

BOROUGH OF HATBORO
COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, DECEMBER 14th, 2015

PRESENT

President Tompkins, Vice President Rich, Councilpersons Forgeng, Harbaugh, Palmer, Mayor Hawkes, Borough Manager Zollers, Chief Gardner, Fire Marshal Reading, Solicitor Kearney, Engineer Dougherty, Treasurer Kalnajs & Secretary DeRenzis.

ABSENT

Councilman Hegele and Assistant Borough Secretary Hegele

CALL TO ORDER

President Tompkins called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

INVOCATION – Mayor Hawkes led a moment of silence in memory of the anniversary of the Sandy Hook Elementary shooting.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilman Harbaugh.

MEETING NOTES – President Tompkins announce that the staff is taping the meeting for the purpose of public record. He then stated that there will be two opportunities on the agenda for privilege of the floor in which the public can address Council. The first privilege of the floor will be for voting items only.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR – There were no comments from the public at this time.

MAYOR’S REPORT – Mayor Hawkes wished everyone a happy holiday and announced that there will be one last event celebrating Hatboro’s Tricentennial. He stated the event will be a clock dedication ceremony for the Lukens clock in Borough Hall. The event will start at 6:00 PM at Borough Hall and will be followed by fireworks in Miller Meadow. The Mayor invited everyone to attend the event and celebrate the Tricentennial.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT – President Tompkins wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy holiday.

TREASURER’S REPORT – Treasurer Kalnajs noted a balance of 2,907,918.12 in all accounts. He also stated the total interest on all accounts of 275.20.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT – Solicitor Kearney had nothing to report.

ENGINEER’S REPORT – Borough Engineer Dougherty had nothing to report.

MANAGER’S REPORT – Borough Manager Zollers reported that Fire Marshal Joseph Reading will be retiring at the end of December after his many years of service. Manager Zollers thanked

Fire Marshal Reading for all he has done for the Borough and wished him a happy retirement. He stated that since Christmas and New Year's Day fall on Friday, there will be a special trash and recycling pickup for residents affected by these days on Wednesday, December 30th. He noted that all residents affected will be notified by Public Works.

DEPARTMENT SUPERVISORS' REPORTS

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT – Chief Gardner announced there will be fireworks on December 31 following the clock dedication at Borough Hall. The fireworks will be taking place at 7:00 PM in Miller Meadow. The Chief stated that there will be temporary road closures beginning at 6:00 PM. He said Fulmor Avenue will be closed beginning at 6:00 PM until the end of the fireworks around 8:00 PM. In addition, Chief Gardner stated there will be temporary lane restrictions for both Northbound and Southbound traffic along York Road, but that motorists will still be able to drive through the area with some delay.

TAX COLLECTIONS REPORT – The Tax Collection Report was submitted to Council in advance of tonight's meeting and copies of the report were available to the public on the sign table.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT – The Public Works Report was submitted to Council in advance of tonight's meeting and copies of the report were available to the public on the sign table. Manager Zollers had nothing further to report.

FIRE MARSHAL REPORT – The Fire Marshal Report was submitted to Council in advance of tonight's meeting and copies of the report were available on the sign table. Fire Marshal Reading had nothing further to report.

VOTING ITEMS

Acknowledgement of Reports – Councilman Zygmunt motioned to acknowledge the receipt of the tax collections, public works, fire marshal, and treasurer's reports in addition to the UMHJA minutes. Motion was seconded by Vice President Rich, all ayes. Motion carried 6-0.

Approval of Warrant List, Payment of Bills, Manual Checks and Transfers – Councilman Harbaugh motioned to approve the Warrant List, Payment of Bills, Manual Checks and Transfers. Motion was seconded by Councilman Palmer. Motion carried 6-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

November 23rd, 2015 Council Meeting, December 3rd, 2015 Special Council Meeting, & December 7th, 2015 Committee Meeting Minutes – Councilman Forgeng motioned to approve the November 23rd Council Meeting, December 3rd Special Council Meeting, and December 7th Committee Meeting Minutes, motion seconded by Councilman Rich, all ayes. Motion Carried 6-0.

FIRE COMPANY EXPENDITURE LIST – Councilman Palmer motioned to approve the Enterprise Fire Company Expenditure List for November 2015 in the amount of \$10,083.77, motion was seconded by Councilman Harbaugh, all ayes. Motion carried 6-0.

2016 BOROUGH BUDGET – FINAL ADOPTION – Councilman Forgeng motioned to approve the final adoption of the 2016 Borough Budget. Motion was seconded by Councilman Palmer, all ayes. Motion carried 6-0. Councilman Harbaugh added that he would like to thank the Finance Committee, specifically Councilman Zygmunt, for all of their his hard work on the 2016 Budget. He also thanked Councilman Rich for all of his work on the budget.

2016 TAX RATE ORDINANCE NO. 1028 – Councilman Forgeng made a motion to approve Borough Ordinance No. 1028 – 2016 Tax Rate Ordinance, affixing the tax rate for 2016. The motion was seconded by Councilman Palmer, all ayes. Motion carried 6-0. Councilman Harbaugh noted that the Borough Tax rate is remaining the same and has not increased; however, the Montgomery County tax rate has increased slightly.

ELECTRIC RATES APPROVAL – Councilman Zygmunt motioned to authorize the Electric Rates for the Borough Accounts. The motion was seconded by Councilman Harbaugh, all ayes. Motion carried 6-0.

400 N. YORK ROAD – ESCROW RELEASE – Councilman Palmer motioned to approve Escrow Release #1 in the amount of \$86,719.36. Motion was seconded by Councilman Harbaugh. President Tompkins stated that the Borough Accountant is working with the Borough Auditor to in order to release old escrows.

WOODWINDS PROJECT DEMOLITION APPLICATION FOR PAYMENT – Vice President Rich made the motion to authorize payment #1 in the amount of \$340,401.23. The motion was seconded by Councilman Palmer, all ayes. Motion carried 6-0.

WOODWINDS DEMOLITION PROJECT – CHANGE ORDER #1 – Vice President Rich motioned to approve Change Order #1 in the amount of \$1450.00 for the Woodwinds Project Demolition Project. The motion was seconded by Councilman Palmer.

COMCAST FRANCHISE RENEWAL SERVICES/AUDIT – Councilman Harbaugh motioned to approve the agreement with Cohen Law Group for Franchise Fee renewal and audit for Comcast Services. The motion was seconded by Vice President Rich.

INACTIVE ESCROW ACCOUNTS – RELEASE OF FUNDS – Councilman Palmer motioned to approve the release of inactive escrow accounts per Memo submitted by Borough Bookkeeper. President Tompkins noted that the escrows being released have been reviewed by the Bookkeeper and the Borough Auditor and are more than 4 years old. He stated that all of the escrows being released are inactive. The motion was seconded by Councilman Rich, all ayes. Motion carried 6-0.

2016 BOROUGH MEETING SCHEDULE – President Tompkins stated that a schedule of Council Meetings was prepared by Secretary Hegele based on the 2nd and 4th Monday schedule. President Tompkins has reviewed the proposed schedule and noted that he has created a revised schedule based on dates that may cause a conflict. President Tompkins proposed that the June Committee meeting be moved to June 6th, 2015 in order to prevent conflict with Hatboro Horsham High School's Graduation as Council has previously done. He also proposed that there be a single meeting on August 15th and that the December Committee meeting be moved to December 5 as well as the December Council Meeting be moved to December 19th in order to prevent conflict with the Holiday season. Councilman Palmer motioned to approve the revised meeting schedule for Borough Council for 2016. The motion was seconded by Councilman Zygmunt, all ayes. Motion Carried 6-0.

EMPLOYEE RATIFICATION LIST – DECEMBER – Vice President Rich motioned to approve the Employee Ratification List for December 2015. Motion was seconded by Councilman Palmer, all ayes. Motion carried 6-0.

SPECIAL UPDATES

President Tompkins wished everyone a Happy Holiday and a Merry Christmas. Vice President Rich wished everyone a Happy Holiday and a Merry Christmas. Councilman Harbaugh wished everyone a Happy Holiday and a Merry Christmas. Councilman Palmer wished everyone a Merry Christmas. Councilman Forgeng wished everyone a Merry Christmas and extended his gratitude to retiring Fire Marshal Joseph Reading once again. Councilman Zygmunt wished everyone a Happy Holiday and a Merry Christmas. Mayor Hawkes wished everyone a Merry Christmas and noted that he received a holiday card from President Obama. This card was available for those in attendance to review.

OLD BUSINESS – There was no old business to come before Council.

NEW BUSINESS – President Tompkins stated that Borough Manager Zollers has submitted a memo to Council recommending the purchase of the new trash truck be completed before January 31st as the price of the body will increase after said date. Manager Zollers stated that the smaller truck will be cheaper to operate and will have the ability to double as a snow plow in the winter. Once ordered, the truck will take 5 months for delivery. President Tompkins initiated a special privilege of the floor to hear public opinion on the topic; however, there was none. President Tompkins asked why a larger 25 ton truck cannot be used as a snow plow. Manager Zollers answered that because a 25 ton truck is so large, it is impractical use it for snow removal. Councilman Zygmunt motioned to authorize Manager Zollers to purchase the new trash truck. Motion was seconded by Councilman Rich. Motion carried 6-0.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR – Mr. Gary Mullard of 36 Horsham Road asked if there were any changes to the meeting dates. President Tompkins stated that there were slight changes to the schedule and that the calendar will be available for public review after the meeting. Mr. Ron Battis of W. Moreland Avenue wished Borough Council and the administrative staff a Merry

Christmas on behalf of the audience and asked if the chart created by President Tompkins will be available on the website. President Tompkins stated that he will see that the meeting dates are posted to the website by the administrative staff as soon as possible. Melinda Brennan of 413 Springdale Avenue stated that she has been experiencing ongoing problems with the automotive business residing at 405 Springdale Avenue. Ms. Brennan noted that vehicles are being parked illegally along Springdale Avenue and in front of the stop sign. She added that she has contacted the police department about this safety hazard; however, upon dispatch, there has been no problem founded by the officers. Chief Gardner added that the Police Department has asked the business owners to relocate the cars parked around the fire hydrants and signs when in violation and that they have been completely cooperative.

ADJOURNMENT – The December 14, 2015 Borough Council Meeting was adjourned at 7:29 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alfred Zollers, Secretary

Transcribed by Deena DeRenzis