

August 8, 2016

POTTSTOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL

The regular meeting of the Pottstown Borough Council was called to order on Monday, August 8, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Meeting Room, Pottstown Borough Hall, 100 East High Street, Pottstown, Pennsylvania, with President Weand in the Chair.

CALL TO ORDER

INVOCATION

President Weand requested a moment of silence.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Councilors present were Ryan Procsal, Carol Kulp, Sheryl Miller, Dan Weand, Rita Paez and Joseph Kirkland. Also present were Borough Manager Mark Flanders, Mayor Sharon Valentine-Thomas, Solicitor Charles Garner and Grants Administrator Kourtney High. Councilor Dennis Arms and Borough Secretary Virginia Takach were absent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Committee of the Whole Meeting – July 6, 2016 - Motion by Councilor Kulp, seconded by Councilor Miller to approve the July 6, 2016 Committee of the Whole meeting minutes as presented.

Vice President Miller noted that corrections were previously provided to Ms. High.

Motion carried: 6 ayes.

b. Council Meeting – July 11, 2016 – Motion by Councilor Miller, seconded by Councilor Kulp to approve the July 11, 2016 Council meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried: 6 ayes.

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS PRESENT

a. Richard Meadowcroft, 1135 South Street – questioned the protection of the Codes Department for situations in his neighborhood. He added that several codes could be made to protect citizens.

b. Bruce Madara, 543 North Adams Street – praised School Board member Emanuel Wilkerson for his communication efforts. He noted he receives no responses to correspondence, notably the 7th Ward. Mr. Madara advised that he complained of a sewage problem last week and as of this evening, it remains. He added that after contacting the Health Department, the Public Works crew responded on this date.

c. Luvenia Lister, 347 Beech Street – questioned the changes on the Human Relations

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Commission Ordinance amendment and requested another meeting with Council prior to the amendment.

Solicitor Garner noted that the most recent draft is from July 26th with discussion presented at the August 3rd Committee of the Whole.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Finance & Administration – President Weand reported that the revenues received are at 63% and expenditures at 57%. Mid-year adjustments have been made and are listed for approval on the agenda.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Library – Arthur Green reported that Pottstown is the first Library in Montgomery County to offer Roku, which is an unlimited amount of live-streaming. He also provided a construction update. Mr. Green also urged all to contact local legislators for increased funding and reported that the audit is complete.

b. Human Relations Commission – Councilor Paez advised that a report will be provided next month, adding that there is not enough dollars in the budget to pay the administrative salary.

c. PDIDA – Sheila Dugan advised that a strategic plan will be provided to Council in the near future and names for the vacant positions will be addressed next month. Ms. Dugan also reported that Hometown Holiday events are set for December 9th to 11th and noted that meetings to the end of the year will be held the first Friday of the month, 7:30 a.m. at the PDIDA office. She also advised that this week is National Farmers' Market week and urged all to support the FARM.

d. COG – Councilor Kulp advised that there was no meeting.

e. EAC – Councilor Paez advised that there was no meeting.

f. Regional Planning – Councilor Procsal noted that there was no meeting.

g. Blighted Property Review committee – Councilor Procsal advised that the minutes were in the packets.

h. Emergency Services Reports – Miles Feather was present for the Phillies Fire Company and advised that training continues. He also reported on the fund raising events, with the golf event already sold out. Mr. Feather also advised that the Education Program is underway with the assistance of President Weand and the School District. He also provided an update on the Phillies participation at the Carousel event.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

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NEW BUSINESS

a. LERTA - Motion by Councilor Kirkland, seconded by Councilor Kulp to adopt an Ordinance designating the Borough of Pottstown as an area in which new construction of industrial, commercial and other certain business property and improvements to industrial, commercial, or other certain business properties are eligible for a tax exemption pursuant to the Local Economic Revitalization Tax Assistance Act, (LERTA).

ORDINANCE NO. 2016-2152

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BURGESS AND TOWN COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF POTTSTOWN, MONTGOMERY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, DESIGNATING THE BOROUGH OF POTTSTOWN AS AN AREA IN WHICH NEW CONSTRUCTION OF INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND OTHER CERTAIN BUSINESS PROPERTY AND IMPROVEMENTS TO INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL OR OTHER CERTAIN BUSINESS PROPERTY ARE ELIGIBLE FOR A TAX EXEMPTION PURSUANT TO THE LOCAL ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION TAX ASSISTANCE ACT, AS AMENDED; PROVIDING FOR AN EXEMPTION ON ASSESSMENT ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE ACTUAL COSTS OF SUCH NEW CONSTRUCTION OR IMPROVEMENTS; PROVIDING FOR THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THIS ORDINANCE; AND REPEALING ANY AND ALL PRIOR ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES THAT ARE INCONSISTENT WITH THIS ORDINANCE.

Motion carried: 6 ayes.

b. Master Traffic Ordinance Amendment – Motion by Councilor Miller, seconded by Councilor Kulp to adopt an Ordinance amending various provisions within the Borough’s Master Traffic Ordinance pertaining to speed limits, one-way streets, parking regulations and miscellaneous requirements.

ORDINANCE No. 2016-2153

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BURGESS AND TOWN COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF POTTSTOWN AMENDING VARIOUS PROVISIONS WITHIN THE BOROUGH’S MASTER TRAFFIC ORDINANCE PERTAINING TO SPEED LIMITS, ONE-WAY STREETS, PARKING REGULATIONS, AND OTHER MISCELLANEOUS REQUIREMENTS, ALL OF WHICH ARE PART OF CHAPTER 15, MOTOR VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC, OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF POTTSTOWN, AS AMENDED

Motion carried: 6 ayes.

c. Human Relations Commission Ordinance – Motion by Councilor Kirkland, seconded by Councilor Kulp to authorize the Solicitor to prepare and advertise an Ordinance amending the Human Relations Commission Ordinance.

Vice President Miller questioned the Human Relations Commission budget, noting that this was to be a volunteer commission and stated that it may be difficult to sustain the current budget and cited the numerous free training and organizational opportunities available. She also questioned

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the bills being submitted for professional services when there are not enough members to constitute a quorum for a meeting and what is entailed for a \$1,000 invoice.

Councilor Paez commented that the Commission is in need of training, a meeting place and computers and the professional services are for a staff member to work on cases. She also requested another meeting among Council members.

Councilor Kirkland noted that if costs exceed the budgeted amount for the Commission, which has been previously agreed upon by Council, that would be the problem of the Commission.

Vice President Miller also requested the language to be adjusted to read "Borough Council may remove any member of the Commission with cause."

Motion carried: 6 ayes.

d. Video Cameras - Motion by Councilor Procsal, seconded by Councilor Paez to approve the Montgomery County District Attorney's Office initiative to install video cameras to combat criminal activity within the Borough of Pottstown.

Vice President Miller noted that this project is only to enhance law enforcement, not to take officers off the street or reduce the number of officers.

Motion carried: 6 ayes.

e. Mid-Year budget Adjustments – Motion by Councilor Miller, seconded by Councilor Kirkland to approve the Mid-Year Budget Adjustments dated August 3, 2016 as recommended by the Finance Committee. Motion carried: 6 ayes.

f. Waiver of Land Development – Recon - Motion by Councilor Kirkland, seconded by Councilor Miller to grant request of Recon-Properties, LLP for a Waiver of Land Development for property located at 804 Farmington Avenue and proceed with the issuance of a building permit application, subject to satisfying the Borough Engineer and DEP requirements. Motion carried: 6 ayes.

g. Efficient Auto Center - Possible action of the Zoning Variance request of Efficient Auto Center, 332 North Charlotte Street.

Owner, Mohamed Hashamy was present and explained that the nature of the business will be a used car repair and general body and repair work facility. He added that the office may be a separate room but not necessarily a separate building. Mr. Hashamy also noted that there will not be more than one car for sale at a time.

President Weand recommended that this matter be forwarded to the Zoning Hearing Board with no action required by Council.

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h. Vehicle Sales – Motion by Councilor Miller, seconded by Councilor Procsal to award the sale of Borough Vehicles as per the bid tabulation of August 8, 2016 subject to review of the Borough Solicitor and as follows:

- i. 2009 Chevy Cobalt to Ayman Garas - \$5,451
- ii. 2009 Chevy Cobalt to Thomas Orourke - \$4,800
- iii. 1998 Dodge Van Ram to Larry Wilson - \$775
- iv. Gledhill snow plow blade to David Faggioli - \$310
- v. Baker plow blade to Jeremy Bellois - \$39
- vi. TMC buses #51, #52 & #53 to Russell Osman - \$1,306, \$1,306 & \$1,406
- vii. TMC buses #54 & #55 to Sharon Deimier - \$825 &, \$1,026

Motion carried: 6 ayes

i. Manhole Frames & Lids - Motion by Councilor Kulp, seconded by Councilor Miller to award the 2016 Manhole Frames & Lids Rehabilitation bid to TLC (Trenchless Line Co.), Bridgeport, PA as per the bid tabulation of July 28, 2016 and in the amount of \$59,500, subject to review of the Borough Solicitor. Motion carried: 6 ayes.

j. Blighted Property Resignation - Motion by Councilor Procsal, seconded by Councilor Kulp to accept the resignation of Dennis Arms from the Blighted Property Review Committee. Motion carried: 6 ayes.

k. Blighted Property Appointment – Motion by Councilor Procsal, seconded by Councilor Miller to appoint Deborah Penrod to the Blighted Property Review Committee to fill a vacant term to expire December 31, 2016. Motion carried: 6 ayes.

l. EAC- Motion by Councilor Miller, seconded to Councilor Paez to reappoint Lynn Dewees to the Environmental Advisory Council for a three (3) year term to expire August 10, 2019. Motion carried: 6 ayes.

a. HARB – Motion by Councilor Kirkland, seconded by Councilor Kulp to ratify action of the Building Permit Officer approving a Certificate of Appropriateness for the property located at 1016 East High Street. Motion carried: 6 ayes.

REPORT OF BILLS

Motion by Councilor Miller, seconded by Councilor Kulp to pay the outstanding bills in the amount of \$2,644,190.44. Motion carried: 6 ayes.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Vice President Miller advised that the Animal Committee was formed two years ago to address the needs for improvement for animal safety. She also outlined the make-up of the committee, including staff and members of the Police Department, in order to comply with all state laws and requirements. Vice President Miller commended Evan Brandt for his idea of a monthly program in conjunction with PCTV to establish the “Borough Buzz” informational sessions. She

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added that Mr. Brandt will be co-hosting with her on future segments. The first episode is an animal and pet theme and will air August 17th.

Councilor Paez announced the September 24th Latin Festival.

Mayor Thomas suggested that any corrections to the minutes should be made publicly. She added that at the recent Mayor's conference, she learned many municipalities have suspending airing their work sessions as items may be absent from the minutes, such as the slight omission of not including her in the roll-call and also the changes in the minutes. Mayor Thomas also requested that the Human Relations Commission ordinances changes be provided to Ms. Lister and noted that she will follow up with Mr. Green regarding the underfunding of libraries.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned 8:00 p.m. on motion by President Weand.

Submitted by,

Mark D. Flanders
Borough Manager