

# **BECHTELSTVILLE BOROUGH COUNCIL**

## **MINUTES APRIL 19, 2017**

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The regular meeting of the Bechtelsville Borough Council was called to order by President, Deborah Fronheiser at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday April 19, 2017 at the Bechtelsville Borough Hall.

### **ROLL CALL**

The following members were present: Deborah Fronheiser, Rose Marie Bireley, Joel Weller, Tim Frank, David Wieder, Charles Scheetz; Secretary, Valerie Moll; Solicitor, Jamie Ottaviano; Colebrookdale Police Cpl Ellis. Absent: James Kolb, Mayor Glenn Haas.

### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Resident Sandra Landis was present regarding two issues. She asked who was responsible for snow removal on Main Street. During the last snow storm, there was a lot of snow left in front of the post office and she saw people fall. Council informed Ms. Landis that PENNDOT is responsible for snow removal on Main Street.

Ms. Landis also wanted to let Council know about the condition of the property next door to her, 88 Race Street. Council stated that they are aware of the issues and the property has been cited. However, when the case went to court, the District Justice dismissed all of the citations. The property is owned by an estate and will most likely be in foreclosure soon. Attorney Ottaviano will contact the attorney for the estate to see if there has been any progress on the foreclosure process.

Scott Reitnauer from Eastern Berks Fire Company was present to discuss the parking on West Chestnut Street. Mr. Reitnauer wanted to know why no parking signs were posted on the South side of West Chestnut Street. It was explained that by Borough ordinance, parking is prohibited on that side of West Chestnut Street. At some point, the no parking signs were removed. Also, a handicapped parking sign was placed on the street by someone. The handicapped spot is not a legal spot and will need to be removed. Mr. Reitnauer stated he needs parking for the social hall. There was discussion about possibly establishing a loading/unloading zone or temporary parking. The fire company would like the Borough to move parking from the North side of the street to the South side of the street. Council would like to get the opinion of the residents who this will impact. The Secretary will send letters to the residents of West Chestnut Street explaining the situation and the possible change and inviting them to attend the next Council meeting to give feedback to Council.

**MINUTES APPROVED FOR MEETING HELD MARCH 15, 2017**

A motion was made by Joel Weller and seconded by Tim Frank to approve the minutes, as prepared, for the regular meeting held March 15, 2017.

All ayes

Absent: James Kolb

**TREASURER'S REPORTS**

A motion was made by Charles Scheetz and seconded by Rose Marie Bireley to approve payment of all bills up to and inclusive of 4/19/17 and file the treasurer's reports for the General Fund, Motor Aid, and Recreation Fund for audit.

All ayes

Absent: James Kolb

**BOROUGH REPORTS**

**POLICE**

Cpl. Ellis was present and gave the police report for the month of March showing 7 vehicle arrests, 1 criminal arrest, 1 warning, 1 accident, 1 parking tickets, and 98 incidents.

**ENGINEER**

**FRANKLIN/MENSCH PROJECT**

Council discussed the two proposals for the Franklin/Mensch project. Yarnell Paving came in \$1100 less than Stern Nester. However, there was concern because Yarnell had access to Stern Nester's proposal before preparing their proposal. A roll call vote was called for. Joel Weller, Rose Marie Bireley and Charles Scheetz voted to award the contract to Stern Nester. Tim Frank, David Wieder and Deborah Fronheiser voted to award the contract to Yarnell Paving. Since Council was tied, the issue was tabled until later in the meeting. When Council came back to the issue there was discussion regarding the repair area. It was decided to revise the repair area and have both contractors rebid the project. A motion was made by Charles Scheetz and seconded by Tim Frank to rebid the project with revised specifications and approve the contract of bidder who comes in at \$15,000 or under.

All ayes

Absent: James Kolb

## **ZONING OFFICER**

### **Zoning Issues**

1. 1731/1733 S. Main Street – The District Justice extended the time for compliance until the end of April.
2. 1753 S. Main Street – A site visit was conducted on March 9, 2017 concerning slate coming off of the roof. It was observed that there is slate roofing coming off of the accessory structure and the roof is in disrepair. The accessory structure is also in disrepair. A Property Maintenance NOV has been sent.

Jeff Kirlin and John Stine were present to discuss issues relating to 26 Pheasant Road. It has come to the Borough's attention that tents have been erected in the yard at the property and several people are living in them. There is also a tent used as a bathroom facility. John Stine conducted a site visit and spoke to the tenant of the property, Chad Wilson. Mr. Wilson stated that friends were visiting and were staying for about 2 weeks. He told John that the waste from the bathroom tent is being emptied in the bathroom in the house.

John Stine said that the current Zoning Ordinance does not contain language relating to tents and that he can't cite for anything regarding the tents. Mr. Kirlin suggested establishing an ordinance that addresses a situation like this. The ordinance would need to establish a no harm use of tents vs a nuisance use of tents.

Council also expressed concern regarding some of the property maintenance issues that were not addressed. John Stine stated that they investigate the complaint and do not expand beyond what the complaint states. Property maintenance issues were discussed and Technicon will be issuing NOV's for 2 property maintenance issues.

## **SOLICITOR**

Attorney Ottaviano provided an update on the Brensinger legislation. The additional defendants were released from suit. The Brensinger's filed a motion for reconsideration which signals they will file an appeal. Attorney Ottaviano will monitor the situation.

## **ROADMASTER**

The Roadmaster met with a representative from the Dirt & Gravel Roads program regarding Pheasant Road. It looks like the project will qualify. Someone will need to attend a class in October to be certified.

We received millings from PENNDOT. The tractor needed service and repair. The road crew has started repairing the outside of Borough Hall.

**RECREATION COMMITTEE**

The Recreation Association is planning a community day for 9/9.

**STORMWATER MANAGEMENT**

No issues reported.

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

Charlie Scheetz attended the BWB Emergency Management meeting. The Borough still needs a deputy. Charlie will serve as liaison until the end of the year.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**ANNUAL AUDIT**

Council was presented with the annual audit results from Herbein & Co.

**BANKING**

The Secretary was informed that BB&T will be charging us fees for our payroll account. She met with a representative from Tompkins Vist Bank. They have accounts that will work for all of our account types. A motion was made by Charles Scheetz and seconded by Tim Frank to make Tompkins Vist Bank the depository for all Borough funds.

All ayes

Absent: James Kolb

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Tim Frank and seconded by Rose Marie Bireley to adjourn the meeting at 9:54 p.m.

All ayes

Absent: James Kolb

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie A. Moll  
Borough Secretary