

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP COUNCIL MEETING – MARCH 6, 2012

CALL TO ORDER Mayor Feikles called the Washington Township Council Meeting to order on March 6, 2012 at 7:00 P.M. at the Washington Township Administration Building at 11800 Edinboro Road, Edinboro, PA 16412. Those present were Vice-Mayor Glass, Councilmen Pernisek, and Patterson. Councilwoman Campbell was absent. Also present were Solicitor Burroughs, Manager Anthony, Community Development Specialist Deborah Anthony and Zoning Administrator Carcella. Visitors were Chris Roth, James and Mary Anne Strand.

AGENDA It was voted on motion by Pernisek, seconded by Glass, to approve the Agenda as presented.

APPROVAL Motion carried unanimously.

COUNCIL MINUTES It was voted on motion by Pernisek, seconded by Patterson, to approve the Minutes of the semi-monthly Council Meeting of February 21, 2012. Motion carried unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT The following checks presented for approval: General Fund #13958-13996, Water Fund #5019-5029, Sewer Fund #6247-6264, and payroll checks #10000063, 10000202, #995953-995961. It was voted on motion by Pernisek, seconded by Glass, to approve all the checks as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

SECRETARY'S REPORT Manager Anthony presented following report:

We decided to take advantage of the mild weather and finished up an aggressive sign rehabilitation program. We replaced and upgraded a large number of signs throughout the Township. Crews were instructed to inspect signs while performing their duties during snowplowing operations and note those that needed attention. We had budgeted for this program and we are happy to report that the program is completed. Signs are very expensive and keeping what we have in good condition is an ongoing task. This year's program should alleviate some of that burden for a while to come. We have received our first load of cold-patch for 2012, crews will be filling holes and continuing the ditching as time and weather allows. The Sewer Department is investigating the possibility of installing a monitoring device that can alert us as to when the generator is running at the Kline Road Sewer Plant. Currently we are bringing this generator on-line after a lengthy delay due to costs. It should be fully operational in a few weeks. The problem then is that this plant is not checked every day as it is not necessary. If by the chance we would loose power, the generator would kick in but we wouldn't know about it until we inspected the plant, which could be even longer if it happened late on a Friday and was not inspected until Monday. The generator would then use a considerable amount of fuel, possibly unnecessarily so. More on this as we look at all the options. The Water Department discovered a serious problem at the Wal-Mart fire protection pump station. Although this unit is not the responsibility of Washington Township, we have been aware of some problems. It seems that during a cold snap, the building was not protected and considerable damage occurred internally to equipment due to freezing. We have shut the water off and await instructions to turn it back on once the repairs are completed by Wal-Mart. I have made an initial offer to regularly inspect the unit and report problems for a fee, but haven't received a response as of yet. This is not the first time this has happened and our offer could possibly save them considerable dollars in the future in order to avoid a situation such as this.

CORRESPONDENCE None.

ZONING OFFICER'S REPORT Zoning Officer Carcella presented the McIntosh minor subdivision #2-12 and the monthly Building Report. It was voted on motion by Glass, seconded by Feikles, to approve the McIntosh subdivision #2-12 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT Solicitor Burroughs updated Council on the Hurley legal action, noting Mr. Hurley has appealed the court's decision in favor of Washington Township concerning past due sewer fees. Solicitor Burroughs informed Council he may ask the court for an Appeal Bond.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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PLANNING COMMISSION Vice-Mayor Glass presented the Minutes of the February 28, 2012 Meeting.

ZONING HEARING BOARD No Meeting.

ERIE COUNTY ASSOCIATION Councilwoman Campbell was absent; Manager Anthony presented the Minutes of February 21, 2012 Board Meeting, Minutes of the February 23, 2012 Meeting, and a notice for the upcoming ECATO Firemen's Conference Dinner.

WATER AUTHORITY No Meeting.

ERIE COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION Councilwoman Campbell was absent; Manager Anthony presented the Minutes for the February 9, 2012 Meeting.

VERTERAN PARK COMM. No Meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

TWP. FEES Manager Anthony presented a list of fees the Township charges for services. Council tabled the item until the next Meeting.

STATE Manager Anthony presented a copy of the Commonwealth's changes to the current oil and gas statute.

OIL/ GAS The said changes preempt a significant portion of the Township's current oil and gas ordinance.

REG CHANGES Council has the option to amend the current ordinance or to create a new ordinance for said changes. James and Mary Anne Strand voiced their concerns of the Township's current ordinance and stated their property rights have been compromised with current said ordinance. Solicitor Burroughs commented on said pending legislation and informed Council of the August 12, 2012 deadline for compliance with the State statute.

NEW BUSINES

EXPIRING Manager Anthony presented a list of terms that will expire on various Boards, Committees, and **TERMS** Authorities for Council's review. **It was voted** on motion by Feikles, seconded by Pernisek, to re-appoint Richard Kreider to the Sewer Authority for a 5-year term expiring on April 1, 2017. **Motion carried unanimously. It was voted** on motion by Feikles, seconded by Glass, to re-appoint David Karrfalt and Janet Kelly to the Zoning Hearing Board for 3-year terms expiring April 1, 2015. **Motion carried unanimously. It was voted** on motion by Feikles, seconded by Glass, to re-appoint Bunny Bucho to the Planning Commission for a 4-year term expiring April 1, 2016. **Voting in favor** were Glass and Feikles. **Voting opposed** were Patterson and Pernisek. **Motion died** due to lack of a majority vote.

YOUNG LUNGS AT Manager Anthony presented a letter concerning a State program to prohibit smoking in public **PLAY INITIATIVE** parks, playgrounds, or recreational areas. Mayor Feikles voiced his concerns on restricting a person's rights to smoke outdoors. No action was taken.

2012 TAX Manager Anthony presented the 2012 Tax Duplicate for Council's review. **It was voted** on motion by **DUPLICATE** Glass, seconded by Feikles, to approve the said tax duplicate as presented. **Motion carried unanimously.**

PERSONNEL COMM/ Council convened in Executive Session at 7:55 for a personnel discussion. Council re-**EXECUTIVE SESSION** convened in regular session at 8:05 P.M.

VISITORS James and Mary Anne Strand addressed Council on the State oil and gas statute.

ADJOURNMENT **It was voted** on motion by Glass, seconded by Feikles, to adjourn the Meeting at 8:06 P.M. **Motion carried unanimously.**