

OCTOBER 10, 2017
PROSPECT PARK, PA

The meeting of the Prospect Park Borough Council was held on October 10, 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. President O'Connell asked everyone to remain standing for a moment of silence for the victims of the Las Vegas victims, their families and the first responders.

ROLL CALL

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

MINUTES

President O'Connell entertained a motion to approve the minutes of September 12, 2017 Council Meeting. Mr. Bradley made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Shallet. All in favor motion carried.

SECRETARY'S REPORT - MRS. HURST

Mrs. Hurst read the Secretary's Report for the month of September 2017. Total deposits for the General Fund were \$193,464.18; Sewer Fund \$2,179.02; Liquid Fuels \$2.09 Escrow Fund \$3,985.00; Recycling Fund \$0.00. President O'Connell entertained a motion for approval of the Secretary's Report for September 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, asked for an explanation of Ordinance No. 1343 that amends the Borough Code governing Certificate of Occupancies. President O'Connell stated that Solicitor McBlain would be able to explain it to Mrs. Floyd when he arrives.

REPORT OF THE MAYOR HARRIS

Mayor Harris read the police report for the month of September 2017. Officers responded to 26 motor vehicle accidents. Each accident was investigated and reports filed. Officers responded to 23 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 6 fire, burglary or robbery alarms. The Police Department assisted local ambulance and paramedic units on 37 medical emergencies. There were 2 motorist assistance calls, and 8 911 hang-up calls. There were a total of 431 complaints.

There were 5 complaints filed for the month of September. All have been given to the appropriate person. There were 4 vehicle citations issued.

The new Junior Council Person, Madison Keller, will be sworn in at the November meeting.

Regarding the Awakening Project, Rebecca Ross from DCPD created an online survey and will reach out to each Borough Administrator's for the various groups, such as the Beautification Committee, etc.

There was a meeting held at Borough Hall regarding the Route 420 Bridge Project. The Mayor was in attendance, along with PennDOT Representatives, Tinicum Township Representatives and John Heinz Wildlife Representatives. All four lanes will remain open. The Nature Trail will be put in; however, it will not be as big as originally thought. The John Heinz Wildlife representative indicated they plan on fixing their parking lot. PennDOT approved a north bound 5 to 7 second left turn arrow at 4th and Lincoln Avenues. The Solicitor needs to review the trail and maintenance agreement. There is nothing set in stone at this point. The biggest part of the trail will be on the bridge.

With regard to quality of life issues, the Boy Scouts have been scheduled to clean the 14th Avenue property on October 14th. Mayor Harris is not sure they will be able to get it all done, so the property will be re-evaluated when they are done.

A property on 5th Avenue was deemed uninhabitable, due to the fact there is no running water. We were notified by Aqua that the owner requested the water shut off.

REPORT OF HEALTH AND INSURANCE – MRS. SHALLET

Mrs. Shallet had nothing to report.

REPORT OF BUILDINGS AND PARKS - MR. BRADLEY

The firehouse doors are close to being completed. The stairwell at the firehouse was repaired. The Borough Hall roof above the Council Chambers was sealed.

Mr. Bradley, along with Ms. Catania, met with the Energy Audit Group this evening. We are awaiting a report from them on recommendations for savings to the Borough.

REPORT OF SOLICITOR – MR. MCBLAIN

Mr. McBlain stated there are two Ordinances on the agenda for this evening. President O’Connell asked Mr. McBlain to explain the changes to the Use and Occupancy Ordinance. Mr. McBlain explained that a state law was passed in 2016 concerning transfer of properties. The Ordinance establishes 3 different levels. The first is a regular Use and Occupancy that the buyers can move in after settlement. The second is a conditional Use and Occupancy for properties that have minor violations. The new owner is responsible for the repairs of these violations. The third is a Temporary Use and Occupancy, which does not allow occupancy due to major violations. The buyer can only go into the property to do repairs. Exempted properties are bank owned and properties up for Sheriff Sale. The Borough requires notice on these exempted properties.

REPORT OF FINANCE – PRESIDENT O’CONNELL

PAYROLL - All members have a copy of the Payroll Report for September 2017 which totaled \$119,241.07. Mr. Bradley made a motion to approve the payroll for September 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 September 2017 to be paid in October 2017 in the amount of \$477,208.07. Mrs. Shallet made a motion to approve the Bill List, seconded by Mr. Bradley. All in favor, motion carried.

TREASURER’S REPORT: All members have a copy of the Treasurer’s Report for September 2017. Total cash balance General Fund: \$1,070,561.40; Sewer Fund: \$466,993.52; Highway Fund: \$263,526.42; Escrow Fund: \$158,624.99; Recycling Fund: \$3,693.78. Mrs. Shallet made a motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report, seconded by Mr. Bradley. All in favor, motion carried.

The finance committee meeting was held this evening. The next meeting is November 1st at 7:00 p.m.

The Bully Walk was postponed due to weather. It will be held Sunday, October 15th.

October 21st the Borough will hold a recycling event for electronics, as well as a shredding event.

REPORT OF PLANNING AND ZONING - MR. MOORE

The Planning Commission Members were given two different towns ordinances on trampolines, swing sets, satellite dishes and fire pits- open burn to look over that could help to update, improve, and add to the current Prospect Park Borough Ordinances that are already in place. Planning Members were asked to review the ordinances, and bring their written ideas to next month's Planning Commission meeting. They will be presenting their ideas to Council at an upcoming Council Meeting. The Planning Commission will continue researching these ordinances.

Mr. Moore asked if he needed to make a motion for the 2018 fee schedule. No changes were made. Mr. McBlain explained that a motion only needs to be made if the fee schedule has changed.

Mr. Moore read The Zoning Officer’s Report for the month of September: 68 annual apartment unit inspections; 1 single annual inspection; 10 sale of property inspections; 38 zoning & permit reviews.

Mr. Moore made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 1343 amending Chapter 65 of the Prospect Park Borough Code governing the requirement and issuing of a Certificate of Occupancy for certain properties, seconded by Mr. Bradley. All in favor, motion carried.

REPORT OF PUBLIC SAFETY – MR. JUREK

Mr. Jurek was absent.

President O’Connell explained Ordinance 1342, which implements Act 172 of 2016. This ordinance provides a 20% real estate tax cut for volunteer firefighters. A certified list will be presented to the Secretary and reviewed.

President O'Connell entertained a motion to approve Ordinance 1342 to implement Act 172 of 2016, incentives for Municipal volunteers of the Fire Company and Nonprofit Emergency Medical Service Agencies. Mr. Bradley made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Shallet. All in favor, motion carried.

The Fire Company will hold Fire Prevention Night Thursday, October 12th from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. All are invited to attend.

REPORT OF LIBRARY AND RECREATION – MRS. FAISON

Mrs. Faison was absent.

President O'Connell stated that repairs were done to the Jungle Jim at Park Square.

REPORT OF PUBLIC WORKS - MR. SCHREIBER

Mr. Schreiber was absent.

President O'Connell reminded residents again that there will be a recycling event on October 21st. Any residents who need items shredded are encouraged to attend.

REPORT OF ENGINEER – LISA CATANIA

CDBG 2017 – Prospect Ave Improvements – Preparing bid documents for review. Damon to start working the last week of October.

Road Program 2017 – AF Damon is scheduled for work the end of October.

MS4 –Pollution Reduction Plan (PRP) has been submitted to the PA DEP.

Energy Audit –Energy Systems Group would like to meet to discuss 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. Presentation is proposed for prior to Budget meeting October 10 @ 6:30.

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.

Riverside Sinkhole – Sinkhole has been reported in front of 304 Riverside Avenue. The sinkhole is related to a lateral collapse and a report has been forwarded to the Borough office as well as the Plumbing Inspector for follow-up. The area has been plated.

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.

CDBG 2018 grant will be coming out shortly from OHCD. Council should consider projects they would like to submit.

Ms. Catania received notification that Route 420 will be milled and paved in December.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

MEETING OPEN TO PUBLIC PARTICIPATION FOR A MAXIMUM OF THIRTY MINUTE

Phyllis Floyd, 604 14th Avenue, asked if the owners of the property 620 14th Avenue were cited and will be going before Judge Lippart. Mayor Harris said they were cited and will be going before Judge Lippart. Mrs. Floyd does not believe the Boy Scouts will be able to make headway cleaning this property and asked if the Borough is responsible if someone gets hurt. Mr. McBlain stated the Borough would not be held responsible.

Mrs. Floyd stated there is an abandoned vehicle on John Cepis' lot that she would like checked out. President O'Connell asked Mr. McBlain to review the zoning.

Mrs. Floyd stated that the property at 525 13th Avenue is getting worse. Mayor Harris will look into the property.

Mrs. Floyd also complained about a property at 12th and Prospect Avenue. She stated the house and porch are rotted and there is scaffolding on the house. Mayor Harris will research.

Mrs. Floyd is confused as to why the public could not be presented with the 2018 budget worksheet. Mr. McBlain explained that the preliminary budget will be advertised for public review at the November Council Meeting. The Secretary will post the preliminary budget on the foyer bulletin board. President O'Connell stated we are awaiting figures from the insurance broker and the sewer authority.

Claire Reilly, 1645 Norwood Avenue, stated that she is involved in the Teal Pumpkin Project for Halloween. There is a website where residents can register that they are not only providing candy, but non-food treats for kids with food allergies. Residents are encouraged to participate in this fabulous project. You can go to TealPumpkinProject.org. to register their address. President O'Connell thanked Ms. Reilly for sharing this project with the Borough.

Virginia Ford, 525 10th Avenue, asked if Council could elaborate on the Ordinance that provides firefighters with a 20% rebate on their Real Estate Tax. President O'Connell explained that

active firefighters who own their home in Prospect Park meet the criteria for the discount. The Borough Secretary will notarize the certified list that is given to her from the Fire Company, once the list is reviewed.

Pat Quinn, 840 8th Avenue, thanked John Cepis for having a resident redo the cement job that was done improperly.0

MOTION TO ADJOURN

President O'Connell entertained a motion to adjourn. Mr. Bradley made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Shallet. All in favor, motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

Attest

Respectfully Submitted

Deborah A. Hurst
Borough Secretary