



The Borough of Elverson
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August 7, 2018

The monthly meeting of the Elverson Borough Council was held on Tuesday, August 7, 2018 and called to order at 7:00 PM by Council President, Dwight Frizen who led the Pledge of Allegiance and Prayer.

ATTENDANCE:

Council Members, Dwight Frizen, Bob French, Merle Stoltzfus, Jack Stewart, Doug Hoskins, Bob Clements, Mayor Bob Broderick, and Secretary/Treasurer, Lori Kolb; Absent: Council Member George Firrantello

Also in attendance: Mark Stabolepszy, SSM Group, Charlotte Gehman, Municipal Authority, Chris Gabel, Ocean Eye, Donna Moyer, Business Owner, Joe Sullivan, Resident

MINUTES:

Motion was made by Merle Stoltzfus and seconded by Doug Hoskins to accept the July 2018 meeting minutes as submitted. Motion carried by all.

PERSONS TO BE HEARD:

Chris Gabel, from Ocean Eye, located at 35 W. Main Street, expressed concerns for the lack of communication, and disruption in business during the Water Main construction on Main Street. Mr. Gabel described specific circumstances, and dates of disruption to his business which involved his self, his employees, clients, and delivery trucks. Merle Stoltzfus mentioned that The Water Company has had a number of challenges with the contractor that was awarded the Project, and he could not disagree with Mr. Gabel's concerns. Mr. Stoltzfus expressed his apologies to Mr. Gabel for the issues he has encountered, and mentioned that unfortunately, he has had others who have had unpleasant encounters with the contractor as well. Mr. Stoltzfus expressed appreciation to Mr. Gabel for stepping forward to inform Council of his concern.

Charlotte Gehman spoke on behalf of the Municipal Authority, explaining that the Authority has asked their Solicitor to draft an Ordinance for Sewer Inspections, which they hope to present to Council sometime in September. Mrs. Gehman explained the Authority has gotten pricing from plumbers for the cost of the inspections. Mrs. Gehman mentioned it would be one initial inspection of all Borough homes, and businesses, after which, it would be determined if there would be any future inspections. Mrs. Gehman explained that the inspections are only one avenue the Authority is pursuing, and that they are looking into other things such as televising. After discussion, Council Members were all in agreement that they would be willing to lend Borough funds to the Municipal Authority, to cover the cost of the initial inspection. Council also agreed that the Authority would need to reimburse the Borough, within an agreed upon term, with funds collected from a sewer rate increase, which would be passed along to homeowners. Mr. Stoltzfus stressed the importance of carefully selecting a plumbing contractor, who would be very respectful when working with the residents in their homes.

TREASURERS REPORT:

Motion was made by Jack Stewart and seconded by Bob Clements to accept the Treasurers Report and pay bills as presented. Motion carried by all.

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Dwight Frizen asked if any Council Members had comments about their review of the Berks County Comprehensive Plan. Council did not have any comments.

Bob Clements made a motion that the Borough opt into the Act 172 Tax Credit Incentive to grant tax credits to residents who volunteer with the local fire company and / or non-profit EMS service, seconded by Jack Stewart. Motion carried by all.

Dwight Frizen read the email note from Ron Putt, from Morgantown Community Church. Mr. Frizen said Mr. Putt expressed his appreciation for the manner in which Council handled their request for the construction of a parking area at 40 South Chestnut Street.

STATE POLICE:

Dwight Frizen reviewed the State Police report with Council.

ENGINEERING:

Mark Stabolepszy reviewed his report with Council. Mr. Stabolepszy reported that he is working with Gary McEwen to get final as built plans for Springfield Village. Mr. Stabolepszy reported that he had spoken to Ivana Wolfe with Sunoco regarding project completion dates. Mr. Stabolepszy mentioned that there will not be a final inspection on the Sunoco site restoration until late fall, or possibly spring of 2019.

BUILDING AND ZONING:

Dwight Frizen reviewed the draft violation letter, which was provided by Joe Boulanger from Kraft Code Services. Council agreed that Joe Boulanger should move forward with sending the letter to the resident.

SALDO UPDATE:

Dwight Frizen mentioned that the Public Hearing to enact the Boroughs New Zoning and Subdivision and Land Development Ordinances will be advertised, and scheduled for September 4, 2018 at 6:00 PM

MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY:

Jack Stewart reported on the topics from the Municipal Authority meeting.

Bob Clements made a motion to accept Rick Shaw's request to resign from his position as board member for the Municipal Authority of the Borough of Elverson, because he is moving out of the Borough, to be effective September, 2018, seconded by Jack Stewart. Motion carried by all.

Doug Hoskins made a motion to appoint Steve Keech as a board member of the Municipal Authority of the Borough of Elverson, effective September 2018, to complete Rick Shaw's unexpired term through 2018, seconded by Bob French. Motion carried by all.

Merle Stoltzfus mentioned that he has read legislation that he thinks has passed in Harrisburg that subjects Municipal Authorities to PUC regulations. Mr. Stoltzfus felt that Council should be aware of this information.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Council discussed concerns for the trucks that are not following the Route 23 detour, and the excessive traffic that has been using South Pine Street. Council discussed posting an additional detour sign by Pine Street, so that vehicles would continue to follow the detour to Route 345. Lori Kolb will check on the additional detour sign.

Dwight Frizen explained that in addition to the cost of the Codification process, which will be done by General Code, there will be additional fees for the Borough's solicitor review. Council agreed that the Codification of the Ordinances is necessary, so they all were in agreement to accept the additional costs for the Borough's Solicitor review as part of the process.

NEW BUSINESS:

Dwight Frizen informed Council that a resident had requested their consideration to reduce the speed limit on Main Street, after the construction project is completed. Council discussed the consideration for reducing the speed limit, along with possible electronic signs to indicate the motorists speed as they enter the Borough. Mark Stabolepszy mentioned that in order to make changes to the speed limit, a traffic study would need to be done. Merle Stoltzfus mentioned he would like to see a four way stop sign installed at Route 82 and Route 23. Council was in agreement that a four way stop would be a good option for slowing traffic speed. Lori Kolb will do some research on the traffic devices and signs.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion was made by Doug Hoskins and seconded by Jack Stewart to adjourn the meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully,

Lori Kolb, Secretary Treasurer