

**BOROUGH OF YEADON
DELRWARE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
MINUTES OF BOROUGH COUNCIL
LEGISLATIVE MEETING
AUGUST 21, 2014 @ 7:30 P.M.**

The Yeadon Borough Council met at Yeadon Borough Hall on the above date. President Sharon Council-Harris called the meeting or order at 7:37 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

The following member was present: President Sharon Council-Harris, Vice President Nelva Wright, Councilors Clara Johnson, Learn Johnson, Rosalind Jones-Johnson, Gracie Snead, and Dolores McCabe participated by telephone. Also present were Mayor Rohan Hepkins, Borough Manager/Secretary Larry Healy, Solicitor Raymond Santarelli, Engineer Eileen Mulvena, Finance Director Joseph Possenti, Jr., and Police Chief, Donald Molineux.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

President Council-Harris announced that an Executive Session took place prior to the meeting to discuss Legal and Personnel issues.

CITIZENS FORM – No Comments

ELM STREET NEIGHBORHOOD ADVISORY COMMITTEE, DEBBIE BRODEUR

Debbie Brodeur, Manager of the Project, distributed a report to Council. The program ends 12/31/14, but she can get funds for another 3 years. The State will not provide Funds for salaries. If Yeadon and Lansdowne want the program to continue, the Boroughs would need to contribute the Funds. Sharon Council-Harris asked if Grants could continue and Debbie Brodeur said she can get more Grant money. Nelva Wright thanked Debbie for her work and wants to continue the relationship with the State. Debbie Brodeur said there are other Fund sources in addition to the State.

Councilor L. Johnson: Why doesn't Yeadon have its own Program? Debbie said it's up to Yeadon.

Vice President Wright: Asked if residents can e-mail program suggestions.

Debbie Brodeur: State is looking for input. Website is www.lansdowneyeadon.org. She would like to come back in September and will go to Lansdowne and Delaware County Council; there could be a vote to continue in October.

Councilor L. Johnson: Asked where curb cut ramps were being installed.

Debbie Brodeur: Three are being put in one in Yeadon, one in Lansdowne and one common intersection with funding coming from 1/3 Yeadon, 1/3 Lansdowne and 1/3 Elm Street. Eileen Mulvena is providing help to determine best locations.

Mayor Hepkins: Asked about the relationship with Habitat for Humanity.

Debbie Brodeur: Habitat for Humanity developed two lots on Dudley Road in Lansdowne building four town houses.

Councilor Jones-Johnson: Asked for a breakdown of 2014 Façade Projects and how were they decided.

Debbie Brodeur: Information is on page 4 of here report. Applications were submitted and projects were chosen to make the most of available funds.

Councilor Jones-Johnson: Improvements must be reported to the County for assessment.

Debbie Brodeur: The improvements should not impact property value.

Councilor L. Johnson: Stated she has met with Habitat for Humanity and asked Deb to speak to them about projects in Yeadon. Deb said they want more work in this area. Deb introduced Peter Rykard who has volunteered to serve on the Elm street Board.

Peter Rykard: Said he has lived on Park Place for 12 years and is already on the Image Committee.

Vice President Nelva Wright thanked him for his desire to serve and put forth a Motion to Appoint Him to the Board. Seconded by Councilor Jones-Johnson. Motion carries 6-1. Voting No: Councilor C. Johnson.

Clara Johnson: Asked if Mr. Rykard is affiliated to any council member to which he responded no.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JULY 23, 2014.

Councilor Jones-Johnson: Asked about the motion in the minutes to have the solicitor review the handbook and what was the discussion about, an additional \$6.00 -\$10.00 for laterals? Said minutes are for residents and must be posted on website. The Secretary must do a better job.

President Council-Harris: Asked Larry Healy to add more detail. The Engineer in her report had said that as sewer repairs are made it has been customary for the Borough to repair laterals in the street so as to no hold up on the sewer repair and recommended that the Borough take over all street lateral repair and suggested a dedicated fee of \$6.00 - \$10.00 could be added to the 2015 Sewer Bills.

Councilor Jones-Johnson: Said fee increase must be discussed at Budget talks.

Vice President Wright: Stated there was a discussion of a potential fee, no action was taken on fees.

Councilor Jones-Johnson: Stated she does not like Larry Healy's minutes.

President Council-Harris: Minutes are tabled until next month.

Councilor L. Johnson: Wants more details about Aqua Insurance Program.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Hepkins has six items to discuss. He held his first Quarterly Forum on August 8, 2014 and discussed the shooting at Fitzgerald Mercy Hospital.

Councilor Jones-Johnson: Wants a written report prior to meetings.

Mayor Hepkins continued to discuss the hospital incident and stressed the importance of calling 911 in emergencies. It saved lives as the suspect had 39 more bullets and quick response saved lives. He also praised our Police Department and Chief Molineux for his excellent job. He met with President Kenny Greene and Jacquelynn Puriefoy Brinkley regarding the Nile Swim Club. Spoke of upcoming playground and that Miles Fields had requested a prayer vigil the Wednesday before groundbreaking and forty-five residents attended. On Saturday, August 23, 2014. Groundbreaking will be at 8:30 a.m. with ribbon cutting at 2:30 p.m.

Mayor Hepkins swore in Phillip Stephens as a full time Yeadon Patrolman, Officer Stephens' family was present.

In recognition of the solemn occasion of Paul Johnson, late husband of Councilor Clara Johnson, and who birthday was on August 14, the flag at Borough Hall was being flown at half-staff. Paul

and Clara, who had been married for 45 years, are pillars of the Community. Two of their granddaughters were present.

ENGINEER'S REPORT – ATTACHED

Engineer Mulvena: Yeadon Swim Club demolition will begin soon. We are waiting for County Council to approve increase in funds for curb cuts. Also Elm Street curb cut will be on Fairview Road. She held a joint meeting with East Lansdowne to discuss MS4 Rules. She and Dan reviewed street problems. There are storm and sanitary issues on Paul Street south 80 feet from Providence sewer on Baily 40 feet west of Rose Street; Sinkhole at 421 Laurel Road; Manhole and possible pike collapse at 904 Longacre Blvd; Hole at 433 Church Lane.

Motion to Approve Repairs made by Councilor Learin Johnson, seconded by Vice President Wright.

Councilor Dolores McCabe said she did not hear all of the motion. Councilor Learin Johnson reread it. Councilor Dolores McCabe then voted yes.

Motion carries 6-0 with 1 abstention. Councilor Jones-Johnson abstained stating she does not see this in Engineer's Report and it is difficult to vote on Motions that are not in the Report.

Engineer Mulvena: Said her Report was distributed last Thursday prior to her meeting with Dan.

Also stated 100 block of Providence repair is scheduled to start Tuesday. Storm water tip: Limit watering lawns and only water lawns. If you see a contractor hosing off equipment, call Code Department as this is a violation.

Councilor Jones-Johnson: Said Linn Architects is supposed to inspect the first floor restrooms for ADA compliance.

Engineer Mulvena: Linn is our ADA expert and will check on compliance.

Councilor Jones-Johnson: Funds were budgeted for first floor repair. Those restrooms are no compliant.

Engineer Mulvena: Council has not authorized work so she will check on what changes are needed.

Councilor Jones-Johnson: It was never intended for Public Works crew to do repairs, which are behind schedule and the restrooms are in deplorable condition.

President Council-Harris: Instructed Larry Healy to coordinate with Engineer.

Councilor L. Johnson: Asked why clock tower was no painted.

Engineer Mulvena: Last year council voted to repaint first, then bid out for paint, but with the urgency to fix restrooms and that there were funds to paint the façade, she was able to get that done.

Councilor L. Johnson: Asked if it was a good idea to do it while the lift equipment is still here.

Engineer Mulvena: Said we have roof issues also.

President Council-Harris: We need a recommendation on roof repairs.

Councilor Jones-Johnson: Roof is planned for 2015 Budget.

Engineer Mulvena: Stated she will get estimates to paint clock tower.

Mayor Hepkins: Shower in Police Department needs repairs.

Chief Molineux: Dan Wright looked at the shower which is an odd size and is searching for a replacement with minimal cost.

FINANCE REPORT

Finance Director Possenti: Read the Finance Report. On A/P List there are two checks for a seminar attended by Joseph Possenti and Larry Healy. He will void those checks and will pay for the seminar himself.

Councilor L. Johnson: Asked if numbers in brackets are negative numbers.

Councilor Jones-Johnson: On Page 12 Community Programs was overspent.

Director Possenti: Brackets show negative numbers.

Councilor C. Johnson: That means were are over budget.

Director Possenti: Some items are over and some are under.

Councilor Jones-Johnson: There is a bond to pay for Library Addition yet it was paid out of the General Fund.

Director Possenti: Will make a journal entry at the end of the quarter and will transfer funds from Bond to General. The Bond doesn't have check writing so it's basic accounting.

Councilor C. Johnson: Where did the \$500 in petty cash go.

Director Possenti: There has not been any petty cash in the last three years. He credited and debited miscellaneous at the end of the quarter to remove the entry which had been carried over for years.

Mayor Hepkins: Asked about the Tax Collector's salary which was budgeted at \$10,400 but year to date is \$16,480.

Councilor Jones-Johnson: The salary for collecting real estate taxes is \$10,400. The collector is paid extra for collecting Sewer and Refuse Fees. When the Borough tried to separate bills it was a disaster.

Motion to Approve A/P List made by Vice President Wright, seconded by Councilor L. Johnson. Motion carries 4-3.

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT

Director Possenti: Read tax collector's report

SOLICITOR'S REPORT – No action at this time

NEW BUSINESS – None

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Council-Harris: Library will hold a fundraiser on October 4, 2014 at Borough Hall. Ribbon cutting for the addition is on September 13, at 10:00 a.m. Going back to the street lateral discussion, she had to have it done five years ago and it is costly to the homeowner. If in the course of sewer repairs the Borough fixes it, it saves residents a lot of money, especially for seniors.

Councilor Snead: Wants a town meeting so the Community can discuss it.

President Council-Harris: Asked will our neighbors prefer to pay \$24.00 a year to avoid \$5000.00 repair after fees doubled last year.

Councilor Jones-Johnson: Said Borough was \$400,000 in red and needed a tax anticipation note.

President Council-Harris: Asked Joseph Possenti for clarification on the need for an increase.

Councilor Jones-Johnson: 2013 faced a definite deficit and the TAN was used for the third quarter sewer fees. Lateral issue is complex. The Communities with fees are also towns that NDI works in. If sidewalks are repaired by the Borough, it puts liens on properties, we should revisit sewer fees in 2015 Budget.

President Council-Harris: When Borough replaces sewer lines it should replace laterals as was done for her neighbor.

Councilor Jones-Johnson: More time is needed for discussion and there were no workshops in July and August.

Councilor L. Johnson: Asked what options homeowners have regarding laterals and common driveway.

Council Snead: Is homeowner responsible for their lateral.

Engineer Mulvena: Most likely every lateral in the 100 block of Providence is broken. We can't stop the sewer repair. The practice to fix laterals has been forever. She asked last month how to handle and Council said to continue. This came before the Planning Commission for the 537 Plan. We must plan to inspect laterals. It can be a nightmare to sell home. She offered a solution that for a few dollars a year we take over street laterals.

President Council-Harris: \$24.00 - \$26.00 a year takes burden from residents.

Councilor L. Johnson: Has the Aqua Policy covering lateral to curb, but curb to main is not covered?

Engineer Mulvena: There has been discussion to hold a town meeting, 537 Plan has not yet been approved. Recent lateral repair in East Lansdowne cost \$12,000 and \$18,000. Costs are rising and the public needs to be educated.

Councilor C. Johnson: Said she is not saying it's a wrong thing to do, but wants a town meeting.

Vice President Wright: This is a discussion, no action on fees as taken.

President Council-Harris: It will be discussed for 2015 Budget.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Manager Healy: Said that last month Council asked him to come up with dates for revamped Caucus Meetings.

Councilor Jones-Johnson: A Caucus is a political meeting and council sets meetings.

President Council-Harris: Cited breakdown of Committee Meetings and noted other towns have Caucus Meetings. 2-3 weeks prior to Legislative Meeting. Department Heads will be there. It is a time for discussion with no voting.

Councilor Jones-Johnson: Workshops were advertised and open to the public.

President Council-Harris: Council asked Larry Healy to come back with dates to advertise any changes.

Councilor Jones-Johnson: The July meeting was cancelled without asking Council.

Councilor C. Johnson: Someone cancelled meeting because four members were ill.

President Council-Harris: Asked for Motion to Advertise Dates submitted by Manager. Motion made by Vice President Wright, seconded by Councilor L. Johnson.

There was inaudible arguing over meetings.

Councilor C. Johnson: Doesn't want a two hour meeting.

Councilor Jones-Johnson: Said she wants to be here until 1:00 AM

CITIZEN'S FORUM

Margo Stokes – Church Lane – Liked old Committee Meetings and Public could attend. The Community didn't ask to hold all Committee Meetings in one day.

President Council-Harris: Over the years, different administrations had Workshops, and 12 to 15 Committee Meetings at different times of day.

Councilor Jones-Johnson: Said President is lying.

President Council-Harris: Rosalind Johnson and Gracie Snead chaired meetings at times when people at work could not attend. Her intent is to make meetings more accessible on one night. Darby, Colwyn, East Lansdowne have caucus format with Department Heads present to answer questions from Council and Public. Those who don't like the process are entitled to their own opinion.

Councilor L. Johnson: At previous meetings, parents signed up 40 majorettes.

President Council-Harris: There are Caucus Meetings at different levels.

Councilor Jones-Johnson: Yeadon is not a political party.

Ms. Stokes: Stated she is confused by terminology Caucus, Workshop, Committee.

President Council-Harris: September 8 at 7:00 P.M. to discuss items for Legislative Meeting. No voting.

Councilor L. Johnson: Will we pay overtime?

Mayor Hepkins: Are we merging Committee and Workshop Meetings?

Ms. Stokes: Residents were free to engage Council Members.

President Council-Harris: At workshop the public will have the opportunity for discussion.

Councilor Snead: Will there be a time frame for speaking?

President Council- two to three minutes.

Ms. Stokes: Said she went to a Personnel Committee Meeting, was part of the process, brought skill sets to the table and felt she was part of the Community.

Council L. Johnson: Previous format gave public the choice of what meeting to attend.

Council C. Johnson: If people liked that format, why change.

President Council-Harris: Initially attendance was good, but it went down.

Councilor L. Johnson: The tax Collector should attend.

Councilor Jones-Johnson: Department Heads will be paid overtime. She could not attend other meetings in that format and felt Council was not working with the Community and the process was flawed.

Ms. Stokes: Would like to be on multiple committees.

Councilor Jones-Johnson: There was no advertising to hire Richard Nixon.

President Council-Harris: The Management Firm is handling administration.

Councilor Jones-Johnson: Manager is not qualified.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn made by Vice President Nelva Wright, seconded by Councilor L. Johnson

Councilor L. Johnson: Code Department is conducting an apartment inspection, will present a report.

Meeting adjourned at 10:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Lawrence W. Healy
Borough Secretary