

**BOROUGH OF HOMESTEAD
221 EAST 7TH AVENUE
HOMESTEAD, PA 15120**

**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
09 February 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, via conference call
 Ms. Mariner – Present
 Ms. Burwell – Present
 Mr. Borcik – Present
 Ms. Broadwater – Absent, due to illness
 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 \$34,850.03. Mr. Borcik stated it's the lowest amount he's seen since being on Council. Mr. Cunningham indicated it is due to being changed to a single check run system and the short month. Upon roll call vote, Rev. Turner, Ms. Mariner, Mr. Borcik, and Mr. Cunningham voted yes. Ms. Burwell voted no. Rev. Benton abstained, no reason provided. Motion carried 4 – 1.

- M-2** Motion was made by Rev. Turner, Seconded by Mr. Borcik, to approve the minutes of the January 12th, 2017 meeting of Homestead Borough Council. Upon voice vote, motion carried 6 – 0.
- M-3** Motion was made by Ms. Burwell, Seconded by Ms. Mariner, to approve the leases of two (2) new 2016 Ford Interceptor Model P2M AWD vehicles from Day Ford, Inc., as budgeted within the capital improvement budget for \$78,630 through a lease-purchase of 3 annual payments of \$28,223.30. Upon roll call vote, Rev. Turner, Rev. Benton, Ms. Mariner, Ms. Burwell, Mr. Borcik, and Mr. Cunningham voted yes. Motion carried 6 – 0.
- M-4** Motion was made by Mr. Borcik, Seconded by Ms. Mariner, to approve the purchase of Glock pistols with trade-ins, as budgeted within the capital improvement budget for \$7,550. Upon roll call vote, Rev. Turner, Rev. Benton, Ms. Mariner, Ms. Burwell, Mr. Borcik, and Mr. Cunningham voted yes. Motion carried 6 – 0.
- M-5** Motion was made by Mr. Borcik, Seconded by Ms. Mariner, to approve changes to the International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local Union No. 205 Collective Bargaining Agreement that probationary part-time police officer hourly rate is hereby eliminated and part-time police officers shall be paid the hourly rate of a part-time police officer. Upon roll call vote, Rev. Turner, Rev. Benton, Ms. Mariner, Ms. Burwell, Mr. Borcik, and Mr. Cunningham voted yes. Motion carried 6 – 0.
- M-6** Motion was made by Ms. Burwell, Seconded by Mr. Borcik, to approve changes to the International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local Union No. 205 Collective Bargaining Agreement that a scheduled extra police officer on a shift in order to patrol for DUI offenders reimbursed under the Pennsylvania State Police DUI program shall be treated as details under Article No. VIII, Section 17 of said agreement. Upon roll call vote, Rev. Turner, Rev. Benton, Ms. Mariner, Ms. Burwell, Mr. Borcik, and Mr. Cunningham voted yes. Motion carried 6 – 0.
- M-7** Motion was made by Rev. Turner, Seconded by Ms. Burwell, to hire Sharon Humphrey as Part-Time Front Desk Clerk, at an hourly rate of \$7.25, with a hiring date of February 12, 2017, pending background check and any other requirements. Upon roll call vote, Rev. Turner, Rev. Benton, Ms. Mariner, Ms. Burwell, Mr. Borcik, and Mr. Cunningham voted yes. Motion carried 6 – 0.
- M-8** Motion was made by Ms. Mariner, Seconded by Rev. Turner, to appoint Case Sabatini as municipal auditor. Upon roll call vote, Rev. Turner, Rev. Benton, Ms. Mariner, Ms. Burwell, Mr. Borcik, and Mr. Cunningham voted yes. Motion carried 6 – 0.

M-9 Motion was made by Ms. Burwell, Seconded by Mr. Borcik, to authorize the advertising of the following ordinances:

1. Updates to Chapter 199 (International Property Maintenance Code)
2. Updates to Chapter 199 (Construction dumpsters and PODS)
3. Updates to Ordinance 1233 (Require all properties to keep functional and secure doors and windows)
4. Updates to Chapter 119 (Business Privilege License)
5. Updates to Chapter 219 (Solid Waste)

Upon roll call vote, Rev. Turner, Rev. Benton, Ms. Mariner, Ms. Burwell, Mr. Borcik, and Mr. Cunningham voted yes. Motion carried 6 – 0.

M-10 Motion was made by Ms. Burwell, Seconded by Ms. Mariner, to approve Resolution 2017-06: DEP New Land Development for Homestead Bakery Lofts Project. Upon voice vote, motion carried 6 – 0.

M-11 Motion was made by Mr. Borcik, Seconded by Rev. Turner, to approve Resolution 2017-07: Authorize opening a Municipal Credit Card with First Commonwealth Bank with a limit of \$1,500 without Council approval. Upon roll call vote, Rev. Turner, Rev. Benton, Ms. Mariner, Ms. Burwell, Mr. Borcik, and Mr. Cunningham voted yes. Motion carried 6 – 0.

M-12 Motion was made by Mr. Borcik, Seconded by Ms. Mariner, to reapprove the lot consolidation with conditions for the Homestead Bakery Lofts Project. Mr. Borcik stated because the last approval was over six months old, council needs to reapprove it. Upon voice vote, motion carried 6 – 0.

M-13 Motion was made by Mr. Borcik, Seconded by Ms. Burwell, to accept the ALCOSAN grant agreement for a grant in the amount of \$618,800 for Project 2016_01-022-Transforming Twelfth Avenue in Homestead and authorize Lloyd Cunningham, Council President, or Matt Staniszewski, Borough Manager, to execute all necessary documents through the grant terms. Mayor Esper asked if the money is in the borough's accounts. Mr. Cunningham indicated the borough was awarded the money. Ms. Burwell stated she saw it on TV and the news and appreciates it. The Mayor asked for clarification if it is the property next to the 12th Avenue children's play area. Upon voice vote, motion carried 6 – 0.

M-14 Motion was made by Ms. Burwell, Seconded by Mr. Borcik, to approve the Certificate of Appropriateness for a Wall sign for Honest John's Bar & Restaurant located at 216-18 East 8th Avenue in a C-1 Zoning District of the 1st Ward per the recommendations of the HARB. Upon voice vote, motion carried 6 – 0.

- M-15** Motion was made by Ms. Burwell, Seconded by Mr. Borcik, to approve the Certificate of Appropriateness for a Wall sign for Farmers Insurance located at 120 West 8th Avenue in a C-1 Zoning District of the 2nd Ward per the recommendations of the HARB. Upon voice vote, motion carried 6 – 0.
- M-16** Motion was made by Ms. Burwell, Seconded by Mr. Borcik, to authorize the Borough Engineer to finalize designs for bid for the July deadline under the DEP consent order. David Gilliland, Borough Engineer, explained that under the DEP consent order, Homestead must implement one green project by July 1st. Mr. Gilliland also indicated Homestead received a grant to address water down Amity Street to a bioswale in Frick Park and to do a cost analysis. Upon roll call vote, Rev. Turner, Rev. Benton, Ms. Mariner, Ms. Burwell, Mr. Borcik, and Mr. Cunningham voted yes. Motion carried 6 – 0.

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

Mr. Cunningham congratulated the Steel Valley School District.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

No report

ENGINEER'S REPORT

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

MAYOR ESPER

Mayor Esper congratulated the Steel Valley School District. The Mayor indicated the team broke many National records. The Mayor stated that Max Prep provided the National Guard Award to the team when they went to Harrisburg. Mayor Esper announced that on March 5th there will be a banquet at St. John Hall to support them as the team is number one in the nation. The Mayor indicated she is helping with fundraising for them to get rings made as well as a plaque and asks the Borough for \$500.

- M-17** After some discussion and the solicitor indicating the donation is permissible under section 1202 of the code, a motion was made by Mr. Borcik, Seconded by Ms. Mariner, to donate \$500 to the Steel Valley Football State Championship. Mayor Esper stated to make the check out to Steel Valley Grid Iron. Upon roll call vote, Rev. Turner, Rev. Benton, Ms. Mariner, Ms. Burwell, Mr. Borcik, and Mr. Cunningham voted yes. Motion carried 6 – 0.

Mayor Esper stated the banners are currently down for the winter; however, will be back up around May. Ms. Burwell asked about the longevity. The Mayor replied the banners usually come down in November and reiterated putting them back up in May.

The Mayor asked the Council President about clarification concerning TurnKey Taxes and if it's collection of new taxes and fees or only real estate or what taxes? The Mayor questioned why the Tax Collector isn't collecting certain taxes and fees.

Mr. Cunningham replied that Code Enforcement is sending out letters.

Mr. Borcik stated this is still under discussion and indicated most of Council was not made aware of the arrangements made with TurnKey Taxes. Mr. Borcik indicated some council members just found out that TurnKey Taxes is collecting some current taxes and not just delinquents. Mr. Borcik questioned how this was done.

Mr. Cunningham stated he is not sure if Homestead has a contract with TurnKey Taxes. Mr. Cunningham also stated TurnKey Taxes identified an additional 225 businesses and that the Tax Collector is not regulated by Council.

Mr. Borcik questioned how TurnKey Taxes discovered over 225 new businesses and wants to see these businesses since it is hard to believe.

Mr. Borcik made a motion on the floor to require TurnKey Taxes to produce the list and meet with council.

Mr. Cunningham stated the Tax Collector has only been collecting from about 84 businesses compared to over 225.

The Mayor questioned the Council President as to when businesses will receive notification for Business Privilege or Mercantile Tax. The Mayor indicated that several businesses approached her expressing concern that they usually pay the Tax Collector by now.

Mr. Cunningham stated March 1st and that they are trying to collect for the last two years.

Mr. Borcik withdrew his motion but stated he wants the Borough Manager to attempt to acquire a copy of the list TurnKey Taxes has and submit a copy to all of Council.

CHIEF OF POLICE

Chief DeSimone reviewed his written report highlighting several items.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Fire Department asked if the Public Works Department could clear their pad when there is snow.

CODE ENFORCEMENT

Mr. Staniszewski read the Code Enforcement's report. A copy was submitted to Council.

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT

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

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Meeting adjourned at 8:00PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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