

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

**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
09 March 2017  
7:00 P.M.**

Mr. Cunningham called the meeting to order.

The pledge of allegiance was lead by the Mayor.

**THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS RESPONDED TO ROLL CALL**

ROLL CALL:           Rev. Turner – Present  
                          Rev. Benton – Present  
                          Ms. Mariner – Absent  
                          Ms. Burwell – Present  
                          Mr. Borcik – Present  
                          Ms. Broadwater – Absent  
                          Mr. Cunningham – Present  
                          Mayor Esper – Present  
                          Police Chief DeSimone – Present  
                          Engineer Gilliland – Present  
                          Solicitor Bernie Schneider – Present  
                          Building Inspector Dan Hankins – Absent  
                          Borough Manager Matt Staniszewski – Present

**REQUEST TO BE ON THE AGENDA**

None

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION – AGENDA ITEMS ONLY**

None

**MOTIONS**

**M-1** Motion was made by Mr. Borcik, Seconded by Rev. Turner, to pay the bills as per the bill list in the amount of \$203,978.89. Upon roll call vote, Rev. Turner, Mr. Borcik, and Mr. Cunningham voted yes. Ms. Burwell voted no. Rev. Benton stepped out from the meeting momentarily. Motion carried 3 – 1.

**M-2** Motion was made by Mr. Borcik, Seconded by Rev. Benton, to approve the minutes of the February 9th, 2017 meeting of Homestead Borough Council. Upon voice vote, motion carried 5 – 0.

- M-3** Motion was made by Rev. Turner, Seconded by Mr. Borcik, to hire Manuel George Pihakis as a part-time police officer, at an hourly rate of \$15.77 with a hiring date of 10 April 2017, pending a background check, psychological and physical evaluations, interview and/or any other requirements.. Upon roll call vote, Rev. Turner, Rev. Benton, Ms. Burwell, Mr. Borcik, and Mr. Cunningham voted yes. Motion carried 5 – 0.
- M-4** Motion was made by Mr. Borcik, Seconded by Rev. Benton, to approve the agreement with Sable Kennel for animal control services. Mr. Borcik indicated the former animal control services changed its name. Upon roll call vote, Rev. Benton, Ms. Burwell, Mr. Borcik, and Mr. Cunningham voted yes. Rev. Turner abstained, no reason provided. Motion carried 4 – 0.
- M-5** Motion was made by Mr. Borcik, Seconded by Rev. Benton, to re-approve the lot consolidation for the Homestead Partners Project (Trios Brewery – 337 – 341 East Eight Avenue. Upon voice vote, motion carried 5 – 0.
- M-6** Motion was made by Rev. Benton, Seconded by Ms. Burwell, to reject all bids for CD42 (Sullivan Playground) and authorize SVCOCG to re-advertise. Upon roll call vote, Rev. Turner, Rev. Benton, Ms. Burwell, Mr. Borcik, and Mr. Cunningham voted yes. Motion carried 5 – 0.
- M-7** Motion was made by Mr. Borcik, Seconded by Rev. Benton, to adopt RESOLUTION 2017-08: DEP Land Development (AutoZone Project). Mr. Cunningham indicated this is the location of the old Shop n Save. Upon voice vote, motion carried 5 – 0.
- M-8** Motion was made by Mr. Borcik, Seconded by Rev. Benton, to adopt ORDINANCE 2017-01: IPMC updates. Mr. Cunningham indicated the code is written generically and this updates the code specific for Homestead. Upon voice vote, motion carried 5 – 0.
- M-9** Motion was made by Mr. Borcik, Seconded by Ms. Burwell, to adopt ORDINANCE 2017-02: Dumpsters and PODS. Mr. Cunningham stated this ordinance used to be on the books and they are putting it back on the books. Mr. Borcik questioned the cost of a dumpster and how long it can stay on the street. Mr. Hankin stated the fee is \$25 and can stay on the street for 20 days unless it is an emergency situation. Upon voice vote, motion carried 5 – 0.
- M-10** Motion was made by Rev. Benton, Seconded by Mr. Borcik, to adopt ORDINANCE 2017-03: Doors and Windows. Mr. Cunningham stated this is a tool to help regulate blight in the commercial and residential districts. Rev. Benton asked if this will improve the property next to her home. Mr.

Cunningham stated that code enforcement is going to work towards making sure storefronts and houses are not boarded and rather have function windows and doors. Rev. Benton stated she is in the process of a refinance and thinks it is an awesome idea. Mr. Borcik stated it won't help with someone deceased which makes it a tougher job in some cases. Chief DeSimone stated that if there is no owner that the structure will still be boarded up. Mayor Esper felt the ordinance is contradictory if someone tries to break into a property. Ms. Burwell questioned if we can't find the owner, who will board it up. Mr. Cunningham stated it is another tool to fight blight and deal with problem property owners. Upon voice vote, motion carried 5 – 0.

### **PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL**

Mr. Cunningham praised the public works department indicating the town is looking better. Mr. Cunningham reminded the audience about the Enterprise Zone Art Auction.

### **SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

No report

### **ENGINEER'S REPORT**

Mr. Gilliland gave his report. A copy was submitted to Council. Mr. Gilliland also clarified motion (M-6) stating one bidder was almost double and there were two math errors.

### **MAYOR ESPER**

Mayor Esper asked about the Greenway Plan and Mr. Cunningham explained.

Mayor Esper reported about the Steel Valley Football Dinner. The Mayor indicated each player received a gorgeous ring and bags of stuff. Mayor Esper praised the coaches and indicated 30 out of 33 of the players on the team are on honor roll. The Mayor called the team national heroes and made history citing the Mercy Rule in how well they played.

Mayor Esper stated she participated in the PA Water luncheon to discuss future projects for the area.

Mayor Esper praised the number of events taking place in town such as the Food Trucks and Oyster Fest. The Mayor stated a lot of people are coming in from outside of the area, visiting local businesses and having a lot of fun. The Mayor also praised the police department as there have been no problems at these events.

The Mayor stated some people don't realize how many people actually come into town including those visiting after Pitt games to the area restaurants.

Mayor Esper announced she will be a wrestler in the next Wrestle Fest under the bridge.

### **CHIEF OF POLICE**

Chief DeSimone reviewed his written report highlighting several items.

### **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

No report provided.

### **CODE ENFORCEMENT**

Mr. Hankin gave his report. A copy was submitted to Council.

### **BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT**

Mr. Staniszewski gave his report. A copy was submitted to Council.

### **AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

Duane Schulte stated Homestead is now at the end of the civil service list and indicated we would be a year out if we do it with the COG. He requested permission to start proceeding with a new test. Mr. Cunningham asked that they contact the area COGS to see if anyone is doing it sooner. Mr. Schulte stated he will look into it and suggested advertising in area colleges in addition to newspapers. Mr. Borcik stated to come back next month to discuss further. Mr. Schulte asked for a file cabinet in the municipal building. The Mayor stated they may be able to put it in the cage in the police department.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew D. Staniszewski, MBA  
*Borough Manager/Secretary*  
*Chief of Administration*