

BOROUGH OF CHALFANT – WORK SESSION

MARCH 13, 2012

PRESENT: Mayor Perry, Ms. Williams, Ms. Simek, Messrs. Sperduto, Swinney, Hoover, Kasardo, Lasser

ABSENT: None

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

BOROUGH OF CHALFANT - REGULAR MEETING

MARCH 14, 2012

PRESENT: Mayor Perry, Ms. Williams, Ms. Simek, Messrs. Sperduto, Swinney, Hoover, Kasardo, Solicitor Nick Evashavik

ABSENT: Mr. Lasser

Ms. Williams called the meeting to order and led the assemblage in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion by Kasardo, seconded by Hoover, to approve the minutes of the last regular meeting. Motion was unanimous.

Motion by Simek, seconded by Hoover, to approve the bank balances as read. Motion was unanimous.

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

Motion by Hoover, seconded by Swinney, to approve the Tax Collection report as read. Motion was unanimous.

MAYOR

For the month of February, there were 29, 911 calls and 176 regular patrols by F.H.P.D. The majority of the 911 calls were:

- 3-Ordinance Violations
- 3-Parking Complaints
- 3-Med Unit Assists
- 3-Utility Reports
- 2-Alarm Calls
- 2-Suspicious Persons
- 2-Suspicious Vehicles

SOLICITOR

Solicitor Evashavik stated that Mr. Hoover provided to him the payment framework for the Highland Manor Agreement. He will draw up a contract.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

The Community Center was rented out for February 26th and March 3rd. Council sponsored a reassessment meeting on March 5th. The VFC will use the center on March 24th for the pasta dinner. The center will be used on April 24th for Election Day.

Ms. Simek is working on having the website updated to include the most recent newsletter.

The annual VFC financial record review will be scheduled.

Gift card donations have been received from Giant Eagle Braddock Hills, Kuhn's on Brown Avenue and Sam's in Monroeville. These will be used for Redd-up Day which is scheduled for April 7th.

PERMITS AND ORDINANCES

Two building permits were issued, one for 225 Elizabeth and one for 239 North.

A letter was sent to the owner of 833 Greensburg Pike regarding the falling wall on the property. Also, Mr. Sperduto spoke with the owner of 107 West Street regarding his sidewalk and debris that needs to be removed. Both of these properties are in violation of the property maintenance code. Effective April 15th, citations or follow up correspondence will be issued to residents that have not complied with the borough's request to follow the property maintenance code.

Due to the lateness of receiving the newsletter, residents will have until March 31st to return their annual occupancy reports. Thus far, Mr. Sperduto has received forms from 21 of 75 landlords.

A hearing scheduled for February 27th has been rescheduled for March 27th.

Mr. Sperduto spoke with the solicitor about an ordinance he is considering and will discuss with his committee.

Mr. Kasardo inquired about the status of the situation with a dog owner. Mr. Sperduto stated that citations have been filed with District Magistrate Caulfield

Motion by Sperduto, seconded by Hoover, to transfer \$34,000 from the General Fund Money Market to the General Fund Checking. Motion carried.

ROADS AND PUBLIC WORKS

Forest Hills placed millings in some alleys and is cleaning the catch basins. Some street patching was done and the ball field and park cleanup work has started. Mr. Swinney received a printout of the hours for January and February from Forest Hills and will review.

Signs for the borough will be ordered this week.

The engineer attended last night's meeting and discussed money that is available for paving next year. Crack sealing may be done this year.

HEALTH AND SANITATION

Mr. Hoover will put a sign stating no corrugated cardboard should be put into the recycling bin. The bin could be lost because of this. The borough has one more step up in bin size available then would need to go to curbside recycling.

Mr. Hoover will take a look at the storm drains and see which need repairs.

Motion by Hoover, seconded by Simek, to donate \$25.00 to the annual scholarship sponsored by the Churchill Area Environmental Council. Motion carried.

PUBLIC SAFETY

There was one alarm and four practices held last month. The names of those attending each was read.

Service 120 was state inspected. The engine will go out for inspection in a month or so.

The VFC will hold their pasta dinner on March 24th from 3-7pm at the Community Center.

The VFC is still planning to do a gas card raffle, perhaps in May.

BOROUGH PROPERTY

Mr. Hoover gave Mr. Lasser's report in his absence.

Mr. Lasser will contact Diane Hillen from the CAA to review rules and regulations for the park and to make arrangements for the CAA to provide a monthly report to council.

The Mr. John will be delivered on Friday March 30th.

Mr. Kasardo and Mr. Hoover will tend to the memorials in April.

Mr. Lasser is considering adding a microwave at the Community Center. The refrigerator needs to be replaced.

Redd-Up Chalfant Day will take place on April 7th beginning at 12:30 pm. The focus will be to clean up common areas of the borough. Mr. Lasser contacted the Woodland Hills High School Interact Club for possible volunteers for the event.

On Monday, March 5th, Chalfant hosted a presentation by real estate broker/appraiser Mr. Jim Uhler to discuss the new county tax assessment program.

Mr. Lasser toured the borough with members of Action Housing, Steve Catranel Construction Company and Senator Costa's office to review the three lots being targeted for the delinquent tax lot program. There are also three lots in Braddock Hills and three lots in Wilkins Township under consideration. The homes would be put up for sale and the state would provide a \$50,000 grant to the buyers so for a home priced at \$150,000, the buyer would pay \$100,000.

Mr. Lasser met with individuals from the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy to discuss the Tree Vitalize program.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Richard Romanko, Highland Avenue, spoke on behalf of the planning commission. Their recommendations were a) by unanimous vote: to enforce the parking ordinance currently on the books specifically requiring two parking spaces per unit for properties changed from single to multi-family dwellings and to put this in the newsletter and b) by a 3-2 vote; to change the zoning on Fairview and Parkway from multi to single family zoning. Ms. Williams thanked Mr. Romanko and the planning commission and stated that council would take the recommendations under consideration.

Doris Libell, Lynnwood Avenue, asked if the borough would be liable if someone got burned using the microwave or what would happen if someone ruined the microwave. Solicitor Evashavik responded that the borough would not be liable if someone got hurt and noted that the contract should cover damage done by those renting the center. Ms. Libell also relayed a parking situation that occurred recently with someone renting the center and it was determined that Ms. Libell did not need to take any further action. Ms. Libell reported on a situation involving children waiting for a school bus and Mayor Perry responded that busses have been noted stopping in places that are not designated school bus stops and that the borough does not have an obligation to provide crossing guards. Ms. Libell also asked if council would be the decision maker on curbside recycling or if it would be the citizens. Mr. Hoover responded that will be decided at the time a decision needs to be made. He further noted that all citizens would get a bin and would have to pay but they would not be obligated to recycle.

Joanne Baburich, Brighton Street, stated that she felt Mr. Lasser's comment to Ms. Wroblewski at last month's meeting about going out on a date was inappropriate and that she believes he owes her an apology. Ms. Baburich also commented that she was disappointed that there was nothing in the newsletter concerning her brother Robert Baburich, given that he has been the tax collector for such a long time. Ms. Williams responded that this was an unintended oversight but before anything would be published, permission from him would need to be sought.

Cindy Roche, Fairview Avenue, asked if homes are taxed at their assessed value and council responded yes. She also said that she noticed that some homes are assessed at zero and one of them belongs to a councilman. She asked if the borough would fight an assessment and Solicitor Evashavik responded that it is not always cost efficient to do this.

Richard Romanko, Highland Avenue, stated that he definitely suggests a sign stating "No Corrugated Cardboard" by the recycling bin and also a item be included in the newsletter. Mr. Romanko asked Mr. Swinney if the borough used less salt and man hours for road maintenance this winter. Mr. Swinney responded that less salt was used but the hours are about the same.

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Williams stated that the steps to North were discussed last night but no decision has been made on the issue.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Sperduto received a telephone call from a company that puts in alarm systems. There are some stipulations in the borough ordinance that both the home owner and provider would need to follow.

Motion by Swinney, seconded by Hoover, to exonerate the tax collector in the amount of \$12,288.21 for 2011 uncollected real estate taxes. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Sperduto, seconded by Hoover, to adjourn at 8:09 p.m. Motion was unanimous.

ATTEST: _____
Borough Secretary

Council President