

**NOVEMBER 14, 2017
PROSPECT PARK, PA**

The meeting of the Prospect Park Borough Council was held on November 14, 2017 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, Mrs. Faison and Mr. Schreiber. Mr. McBlain and Ms. Catania were also present. Mr. Moore and Mr. Jurek were absent.

MINUTES

President O'Connell entertained a motion to approve the minutes of October 10, 2017 Council Meeting. Mr. Bradley made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Faison. All in favor motion carried.

SECRETARY'S REPORT - MRS. HURST

Mrs. Hurst read the Secretary's Report for the month of October 2017. Total deposits for the General Fund were \$431,782.55; Sewer Fund \$4.09; Liquid Fuels \$2.29 Escrow Fund 0.00; Recycling Fund \$0.00. President O'Connell entertained a motion for approval of the Secretary's Report for October 2017. 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. Phyllis Floyd, 604 14th Avenue, stated that the agenda is incorrect. Mrs. Faison must make the motion to appoint Madison Keller Junior Councilperson before Mayor Harris can swear her in. President O'Connell replied that he is aware and Mrs. Faison will make the motion before Ms. Keller is sworn in by Mayor Harris.

Mrs. Floyd asked why no resident has been able to see the proposed 2018 budget. President O'Connell explained that there were two public meetings held and there was no public attendance at the last meeting. Mr. McBlain explained that the preliminary budget will be advertised for public review at Borough Hall for 30 days prior to its passing in December. Council gives residents thirty days to review, as opposed to the required ten days. Comments from the public are welcome to be submitted prior to the passing of the Tax Ordinance in December.

President O'Connell recognized Mrs. Faison. Mrs. Faison made a motion to approve Resolution No. 1853 appointing Madison Keller Junior Councilperson, seconded by Mr. Schreiber. All in favor, motion carried. Mayor Harris read Resolution No. 1853 and swore in Madison Keller. Mayor Harris and Council congratulated Ms. Keller and presented her with a bouquet of flowers.

Mayor Harris recognized Pat Quinn, 840 8th Avenue, who presented the Prospect Park Youth Club "Nick Saravo" 2016 awards to Amy Ferris and Al Schikel. Mr. Quinn read the award and a small biography that listed all of their achievements. Mr. Quinn read the name of the Prospect Park Youth Club Board: President – Joe Dean; Vice-President – Mike Fries; Treasurer – Sawn

O'Shea and Secretary – Bill Silva. Mr. Quinn thanked the Youth Club for all they do. Mayor Harris and President O'Connell congratulated Ms. Ferris and Mr. Schikel.

President O'Connell called a ten minute recess.

President O'Connell called the meeting back to order and announced that Vice-President Moore is in the hospital and in good spirits. We all wish him well!

REPORT OF ENGINEER – LISA CATANIA

CDBG 2017 - Prospect Ave Improvements - Preparing bid documents for review by OHCD. Coordinating efforts with PECO to minimize conflicts of overhead lines with new lights.

CDBG 2018 – A list of potential projects will be generated for applications to be submitted January 2018. The meeting to discuss potential projects is scheduled for Wednesday, December 6th at 7:15 before the workshop meeting.

Road Program 2017 - AF Damon is scheduled for work the week of November 15, 2017. President O'Connell asked when Ms. Catania knows what days they will be in Prospect Park. Ms. Catania stated they are starting in Norwood Borough first and will be in Prospect Park for two days the week of November 15th, but not sure what exact dates.

Energy Audit -Energy Systems Group met to discuss completed study completed at visit various sites owned and maintained by the Borough. These included Borough Hall, Library, Maintenance Garage, Police Station and Pavilion. The report includes energy savings anticipated with upgrades to the street lights, traffic signals, buildings HVAC, IT and Communications. A summary report is attached.

PADOT Resurfacing – PADOT has sent notification SR 420 – Lincoln Avenue will be part of a larger project for milling and paving that will be let in December 2017. Work will occur in 2018. A PA Form 4181 has been executed for utilities within Lincoln Avenue owned by the Borough and submitted as required. President O'Connell asked when the resurfacing will start. Ms. Catania stated that bids will be taken in December. However, the paving will not be done until spring. The paving will be from Route 291 to Baltimore Pike on both sides.

STORM/SANITARY ISSUES:

Summit Avenue - Sinkhole behind the Summit Avenue homes will need to be repaired. I would recommend this be completed with the phase 2 work identified in our report of Summit Avenue 2014. Cost to repair inlet (verbal estimate) is \$14,000 and approximately 10' of line will cost approximately \$12,000.

Riverside Sinkhole - Sinkhole has been reported in front of 304 Riverside Avenue. I have coordinated with the plumber to view inspection, but have not heard of the outcome. Work has not yet been completed.

Washington Avenue Inlets - A to U Services has been notified to complete repair of inlets at Washington and 11th.

Norwood Avenue – A to U Services has been notified to complete replacement of inlet and regrading in rear yard.

REPORT OF THE MAYOR HARRIS

Mayor Harris read the police report for the month of October 2017. Officers responded to 34 motor vehicle accidents. Each accident was investigated and reports filed. Officers responded to 17 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 12 fire, burglary or robbery alarms. The Police Department assisted local ambulance and paramedic units on 41 medical emergencies. There were 2 motorist assistance calls, and 3 911 hang-up calls. There were a total of 399 complaints.

There were 6 complaints filed for the month of October. All have been handled. There were 0 citations issued.

The 420 Bridge Project, we are waiting on PennDOT for further information on the next phase.

The Downtown Awakening Project, we are waiting on results of their online questionnaire.

We received a response from Congressman Meehan regarding painting of the Amtrak Bridge. Amtrak responded to Congressman Meehan with a page and a half long letter as to why they can't paint the bridge, but they would be happy to talk to us if we were willing to pay for the painting of the bridge. They provided a contact name and phone number at Amtrak.

The tree lighting will be held on December 5th, with a rain date of December 7th. The Beautification Committee will be decorating the tree the Saturday, December 2nd beginning at 9:00 a.m.

REPORT OF HEALTH AND INSURANCE – MRS. SHALLET

Mrs. Shallet had nothing to report.

REPORT OF BUILDINGS AND PARKS - MR. BRADLEY

The new firehouse doors are in the process of being installed. One door has been installed to date.

REPORT OF SOLICITOR – MR. MCBLAIN

There is an action item on the agenda for approval tonight. That is authorization to advertise the tax levy ordinance for 2018. Advertisement of the availability of the 2018 budget is also on the agenda for public review. These items will be advertised and approved at the December Council Meeting.

REPORT OF FINANCE – PRESIDENT O’CONNELL

President O’Connell entertained a motion to advertise the Tax Levy Ordinance No. 1344 fixing the 2018 Real Estate Tax, Per Capita Tax, Local Service Tax, Sewer Rental Tax and Trash Tax. At this time, all taxes remain the same, with the exception of the trash tax that will be increased \$5.00 from \$180.00 to \$185.00 per household. Mr. Bradley made the motion, seconded by Mr. Schreiber. All in favor, motion carried.

PAYROLL - All members have a copy of the Payroll Report for October 2017 which totaled \$116,290.12. Mr. Bradley made a motion to approve the payroll for October 2017, seconded by Mrs. Shallet. All in favor, motion carried.

BILLS LIST – All members have a copy of the Bill List for the month of October 2017 to be paid in November 2017 in the amount of \$395,340.58. Mr. Bradley made a motion to approve the Bill List, seconded by Mrs. Shallet. All in favor, motion carried.

TREASURER’S REPORT: All members have a copy of the Treasurer’s Report for October 2017. Total cash balance General Fund: \$692,637.08; Sewer Fund: \$466,997.61; Highway Fund: \$258,453.26; Escrow Fund: \$146,914.99; Recycling Fund: \$3,434.66. Mr. Bradley made a motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report, seconded by Mrs. Shallet. All in favor, motion carried.

The 2018 preliminary budget is \$4,848,918.08. This is a slight increase of 3.5% for operating costs for the Borough. Our Real Estate Assessment went up, which helps defray some of the cost, along with some savings and other increases that were within the budget. President O’Connell entertained a motion to advertise the 2018 preliminary budget. Mr. Bradley made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Shallet. All in favor, motion carried.

REPORT OF PLANNING AND ZONING - MR. MOORE

Mr. Moore was absent, due to hospitalization.

REPORT OF PUBLIC SAFETY – MR. JUREK

Mr. Jurek was absent and is still tending to his ill father.

REPORT OF LIBRARY AND RECREATION – MRS. FAISON

The library thanked everyone who attended their first designer bag bingo. It was a sell-out event for a great cause.

Storytime schedule is as follows: “Twilight Storytime” for ages 3-6 are Monday’s at 6:30 p.m. The last one will be November 20th. “Infant Storytime” ages up to 24 months will be held on Friday’s in December at 11:15 a.m.

“Toddler” Circle Time will be held on Tuesday’s at 11:15 a.m. for ages 2 and up. The program runs from November 29th to December 20th.

The Holiday Open House and Children's Book Sale will be held on Saturday, December 9th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. This is held the same day as Santa at the Firehouse, so be sure to attend both events.

The Recreation Board report: Lunch with Santa will be held on Saturday, December 9th from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The Volunteer Recognition and Senior Citizen Luncheon will be held on January 13, 2018 from noon to 3:00 at the Masonic Hall. The Easter Egg Hunt will be held on March 24, 2018. The tree lighting is December 5th at 7:00 p.m.

A Recreation Board meeting was held and Mrs. Faison thought there was a music and food festival scheduled for October 21, 2018, but she is now hearing it will be held October 13, 2018. She will get the correct date at the next Recreation Board Meeting.

Junior Councilperson Madison Keller judged the Halloween Decorating Contest. The winners are: 1st precinct - 505 Lafayette Avenue; 2nd precinct - 811 Pennsylvania Avenue; 3rd precinct - 934 7th Avenue; 4th precinct - 922 12th Avenue; 5th precinct - 1622 Norwood Avenue. Letters will go out inviting the winners to attend the December Council Meeting to be awarded their gift cards.

REPORT OF PUBLIC WORKS - MR. SCHREIBER

Mr. Schreiber made a motion to advertise the December 6, 2017 CDBG 2018 meeting at 7:15 p.m. at Borough Hall, seconded by Mr. Bradley. All in favor, motion carried.

The leaf machine is up and running and leaves are being collected according to the schedule.

JUNIOR COUNCILPERSON – MADISON KELLER

Back to school night was October 3rd. It was very successful and many parents came to the school to meet their child's teachers. There were tables in the cafeteria that were selling Buc pride apparel.

The homecoming dance was Saturday, October 7th, with over 500 students attending. On October 3rd, Interboro hosted the Special Olympics fall festival for the second year. The participating schools were Garnet Valley, Marple Newtown and Ridley. The girls powerpuff game was October 26th.

Our student council was recognized at the Keystone council awards at the state conference.

We are doing homeroom and grade competitions to increase school spirit. We did a canned food drive competition to donate to loaves and fishes and collected over 800 cans.

PBIS is encouraging good student behavior, such as staying off your phone, staying out of the halls and skipping class.

President O'Connell welcomed Madison and wished her well. President O'Connell wished her good luck in judging the Christmas House Decorating Contest.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

MEETING OPEN TO PUBLIC PARTICIPATION FOR A MAXIMUM OF THIRTY MINUTE

Bette Steele, 716 16th Avenue, raised concerns about decisions that John Cepis made regarding the storm drain behind her property. This storm drain has been here for many, many years and drained into the street at 16th Avenue. The most recent decision made by John Cepis is that the drain will drain onto the property at 712 16th Avenue. She questions if this is even legal. Ms. Steele is concerned this will now drain onto her property and cause flooding, since she is at the low point of the drainage system and had significant flooding on her property in the past. She believes blocking up the drain will make the flooding much worse. She also stated that the residents were given no notice that the drain was going to be blocked off. Is this legal and shouldn't notice have been given to the residents. We do not know what the results will be since we have not had a significant rain. Formal complaints were filed, but we have heard nothing back. Ms. Catania explained that she did go out to the location after the drain removed. Ms. Catania explained that water is not to drain onto the street. This is a requirement from PennDOT. Mr. Cepis was following these regulations. When Route 420 was done, many units had to be taken out of their roof drains. This is not a roof drain.

Ms. Catania has never seen anything like this. There is an inlet in the rear yard with a 6" line that goes through the curb line. There are roof drains and individual one by one inlet boxes that the property owners have tied into this line. Ms. Steele does not believe they go into the drain line. Ms. Steele asked Ms. Catania if she knows this for a fact. Ms. Catania stated that there was a report on September 5th and Ms. Catania suggested that a pop-up emitter be installed. Ms. Steele asked what gives the Borough permission to drain this water onto private property. Ms. Catania stated there is a line there, so therefore she believes there is an easement. Ms. Catania explained that it is a DEP regulation under the MS-4 program that water cannot drain on the street.

Jennifer Schaefer, 714 16th Avenue, stated that the water cannot drain onto the street. Ms. Catania has seen the pictures from 2010. She understands that inlet was not cleaned. The drain is in the alley between 15th and 16th Avenues and there is a decline. The entire alley is hard surfaces. There is now earth for the water to go. Ms. Schaefer has video of her sidewalk after a bad rain storm that shows water pooled and mud. President O'Connell asked Ms. Catania who is responsible? Ms. Catania does not know. It is not on any borough map, so it could have been put in many, many years ago by a resident or the Borough. The only way to resolve it is to do a storm water study and figure out where the inlets need to go. There are no inlets in the area. The best we could do is to bring that line down the alley, if we could even get it buck grade into other

inlets. Mr. McBlain stated that either the resident or the Borough installed this drain. As you asked if it was legal or not, it is not in today's standards. PADEP has changed regulations regarding storm water runoff. The Borough needed to send a plan to reduce storm water 10% to DEP. Part of the new regulation is that residents are no longer aloud to wash their cars and have the runoff in to the street. Mr. McBlain suggested we research where the inlet came from and see if there are any easements, even if it is 90 years old. If it is a public sewer, this is something the Borough would need to look into. Drains are now required to drain on private property. Mr. McBlain agrees with their concern as to whether their ground will hold the water. If it is private drain, we would need to see how we can best handle it. No one wants your properties to get flooded. No one wants your basements to get flooded with storm water. The water cannot drain into the street either. Mr. McBlain asked Ms. Steel and Ms. Schaefer if they would let the Borough look into the issue, to further determine what options there are, and who would be responsible. Mr. McBlain will look into the easements. He will check the deeds of the properties with the Recorder of Deeds. President O'Connell told the residents that the engineer and solicitor will look into the issue. Ms. Steele stated that 38 properties are affected by this drain. President O'Connell stated again that the solicitor and engineer will look into the situation.

Phyllis Floyd, 604 14th Avenue, asked the Mayor why 0 citations were issued last month on the quality of life issues. Mayor Harris explained he meant 0 vehicle citations were issued.

Mrs. Floyd asked for an update on the property on 14th Avenue. Every time she asks for update, she feels she gets the run around. The Boy Scouts were to take care of. She understands they were disgusted and are not going back. What was cut was picked up by our trash department. Why did the Borough have to pay for this? President O'Connell asked the Mayor to talk to the Scout Leader, and asked Mr. Schreiber to see if the trash department men picked up the branches, etc. Mayor Harris spoke to the Scout Master twice. He was upset about the property and they are not going back. We also talked to the neighbors. They thanked us for our efforts. Unfortunately, it now shows the exposed the unclean side of their house. A citation was issued. This is now in Judge Lippart's hands. President O'Connell explained that we cannot control the court dates. Mrs. Floyd asked when the citation was issued, before or after the boy scouts were there. Mayor Harris stated before. The Mayor told the Chief to contact him tomorrow. Chief Engel explained that the Judge is looking for the resident to get the property cleaned up and most likely gives them 60 days to bring it up to code. We are not looking to get money from the residents. If they don't comply they will be fined \$300.00 a day, plus court costs. Ms. Floyd thanked the Chief for the explanation. President O'Connell explained that the Chief's statement is speculation at this point. We do not know how the Judge works. President O'Connell suggested Mrs. Floyd find out the hearing date attend. She would be happy to.

Mrs. Floyd complained about the 13th Avenue property, broken door and broken spindles. Mayor Harris will check with John Cepis. President O'Connell asked the Mayor to follow-up.

Mrs. Floyd asked about the abandoned vehicle at 637 14th Avenue. Mayor Harris stated that vehicle was removed. Mrs. Floyd stated there is another one. Mayor Harris asked Chief Engel to look into the vehicle tomorrow.

Mr. Horn, 220 Lincoln Avenue, stated that the grass and weeds are high at 334 Lincoln Avenue. Mayor Harris stated that a letter was sent out. They have 10 days to comply.

Cathy Finley, owner of business, Knitting Corner, at 1124 Lincoln Avenue, as well as resident of the Borough. She wanted the Borough to know that there is a program launched by American Express. It encourages holiday shoppers to step away from malls and shop with small businesses. Unfortunately, it is too late to put up a banner. Mrs. Finley would like a banner across Lincoln Avenue that says "Shop Small". A lot of the businesses are not aware of this program. She plans next year to get in touch with at least 10 businesses on Lincoln Avenue. She moved her business from Swarthmore to Prospect Park. Lincoln Avenue is a gem. When customers are asked how they found her, they stated they were driving by. There is a sign up in her store. Mrs. Finley asks that everyone please shop small. President O'Connell stated that he had a discussion with Cathy and he thinks it is a great idea. President O'Connell suggested she reach out to the office staff to get the information on our social media sites.

Paul Johnson, 1021 Washington Avenue, read the following statement: Mayor Harris, President O'Connell, Vice President Moore, in his absence, members of Borough Council, and citizens of Prospect Park - Good Evening. As a former candidate for Borough Council I would like to congratulate Councilman O'Connell, Councilwoman Shallet, Councilwoman Faison on their re-election and Councilman-Elect Sutphin on his election.

I thank numerous citizens of Prospect Park for their vote. Our campaign received support across the borough from Democrats, Republicans, and Independents. These voters embraced an opportunity for change that advocated for inclusion, transparency, accountability, and a more responsive and respectful government. I ask that you govern in a way that acknowledges their voices.

Meanwhile, I will continue to volunteer in several capacities to address these and other needs of our neighbors. Thank you for the opportunity to speak.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

President O'Connell entertained a motion to adjourn. Mrs. Faison made the motion, seconded by Mr. Bradley. All in favor, motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

Attest

Respectfully Submitted

Deborah A. Hurst
Borough Secretary