENT ELECTRIC. SECONDED BY LAURA GERMAIN. All ayes, carried.
5. MOTION BY BARBARA HEFFELFINGER TO PURCHASE NEW CODE BOOKS FOR BOROUGH COUNCIL, MAYOR AND SECRETARY AT THE COST OF \$12.00 FOR 2014 REVISIONS TOTALING \$108.00. SECONDED BY LOUISE DICKEN. The vote was 6 ayes, 1 no (Kali Sodano). Motion carried.
6. MOTION BY BEVERLY WOLFE TO ADOPT ORDINANCE #2018-1 AMENDING CHAPTER 322 SEWER RENTAL RATES. SECONDED BY BARBARA HEFFELFINGER. All ayes, carried.

President’s Report

Armour & Sons Electric, Inc. was notified that the light at Fairview and Woodland Avenue needs repair.

There is a tree down in Taddei Woods, which she will address.

Introduction to Carol Schuehler, Value Engineering

Committee Assignments (Chairperson listed first)

Finance/Administration/Cable: Heffelfinger, Dicken

Insurance/Pensions: Dicken, Sodano

Emergency Management: Mayor

Public Safety: Stratz, Heffelfinger

Community Development/Open Space: Heffelfinger, Dicken

Ordinance: Germain, Stratz

Streets: Stratz, Germain

Sewer: Stratz, Germain

Refuse: Flanagan, Sodano

Building & Maintenance: Dicken, Heffelfinger

Community Relations: Germain, Heffelfinger

Special Committees & Liaisons

Recreation Board, Germain, Flanagan

Finance & Long Range Planning: Heffelfinger

Revitalization Task Force: Heffelfinger, Germain

Planning Commission: Heffelfinger

Old Business

Council President distributed three proposals for zoning/code enforcement services to Council for review. Two residents requested the interviews be at a public meeting. Another stated it should be the president's choice and not be public.

MOTION BY JOHN STRATZ TO INTERVIEW CANDIDATES IN EXECUTIVE SESSION.
SECONDED BY LOUISE DICKEN. The vote was 0 ayes, 7 nos. Motion failed.

Kali Sodano asked if there have been any updates on the police chief background checks, which were approved by Council. Mr. Hauser has been in contact with the previous solicitor and the information hasn't been provided yet. She also asked if the borough engineer has insurance. Carol Schuehler confirmed that she does and the certificate has been provided to the borough.

Borough Secretary is to schedule Boot Camp training through the PA Borough's Association for the two new members of Council. It will be held on January 26th and 27th in Langhorne.

New Business

MOTION BY LOUISE DICKEN TO OPEN THE 2018 BUDGET. SECONDED BY BARBARA HEFFELFINGER. The vote was Rich Flanagan no, Louise Dicken yes, Laura Germain yes, Barbara Heffelfinger yes, Beverly Wolfe yes, Kali Sodano no, John Stratz yes. The vote was 5-2, motion carried.

MOTION BY BARBARA HEFFELFINGER TO ADVERTISE THE SPECIAL MEETING TO REVIEW AND POSSIBLY AMEND THE 2018 BUDGET ON JANUARY 25, 2017 AT 7:00 P.M.
SECONDED BY LAURA GERMAIN. The vote was 5-2, motion carried.

Carol Schuehler, Borough Engineer

Ms. Schuehler presented the plan for the driveway extension from Mill Creek Apartments to the apartments at the former Cairn University dormitories, both owned by Westover Companies. She met with Ken Coffman from Westover Companies and his engineer from D.L. Howell and discussed their plan of a small driveway to connect the two properties. Their long-term plan, in addition to the driveway, is to construct more parking area behind one of the existing buildings.

They would like to complete the driveway (which is less than 40 feet) as soon as possible then come to the borough for a land development submission for the parking project. Ms. Schuehler recommends Council waive the land development application so that it can be done as a grading permit for just the driveway connection. After that they will submit a land development application for the parking area. The solicitor stated that if there are any zoning issues, they will still have to go before the zoning hearing board. Solicitor received a letter from Gilmore Engineering with review comments on the plan. He stated that this project does procedurally need to go through the land development process unless Council feels there is a hardship for the applicant. Carol believes that this project would actually help with drainage. The water is currently running down the hill and causing some erosion at the pump station property then into a ditch. The goal of the proposed plan would be to redirect into a stone pit which parallels the ditch away from the pump station property. She will be doing a complete review of this plan when the grading permit application is submitted. Council tabled this matter until February 5th. Carol will have a full review done by that date.

Carol is meeting with the DEP next week.

Public Comment

Dave Cahill, 462 Cynthia Avenue, zoning/code services proposals, zoning/code interviews should be in public, status of Chief hiring

Lloyd Patton, 421 Neshaminy Street, waiving his permit fees

Dan Cahill, 41 W. Woodland Avenue, re-inspection of a roof

Mike Smith, 127 DeHaven Avenue, questions about grants, against opening the budget, should be giving back to tax payers, water run-off at Mill Creek from paving project

MOTION BY RICH FLANAGAN TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. SECONDED BY BARBARA HEFFELFINGER. All ayes, carried.

Submitted by: _____
Marie Serota, Secretary/Treasurer