

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

**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
12 October 2017  
6:00 P.M.**

Mr. Cunningham called the meeting to order.

The pledge of allegiance was led by the Mayor.

**THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS RESPONDED TO ROLL CALL**

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

**REQUEST TO BE ON THE AGENDA**

- None

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

- None

**MOTIONS**

- M-1** Motion was made by Rev. Turner, Seconded by Mr Borcik, to pay the bills as per the bill list in the amount of \$632,788.33. Upon roll call vote, Rev. Turner, Mrs. Fowler, Ms. Mariner, Mr. Borcik and Mr. Cunningham voted yes. Rev. Benton abstained, no reason provided. Ms. Burwell voted no. Motion carried 5 – 1.
- M-2** Motion was made by Mrs. Fowler, Seconded by Rev. Turner, to approve the minutes of the September 14th, 2017 meeting of Homestead Borough Council. Upon voice vote, motion carried 7 – 0.

- M-3** Motion was made by Ms. Burwell, Seconded by Rev. Turner to authorize proceeding with eth closing of a section of Joseph Street as presented. Upon voice vote, motion carried 7 – 0.
- M-4** Motion was made by Mr. Borcik, Seconded by Mrs. Fowler, to approve paving Hazel Way in the amount not to exceed \$38,093, as recommended by the Engineer, charge 18-430-372 (Sewer/Street Repairs). Upon roll call vote, Rev. Turner, Mrs. Fowler, Ms. Mariner, Mr. Borcik, Ms. Burwell, Rev. Benton and Mr. Cunningham voted yes. Motion carried 7 – 0.
- M-5** Motion was made by Mr. Borcik, Seconded by Mrs. Fowler, to authorize the Solicitor to challenge the tax exempt status application by Higher Call World Outreach Church. Upon roll call vote, Mrs. Fowler, Ms. Mariner, Mr. Borcik, and Mr. Cunningham voted yes. Rev. Turner, Ms. Burwell, and Rev. Benton abstained, no reason provided. Motion carried 4 – 0.
- M-6** Motion was made by Rev. Benton, Seconded by Ms. Burwell, to authorize the Manager to advertise November 06, 2017 at 5PM and November 09, 2017 at 5PM as budget workshops as needed. Upon roll call vote, Rev. Turner, Mrs. Fowler, Ms. Mariner, Mr. Borcik, Ms. Burwell, Rev. Benton and Mr. Cunningham voted yes. Motion carried 7 – 0.
- M-7** Motion was made by Rev. Benton, Seconded by Ms. Burwell, to authorize the Manager to advertise the 2018 Homestead Borough Budget Resolution; 2018 Budget, Fee Schedule and Tax Millage Ordinance available for public inspection; and Notice of Intent as required by law. Upon roll call vote, Rev. Turner, Mrs. Fowler, Ms. Mariner, Mr. Borcik, Ms. Burwell, Rev. Benton and Mr. Cunningham voted yes. Motion carried 7 – 0.
- M-8** Motion was made by Mr. Borcik, Seconded by Rev. Benton, to authorize the Manager to advertise the 2018 schedule of meetings for Borough Council, Planning Commission, Zoning Hearing Board and Historic Architecture Review Board. Upon roll call vote, Rev. Turner, Mrs. Fowler, Ms. Mariner, Mr. Borcik, Ms. Burwell, Rev. Benton and Mr. Cunningham voted yes. Motion carried 7 – 0.
- M-9** Motion was made by Ms. Burwell, Seconded by Mr. Borcik, to re-approve a subdivision application from Action Housing to consolidate thirteen (13) lots on property located at 225-235 East 7th Avenue (Parcel numbers: 130-K-59-0-1, 130-K-60, 130-K-61, 130-K-62, 130-K-63, 130-K-64, 130-K-65, 130-K-66, 130-K-118, 130-K-121, 130-K-124, 130-K- 127 & 130-K-130 ) in a C-3 Zoning District of the 1st Ward, with the condition that the applicant must submit title of ownership to the borough for the 9 lots encompassing the existing parking lot. Upon voice vote, motion carried 7 – 0.

- M-10** Motion was made by Rev. Benton, Seconded by Mrs. Fowler, to authorize the Solicitor to challenge the tax exempt status of the aforementioned Parcel Numbers at 225-235 East 7th Avenue (Parcel numbers: 130-K-59-0-1, 130-K-60, 130-K-61, 130-K-62, 130-K-63, 130-K-64, 130-K-65, 130-K-66, 130-K-118, 130-K-121, 130-K-124, 130-K- 127 & 130-K-130 ) in a C-3 Zoning District of the 1st Ward filed by Action Housing. The Mayor questioned if they are claiming they are tax exempt. The Solicitor stated the current owners are the Redevelopment Authority and ownership has changed hands. Upon roll call vote, Rev. Turner, Mrs. Fowler, Ms. Mariner, Mr. Borcik, Ms. Burwell, Rev. Benton and Mr. Cunningham voted yes. Motion carried 7 – 0.
- M-11** Motion was made by Mrs. Fowler, Seconded by Rev. Turner, to confirm the TIF 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue Fund to Reimburse \$10,000 for the purchase of new street Christmas Decorations. Upon roll call vote, Rev. Turner, Mrs. Fowler, Ms. Mariner, Mr. Borcik, Ms. Burwell, Rev. Benton and Mr. Cunningham voted yes. Motion carried 7 – 0.
- M-12** During the Engineer's report, a Motion was made by Mr. Borcik, Seconded by Ms. Mariner, to approve the change order in the amount of \$2529 for fencing. Upon roll call vote, Rev. Turner, Mrs. Fowler, Ms. Mariner, Mr. Borcik, Rev. Benton and Mr. Cunningham voted yes. Motion carried 6 – 0. (Ms. Burwell stepped out of the meeting for a moment)
- M-13** During the Manager's report, a Motion was made by Rev. Benton, Seconded by Mrs. Fowler, to appoint Mr. Drew Borcik as Council President. Upon roll call vote, Mrs. Fowler, Ms. Mariner, Ms. Burwell and Rev. Benton voted yes. Mr. Cunningham voted no. Rev. Turner abstained, no reason provided. Mr. Borcik abstained stating a conflict of interest per discussion with the solicitor. Motion carried 4 – 0.

### **PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL**

Mr. Cunningham offered that old Christmas wreaths are available to any interested communities. Mr. Cunningham also asked about a new point of contact to hang the new decorations. Ms. Mariner suggested the fire dept.

Mr. Cunningham reported the goats are along the River banks and doing an amazing job. Mr. Cunningham also reminded the audience that Pumpkin Fest is this Saturday and the trick or treat event at the Waterfront on Oct 30.

Mr. Borcik recognized the Mayor and her article in the Pittsburgh Magazine.

### **SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

No report

### **ENGINEER'S REPORT**

Mr. Gilliland gave his report. A copy was submitted to Council. M-12 Motion was made during the engineer's report regarding fencing.

Mr. Borcik asked about the type of paving on Hazel Way. The engineer indicated it will keep it "smooth and passable for 10 to 20 years" as well as get it out of dangerous conditions.

### **MAYOR ESPER**

Mayor Esper announced Trick or Treat as 6 to 8 pm on October 31<sup>st</sup>. The Mayor also discussed the Homestead parade, St Max Food Fair (Oct 13<sup>th</sup>), the fundraiser on Nov 4<sup>th</sup> for the Steel Valley School District and the Rainbow Kitchen Food Drive. Mayor Esper also stated Carey from the Waterfront is a "nice guy."

Rev. Benton announced events at the Clark Memorial Baptist Church to feed children.

Ms. Burwell stated leaves are accumulating during this Fall Season.

Mayor Esper also announce on November 9<sup>th</sup> the Steel Valley is honoring Veterans.

### **CHIEF OF POLICE**

The Chief gave his report. A copy was submitted to Council.

### **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

No report provided.

### **CODE ENFORCEMENT**

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

### **CIVIL SERVICE**

No report provided.

## **BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT**

During the Manager's report, Rev. Benton asked for the floor to make a motion as cited above (**ref. M-13**). Rev. Benton thanked Mr. Cunningham for his years of service as Council President. Mr. Staniszewski submitted a copy of his report to Council as the meeting ended abruptly.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:00PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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