

**BOROUGH OF HATBORO
COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY, JULY 9th, 2012**

PRESENT – President Zygmunt, Vice President LaSorsa, Councilpersons Tompkins, Hegele, Rich, Sheedy & Fleming and Mayor Hawkes. Borough Manager Plaughter, Assistant Borough Secretary Hegele, Superintendent Zollers, Borough Engineer Dougherty, Borough Solicitor Pionzio, and Zoning Officer Fugate.

ABSENT

Chief Gardner and Treasurer Kaljnas were absent this evening.

CALL TO ORDER PUBLIC HEARING – President Zygmunt called the Public Hearing on proposed Ordinance No. 1012 to order at 7:00 PM.

PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED ORDINANCE No. 1012 – Solicitor Pionzio reviewed with Council a list of exhibits for the hearing. She reviewed the highlights of the Ordinance. She stated as Solicitor for the Borough it is her responsibility to ensure the Borough is protected regarding challenges to our ordinances. She stated it was time to sound the alarm and let the Borough know if they do not enact this ordinance they are inviting a challenge that could become very costly to the Borough. She indicated many municipalities are either engaged in legal issues now with Billboards or are in the process of enacting similar ordinances as the one in front of Borough Council. She stated there is a recent case in Exeter PA where a digitized billboard was installed and you can see the billboard for miles. The Ordinance allows for Billboards with certain requirements in the HI – Heavy Industrial and LI – Limited Industrial District. She stated that there are 2 areas where billboards could be permitted, the railroad on Warminster Road to Fulmor Avenue and in the area of 246 East County Line Road in the Hatboro Industrial Park. There was a discussion about locations and if they were possibly permitted. Councilman Tompkins questioned permit fees for billboards and escrowing fees for billboard removal costs. Solicitor Pionzio stated permit fees must be reasonable and are in place to cover municipality costs. She stated there is a provision in the Borough Zoning Code that addresses maintenance which is easier to manage than an escrow. Borough Council thanked Solicitor Pionzio and the staff for taking care of this matter.

PUBLIC COMMENT -

Mrs. Phillips, Wood Street stated the ordinance sounds good, but she is concerned about billboards along and at train stations. Solicitor Pionzio responded that this ordinance prevents large billboards, which currently the Borough cannot deny.

ADJOURNMENT – The public hearing was adjourned at 7:21 PM.

CALL TO ORDER VOTING MEETING – President Zygmunt called the voting meeting to order at 7:22 PM.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR FOR AGENDA VOTING ITEMS – There was no comment.

FIRE COMPANY EXPENDITURE LIST – Councilman Hegele motioned to approve the transfer of funds to the Enterprise Fire Company in the amount of \$11,214.98, motion was seconded by Vice President LaSorsa, all ayes. Motion carried 7-0.

ORDINANCE No. 1012 – Vice President LaSorsa motioned to approve Ordinance No. 1012, amending the Sign Zoning Ordinance of 1985, and providing for Billboards and related sign regulations, motion was seconded by Councilman Tompkins, all ayes. Motion carried 7-0.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR – There was no comment.

ADJOURNMENT – The voting portion of the Committee Meeting was adjourned at 7:24 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER COMMITTEE MEETING – President Zygmunt called the July Committee Meeting to order at 7:25 PM.

President Zygmunt announced there would be an executive session immediately following this meeting to discuss a personnel issue.

PUBLIC SAFETY – Councilman Hegele presented the following items:

Annual Police Entrance Examination – Councilman Hegele stated the Montgomery County Consortium’s annual police entrance exam is scheduled for September 29th, 2012. Chief Gardner has requested the Borough participate in the testing to maintain eligible candidates for the position of Patrol Officer. Chief Gardner has indicated there will be an officer retiring in December 2012. This item was moved to the July 23rd Council meeting for approval.

INFORMATION – At this time of the meeting the Assistant Borough Secretary began taping this portion of the meeting for a resident of Woodwinds.

FEMA/PEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program – Superintendent Zollers advised Council that he recently spoke with Mr. Don Smith of PEMA regarding this application. PEMA has reviewed the Borough’s application and performed a cost benefit analysis on the properties submitted in the application. After review PEMA has come to the conclusion that the Borough should narrow the focus of the application as many of the properties will not provide enough benefit to be eligible. PEMA believes the Borough should resubmit their application and include only 1,2,3,4, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 & 20 Drummers Way. Superintendent Zollers stated that PEMA eliminated all other locations submitted including 26 Horsham Road and 332 South York Road. Superintendent Zollers stated there are other programs available that the Borough can pursue to possibly help the other property owners who were looking for assistance. Borough Council discussed the calculations used, costs, maintenance of area, stormwater remediation once buildings removed and the time frame involved.

Tracey Thatchford, 3 Drummers Way asked if there was a chance of possibly getting the other buildings eliminated possibly reconsidered. She also asked what effect tearing down some buildings would have on others trying to sell. Superintendent Zollers stated there are other programs available for hazardous mitigation and where you do not have to wait for flooding to apply.

Carolyn Rutherford, 5 Drummers Way asked if Council would not forget about the remainder of residents there, she has lived there for 24 years. President Zygmunt asked Ms. Rutherford what she would do if she was sitting on Council. Ms. Rutherford stated would go it for and she is happy for her neighbors who are eligible.

Gary Gefter, 19 Drummers Way, asked what happens next. Superintendent Zollers stated that PEMA will weigh our application against others received and then the money would be filtered down in order of award until there is no money left. He stated this is the last step in the process of the quicker the better. Mr. Gefter asked how this is funded. Superintendent Zollers stated 75% is FEMA, 22% is PEMA and 3% is local.

Janet Daily, 23 Drummers Way, asked about the other programs. Superintendent Zollers stated they are several different programs, FEMA programs, some with similar applications others with different requirements, he cannot say how long the process would be or exactly what would be involved. He needs to look into this more.

Anthony Carleio, 9 Drummers Way stated he has lived there for 22 years, his condo fees are higher, his assessment is higher, what happens when there is less property there, it is going to get worse not better in his opinion. He stated there is more building is permitted in the surrounding areas which equates to more flooding which means he cannot sell and move.

Kelly Wade & Joseph Cardano, 25 Hatters Court, she stated in the last flood FEMA handed her a bucket and the condo association gave her \$2500.00. Their home is for sale and no one wants to buy. She stated her condo fees keep going up and her property value continues to go down.

Solicitor Pionzio stated that Council and Staff are on board with the residents in Woodwinds, no one is disagreeing, and she stated the Borough wants to help all. The Borough Staff has indicated they will explore other programs to help the remaining residents.

Carolyn Rutherford, 5 Drummers Way asked if Council would be simultaneously working on other programs while the approved buildings are being demolished. Superintendent Zollers stated the Borough can look at others once it is determined what is approved to be taken down.

Jeff Kelly, 6 Hatters Court, stated this application is a reaction to Irene/Lee not an overall scope of 12 years of flooding. He asked who would be responsible for the area once the buildings are removed. Superintendent Zollers stated yes this was a result of Irene/Lee and the Borough would be responsible.

It was the consensus of Borough Council to submit the revised application to FEMA/PEMA to include Buildings 1, 4 and 5 at Woodwinds.

FINANCE – Vice President LaSorsa stated he had nothing on his agenda for this evening.

GRANTS & FUNDING – Councilwoman Fleming stated two grant applications were submitted; the recycling grant and the ARLE grant.

PUBLIC WORKS – Councilman Rich presented the following items:

Hatboro Storm Car Wash – Councilman Rich stated the Borough has received a request from the Hatboro Pool Parents to hold a car wash fundraiser in the pool parking lot on Sunday, July 15th from 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM. This event is annually and there are no changes proposed this year, so no formal action is needed from Borough Council.

FACILITIES & PARKS – Councilman Sheedy presented the following items:

Facilities Study – Councilman Sheedy stated that Council is in receipt of proposals from four Facilities Study Proposals that include Police, Public Works, Borough Hall and the vacant Victorian Village Store Front Condo. There was a discussion on the three to interview. It was decided that that TCA Architects, Kimmel Bogrette Architects and KCBA Architects would be contacted to meet with Council. Staff will arrange the interview on a Monday or Thursday night beginning at 5:00 PM; each architect will be given 20 to 30 minutes each for their presentation.

PUBLIC RELATIONS/COMMUNITY RELATIONS – Councilman Hegele

Councilman Hegele asked Borough Manager Plaughter to update Council on the progress of the new website. Manager Plaughter stated he along with Assistant Secretary Hegele had a conference call today with SiteCats, they are moving full steam ahead with the new website. He does not have an exact date when done but there has been a lot of progress made.

Councilman Hegele advised all that the Community Channel has been updated with a lot of new information; he encouraged everyone to check it out.

ZONING, PLANNING & HISTORIC PRESERVATION – Councilman Tompkins stated that the Planning Commission would be meeting in August to review the wayfinding signage grant.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Hatboro 300 – Councilman Sheedy stated he had no report.

Parks Committee – Councilman Sheedy stated Public Works recently placed portable pedestrian signs to assist in patrons using the pool and parking at Eaton Park. Superintendent Zollers stated he is looking to purchase more of these signs in the future. Councilman Sheedy reminded everyone that there is additional parking for the pool in Memorial Park (behind the pool) on West Monument Avenue.

Stormwater – Councilman Hegele stated he along with Councilman Rich, Superintendent Zollers and Manager Plaughter met with two homeowners regarding drainage issues.

Economic Development – Vice President LaSorsa stated he had no report.

Zoning Subcommittee – Councilman Tompkins stated he had no report.

ADMINISTRATION – President Zygmunt presented the following items:

Commemorative/Honorary Identification of Warminster Road – Borough Manager Plaughter stated that at the June meeting Council asked for more information regarding this request. Manager Plaughter stated Council is in receipt of photos of similar signs, a sample draft resolution, and price estimates for signage. Mr. Bill Dixon from Representative Murt’s office stated Upper Moreland Township will be voting on this at their August 1st meeting and also that Representative Murt has agreed to pay for the signs. President Zygmunt suggested in the future Rep. Murt should consider nicer signs, that look worthy of honoring someone. Superintendent Zollers stated there are no requirements for these types of signs.

Mr. Battis, 320 W. Moreland Avenue stated a war memorial should be established instead of a bunch of signs. He stated there is room on the front lawn of Borough Hall. He stated there is one for WW1 veterans at the Library. Councilwoman Fleming suggested having the gardeners do something ascetically pleasing in Miller Meadow. The Borough Manager was directed to check with the County and see if this could be done. This item was moved to the July 23rd Council meeting for approval.

Stormwater Management NPDES-MS4, General Permit PAG-13 – Borough Engineer Dougherty stated the PADEP has administratively extended the current NPDES-MS4 permit through March 15, 2012. MS4 operators will be required to submit a Notice of Intent for the new permit by September 14th. This item was moved to the July 23rd Council meeting for approval.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, this Committee Meeting was adjourned at 8:38 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane C. Hegele
Assistant Borough Secretary

Transcribed by Assistant Secretary Diane Hegele