

Borough of Hellertown
Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, October 1, 2018

A Budget Session Was Held Prior To The Meeting At 6:00 P.M. To Discuss The Fire Department And Police Budgets.

I. Call to Order – Thomas Rieger, 7:00 p.m.

II. Pledge - All

III. Roll Call – Angie Bauer

Earl Hill-	Present
James Hill-	Present
Kevin Lott-	Present
Michael McKenna-	Mr. McKenna left after the Budget Session
Thomas Rieger-	Present
Gil Stauffer-	Present
Philip Weber-	Present
Mayor Heintzelman-	Present

Also in attendance were Michael Corriere, Tom Henshaw, Cathy Hartranft, Tina Krasnansky, Kris Russo, Chief Shupp, and Angie Bauer.

IV. Adoption of Meeting Agendum

Motion made by Kevin Lott, seconded by Gil Stauffer, to adopt the meeting agendum as written. Motion carried 6-0.

V. Approval of Meeting Minutes

1. September 17, 2018

Motion made by Earl Hill, seconded by Philip Weber, to approve the September 17, 2018, meeting minutes as written. Motion carried 6-0.

VI. Courtesies of the Floor

A. Pre-Scheduled Appearances

1. Joe Rasich and Diane Shruntz- Request Waiver of Sidewalk Installation at Four Parcels.

Mr. Russo- In addition to 1702 Clauser Street, they also purchased four additional parcels. Currently, those parcels are undeveloped and have no sidewalk. They are requesting a waiver of the sidewalk installation.

Mr. Rasich- The parcels are just fields right now but I was considering using them to park equipment.

Mrs. Hartranft- Our Zoning Ordinance does not allow storage of equipment without a primary use located on the same parcel.

Mr. Rieger- You would need to go before the Zoning Hearing Board and request a variance. Storage cannot be a primary use of a property.

Motion made by Kevin Lott, seconded by Earl Hill, to defer the installation of sidewalk until future development of the parcels and/or the sale of the parcels. Motion carried 6-0.

Mr. Rasich also noted his concern with the trucks that are getting lost and doing damage to road signs and hydrants. He would like to see Clauser marked local deliveries only.

Chief Shupp- That would require an Engineering Study before we could weight restrict the road. I will speak with Mr. Smith to see what our options are.

Motion made by Kevin Lott, seconded by Earl Hill, to authorize Chief Shupp to investigate solutions and report back to Council at the next meeting. Motion carried 6-0.

B. Agenda Items

1. Bill Broun, 205 East Saucon Street- The neighbors near the form Reinhard site have formed a citizens group: Concerned Neighbors of Reinhard Fields. Our goal is to advocate against the planned Public Works project that will have a damaging effect on our neighborhood. I have been asked to convey some questions on behalf of our group members.

- a. Can you please explain why the Kichline Garage is not a viable option?

Mr. Rieger- That option was reviewed prior to the property being listed for sale to the public. It is not conducive to a public works facility. There are also more than three separate structures. The engineer review that we had completed deemed it not suitable. In addition, the Borough would need to come up with an additional 1.2 to 1.5 million dollars to purchase the property. In addition, purchasing either the previously mentioned High Street property or the Kichline property, it would be removing a significant taxable property from the tax revenues.

- b. Can you explain how and where trucks will be fueled in this plan?

Mr. Rieger- The fueling stations at the Gristmill were recently replaced and would be staying at that location.

- c. Has the Champion Spark Plug property been explored?

Mr. Rieger- The Champion Spark Plug property is not for sale and again that would be removing a significant taxable property.

- d. Do you believe that the community of neighbors most potentially affected by this plan were consulted as fully as they should have been, and if not, why not, especially since the success of the grant will surely depend on it?

Mr. Rieger- The whole plan from the very beginning was to go after grants. When any type of consultants are involved, you

always try to keep the cost down. We were not yet there in the process.

Mr. Lott- The Borough advertised the workshop and held the workshop.

Mr. Rieger- What we have is a sketch drawing so we have something to apply for the grants. It is not set in stone and final design and engineering plans will be created later. Plans cost money and we need to get funding before we can finalize plans.

- e. Why was a delay for a legal review invoked when a citizen recently asked for a copy of the grant application?

Mr. Corriere- Under the Pennsylvania Right-To-Know Act, the Borough has 5 business days to review the file or to determine that more time than that is needed to complete the request. There is also case law that grant documents are not released until they are approved. We are still looking into that.

Mr. Rieger- There is a lot of material relating to that project and it goes back almost 20 years. It is typical to not get that completed in 5 days.

- f. Are there any environmental or hazmat-related issues that affect Reinhard Field as a site?

Mr. Rieger- All the remediation on the site was previously completed.

- g. If the Borough is struggling to pay for police officers, why are you setting aside funds to put toward this project?

Mr. Rieger- Thanks to staff keeping things under budget, we have been able to save up some money in the fund balance. Salaries cannot be paid out of one-time funds.

Mr. Rieger asked Mr. Broun to inform Council of any of the group's meeting which Council will be happy to attend.

2. Bob Haymaker, 1317 Detweiler Avenue- My neighbor has commercial vehicles that are double parking in Fox Alley and cars cannot get through. I would like to see that alley made a one-way because two cars cannot make it through the alley.

Staff will look into the issue and report back to Council.

C. Non-agenda Items- None

VII. Reports from Elected Officials

A. President

Mr. Rieger- The Borough was contacted by the group that worked on our telecommunication ordinance. They advised us that there is legislation proposed that would restrict a municipality's ability to regulate mini-cell towers or collect fees. Mrs. Hartranft has drafted a letter for Council to sign and then send to our representatives explaining our opposition of the pending legislation.

Motion made by Philip Weber, seconded by Kevin Lott, to execute and send the letter to the representatives. Motion carried 6-0.

B. Mayor

Mayor Heintzelman- I performed my first wedding over the weekend and have two more scheduled for this year.

With regard to the Adopt-A-Bush Program, I wanted to re-enforce that the barberry bush is not banned in Pennsylvania. That being said, I am proposing to plant emerald gem boxwoods in its place.

Motion made by Philip Weber, seconded by Kevin Lott, to proceed with the new plant choice. Mayor Heintzelman will create a new flyer for the program. Motion carried 6-0.

Mayor Heintzelman- The Spirit Parade is October 21, 2018. We did get enough sponsors. There will be no change in the route. Barricades must remain in place until staff moves them. The theme for 2018 is Fairytales.

C. Council- None

VIII. Reports from Appointed Officials

A. Treasurer

1. August 2018

Motion made by Earl Hill, seconded by Philip Weber, to receive the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried 6-0.

B. Engineer

Mr. Smith was not present for the meeting.

C. Solicitor

Mr. Corriere- The closing on the Cummings property will probably happen this month. The bank did not require a survey so the Borough will receive a \$500.00 refund.

D. Manager

Mrs. Hartranft- The Borough of Hellertown and Lower Saucon Township are hosting a free shred event to borough and township residents only. The event is October 6, 2018, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Ids will be checked.

E. Chief of Police

Chief Shupp had nothing to report.

F. Public Works Director

Mr. Henshaw had nothing to report.

G. Zoning/Codes Officer

Mr. Russo had nothing to report.

H. Fire Chief- None

I. Emergency Management- None

IX. Unfinished Business

1. Discussion on Christmas Tree

Mr. Rieger- The Chamber committee met and recommended that, since this is the first year of the event being held at Dimmick Park, the Borough attempt to get a donated cut real Christmas Tree. The Chamber is working on getting sponsors for uplighting. Two wreaths have been donated by BB&T.

Motion made by Earl Hill, seconded by Gil Stauffer, to proceed with the Chamber recommendation. Motion carried 6-0.

X. New Business

1. Outstanding Obligations- Approval of Payments

Motion made by Philip Weber, seconded by Earl Hill, to approve the payments. Motion carried 6-0.

2. Adoption of Resolution 18-12, Authorizing the Application to Northampton-Lehigh County Local Share Account Grant- Council Action

Mr. Rieger- This application will be the same as the one sent to the Monroe County LSA for the Public Works Facility at the former Reinhard site.

Motion made by Kevin Lott, seconded by Earl Hill, to adopt Resolution 18-02. Motion carried 6-0.

3. Authorization to Execute Funding Commitment Letter- Council Action

Motion made by Philip Weber, seconded by Earl Hill, to execute the Funding Commitment Letter. Motion carried 6-0.

4. Authorizing to Provide Mayor for a Day Voucher to St. Theresa School Silent Auction- Council Action

Mayor Heintzelman- I was contact by St. Theresa School about providing a Mayor for a Day Voucher to their silent auction. My thoughts are to have the recipient come to a Council Meeting where we would swear them in and allow them to sit at my seat for the evening. The next day, the Chief and I would give them a tour around the building, town, and the magistrate's office. The hours would be from about 9:00 a.m. to 12:0 p.m.

Motion made by Earl Hill, seconded by Philip Weber, to prove St. Theresa School with a Mayor for a Day Voucher. Motion carried 6-0.

XI Announcements

Mr. Rieger- There will be Budget Sessions the next few Mondays beginning at 6:00 p.m.

XII. Executive Session

Motion made by Gil Stauffer, seconded by Kevin Lott, to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:55 p.m. Motion carried 6-0.


Mr. Corriere advised that the Executive Session was being held to discuss personnel matters.

Council reconvened from Executive Session at 8:05 p.m. Mr. Corriere reiterated that the Executive Session was held to discuss personnel matters.

XIII. Adjournment

Motion made by Kevin Lott, seconded by Philip Weber, to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 p.m. Motion carried 6-0.

Adopted by the Hellertown Borough Council this 15th Day of October 2018.


Borough Secretary