

WEST GROVE BOROUGH COUNCIL –Meeting Notes

May 1, 2019

The Regular Meeting of the West Grove Borough Council was held on Wednesday May 1, 2019 in the West Grove Municipal Building located at 117 Rosehill Avenue. The President, Mark Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Mark Johnson, President
Mr. Christopher Freese, Vice President
Mayor Stephen Black
Mr. Brinis Miller
Mr. Clyde Jacobs
Mr. Bill Temme
Mr. David Prosser
Mr. Gregory McCummings, Secretary

MINUTES:

April 3, 2019: Mr. Prosser moved and Mr. Miller seconded to approve the minutes of the April 3, 2019 Borough Council.

Motion Passed

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Mr. Freese moved and Mr. Miller seconded to approve the April Financial Report.

Motion Passed

TRANSFERS:

Mr. Prosser moved and Mr. Freese seconded to approve the May Transfers.

Motion Passed

BILLS:

Mr. Temme moved and Mr. Jacobs seconded to approve the April bills.

Motion Passed

VISITORS:

Kathleen Hall-Ditchfield, from Frog Hollow Lane inquired about the idea of the Borough providing some relief from the current earned income tax if a person's income was less than a certain amount. She believes other municipalities have something like this in place. President Johnson indicated that he had not heard of anything like this before but that Council would look into it.

Robert Polen, from the West Meadows Development inquired about the recently approved water rate adjustment. A discussion took place regarding planning and what improvements have been made and are still being planned for with the water system.

Robert Simon, from Jackson Avenue expressed concern regarding a damaged mirror on his vehicle. Mr. Simon believes it was hit by public works with a plow during a storm over the winter. President Johnson let Mr. Simon know that following the police report and denial from the Borough insurance company that he should continue on his path of appealing the decision with his insurance company.

Stephen Black, from Prospect Avenue asked Council to consider allowing him to clear and maintain a section of Borough property that borders the back of his property. Currently the Borough is not maintaining the section of ground and it's overgrown. In exchange Mr. Black asked if he could put unlocked gates and each end of the property and connect them to the Borough fence on the western side of Memorial Park. Council agreed to allow Mr. Black to clear and maintain the section of property moving forward and that there would be no change in ownership. Manager McCummings will follow up with Mr. Black regarding the possibility of allowing gates to be installed.

FINANCE:

Parcel 5-3-9 was discussed and communication was presented from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources indicating that the purchase of the parcel would potentially be supported with a 50/50 grant however the grant cycle just ended in April 2019. DCNR did provide a possible solution which is for the Borough to request a Waiver of Retroactivity from the County and State which would allow us to purchase the land and subsequently apply for the grant in the next cycle. Council requested that we reach out to the Wildcats program to see if they would be willing to help fund the acquisition.

ZONING OFFICER'S MONTHLY REPORT:

No comments

PUBLIC WORKS:

Public Works is currently focused on keeping the parks and Borough properties mowed and trimmed.

Mr. Freese provided an update from the Sewer Authority which met on Tuesday April 30, 2019. During that meeting the Authority interviewed our current part time operator, Brian McNeil, for the open full time operator position becoming available on Monday May 13, 2019 with the departure of Rob Lalli. Mr. Freese advised Council that the Sewer Authority recommended we offer Brian the full time position at an hourly rate compensatory to \$60,000/year.

Mr. Prosser made a motion to offer Brian McNeil the full time Water and Wastewater Operator position with West Grove Borough at an hourly rate compensatory to \$60,000/year and Mr. Miller seconded the motion.

Motion Passed

There was further discussion regarding the potential purchase of a new sewer camera. Prior to the meeting Kennett Township was able to bring their new camera down and

demo it for us. They purchased the push style which is ¼ of the price of a crawler system. Mr. Freese indicated that the Authority is continuing to gather information regarding what the cost will be with a tilt and pan camera which will make the system much more useful.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

Chief Simpson presented SCCRPD's first quarter report for 2019 which is available for public review on social media as well as the municipal offices of both communities. Chief indicated that they will begin the 2020 budget process at the May meeting and that the contract with Avondale Borough will begin July 1, 2019 and will be for 18 months. They're also planning cohesion meetings with the Fire Chiefs and Emergency Management Coordinators of both communities. Chief indicated they're ahead of schedule currently with the PLEAC Accreditation process. National Police week is the week of May 13, 2019.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mr. Prosser inquired about the valuation process for our water and wastewater system. Mr. Prosser would like to see the Borough pursue an evaluation of both systems in the future.

NEW BUSINESS

Manager McCummings presented revised inspection ordinances for both rental properties as well as resales for consideration to advertise. Council chose to table the discussion until the June meeting to have more time to review the proposed changes.

President Johnson publicly recognized and thanked Robert T. Lalli for his 22 years of dedicated service to West Grove Borough.

CORRESPONDENCE:

No correspondence provided

MAYORS COMMENTS

No comment

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Public Safety Commission - Thursday May 9th at 7:30PM (New Garden)
- Habitat for Humanity Groundbreaking Ceremony – Thursday May 16th at 2:30PM at the construction site.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 9:02PM President Johnson called for an executive session to discuss personnel matters.

Following the executive session Mr. Prosser made a motion to increase the Borough Managers personal vehicle allowance from \$10/week to \$70 per month and Mr. Miller seconded the motion.

Motion Passed

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Miller moved and Mr. Prosser seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Motion Passed

Meeting adjourned at 9:22p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Gregory J. McCummings, Secretary