

TULLYTOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

December 10, 2019

President, Nina Chrzanowski called the meeting of the Tullytown Borough Council to order on Tuesday, December 10, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Cutchineal asked for a moment of silence for Germaine Jenkins who passed away in a bad car accident on Rt. 13.

Present at the meeting:

Mayor Cutchineal
Councilman Shellenberger
Councilwoman Kettler
Councilwoman Slemmer
Councilman Pirolli
Councilwoman Gahagan
Councilwoman Johnson
Councilwoman Chrzanowski

Also present:

Thomas J. Walsh III, Esquire, Borough Solicitor
Joe McPadden, Borough Treasurer
Daniel Doyle, Chief of Police
Dan Pasciullo, Fire Marshal
Nancy Conner, Borough Secretary

COMMENDATION

Chief Doyle presented, on behalf of Mayor Cutchineal, Borough Council and the Police Department and the Community of Tullytown Borough a Medal of Valor to Sgt. Phil Kulan regarding an incident that occurred on September 2018. Lt. Johnson of Bristol Township Police Department also spoke on behalf of Chief Colton of that department and conveyed that the Tullytown Police Department officers are some of the best equipped and best trained in Bucks County, even for a small department which is a credit to Chief Doyle and to Council. He added that Sgt. Phil Kulan displays courage in the face of a subject who was armed and had demonstrated his willingness to fire and they are thankful for Sgt. Kulan and all of the men who assist their department.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chip Vandine, 274 Lakeside Drive, President of Tullytown Fire Company, commented that the donation for the Fire Company was approximately \$94,000 this past year and he sees on the proposed 2020 Budget that it is now cut to approximately \$36,000, almost a 65% cut. Mr. Vandine advised that he submitted a budget to the Borough taking only 15% as he thought that would have been the reduction for this year. He asked if Council can give the Fire Company a 50% cut instead of 65% cut.

Mrs. Johnson made a motion to give the Fire Company a 50% cut instead of 65% cut. Ms. Gahagan seconded the motion.

Mr. Shellenberger asked what that amount would be. Mr. Vandine stated it would be approximately \$47,500. Mr. Shellenberger asked if that was enough. Mr. Vandine stated it's never enough but he would be happy with that amount for this year.

Roll call vote was taken:

Mr. Shellenberger—for

Mrs. Kettler—against

Miss Slemmer—against

Mr. Pirolli—against

Ms. Gahagan—for

Mrs. Johnson—for

Mrs. Chrzanowski—against

The vote was 3 in favor, 4 against; the motion did not carry.

Mr. Vandine also requested if Council would show a sign of support by increasing the fire tax next year by 2 mills by referendum.

Mrs. Johnson made a motion to place referendum on ballot to increase the fire tax by 2 mills. Mr. Pirolli seconded the motion.

The vote of Council was as follows:

Mr. Shellenberger—for

Mrs. Kettler—for

Miss Slemmer—for

Mr. Pirolli—for

Ms. Gahagan—for

Mrs. Johnson—for

Mrs. Chrzanowski—for

The motion carried with a unanimous vote in favor.

Mr. Shellenberger asked Mr. Vandine what the 2 mills would represent. Mr. Vandine advised it would be worth approximately \$53,000.

Mrs. Kettler advised that she is a member of the finance committee which has been through the budget process. She commented that the residents have had to put up with the mountain of trash and have benefited from that. She stated that the landfill closed in 2017 which is almost 3 years without these tipping fees—this is a serious crisis for our town. She commented that our budget is way out of line from what we take in from taxes from residents and businesses versus what we are spending.

Mrs. Kettler added that Council, from the advice of our finance committee, sought out the PA Economy League to bring them in to help us in this process. She advised that they are looking across the board and the Fire Company does take one of the largest which is a donation, not including the fire tax, nor the Workers' Compensation premium that Council pays. She added that Council has responsibilities to employees, police services, pensions that all need to be funded. She commented the Council did not just go after the Fire Company and added that some cuts couldn't be made as they are contractually obligated.

Mrs. Kettler commented that in addition to the financial consultant, Council is looking into how fire companies and police departments are funded as well as many other expenses the Borough incurs. Mrs. Kettler commented they will listen to recommendations of the consultant but Council will ultimately decide.

Bernadette Hart, 50 Stream Lane, Levittown, commented that she is a part of Wreaths across America held this Saturday, December 14th which comprise of volunteers able to put wreaths on every Veterans' graves. She added they are still looking for volunteers. A copy of that letter is attached to the minutes.

Aaron Cohen, Chief Fire Department, advised that the Fire Co (approximately 12 volunteers) will be helping with the wreaths across America as well. He advised it is a good cause.

Mr. Cohen also advised that on Friday, December 13th, the Fire Co will be escorting Santa Claus starting at 5:30 from Kenwood, Stonybrook, Lakeside, Creek Village and then to old Town. He advised they will be collecting nonperishable foods and also collecting toys for children without parents.

COUNCIL MINUTES

November 12, 2019 Council Meeting

Mr. Shellenberger made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 12, 2019 Council meeting, seconded by Mrs. Kettler.

The vote of Council was as follows:

Mr. Shellenberger—for

Mrs. Kettler-for

Miss Slemmer--for

Mr. Pirolli—for

Ms. Gahagan--for

Mrs. Johnson--for

Mrs. Chrzanowski--for

The motion carried with a unanimous vote of Council in favor.

TREASURER'S REPORT

MONTHLY BILLS

Mr. Pirolli made a motion to approve the bills in the amount of \$33,028.08, seconded by Miss Slemmer.

The vote of Council was as follows:

Mr. Shellenberger—for

Mrs. Kettler--for

Miss Slemmer--for

Mr. Pirolli—for

Ms. Gahagan--for

Mrs. Johnson--for

Mrs. Chrzanowski--for

All of Council was in favor of the motion; the motion carried.

OTHER EXPENSES PAID IN NOVEMBER

Miss Slemmer made a motion to approve the other expenses for November in the amount of \$203,448.36, seconded by Mr. Pirolli.

The vote of Council was as follows:

Mr. Shellenberger—for
Mrs. Kettler--for
Miss Slemmer--for
Mr. Pirolli—for
Ms. Gahagan--for
Mrs. Johnson--for
Mrs. Chrzanowski--for

The motion carried with a unanimous vote of Council in favor.

RECONCILIATION STATEMENT

Mr. Pirolli made a motion to approve the Reconciliation Statement for November, 2019, seconded by Mr. Shellenberger.

The vote of Council was as follows:

Mr. Shellenberger—for
Mrs. Kettler--for
Miss Slemmer--for
Mr. Pirolli—for
Ms. Gahagan--for
Mrs. Johnson--for
Mrs. Chrzanowski--for

The motion passed with a unanimous vote of Council in favor.

AUTHORIZE TRANSFER OF FUNDS \$300,000 VIA RESOLUTION #428

A motion was made by Mr. Pirolli to adopt Resolution #428, authorizing the transfer of \$300,000 from the investment firms to the General Fund, seconded by Mrs. Kettler.

Roll call vote was taken:

Mr. Shellenberger—for
Mrs. Kettler--for
Miss Slemmer--for
Mr. Pirolli—for
Ms. Gahagan--for
Mrs. Johnson--for
Mrs. Chrzanowski--for

The motion carried with a unanimous vote of Council in favor.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mrs. Conner advised that we received a letter of resignation from Bruce Goulet, chair of the Planning Commission. She advised that Bruce has been a member of the Planning Commission for over 30 years.

Mrs. Conner advised she doesn't have anyone on the list who is interested in this position but she will put notice on the website and government channel.

Mr. Shellenberger made a motion to accept the resignation of Bruce Goulet of the Planning Commission. Mrs. Kettler seconded the motion.

All of Council was in favor of the motion.

Mrs. Conner advised she will send a letter thanking Bruce Goulet for his many years of service.

GENERAL BUSINESS

DISCUSSION—UPDATE-STREET LIGHT PROCUREMENT PROGRAM

Mr. Fuller advised that in October he provided a summary of the project to upgrade our street lighting to LED lighting. He added that at that time, a resolution was passed by Council to move forward with that project. He added that part of our project is to buy the fixtures back from PECO. Mr. Fuller stated that staff members had a meeting with PECO and a comment was made by PECO that the savings with changing tariffs and doing the buyback would not be that substantial, contrary to the study that Keystone completed. He added that is not the case and Mr. Fuller asked PECO to do their own independent analysis on behalf of Tullytown Borough which was sent to Council. He advised they came up with the exact same savings as projected by PECO. Mr. Fuller stated this project will generate \$47,000 in savings for Tullytown per year. He added that when you compare to the project cost of \$171,315, which includes the buyback, over 20 years the project will generate over \$800,000 in net savings for Tullytown.

Miss Slemmer asked Mr. McPadden the Borough's monthly electric bill. Mr. McPadden advised approximately \$6,500 a month. Mr. McPadden commented it should be reduced to about \$2,000 per month; a savings of approximately \$48,000 per year.

Mr. Walsh questioned the "poles" that were mentioned in the buyback. Mr. Fuller advised that the buyback consists of the luminaires or fixtures and the decorative

fixtures and the decorative poles in old Town. He added that the wood PECO poles remain the property of PECO.

Mr. Shellenberger questioned if a pole has to be replaced, who would be responsible for it. Mr. Fuller was not quite sure but will look into it. He added that it will be handled the same way it has been handled in the past. Mr. Fuller advised that the luminaires or fixtures total 289 which include the cobra heads and the decorative fixtures, 145 decorative poles and the brackets which are not totaled.

Chris Shellenberger, 229 Kenwood Drive, S., Levittown, suggested that the number of poles be confirmed. Mr. Fuller will clarify that. Mr. Fuller commented that it is almost in our favor to do the buyback, get the ownership and when they submit on the Borough's behalf, when construction is done, what was installed, they will show the accurate number so inventory will be accurate.

PECO LETTER—CONSIDERATION

Mr. Shellenberger made a motion to approve the buyout price from PECO in the amount of \$47,100.59. Mr. Pirolli seconded the motion.

Roll call vote was taken:

Mr. Shellenberger—for

Mrs. Kettler--for

Miss Slemmer--for

Mr. Pirolli—for

Ms. Gahagan--for

Mrs. Johnson--for

Mrs. Chrzanowski--for

All of Council was in favor of the motion—the motion carried.

2020 FINAL BUDGET – CONSIDERATION

Miss Slemmer made a motion to adopt the 2020 budget with the increase to line item #411.110, fire marshal annual salary, to \$7200 annually. Mrs. Kettler seconded the motion.

Mrs. Kettler advised that our fire marshal has done a phenomenal job. She is happy that he is in our corner. She feels that he is very fair, very knowledgeable and has a great way of bringing people together and telling people things they need to get done and handles the public in a great way. She added that he doesn't alienate our residents and our business people and makes them understand it's for everyone's safety. Mrs. Kettler added that she has heard a lot of good things about him.

Mr. Pasciullo, fire marshal, advised he completed his first year in Tullytown Borough and commented that he didn't have to take anyone to Court—everyone did what he has asked of them and we have a safer town for that. He added that this year they have given out about 40 smoke detectors between the Fire Company and himself.

The vote of Council on adoption of the 2020 budget was as follows:

Mr. Shellenberger—for, with the exception of 462.510, property allocation check

Mrs. Kettler--for

Miss Slemmer--for

Mr. Pirolli—for

Ms. Gahagan--for

Mrs. Johnson--against

Mrs. Chrzanowski--for

The majority of Council was in favor of the motion; the motion carried.

RESOLUTION #429 ADOPTING 2020 TAX LEVY

Mr. Walsh explained that Council can adopt the 2020 tax levy by resolution this year versus by Ordinance as the State law has been changed, provided the millage is the same or less than the prior year. Mr. Walsh advised the millage for 2020 remains the same as last year – 7.5 mills for general purposes, 2 mills for street lighting and 2 mills for fire protection.

Miss Slemmer made a motion to adopt Resolution #429, adopting 2020 tax levy
General purposes--7.5 mills, streets lighting--2 mills, fire protection--2 mills.

Roll call vote was taken:

Mr. Shellenberger—for

Mrs. Kettler--for

Miss Slemmer--for

Mr. Pirolli—for

Ms. Gahagan--for

Mrs. Johnson--for

Mrs. Chrzanowski--for

All of Council was in favor of the motion; the motion carried.

EMPLOYEE CHRISTMAS BONUS—CONSIDERATION

Miss Slemmer made a motion to give a Christmas bonus of \$100 to all current Borough employees who worked a minimum of 40 hours this year. Mr. Pirolli seconded the motion.

Roll call vote was taken:

Mr. Shellenberger--abstain

Mrs. Kettler--for

Miss Slemmer--for

Mr. Pirolli—for

Ms. Gahagan--abstain

Mrs. Johnson--for

Mrs. Chrzanowski--for

The motion passed with the majority of Council in favor.

AUTHORIZE ADVERTISEMENT OF JANUARY 6, 2020 ORGANIZATION AND COUNCIL MEETINGS 6:30/7:00 PM

Mr. Pirolli made a motion to authorize advertisement of the organization and regular meetings of Council to be held on Monday, January 6, 2020 6:30 p.m./7:00 p.m. Mr. Shellenberger seconded the motion.

The vote of Council was as follows:

Mr. Shellenberger—for

Mrs. Kettler--for

Miss Slemmer--for

Mr. Pirolli—for

Ms. Gahagan--for

Mrs. Johnson--for

Mrs. Chrzanowski--for

All of Council was in favor of the motion; the motion carried.

REQUEST FROM LEV/FAIRLESS HILLS RESCUE SQUAD FOR DONATION—CONSIDERATION

Chief Doyle advised that the Levittown/Fairless Hills Rescue Squad requested a donation.

Mr. Shellenberger made a motion to give a donation to the Levittown/Fairless Hills Rescue Squad in the amount of \$5,000, seconded by Mr. Pirolli.

The vote of Council was as follows:

Mr. Shellenberger—for

Mrs. Kettler--for

Miss Slemmer--for

Mr. Pirolli—for

Ms. Gahagan--for

Mrs. Johnson--for

Mrs. Chrzanowski--for

All of Council was in favor of the motion; the motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

No Reports

BOROUGH REPORTS

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Cutchineal thanked everyone who supported the Borough's tree lighting and Season of Unity and thanked the park and recreation committee who did a great job.

Mrs. Kettler also commented how beautiful the St. Mike's Choir led us in song and participated in the tree lighting.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Walsh advised that the grant application was submitted to DCED and we are waiting to hear back from them. He added that we sent a conditional award letter to the PA Economy League which they signed and sent back to us. He added that Mrs. Conner has contacted DCED to find out the status of the grant application.

Mr. Walsh also advised that there was a meeting in the Borough on November 18th with representatives of the St. Michael's/McGrath Homes project. He advised that they did bring their escrow account in balance and provided additional escrow money. Mr. Walsh commented that McGrath advised they would be coming forward with a petition to amend the zoning ordinance to create a transit overlay zoning district. Mr. Walsh advised that he will help with drafting that petition which will be no cost to the Borough as the developer will pay for the cost. He asked if Council is okay with him doing that. Council agreed.

Mr. Walsh advised the project has not changed as far as the layout and number of units and location. He added they are still working on the environmental aspect.

CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief Doyle advised he had no further report.

FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT

Fire Marshal's report has been distributed to Council prior to Council meeting.

MISCELLANEOUS COUNCIL BUSINESS

There was no miscellaneous Council business.

Ronnie Baker, 288 Main Street, Tullytown, asked who is chairman of Park & Rec committee. Mrs. Chrzanowski advised that Mike Hammar is the chair. She said there are no meetings—the committee members were not notified of meetings. Mr. Shellenberger commented that his son is on the Park & Rec and asked to please contact him of the meetings.

Mike Hammar, 237 Kenwood Drive, S., Levittown, commented that when there is a meeting, Nancy or Jessica always call or email the members.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mrs. Kettler to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Miss Slemmer.

All of Council was in favor of the motion; the motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Nancy Conner
Borough Secretary