

BOROUGH OF CHALFANT – WORK SESSION

FEBRUARY 7, 2017

PRESENT: Mayor Perry, Dr. Pustorino, Ms. Baburich, Messrs. Hensell, Hoover, Drenning, Syska, Miller

ABSENT: None

The work session began at 7:00 pm and ended at 9:38 pm.

BOROUGH OF CHALFANT - REGULAR MEETING

FEBRUARY 8, 2017

PRESENT: Mayor Perry, Dr. Pustorino, Ms. Baburich, Messrs. Hensell, Hoover, Syska, Drenning, Miller, Solicitor Evashavik

ABSENT: None

Mr. Hoover called the meeting to order and led the assemblage in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion by Baburich, seconded by Hensell, to approve the minutes of the last regular meeting. Motion was unanimous.

Motion by Syska, seconded by Drenning, to approve the bank balances as read. Motion was unanimous.

Motion by Miller, seconded by Hensell, to approve for payment the bills for the month after being properly countersigned. Motion was unanimous.

Motion by Miller, seconded by Drenning, to approve the Tax Collection report as read. Motion was unanimous.

MAYOR

For the month of January there were 35, 911 calls and 181 regular patrols by F.H.P.D. The majority of the 911 calls were:

- 4- Criminal Mischief
- 4- Neighbor Disputes
- 3- Parking Complaints
- 3- Suspicious Activities
- 2- Ordinance Violations
- 2- Welfare Checks
- 2- Follow up calls for information

There were two traffic stops with one warning and one citation issued.

SOLICITOR

No Report.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Annual occupancy permits were sent to landlords and property owners in mid-January. They are to be returned by 2/27 to the borough.

The newsletter was sent mid-January with minimal returns.

Dr. Pustorino updated all occupancy documents and sent to COG.

116 residents were added to the Crime Watch committee list for information.

106 residents were added to the Swift Reach system.

81 e-copies of the newsletter were sent to interested parties.

Motion by Pustorino, seconded by Baburich, to transfer \$5,000 from the General Fund Money Market to the General Fund Checking. Motion carried.

Motion by Pustorino, seconded by Miller to donate \$30.00 for an ad in the program for the Woodland Hills High School musical "Spamalot". Motion carried.

PERMITS AND ORDINANCES

No occupancy permits issued.

No dumpster applications issued.

COG code enforcement for January 2017 found 82 zoning or code enforcement violations.

Mark Swinney inquired as to the breakdown of violations. The majority were noted to fall into violations of the International Property Code which resulted in letters being sent and then corrective action being taken by residents in stipulated period of time.

ROADS AND PUBLIC WORKS

There was a minor landslide in the 100 block of North Avenue. Forest Hills erected barricades. Glenn Engineering inspected the property and the slide was cleaned up so that the barricades could be removed. Forest Hills also removed a large rock from the fenced storm drain area.

Per Jim Thielacker, Glenn Engineering's recommendation is to plan an erosion control grass in the spring.

There was discussion of the small sinkhole on Shadeland at North Avenue with Jim Thielacker.

HEALTH AND SANITATION

Storm drain repairs will begin in March.

Trash transition to Swissvale appears to be going smoothly.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Several practices were held by the VFC in January:

1/12-Checked gas power equipment, 4 members participated.

1/19-Performed station maintenance, 3 members participated.

1/21-318 North Avenue, resident agitated by odor of spray paint being discharged by neighbor, several responded.

1/24-126 Lynnwood lockout call. Entry call cancelled, 2 members attempted response.

1/16-120 Fairview Avenue fire in shed. Gas generator caused fire after contents of the shed caught fire. 5 members responded.

1/27-Changed bracket on the truck, 3 members participated.

BOROUGH PROPERTY

Mr. Miller will be contacting Jim Thielacker regarding signage to be hung for the year.

Mr. Miller will be looking at areas where tree pruning will be required in borough.

Mr. Miller will be requesting guidance for support of acquiring grants related to borough property.

Mr. Miller would like to consider revising the fee structure for the Community Center and will propose his ideas to council.

Mr. Miller encouraged residents to share ideas for community events and also requests for what would be “wish list” items for the park.

Crime Watch has scheduled the Emergency Services Community Day on Saturday May 20, 2017. Letters for donations will be sent in the upcoming weeks. Local Pennsylvania representatives have been made aware of the event date.

Mr. Miller noted children would be able to get onto fire trucks and would like to find out the feasibility of having a small burn so people could learn to use extinguishers.

Michael Aducci expressed liability concerns about children falling from truck, based upon previous experience serving on the Wilkins Twp VFD and stated that open burns are not permitted in Allegheny County. He recommended seeking out county for use of training truck.

Michael Aducci questioned why the rear gate was not open for access during Council meetings. President Hoover explained typical attendance does not warrant the gate opening, however, for other community events, it is open.

WHEMS (Doris Libell)

Ms. Libell was unable to attend the last meeting. WHEMS swore in new members, will provide further update in March.

CRIME WATCH (Mark Swinney)

Crime Watch had productive meeting on January 31st.

Set date for the Emergency Services Community Day for May 20, 2017, 11 A.M. to 3 P.M.

The committee is presently establishing stations and activities for event. They have been granted approval by Greg DiNardo to use his parking lot, they are gathering donations for a raffle, and Eileen Wroblewski indicated she will prepare food. The purpose of the event is to encourage resident engagement.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Mary Jane Probola, Fairview Avenue, raised concern about the fire at 120 Fairview, as this property is situated in close proximity to her own. She inquired as to the status of the individual who had been residing on the property as neighbors viewed him as a squatter. She also expressed concerns about the yard being littered with dog food cans and a deceased cat. She asked for an updated status of the property which Mr. Hoover explained is complicated, as a will was not executed for the late owner. Mr. Hoover explained that he has been in contact with the Bischel family and that the borough is doing its best to move forward with a plan of action once the property ownership is solidified.

Michael Aducci, Greensburg Pike inquired the efficacy and legality of Ordinance 319 which requires residents to file annual reports of occupancy. Mr. Aducci was concerned that information was asked such as resident names and locations of employment. Mr. Hoover indicated that those were important for wage tax filings. Solicitor Evashavik indicated that there is a need for this information as it relates to both fire and public safety, in emergency situations.

Bob Lasser, Lynnwood Avenue, noted that he had received several complaints regarding people being inside the vacant property on the intersection of Rossmore and Fairview.

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Mr. Lasser indicated that the police had been called and it seemed teenagers had gotten into the property. He also noted that he would like to make a formal donation for trees to celebrate the lives of both Mike Connors and Tom Kasardo on the Parkway Steps property. Mr. Lasser gave a donation to the borough for this purpose with instructions for Dr. Pustorino regarding opportunities to receive free trees through several foundations.

Mayor Perry spoke of the importance to memorialize Mr. Connors at the Steps for his ongoing efforts of rehabilitation for the site and indicated that Mr. Kasardo had been nominated posthumously for a Crosswaite Award for his service to both Swissvale and Chalfant Boroughs.

Cindy Roche, Fairview Avenue indicated that the streetlight at Fairview and Rossmore had been out again. Mr. Drenning indicated he had already contacted Duquesne Light and they had planned to send staff to repair the light.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Hoover opened the public hearing for Ordinance 423, which entered Chalfant into an inter-borough cooperative agreement for Swissvale to collect trash in the borough. No concerns or questions were raised by citizens. The hearing was closed and a motion was made by Ms. Baburich and seconded by Mr. Hensell. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Pustorino debriefed residents on the visit from Alcosan representatives and spoke about their programs for residents including the Open House, children's education, and LIHEAP opportunities for residents in need. Dr. Pustorino indicated more information about these programs would be in upcoming newsletter.

Ms. Baburich indicated that the Council had seen the advance copy of the Centennial Yearbook and that residents were encouraged to purchase them. Dr. Pustorino indicated that 2/17 is set for the first of times to pick up pre-purchased books at the Borough Building from 6-7 P.M.

Mr. Hoover indicated that he needed a motion to approve a tax refund for 132 Fairview, owned by Ashrok Mundra for \$347.07. Motion by Syska, second by Hensell. Motion carried.

Mr. Hoover indicated that he needed a motion to approve Resolution 542 which resulted in the application for a CITF grant. Mr. Hoover indicated that this grant, if received, would be used to remove trees, renovate existing surfaces of the tennis and basketball courts and pavilion, and replace the fencing surrounding the courts and baseball field. Motion by Drenning, second by Syska. Motion carried.

