

March 12, 2024
PROSPECT PARK, PA

The meeting of the Prospect Park Borough Council was held on March 12, 2024 at 7:30 p.m. President O'Connell called the meeting to order and led in saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Members present were: Mayor Harris, Mrs. Neill, Mr. O'Connell, Mr. Stewart, and Mr. Johnson. Ms. Catania and Mr. McBlain were also present. Mrs. Shallet, Mr. Bradley, and Mr. Sutphin were absent.

MINUTES

President O'Connell entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the February 13, 2024 Council Meeting. Mr. Johnson made the motion, seconded by Mr. Stewart. All in favor motion carried.

SECRETARY'S REPORT – MRS.BORCHERT

Mrs. Borchert read the Secretary's Report for the month of February 2024. Total deposits for the General Fund were \$627,673.79; Sewer Fund \$72,250.82; Liquid Fuels \$0.00; Escrow Fund \$0.00; Recycling Fund \$0.00. President O'Connell entertained a motion for approval of the Secretary's Report for February 2024. Mr. Johnson made the motion, seconded by Mr. Stewart. All in favor, motion carried.

President O'Connell opened the meeting to public participation on the agenda items only. No comment.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

President O'Connell introduced Councilman Shawn Stewart to present the following Award:

Retirement award presented to Martin Getek for his 40 years of service with the Borough.

Mr. Stewart thanked Marty for his 40 years of service and said that he would be greatly missed.

Marty thanked everyone and said all of the guys are going to miss him. Marty stated that he did many things for the town over the years, and he was really going to miss everyone, but not to worry that he would be around.

President O'Connell entertained a motion to approve Resolution #1936- Celebrating Irish American Heritage month. Mr. Johnson made the motion, Seconded by Mr. Stewart. All in favor, motion carried.

President O'Connell entertained a motion to approve Resolution #1937- Celebrating Women's History Month. Mr. Johnson made the motion, Seconded by Mrs. Neill. All in favor, motion carried.

President O'Connell turned the floor over to Mayor Harris for the reading of the two motions so that they may go on record.

Mayor Harris Read in to the minutes Resolution # 1937- Celebrating Women's History Month and Resolution #1937- Celebrating Irish American Heritage Month .

President O'Connell thanked the Brothers of the Ancient Order of Hibernians Delaware County's Black Jack Kehoe Division 4 who have been representing the Irish American Community for over 30 years. This Division boast members from throughout Delaware County including some from Prospect Park.

The motto of the AOH is Friendship, Unity and Christianity Charity. The Division has been providing aid and comfort throughout our area by donating to local charities and families in need. The largest undertaking by the AOH is their Doc Brown Project which provides holiday meals to over a hundred families each Thanksgiving.

While there are several Irish American Groups in the region, none portray the ideals of the Irish-American culture finer than these honorable gentleman, in which I am a proud member.

Thank you President O'Brien.

President O'Connell called for a brief recess to take pictures.

President O'Connell called the meeting back to order

REPORT OF THE MAYOR HARRIS

Mayor Harris read the following Police Activity Report for the month of February 2024 into the minutes:

Calls for Service (911&Self-Initiated) - 381

Police Action Taken-26

Parking Tickets-201

Abandoned Autos-2

Motor Vehicle Crashes-12

Medical Emergencies-59

Assist Other Local Police-13

Alarm Calls-13

REPORT OF ENGINEER – LISA CATANIA

Ms. Catania and presented Ms. Catania's February Report.

The following is work completed in the month of February:

Road Program 2023 – Rebid was opened with two (2) bidders submitting. Low bid wa that of Innovative Construction Services in the amount of \$149,275. Other bid was that of AF Damon in the amount of \$157,510.00. A change order in the amount of \$12,355 for additional base course

not noted in the bid will be necessary to utilize Liquid Fuels funding. Both recommendation for award and change order are recommended for approval.

Road program 2024 – Resolution and Application for County Aid have been uploaded to PADOT Portal.

Chester Pike Corridor
Installation is being discussed.

DELCO GreenWays – Phase 1 &2
Premier continues work and has completed approximately 80% of the walkway installation.

Mini PROS-
Kick off meeting and first study committee meeting was held. A request for 40% of the funding has been prepared and forwarded for execution

DCNR 2022 C2P2 Grant
The issue with the emitter has been resolved. Final inspection by DCNR was completed. Although not on the approved plan, they have requested a wheel stop be placed at the ADA parking space. Other minor issues including rutting of safety surface needs to be addressed to finalize project.

CDBG 2023
Carol Quigley of Frens and Frens (Patterives) is currently preparing revisions to drawings to address comments of the DCPC and budgetary concerns.

CDBG 2024 –. Applications for Moore’s Lake Pavilion and Morton Homestead have been submitted.

Darby Creek Bridge
Work continues with schedule available

Pedestrian signals
Signal plan is completed; ADA ramp design is completed; HOP access agreements and ped detours are currently underway.

Moore’s Lake Play Equipment
Equipment has been delivered. Design is underway

DCNR Grant period has been opened. Deadline is April 3, 2024. A resolution for Land Acquisition and Morton Homestead canoe/kayak launch area have been prepared and offered for action. Letters of support will be necessary.

PADOT Emergency HOP Card – 2024 renewal has been approved.

STORM/SANITARY ISSUES

Root Control

2nd Avenue Sanitary Sewer

Prospect Avenue, 7th Avenue

Madison Avenue

11th Avenue sinkhole – Sinkhole investigated in street. Appears to be breach in line with dye test.

Suggest video inspection to determine the extent.

Ms. Catania stated just and FYI she reached out to AQUA to have the water turned back on at Park Square and I will let everyone know when she hears back.

President O'Connell asked if anyone had any questions.

Mr. Johnson stated that he knows that the Hollow Playground Topography study was done and asked what the next step would be. Would the next step be to advertise? Ms. Catania stated that the next step would be to design.

Mr. Johnson also asked if Ms. Catania had a ballpark idea of what the installation will cost and Ms. Catania said she will get that number for him.

ACTION items:

DCNR Resolution – Morton Homestead

DCNR Resolution – Land Acquisition

2023 Road Program REBID award – Innovative Construction

CO #1 – Additional base course approval

REPORT OF PUBLIC SAFETY – MRS. SHALLET

Mrs. Shallet was absent so Mr. Johnson read Mrs. Shallet report into the minutes.

For the month of February 2024 the fire company responded to 27 calls.

16 in Prospect Park

11 assists

The state fire grant funds have been deposited into the fire company's bank account. This grant of \$17,000 will be used to purchase Fire and Water Rescue gear.

The trucks have been scheduled to have their yearly PM Service done in the station.

Fire Line is still waiting on 2 parts from KME for the accident damage. I have no timeline on when they might be in.

We have 4 members currently attending Fire 1 at the county training center, and 2 attending EMT school. It is great to see these members dedicating their time to the fire company and fire service.

We have ordered a gear dryer which is the final piece of our cancer prevention program. This project was started last year and consists of a gear washer and dryer, and a diesel exhaust removal system for the engine bay.

This program was made possible through State and Federal grants, along with the Fire Company Relief fund. The gear dryer was funded through the Relief funds, while the gear washer was funded through a State fire grant, and the diesel exhaust removal system was funded through the Federal Firefighter Assistance Grant program.

The Federal Firefighter Assistance grant program is up for renewal this year in the House and Senate. We encourage our residence to contact our representatives to renew this vital program.

US Representative Mary Gay Scanlon:

Chester Office
2501 Seaport Drive
BH230
Chester, PA 19013
(610) 626-2020

Senator Robert Casey, Jr.:

Philadelphia Office
2000 Market Streed
Suite 610
Philadelphia, PA 19013
(215) 405-9660

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Respectfully submitted
Chief Jim Simmonds

Mayor Harris stated that he heard on the radio today that the Philadelphia Fire Department have issues in the lining of their uniforms that they wear, and if it rips or tears in can cause all kinds of issues for the gear.

President O'Connell stated that he can say that new gear is ordered constantly for the new guys for the Prospect Park Fire Department. Also The Fire Department has purchased a washer and dryer for the gear to keep the contaminated partials off of the clothing. A lot of the older gear was replaced due to grants, and our Relief Association was able to purchase the gear. Gear can run around \$2,000 to \$3,000 a person now a days. A lot of company's including Philadelphia, do not replace their gear in a timely fashion because of budget constraints but we try to do that for our Department. Prospect Park Fire Departments gear is up to the NFP Standards today and new was ordered as early as two weeks ago.

Mayor Harris stated that he is very happy to hear this and is happy to hear that we do not need to worry and that are Prospect Park Fire Department is well protected.

REPORT OF HEALTH AND INSURANCE – MRS. NEILL

Mrs. Neill stated that there is nothing really happening in Health and Insurance other than our new accidents and repairs.

REPORT OF SOLICITOR – JOHN MCBLAIN

Mr. McBlain stated that he has no action items for this month.

REPORT OF ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCES – PRESIDENT O'CONNELL

PAYROLL - All members have a copy of the Payroll Report for the month of February 2024 which totaled \$221,436.90. Mr. Johnson made a motion to approve the payroll report, seconded by Mr. Stewart. All in favor, motion carried.

BILLS LIST – All members have a copy of the Bill List for the month of February 2024 to be paid in February totaling \$292,652.25. Mr. Johnson made a motion to approve the Bill List, seconded by Mrs. Neill. All in favor, motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: All members have a copy of the Treasurer's Report for February 2024. Total cash balance General Fund: \$867,630.06; Sewer Fund: \$156,584.51; Highway Fund: \$430,389.48; Escrow Fund: \$837,760.96; Recycling Fund: \$2476.03. Mr. Johnson made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Mrs. Neill. All in favor, motion carried.

Mrs. Borchert and I attended a brief meeting with Mick Glackin from INR who is our Police Pension investment advisor.

Mr. Glackin went over Police Pension performance over the last year and I can say that we are in pretty good shape for a small community with our police pension. I feel very confident that our Police Pension is in really good shape.

The Police pension packet is available for review.

President O'Connell also stated he attended a meeting yesterday with Radnor Township in regards to the bridge and the issues and concerns of what they went through with oversized truck hitting their bridge. Radnor stated that they received zero help from the railroads.

Their system that they have in place is basically a pole with an arm going out with to chains and a bumper block. What would happen is that a truck would hit this device and would make a really loud noise in hopes to stop those oversized vehicles. They also have flashing lights on both sides. Radnor Paid \$120,000 plus dollars for this system.

Penn Dot did put some additional 12'6' signs out on either side of the bridge in Prospect Park so hopefully this will help to deter oversized trucks.

Darby Creek Bridge Project seems to be moving right along. Their Demo is set to start soon and the interesting thing is that they are removing everything by barge which helps to eliminate traffic issues. Penn Dot has a progress website for the Darby Creek Bridge Project if anyone is interested.

Mr. Stewart stated that if there are proposals or ideas that are presented to the borough for solutions for the Amtrak Bridge, he asked that nothing will move forward until we get a proper engineer report.

REPORT OF PLANNING AND ZONING - MR. BRADLEY

Absent.

Report will be presented next month.

- Sale of Property inspections were done by the Zoning Officer.
- Annual Inspections were done by the Zoning Officer.
- Zoning & Permit reviews were done by the Zoning Officer

REPORT OF LIBRARY AND RECREATION – MR. SUTPHIN

Mr. Sutphin was absent.

Mr. Stewart read Mr. Sutphins report into the minutes:

Library Update for Council Meeting

- Spring Book Sale:
 - Friday, March 22 (7pm – 9pm)
 - Saturday, March 23 (9am – 1pm)
- Kids Spring Craft:
 - Saturday, March (10am – 12pm)
- "Paws & Pages" featuring Daisy (PAW Certified)
 - Thursday, March 28 (6:30pm)
- Spring Storytime:

- April 8, April 15, April 22, April 29
 - 6:30pm
 - Ages: 3 - 8 years
- The library is excited that March 18th is our "100th Birthday". We are looking forward to officially celebrating this historic milestone next month during National Library Week (April 7 – April 13).

Thanks,
Mariann

REPORT OF PUBLIC WORKS – MR. STEWART

Mr. Stewart made a motion to award the 2023 Road Program to Innovative Construction in the amount of \$149,275.00, and a change order in the amount of \$12,355.00 will be added for a total cost of \$161,630.00, seconded by Mrs. Neill. All in favor, Motion carried.

Mr. Stewart read the follow Highway & Sanitation February Report into the minutes:
 We collected 209.47 tons of Trash and 21.81 tons of Recycling.

Highway & Sanitation Report-

Trash continues to be picked up daily along Lincoln Ave, Chester Pike and Amosland Rd. Daily maintenance continues on all trash trucks. Storm drains are being cleared before and after passing storms.

Sewer Report

Manhole cover was replaced near 112 Madison Ave
 Daily maintenance continues for sewers

Mr. Cepis wanted to Thank John Rubican who is a local Fireman here in Prospect Park who came to the borough to give training to the Highway and Sanitation Men and also some of the office staff as well as Councilwoman Mary Ann Shallet. We received training on how to administer CPR, Stop the Bleed, and Narcan. President O'Connell also stated that there is now narcan and stop the bleed kits on all of the Borough Trucks.

President O'Connell thanked Mr. Stewart for allowing the men to take the time to do the training, and Mr. Stewart said that is all John Cepis who is doing a wonderful job and who will never be allowed to retire.

REPORT OF BUILDING, PARKS- MR. JOHNSON

Mr. Johnson made a Motion to Approve Resolution #1934 For the DCNR C2p2 Grant for the Morton Homestead- Kayak/Canoe Launch & Recreation Area, Seconded by Mrs. Neill. All in favor, Motion carried.

Mr. Johnson Did state that he is going to vote yes for this Resolution but he is hoping that the borough will explore some type of nonprofit idea for those that don't have kayak and canoes.

Mr. Johnson made a Motion to Approve Resolution #1935 for the DCNR C2p2 Grant for The Land Acquisition At 0 Lazaretto Avenue, Seconded by Mrs. Neill. All in favor, motion carried.

Buildings & Parks have ongoing maintenance. Here are some highlighted projects:

- Witmer clubhouse roof repair -more extensive damage with downspouts added to prevent roof and back wall damage – 02/26/2024
- Library, police station, and Witmer Field had some plumbing and/or HVAC that were addressed or are being addressed.
- General prep of fields at Witmer & the Hollow for upcoming baseball/softball/tee-ball seasons including **foul ball netting**, replacement of damaged **dugout benches** and minor repairs of
- Quotes for tennis court fence & pickleball net/posts to convert ½ tennis court to pickleball court are ongoing. Fencing and net/posts quotes in. Lines and/or surface quotes next week. P
- Quotes for **laser grading of Witmer softball field** as per recommendation of borough engineer are ongoing. Scheduled for next week.
- Shade Tree Commission reactivation and creation of Environmental Advisory Council discussed at Workshop meeting last week.
- Wish List: Fence on Hollow baseball field and swings at Park Square

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Thank you to borough council for sending me to PSAB's Newly Elected Municipal Officers Boot Camp training.

Love and blessings to those celebrating Ramadan.

Happy Easter

Thank you to John Cepis in facilitating purchase of LED light fixtures for borough for \$1 each via PECO program.

MEETING OPEN TO PUBLIC PARTICIPATION FOR A MAXIMUM OF THIRTY MINUTE

Pat Quinn- 840 8th Avenue- asked when the Easter Egg Hunt would be. Mr. Johnson stated on Saturday March 23, 2024 at Park Square.

Mr. Johnson asked if the padding would be down in time for the Easter Egg Hunt at Park Square. Ms. Catania stated that she has the proposals in front of her but was wondering if a decision was made to move forward with that purchase.

President O'Connell stated that yes it was his understanding that we were moving forward with that purchase. Mr. Johnson agreed and wanted to know if the mats would be installed by March 23rd for the Easter Egg Hunt. Ms. Catania said she would check to see if that would be possible.

Chris Sherwin -608 Maryland Avenue – Mr. Sherwin had a questions for the Mayor. He sent an email to the Mayor because he needs help with his property. He said he has an issue with his property line and he know that he needs to go to court for that issue but he cannot seem to get any information or a call back from Mr. Cepis. He is asking for information on what the owner and Mr. Cepis spoke about at the inspection that was done at the Property.

Ms. Catania stated that if it is an owner dispute on a property line, there is nothing that the Borough can do on that issue. Ms. Catania stated that you would need to have a survey done on your property, which Mr. Sherwin stated he did have done. Ms. Catania then stated that it is the surveyor's responsibility and obligation under the License Law to have that worked out and if it's not worked out then it could end up in court. Mr. Sherwin said that he had the survey done 10 months ago.

Mr. Sherwin stated that Mr. Cepis might want to comment on this issue.

Mr. Cepis stated that he told Mr. Sherwin that he does not get involved in property line issues.

Mr. Cepis did state that he spoke to the neighbor and the neighbor stated that it is not his wall and he is not doing anything, Mr. Cepis then stated that Mr. Sherwin came to the Borough and stated that he had an attorney, which Mr. Sherwin did confirm.

Mr. Cepis said that he is going to refer him to Mr. McBlain. Mr. McBlain asked what information he needed. Mr. Sherwin stated that he need information about a retaining wall on the neighbor's property that is causing his driveway to deteriorate. Mr. Sherwin had reached out to 2 different contractors to try and get his driveway fixed and neither contractor feels comfortable working on the driveway with the retaining wall falling on to it.

Mr. McBlain stated so there is a dispute over who owns the retaining walk, and Mr. Sherwin stated well I got a survey completed and it show that the wall is on his property.

Mr. McBlain asked Mr. Sherwin what information he was looking for. Mr. Sherwin said that he wants to know what was discussed at the inspection with the owner. Mr. Sherwin stated that he also filled out a Right to Know Requested asking what was discussed at the Inspection meeting, and if there were any citation issued at that property. Mr. McBlain asked for Mr. Sherwins Attorney's name he stated that his name is Nicholas Caniglia and Mr. McBlain stated that he knew him well.

Mr. McBlain said that he would give Mr. Sherwin his contact information so that his attorney could contact him and they could see what could be done. Mr. Sherwin also said that there is some

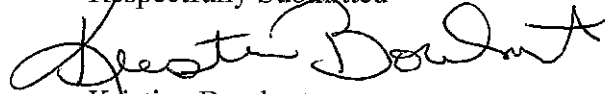
confusion as to who the owner is of the property. Mr. Cepis said that whoever's name is on the Deed with the County that is the owner of the property.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

President O'Connell entertained a motion to adjourn. Mr. Stewart made the motion, seconded by Mr. Johnson. All in favor, motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Attest

Respectfully Submitted

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kristine Borchert", written in black ink.

Kristine Borchert
Borough Secretary