

AUGUST 11, 2015
PROSPECT PARK, PA

The meeting of the Prospect Park Borough Council was held on, August 11, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. at Borough Hall. President O'Connell called the meeting to order and led in saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Members present were: Mayor Harris, Mrs. Shallet, Mr. Bradley, Mr. O'Connell, Mr. Moore, Mr. Jurek, Mrs. Faison and Mr. Schreiber. Mr. McBlain and Ms. Catania were also present.

MINUTES

President O'Connell entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the July 14, 2015 Council Meeting. Mrs. Shallet made the motion, seconded by Mr. Bradley. All in favor, motion carried.

SECRETARY'S REPORT - MRS. HURST

Mrs. Hurst read the Secretary's Report for the month of July 2015. Total deposits for the General Fund were \$129,759.47; Sewer Fund \$80,397.99 Liquid Fuels \$1.67; Escrow Fund \$154,341.50; Recycling Fund \$146.50. President O'Connell entertained a motion for approval of the Secretary's Report for July 2015. Mr. Bradley made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Shallet. All in favor, motion carried.

President O'Connell read over the agenda for tonight's meeting.

REPORT OF ENGINEER – MS. CATANIA

Lincoln Avenue Improvements – A notice to proceed was issued on June 22, 2015. The contractor has indicated the project will be started sometime at the end of July. A Formal schedule will be presented. The inspection Consultant will be meeting with Joe Rodo, PennDOT, and others to discuss logistics of their services.

CDBG 2014 – 4th and Nassau Blvd Resurfacing - The contractor, AF Damon has substantially completed the work. There is a small punch list that must be completed. An invoice in the amount of \$84,347.75 has been presented for payment. The punch list should be completed this week. There is a credit change order in the amount of \$7,226.75 that should be approved this evening.

Road Program 2015 – Bid were taken August 4, 2015. The low bid was that of AF Damon in the amount of \$127,543.00. I would recommend award pending review of the budget.

Sanitary Sewer Improvements – Meter 2 watershed – Bids were taken August 4, 2015. One Bid was received from JMC contractors in the amount of \$73,700. I would recommend award pending review of the budget.

DEVELOPMENTS:

Interboro School District - work progresses on the storm water management, parking lot areas and playgrounds.

STORM/SANITARY ISSUES:

Summit Avenue – A to U Services is substantially completed work. Comments with regard to the invoice, including billing for items incidental to the work as defined by the contract, have been forwarded to A to U for consideration.

Residents have voiced concern with the condition of the roadway and voids that have been caused by the water main break. Street restoration of the A to U work is part of the 2015 road program. Concrete restoration (sidewalk and apron on 2 properties) should be considered.

2nd & Pennsylvania Avenue - received a request from a resident on 2nd Avenue to investigate erosion along his property and drive.

There is a Lincoln Avenue meeting scheduled for August 18, 2015.

A letter was received from the DEP that the borough is responsible for work that needs to be done at the 13th Avenue Moore's Lake dam. President O'Connell asked Ms. Catania if she could research who the owner is. Ms. Catania will verify that information.

REPORT OF THE MAYOR HARRIS

Mayor Harris read the police report for the month of July 2015. Officers responded to 20 motor vehicle accidents. Each accident was investigated and reports filed. Officers responded to 13 domestic situations including violations of protection from abuse orders or other types of domestic. Each complaint was handled by an arrest or referred to the proper agency. Officers responded to 22 fire, burglary or robbery alarms. The Police Department assisted local ambulance and paramedic units on 39 medical emergencies, including 1 Mental Health Emergency. There were 4 motorist assistance calls, and 5 911 hang-up calls. There were a total of 331 complaints.

The initial FOP meeting was held and there will be more meetings to come.

REPORT OF HEALTH AND INSURANCE – MRS. SHALLET

The Workplace Safety Committee meeting was held in July and there were no safety issues. An eye wash station does need to be added to the Borough garage. Mrs. Shallet asked about the orange stickers for the trash cans. Mr. Schreiber will look into the stickers.

President O'Connell asked about the dog situation. Mr. McBlain said he reviewed the agreement with the Chester County SPCA and there are no issues.

REPORT OF BUILDINGS AND PARKS - MR. BRADLEY

The Morton Homestead clean up was last weekend. The next clean up is scheduled for August 29, 2015.

REPORT OF SOLICITOR – MR. MCBLAIN

Mayor Harris asked Mr. McBlain if the FOP meeting was scheduled. Mr. McBlain said that it is set for July 22, 2015 at 3:00 p.m.

Final changes were made to the Floodplain Ordinance. The Ordinance has been advertised and will be adopted this evening.

REPORT OF FINANCE – PRESIDENT O’CONNELLPAYROLL - All members have a copy of the Payroll Report for July 2015 which totaled \$145,855.38. President O’Connell entertained a motion to approve the payroll for July 2015. Mr. Bradley made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Shallet. All in favor, motion carried.

BILLS LIST – All members have a copy of the Bill List for the month of July 2015 to be paid in August 2015 in the amount of \$380,859.79. President O’Connell entertained a motion to approve the Bill List. Mrs. Shallet made the motion, seconded by Mr. Bradley. All in favor, motion carried.

TREASURER’S REPORT: All members have a copy of the Treasurer’s Report for July 2015. Total cash balance General Fund: \$2,256,776.32; Sewer Fund: \$329,028.67; Highway Fund: \$195,605.30; Escrow Fund: \$254,233.15 Recycling Fund: \$20,278.07 President O’Connell entertained a motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report. Mr. Bradley made the motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report, seconded by Mrs. Shallet. All in favor, motion carried.

President O’Connell stated that the oil spill at Moore’s Lake from Ridley Township has been cleaned up for the most part. There are booms still in place. The Fish Commission is still working on the clean up.

President O’Connell stated that the Lincoln Avenue Project is progressing. The plans for the project are on the website. Next meeting is scheduled for August 18, 2015 with the contractors. The residents have some concerns about the start date, road closures, etc. Section of roads will be closed, but all business will remain open. Business owners must have access to their properties. This project will be done in three phases, and only sections at a time will have necessary closures for the safety of the workers.

Ms. Catania stated that letters went out to owners last week, and they will be updated weekly. As blocks are affected, letters will go out to owners, but we will send letters to renters as well. There will be times when there will be no parking in front of the building. One of the contractors on the job informed business owners that there would be no parking at all of Lincoln Avenue. Ms. Catania stated that is not true. They are following the plans and doing the project in phases as previously stated.

Robert Farrelli, business owner of Village Styling at 1013 Lincoln Avenue, asked for clarification of the parking. He said the letter was confusing. Mr. Farrelli asked when sections are completed, will there be parking at the completed sections. Ms. Catania stated yes, as phases are completed parking will open up in those areas. Mr. Farrelli also asked who would maintain the grass area between the sidewalks and curb. President O’Connell stated that the Borough will maintain that area.

Don Natale, 1107 Lincoln Avenue, wanted to know the location of the equipment for project will remain on Lincoln Avenue. Ms. Catania stated the equipment will be on Lincoln Avenue.

REPORT OF PLANNING AND ZONING - MR. MOORE

Mr. Moore read Mr. Cepis Zoning report for the month of July, 2015. The report is as follows: 98 annual apartment inspections, 3 single annual inspections, 11 sale of property inspections, 1 Duplex sale of property, and 43 zoning & permit reviews done by the Zoning Officer.

Mr. Moore stated that there will be openings on the Planning Commission. There are four members whose term will be up in 2016. If anyone is interested, please contact the borough office with your information.

Mr. Moore made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 1332 - Floodplain Management Regulation, seconded by Mr. Schreiber. All in favor, motion carried.

REPORT OF PUBLIC SAFETY – MR. JUREK

Mr. Jurek wanted to thank the Police and Fire Departments for the great work that they do each day.

REPORT OF LIBRARY AND RECREATION – MRS. FAISON

Mrs. Faison thanked the Highway Department for their help with the Concerts in the park. Mrs. Faison also thanked the bands that participated in the concerts. We look forward to having them back again next year. Mrs. Faison also thanked John Bradley for covering for her at the last concert when she was on vacation.

Mrs. Faison is working with Mr. Allison to get the seniors to help with Lunch with Santa for their senior project.

Mrs. Faison is also looking into getting a new Junior Councilperson. They are hoping to get a junior this year so they can do two terms.

Mrs. Faison got a thank you from Nancy Allison, who was one of the winners of the 4th of July Decorating contest.

The library will hold a fundraising event “Night at Campbell’s” Saturday, August 15, 2015 at 5:35 p.m. The Riversharks versus Somerset Patriots will play at Campbell’s Field. Portions from each ticket will be donated to the Prospect Park Free Library.

Prospect Park Ice Cream Night at Richmond’s will be Tuesday, August 18th from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. A portion of the proceeds will go to the Prospect Park Library.

REPORT OF PUBLIC WORKS - MR. SCHREIBER

Mr. Schreiber made a motion to accept the low bid for Deicing Salt for the 2015-2016 season from Oceanport Industries in the amount of \$64.55 per ton, seconded by Mrs. Faison. All in favor, motion carried.

Mr. Schreiber made a motion to accept the low bid for the 2015 Road Program from A.F. Damon in the amount of \$127,543.00, seconded by Mrs. Faison. All in favor, motion carried.

Mr. Schreiber made a motion to accept the low bid for the Sanitary Sewer Improvements, meter 2 watersheds, from JMC Contractors in the amount of \$73,700.00, seconded by Mrs. Shallet. All in favor, motion carried.

Mr. Schreiber stated that the original price for the new trash truck of \$130,000.00 has been lowered to \$116,000.00.

Dominic Zizza who is employed by the Borough of Prospect Parks Highway and Sanitation Department is leaving at the end of the week. There will be a position opening for the Highway and Sanitation Department.

JUNIOR COUNCILPERSON

Mr. Cleaver graduated this year. Mrs. Faison is working with the school to appoint a new Junior Councilperson. President O'Connell explained that Mr. Moore brought this idea to Council several years ago from the Pennsylvania Associate of Boroughs, and we have had a Junior Councilperson for some time. It gives the opportunity for a person in high School that is interested in Government or Civics to serve on council, in a non-voting roll. They get some responsibilities and some tasks to perform as Junior Councilperson. This has been pretty successful for us, and we hope to continue that success with a new person.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

MEETING OPEN TO PUBLIC PARTICIPATION FOR A MAXIMUM OF THIRTY MINUTE

Debbie Daniels, 816 11th Avenue, asked if there was any word on the Prospect Park Island Grant. President O'Connell stated that we were denied that grant to do the curbing on Prospect Avenue. The approved application was renovations to Park Square such as lighting, cement work, and curbing around Park Square. We will try for the grant again once we are eligible.

Mrs. Daniels also said she looked at the prints for Lincoln Avenue, and she wanted to know are they just proposed prints. She wanted to know if there is room for adjustment on the prints. Mrs. Daniels wanted to know if there will be more lighting then what is proposed on the plans. Ms. Catania told Mrs. Daniels that it meets the Federal Standard for lighting. Mr. Schreiber said he believes there are 27 proposed lights. President O'Connell said that the overhead street lighting will also remain.

Robert Farelli, 1013 Lincoln Avenue, asked about paving the street on Lincoln Avenue. Ms. Catania stated that we may be on the schedule for paving in 2017. Mr. Farelli said he believes that it will make a big difference and look really nice if the street is paved. Ms. Catania said it is going to look nice, and she believes once the Darby Creek Bridge is repaired, they will come in from Tinicum on Route 291 and pave all the way up Lincoln Avenue.

Emily Green, 1036 Lincoln Avenue, asked if parking meters will be installed on Lincoln Avenue. President O'Connell stated there will be no parking meters installed.

Phyllis Floyd, 604 14th Avenue, asked Council about house's in the borough that are in deplorable condition. President O'Connell asked Mrs. Floyd if she has filed any complaints with the borough office since the last borough council meeting. Mr. Cepis stated that the property that Mrs. Floyd is talking about is on the list for the Highway Department to cut. Mayor Harris stated to Mrs. Floyd that since last council meeting when she was here with her concerns, Code Enforcement has been doing everything that they can. He would love to hire four more John Cepis' just to do that, but then we would have to raise taxes so please bear with us. We are

working on many properties that have issues. There is a process, and things don't happen overnight. Mayor Harris asked Mrs. Floyd did she come to borough office and fill out a complaint form. She said no but she will. Mr. Cepis stated that he doesn't go through every backyard, but when a complaint is issued, he follows the process to make sure that the complaint is followed up on. Mr. McBlain said that there is a process, and what the Mayor and Mr. Cepis have told you this month, last month, and the previous months we follow an ordinance and follow due process. Properties that have maintenance problems become a frustrating problem for all municipalities.

Mr. McBlain addressed the following comments to Mrs. Floyd: you're an elected representative in the School Board. There are problems that come up before your government body that I'm sure is frustrating for you. People come before you month after month and ask why you haven't removed kids that are going to our schools from outside the district. That's a problem that has been going on for years. Also, why haven't you done anything to address delinquent tax payers? I'm sure your answer to those questions is we are addressing those issues but they take time and procedures. How come you don't get bad kids out of the school? Your answer to those questions is probably that we try to do that but we have to follow process and procedures. The Borough has those same processes and procedures. We can't force our way onto properties. If Mr. Cepis asks to inspect a property and the owner refuses, we have to obtain an administrative warrant for probable cause.

Mrs. Floyd also voiced a concern about a handicap space on the blacktop that has been eaten away. President O'Connell said we will put that on the list. Mrs. Floyd also has a concern about a street light out on Washington Avenue. President O'Connell said it will be put on the list to be repaired by our electrical.

Pat Quinn, 840 8th Avenue, thanked Mr. Cepis for his help with the house where the woman was a hoarder and passed away at 7th and Lafayette. Mr. McBlain explained this was an extreme situation where the Borough had to perform \$30,000.00 worth of work to stabilize the property, and bring it in compliance with codes. We filed liens against the property, and went to court and litigated and we eventually received from the estate every penny that was owed to the Borough. The back taxes were paid on that property, and the property was eventually sold. We stayed on top of that property and it was an extreme property, but that's what we do with these properties in the Borough.

Chris Gunman, 1036 Lincoln Avenue, asked about the property at 1040 Lincoln Avenue that is boarded up from the fire. It appears there is trash in the property. Is there anything that we can do to encourage the owner clean up this property? President O'Connell said that Mr. Cepis is working with the owner Corey Nguyen. There have been a few setbacks with Mr. Nguyen's inexperience, but we will continue to move forward with this property. Mr. McBlain said that we have dealt with numerous engineers, inspectors, and multiple attorneys of the property owner. That is another difficult and challenging property to deal with, but that has been something since the fire that we have pressed on with.

Eileen Young, 907 E Park Square, stated that the basketball tournaments have returned and she wanted to know when the signs would be going up at the park. The Chief said that the signs are up in the park.

Mrs. Floyd asked if she could suggest something that Council could throw around. The Borough did such a get job with the concerts in the park but she was very disappointed at the amount of people that attended the concerts. She wanted to know if we could post signs. Mr. Schreiber stated that we are working on that with the Lincoln Avenue project. We have been talking about putting up a large digital sign along the Amtrak property, and we are working with them to try to get permission to put that sign up.

Mrs. Floyd thanked everyone for their efforts and apologized if her previous comments were offensive.

Paul Johnson, 1021 Washington Avenue, talked about the sad situation with the Folcroft boy that drowned. Mr. Johnson wanted to know if we have any proactive signs to insure that the residents in our Borough are aware of the dangers in the Darby Creek area, and to insure this doesn't happen in our community. Chief Engel stated that we do have signs on the bridge stating that there is no swimming, and it is against the borough ordinance. Unfortunately, that individual, because of the currents, was swimming in Folcroft, and ended up in Prospect Park. There is no access on Darby Crescent because it is all private homes. There are signs on the bridge and the Morton Homestead has signs up. There is also a rocky area along Darby Creek where there are big rocks that are positioned along that shore line. This deters kids from swimming in that area because they really can't get in the water, so we are in pretty good shape in Prospect Park.

Mr. Johnson also has some concerns about a tree in the handicap access way at Washington Avenue. Mr. Johnson had some estimates done that totaled \$1,000.00, and he wanted to know if that is his responsibility to remove that tree where the roots are coming up in the sidewalk. Mr. McBlain stated that the sidewalks are his responsibility.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

President O'Connell entertained a motion to adjourn. Mrs. Faison made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Shallet. All in favor, motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Attest

Respectfully Submitted

Deborah A. Hurst
Borough Secretary