

**BOROUGH OF HOMESTEAD  
221 EAST 7<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE  
HOMESTEAD, PA 15120**

**CACAUS COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**JULY 13, 2020  
5:07 P.M.**

Drew Borcik called the meeting to order.

No roll call was taken.

**REQUEST TO BE ON THE AGENDA**

Tiffany Banker wanted to speak about Officer Festa's behavior. Ms. Baker explained that her car had been hit in a hit-and-run accident. She said her and her mom were waiting for the police to show up. The neighbor across the street had a video camera showing the accident and let them see the footage. After viewing the footage her mom calls the police again. They are waiting now for an hour and a half at 17<sup>th</sup> and McClure. They called for a 3<sup>rd</sup> time to 911 and they said they would be sending someone. About 3 hours later she receives a phone call from Officer Festa stating he will take the information over the phone. She asked if he was coming to look at the damage and take a report, he said no he was going to take it over the phone. He was nasty with her. She said are you coming to take the report he said what do you want us to do go door to door. She said I want you to do your God damn job. She told him his disposition was nasty. He said if you have a problem with me you need to speak to my supervisor. So that is why she was at the meeting. The date of the accident was June 27<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Borcik asked the Chief if he knew about any of this, he said he did not, and he was on vacation last week. The Chief stated that she wasn't the first person to express that about his demeanor, however, he is right due to the Covid we are doing as much as we can over the phone to limit our exposure. However, since you had video you can't see that over the phone, and it could have been handled in person. The Mayor stated that he should have gone to the scene. She stated an officer came the next day to come and take the complaint. There was a discussion taken on the police taking calls over the phone.

She was just here to complain about Officer Festa's behavior.

Mr. Dais asked to have the pledge said. Mr. Borcik asked the Mayor to lead us in the pledge of allegiance. Mr. Borcik asked that everyone stay standing for the 3-council

people who have passed one former and one present, Susan Titmus and Wanda Burwell and Cheryl Chapman.

Mr. Borcik stated you should have received in your packets we have the borough finances you should have all received a copy and it was brought to my attention we had some problems in the past I had ask that each one of these bills be associated with a check number and each one goes in a sequence. So even if they are mixed up because they go in alphabetical order, but they are in a sequence of numbers and for the bills to be approved they all must have a number. They will go from month to month so if anyone has any questions nothing slips thru. He asked that everyone look over the list of bills.

Mr. Borcik asked if anyone had any questions on the bills at this time. Mr. Cunningham stated that there were 2 bills to the SVSD need to be removed.

Mr. Borcik asked Mrs. Paylor-Dais if she wanted to speak to council. She stated she had something to hand to council. She did so. She then stated that effective January 1, 2021 she would like to move her tax office. In order to comply with the Governor's order of social distancing and protecting herself, the deputy tax collector and the tax payors is not sufficient. The room that she is working out of is a 10 x 9 and she has 2 desks in there, a file cabinet, a table and printer. There is not enough room for herself and her deputy to practice social distancing. Also, the taxpayers cannot come into the office. So now the way I'm collecting taxes is when a tax payer comes in the receptionist calls me, I go out in her area, I take the bills thru the window so I a disturbing her and it's not safe for her and not safe for the tax collector. She needs more space and is going to move the tax office January 1, 2021. Attached to what she gave council is what it is going to cost.

Mr. Borcik wished her good luck with her move. Mrs. Paylor-Dais stated where she is just isn't sufficient.

Mr. Borcik asked if anyone has any additional questions on any of the bills. What about the revenues and expenditures to date any questions?

Mr. Borcik talked about Mr. Guests insurance policy. He also talked about Alcosan that they were misinformed that everyone on council was for closing 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue and they have been informed that that is not the case. That they can make the street one way at the school and that can be a viable option for them. It would be from Glenn to Ann. There was a discussion on the old plan and the new plan.

Mr. Borcik stated under Old Business we have appointing a new President of Council. He asked if council wanted to entertain that at this time or did, they want to do that at the end.

**M-1** A motion was made by Rev. Benton, seconded by Mr. Cunningham to reduce the pay of the president of council to be the same as other council members.

Before the roll call vote the Mayor asked to speak. She stated that she thought that council was being ridiculous. I'm sorry. We have been doing this for years. All of a sudden, we are changing presidents why? I can tell you when I was president, I could tell you what Lloyd does or whoever the president is you are running around. You don't get gas money. You don't get mileage. You get a lousy \$25.00 extra. What is the big deal about making these changes all of a sudden? We have been running pretty good now all this petty stuff.

Solicitor Heminger asked for an executive session.

The tape recorder was not turned back on for the roll call of this motion.

When the tape did come back on it started with Mr. Borcik stating we also have an application from Zanita Hines of 320 East 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

**M-2** A motion was made by Mr. Cunningham to wait until Thursday to decide, seconded by Rev. Benton. Upon roll call vote, Rev. Benton, Mr. Borcik, Min. Burwell, Mr. Cunningham, Mr. Dais and Ms. Nesby voted yes. Motion carried.

Solicitor Heminger stated you must be a resident in that ward for a year and you must make that decision within 30 days of the date that it became vacant. Someone asked do they have to be registered to vote and a resident of that ward. Several people on council answered yes.

Mr. Borcik stated that everyone on council received for your eyes only a draft copy of Manager's first draft proposal for the police contract. Normally what happens is the Solicitor and the Manager negotiate this deal and bring it back to Council. Has anyone looked at what they received in their packet? Mr. Heminger stated we should talk about that in executive session.

Mr. Borcik stated this is done by the Solicitor and the Manager. Mr. Cunningham stated they consult with the Police Committee. Mr. Borcik stated yes as a whole but they don't go on their own and do this. Mr. Heminger stated he would like to try and do this before the end of the month. Mr. Borcik stated that would be perfect. Mr. Cunningham suggested that the Manager set up a bargaining committee meeting so that this can happen. Mr. Borcik stated that this would be good and possibly everyone could meet next week.

- M-3** A motion was made by Mr. Dais to remove Mr. Borcik as President and that he should not hold another office for the duration of his term for the reason is insufficient use of public tax dollars. Mr. Borcik stated he thinks Mr. Dais is speculating. Mr. Borcik asked for a second. Mrs. Nesby seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, Rev. Benton, Mr. Borcik, Min. Burwell voted no. Mr. Cunningham, Mr. Dais and Mrs. Nesby voted yes. Tie vote. Mayor was asked to break the tie and told them to go into the caucus room and talk it out. Mr. Dais explained his motion again. The Mayor voted yes. Motion carried.
- M-4** A motion was made by Mr. Dais to appoint Mr. Cunningham as President, seconded by Mrs. Nesby. Rev. Benton asked how can he be President when he has had other people as a contractor who did work that was never bid on and there was never a contract, never voted on and paid \$9,975 to this person. So, to say he won't do it again. Upon roll call vote, Mr. Cunningham, Mr. Dais, Ms. Nesby and Mayor Esper voted yes. Rev. Benton, Mr. Borcik and Min. Burwell voted no. Motion carried.

Mayor Esper stated Mr. Cunningham is the only one that she sees going to all meetings. You can't just be a President and come to 2 meetings a month. She is upset that we are not a council. You don't do it for your friends and family.

- M-5** A motion was made by Ms. Nesby to appoint Mr. Dais as Vice President, seconded by – the Mayor interjected and stated that she would like to see Mr. Dais not take it and have Mr. Borcik take it so you have 2 people who know the politics, the Waterfront, know who to talk to, know the other presidents of other councils this is what it is all about. Mr. Cunningham seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, Mr. Cunningham, Mr. Dais and Ms. Nesby voted yes. Rev. Benton, Mr. Borcik, Min. Burwell and Mayor Esper voted no. Motion failed.

Rev. Benton was going to make a motion for Mr. Borcik to be Vice President, however, Mr. Cunningham explained that Mr. Borcik can stay in that position.

Mr. Cunningham now stated that the vacant seat, we will put it out there and let other people know. We have gone over the police negotiations. The Manager, the Solicitor and the Police Committee. The Ordinance for parking, everyone received it, it has gone out for advertisement and there will be a motion on Thursday to accept or reject it.

Chief DeSimone gave his report.

There was a discussion regarding the SRO contract. This will be discussed in executive session.

Discussion on street sweeping. This will be discussed in executive session.

Ms. Portis asked why is Officer Redshaw leaving. Chief said he heard a rumor that she was leaving the state.

Ms. Zang stated there is a bid in your packets to have the rubber surface at the playgrounds patched. This is all we can do until we can have it completely replaced. That will be on the agenda for Thursday.

Ms. Zang talked about replacing the phone system. Discussion was taken on this matter.

Resolution to apply for DCED grant. Mr. Cunningham explained what this is.

There was a discussion regarding Land Bank. There was a discussion taken on this matter.

Resolution for Destruction of Documents per the DCED. Mr. Cunningham explained the procedures.

A motion needs to be made on Thursday to pay McKee Asphalt for the paving project.

There was a discussion on paving West St.

There was a discussion on buying Vet Insurance for the K-9.

There was a discussion regarding life insurance for council.

Solicitor Heminger requested an executive session to go over some items.

Mr. Cunningham stated that the meeting was adjourned to an executive session.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie Pelkey  
Administrative Assistant