

**BOROUGH OF YEADON**

**DELAWARE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

**MINUTES OF BOROUGH LEGISLATIVE MEETING**

**OCTOBER 15, 2015**

The Borough of Yeadon Council met on the above date at Borough Hall. President Sharon Council-Harris called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

**1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Present were council members Learin Johnson, Rosalind Jones-Johnson (left at 8:50 PM), Dr. Dolores McCabe, Gracie Snead, and President Sharon O. Council-Harris. Vice President Nelva Wright arrived at 8:20 PM. Councilwoman Clara Johnson was absent. Also present were Mayor Rohan Hepkins, Manager/Secretary Larry Healy, Solicitor Charles Gibbs, Engineer Eileen Mulvena, Finance Director Joseph Possenti, and Chief Donald Molineux.

**3. Mayor Hepkins officiated the swearing in of two new Full-Time Patrolmen, Robert Wellbrock and Nicholas Tokonitz whose families were present.**

**4. YEADON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION PRESENTATION**

President Council-Harris introduced YEDC Chair Miles Fields and said he had come to last week's Caucus Meeting to talk about their proposed Gateway Project. Mr. Fields thanked council for its support and introduced Earl Boyd. He talked about the project which would install signs at the Gateways to the borough. This will make a clear statement at entering the borough of who we are and we're proud to be in

Yeadon. Project Designer, Bill Mellix of the Synterra Corporation, a Yeadon 69 year resident, presented a power point illustrating plans for the circle on Longacre Boulevard and at Cobbs Creek and Chester Avenue which would include a rain garden. He said the circle project will cost \$150,000- \$180,000. Vice-Chair Isaac Dotson elaborated on the project stating that it is proposed that given the borough's history, in particular as part of the Underground Railroad, the circle should be named Freedom Circle as suggested by Secretary Homer Marion. He introduced other YEDC Board Members; Garry Core, Karen Mitchell, and Bernadette Andrews. He also said that the YEDC invested \$1,850 for phase one of development and asked for \$3,036 from council to move forward. President Council-Harris said all of council needs the opportunity for input and while she agrees with the project she has concerns about the total cost. Mr. Gibbs advised that since it is not on the agenda, it should be included on next month's agenda for consideration. Mr. Dotson said council will be presented with a proposal for consideration at budget talks. Councilwoman L. Johnson asked about total cost. Mr. Mellix said the circle is \$150,000-\$18,000 and Cobbs Creek and Chester is \$25,000. Mr. Dotson looks forward to partnering with council to move the project forward. He also thanked council for supporting the health fair. Councilor Jones-Johnson said this project was in the 2001 comprehensive plan, but not done as each council does what it wants to do. It is good to partner with a non-political group. The community needs an upgrade. Dr. Carolina Harris urged council to move forward. Former council president Jacquiline Purefoy- Brinkley agreed. Mayor Hepkins and Councilor Dr. McCabe said it is a great idea. Mrs. Brinkley asked council to commit to the project. Councilwoman L. Johnson suggested putting flags on poles. President Council-Harris said Mr. Mellix did a wonderful job and council is committed to move forward with sound management and keeping in mind that there are infrastructure improvements needed that will cost millions of dollars.

## **5. CITIZEN'S FORUM**

Craig Powell of 672 Cypress Street said he has a situation with his neighbor at 670 Cypress Street and the trees and unkempt property. He said he filed request for action with the Code Department and nothing

happened. He said a tree almost smashed into his car. He wants the borough to take down the trees.

President Council-Harris referred the matter to Councilwoman L. Johnson and Mr. Healy.

## **6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion to approve the minutes of September 17, 2015 made by Councilor Dr. McCabe and seconded by Councilwoman L. Johnson. Motion approved 6-0.

## **7. ENGINEER'S REPORT**

Mrs. Mulvena said A to U is back doing storm sewer work on West Providence Road. She and Mr. Healy attended the Regional Street Lighting meeting regarding LED lighting. (Councilor Jones-Johnson left at 8:50 PM) She read the monthly storm water tip addressing using leaves as compost and mulching leaves to fertilize lawns. Councilor Snead asked what streets have been completed end to end in the last five years. Mrs. Mulvena said none in the last three years since she has been back as the engineer. Mayor Hepkins asked about the progress on the Cedar Avenue Project. Mrs. Mulvena said the county wrote at the end of September that the project could go to bid and said council should award a contract at the November meeting. She said funds do not get released to the borough. As work is completed and invoices are submitted the county pays the contractors. President Council-Harris said there will be a 6:30 executive session on November 19<sup>th</sup> and advised that it will be discussed then. Legal matters and discussion of the contractor will take place then.

## **8. MAYOR'S REPORT**

Motion to appoint Michael Wilson to the position of, Part-Time Patrolman at the rate of \$17.45 per hour. With contingent upon passing all the requirements of the Yeadon Borough Police Department and the Municipal Officers Education and Training Commission by Councilor Dr. McCabe. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman L. Johnson. Motion approved 5-0. Councilor Dr. McCabe spoke of the

Public Safety Day event on Saturday November 7<sup>th</sup> from 10:30 to 12:30. Police, Fire, and Emergency Management representatives will discuss public safety.

## **9. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT**

Mr. Healy said the first item was to adopt an ordinance amending the Police Pension Fund's Survivor Benefits. As discussed last month it was discovered that the collective bargaining agreement called for a 75% survivor's benefit while a 2005 ordinance provides for a 50% benefit. As the ordinance was properly advertised and available for inspection. He deferred to Mr. Gibbs for further comment. Mr. Gibbs advised that council take comments from the public. President Council-Harris asked for public comments. Dr. Carolina Harris said she has read the code and asked council to revisit when negotiating the next police contract. Councilor Snead asked if the number of survivors had changed. Mr. Gibbs said only the rate of 75% was changed.

**9.1** Motion to adopt an ordinance amending the Police Pension Fund providing for a survivor's benefit of 75% by Councilwoman L. Johnson, seconded by Councilor Dr. McCabe, approved 5-0.

**9.2** Mr. Healy said that an ordinance amending the parking section 430.04 had been properly advertised and available for inspection, he asked Mr. Gibbs to comment. Mr. Gibbs advised that council take public comments. There being no comment President Council-Harris asked for a motion to adopt an ordinance amending the parking section 430.04, allowing to permit parking on the north side of Cedar Avenue and prohibiting parking on the south side of Cedar Avenue by Vice President Wright, seconded by Councilwoman L. Johnson, motion approved 5-0.

**9.3** Mr. Healy said council was emailed quotes on electric rates as the current agreement expires January 1, 2016. The borough is on track to realize \$10,000 in savings in 2015. He recommended renewing with EMEX as they offered the best rates. President Council-Harris asked if the representative who came to the meetings last year had submitted a proposal. Mr.

Healy said he emailed several request to Mr. O'Brien of America Approved but did not get a response. There was discussion about prices being down at this time. President Council-Harris asked that council to delay a decision until next month and asked that quotes be obtained prior to the Caucus meeting for further discussion.

**9.4** Mr. Healy said that Larson and Allen has not yet completed the 2014 audit and asked that council authorize advertising for an auditing firm to perform the 2015 audit. Mr. Possenti said the 2014 audit was expensive and agreed that the borough should advertise. Councilwoman L. Johnson made a motion to advertise a request for proposal for the 2015 audit, seconded by Vice-President Wright. Councilor Snead asked who decides on choosing an auditor. President Council-Harris said council decides. Motion was approved 5-0.

**9.5** Mr. Healy said that last year council approved a donation of \$500 to Men of Action Brothers in Faith to sponsor Thanksgiving Day dinners for folks who are less fortunate. The flyer is in the packets and the dinner is at the Darby Borough Recreation Center. Councilor Snead asked how many Yeadon residents had dinner last year. Councilor Dr. McCabe also questioned why Yeadon was not on the flyer. Councilor Dr. McCabe motioned to approve donating \$500 to Men of Action Brothers in Faith, contingent upon they add Yeadon as a sponsor and report how many Yeadon residents attended last year. Motion was seconded by Vice President Wright, motion approved 4-1. Voting yes was Councilors L. Johnson, Dr. McCabe, Vice President Wright, and President Council-Harris. Voting no was Councilor Snead.

## **10. FINANCE REPORT**

Mr. Possenti read the cash balance report and asked for a motion to approve the accounts payable list. Mr. Gibbs advised a motion should be approved to accept the cash balance report.

**10.1** Motion to accept the cash balance report by Vice President Wright, seconded by Councilwoman L. Johnson, motion approved 4-1. Voting yes was Councilors Johnson, Dr. McCabe, Vice President Wright, and President Council-Harris. Voting no was Councilor Snead.

**10.2** Motion to approve the accounts payable list by Vice President Wright, seconded my Councilwoman L. Johnson, motion approved 4-1. Voting yes was Councilor Johnson, Dr. McCabe, Vice President Wright, and President Council-Harris. Voting no was Councilor Snead.

## **11. TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT**

The tax collector's report was read by Mr. Possenti. Councilor Dr. McCabe asked that tax collector Laverne Johnson attend the November meeting.

## **12. SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Gibbs said he is working on a franchise agreement with RCN whose current agreement expires January 1<sup>st</sup> 2016. He asked for authorization to advertise an ordinance providing for a cable television franchise agreement with RCN motion by Councilor Dr. McCabe. Vice President Wright seconded the motion, motion was approved 5-0. Mr. Gibbs is still reviewing the Borough Truck Ordinance.

## **13. PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Council-Harris said she wants to hold off on items 13.2, 13.3, 13.4 which are appointments to the Historical Commission until there are more interested applicants to fill all five seats.

**13.1** Motion to appoint James Marshall to the Zoning Board by Councilwoman L. Johnson, seconded by Councilor Dr. McCabe, motion approved 5-0. Councilor Snead questioned holding off on the votes for 13.2, 13.3, and 13.4. Motion to advertise for applicants to serve on the Historical Commission by Councilwoman L. Johnson, seconded by Vice President Wright,

motion approved 4-1. Voting yes was Councilors L. Johnson, Dr. McCabe, Vice President Wright, and President Council-Harris. Voting no was Councilor Snead.

**13.5** This was a motion to appoint Tinn Osinuopepi to the redevelopment Authority. Included in member's packet was her application to serve on the Zoning Board. Councilwoman L. Johnson asked to hold off until there is a resume to review.

**13.6** Motion to appoint Ruth Brice to the Redevelopment Authority by Councilor Dr. McCabe, seconded by Councilwoman L. Johnson, motion approved 5-0. Mr. Gibbs advised that a motion be entered to table motions 13.2, 13.3, 13.4, and 13.5. Motion to table agenda items 13.2, 13.3, 13.4, and 13.5 by Councilor Dr. McCabe, seconded by Councilwoman L. Johnson, motion approved 4-0. Voting yes was Councilors Johnson, Dr. McCabe, Vice President Wright, and President Council-Harris. Councilor Snead abstained.

**13.7** Motion to reappoint Miles Fields to the Darby Creek Joint Authority by Councilwoman L. Johnson, seconded by Councilor Dr. McCabe, motion approved 5-0.

#### **14. NEW BUSINESS**

Vice President Wright entered a motion to accept the EMEX Energy proposal awarding a three year agreement to Champion Energy Service at a lock-in rate of \$0.0475 for street lighting and to Guttman Energy at a lock-in rate of \$0.0685 for general services accounts. Councilor Dr. McCabe seconded the motion. President Council-Harris asked that a vote be tabled until November when new rates are obtained separating street lighting and general service. Vice President Wright said she felt if council waited the low rates may be over by then. Motion approved 3-2. Voting yes were Councilors L. Johnson, Dr. McCabe, and Vice President Wright. Voting no was Councilor Snead, and President Council-Harris.

Councilwoman L. Johnson spoke about the newsletter and urged resident to complete and forward their emergency contact information. She announced meetings on October 24<sup>th</sup> for the YMCA Town Hall at

Penn Wood High School Cypress Street Campus, and Block Captains at Borough Hall. Motion to approve a handicapped parking space at 929 Serrill Avenue by Councilwoman L. Johnson, seconded by Councilor Snead, motion approved 4-0. Voting yes was Councilors L. Johnson, Snead, Vice President Wright, and President Council-Harris. Councilor Dr. McCabe abstained.

Councilor Dr. McCabe said there had been discussion at the Caucus Meeting of a car without a handicap tag or placard being parked at the handicap space on Whitby Avenue and that police will ticket non-handicap cars in handicap spaces.

President Council-Harris spoke of upcoming PSAB training, and the YMCA meeting. Work is going forward on first floor renovations. Mr. Healy asked council to consider for discussion in November how to handle the first floor carpet, whether to replace the worn carpet with new carpeting, laminate, or tile flooring. President Council-Harris said the 5 PM Committee meetings are not working. Only two council members and one resident attended October 10<sup>th</sup> meeting. She asked for a motion to suspend the November and December Committee meetings and revisit in January to develop a better plan to provide transparency and community involvement. Motion to suspend the November and December's Committee meetings and to advertise the suspension by Vice President Wright, seconded by Councilwoman L. Johnson, motion approved 4-1. Voting yes was Councilors L. Johnson, Dr. McCabe, Vice President Wright, and President Council-Harris. Voting no was Councilor Snead.

Councilwoman L. Johnson discussed the October 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> Haunted Hall. She also said that the library would like a rain barrel. The rain garden is working well. Councilor Snead said the newsletter had outdated items and Councilwoman L. Johnson apologized as there were printer issues.

## **15. OLD BUSINESS**

Vice President Wright spoke about the success of the Keys to Homeownership Workshop, where 25 residents attended and gained valuable information on finance and mortgages.

## **16. CITIZEN'S FORUM**

Dr. Carolina Harris said council must be cautious in giving donations to community groups such as for the Thanksgiving Dinner. She said someone should have come to council to report how many residents were served last year. She also said companies doing business in Yeadon, such as RCN, should give back to the community.

Isaac Dotson of Redwood Avenue commended Councilor Jones-Johnson on her helping out a homeless young man by giving him money, phone, and lodging. Mr. Dotson said she should be recognized for service to the community. He also thanked council for the fantastic job they do. Donna Samuel of Longacre Boulevard expressed concern that Kelli Cave should be appointed to the Historical Commission, as it is her passion for Yeadon's history that moved the borough forward. Denise Stinson of Paul Street inquired about the YMCA meeting. President Council-Harris said it is at Penn Wood High School Cypress Street Campus at 12 PM and there is a Block Captains meeting at Borough Hall at 3 PM.

## **17. ADJOURNMENT**

Councilor Dr. McCabe moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilor Snead. Meeting was adjourned at 10:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

X

**Lawrence Healy  
Borough of Yeadon Secretary**