

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

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

**MARCH 14, 2013
7:12 P.M.**

Mrs. Titmus called the meeting to order. The pledge of allegiance was said. Mayor asked for a moment of silence for several deaths in the community. Rev. Turner said a prayer.

THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS RESPONDED TO ROLL CALL: Drew Borcik, Wanda Burwell, Barbara Broadwater, Lloyd Cunningham, Rev. Turner, Susan Titmus, Mayor Esper, Chief DeSimone, Solicitor Schneider, Engineer Gilliland and Ian McMeans, Borough Manager. Zaneta Hines and Fire Chief Barca were absent.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION – AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

- M-1** A motion was made by Mr. Cunningham, seconded by Mrs. Broadwater to pay the bills as per the list in the amount of \$258,464.92. Upon roll call vote, Mr. Borcik, Mrs. Broadwater, Mrs. Burwell, Mr. Cunningham, Rev. Turner and Mrs. Titmus voted yes. Motion carried.
- M-2** A motion was made by Mr. Borcik, seconded by Rev. Turner to approve Resolution ____ Formally Requesting \$250,000.00 in grant funding from the Redevelopment Authority of Allegheny County for the Repaving of West Street Project. Upon roll call vote, Mr. Borcik, Mrs. Broadwater, Mrs. Burwell, Mr. Cunningham, Rev. Turner and Mrs. Titmus voted yes. Motion carried.
- M-3** A motion was made by Rev. Turner, seconded by Mrs. Broadwater to approve Resolution ____ Designating the President of Council as the signatory for the Borough of Homestead on the DCNR Grant Signature Page for the McLean Playground Renovation Project. Upon roll call vote, Mr. Borcik, Mrs. Broadwater, Mrs. Burwell, Mr. Cunningham, Rev. Turner and Mrs. Titmus voted yes. Motion carried.
- M-4** A motion was made by Mrs. Burwell, seconded by Mrs. Broadwater to accept the resignation of Dan Primm from the Parking Department. Upon roll call vote, Mr. Borcik, Mrs. Broadwater, Mrs. Burwell, Mr. Cunningham, Rev. Turner and Mrs. Titmus voted yes. Motion carried.

- M-5** A motion was made by Mr. Cunningham, seconded by Mrs. Broadwater to approve the Vactor Contract for the 2013 Vactor season of April 1 to November 15 with Turtle Creek Valley COG at a rate of \$1,154 per day. Upon roll call vote, Mr. Borcik, Mrs. Broadwater, Mrs. Burwell, Mr. Cunningham, Rev. Turner and Mrs. Titmus voted yes. Motion carried.
- M-6** A motion was made by Mr. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Borcik to approve the Street Sweeping Contract for the 2013 Street Sweeping season of April 1 to October 25 with Steel Valley COG at a rate of \$75.00 per hour. Upon roll call vote, Mr. Borcik, Mrs. Broadwater, Mrs. Burwell, Mr. Cunningham, Rev. Turner and Mrs. Titmus voted yes. Motion carried.
- M-7** A motion was made by Mr. Borcik, seconded by Mrs. Burwell to advertise the request for proposals for the collection and disposal of solid waste. Upon roll call vote, Mr. Borcik, Mrs. Broadwater, Mrs. Burwell, Mr. Cunningham, Rev. Turner and Mrs. Titmus voted yes. Motion carried.
- M-8** A motion was made by Rev. Turner, seconded by Mr. Cunningham to hire Milton Williams as a part-time laborer in the Public Works Department at a rate of \$7.50 per hour. Upon roll call vote, Mr. Borcik, Mrs. Broadwater, Mrs. Burwell, Mr. Cunningham, Rev. Turner and Mrs. Titmus voted yes. Motion carried.

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

Mrs. Titmus had no report.

Sharon Ford talked about the garden talked about on the corner of 7th and Amity and the trial.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

No report.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Mr. Gilliland gave his report.

MAYOR ESPER

Mayor gave her report.

CHIEF OF POLICE

Chief DeSimone gave his report – 931 calls, 55 arrests for the month 39 adults and 16 juveniles.

CHIEF OF FIRE DEPT. – JAMES BARCA

Chief Barca was absent Mrs. Broadwater gave the report.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Mrs. Burwell gave her report.

BOROUGH MANAGER’S REPORT – IAN MCMEANS

Mr. McMeans gave his report.

Mr. Borcik brought up about buying a used police car from information that the Police Chief handed out to council. Mr. Borcik wanted to make a motion to purchase a police car and Mrs. Titmus stated that Mr. McMeans was to get several bids so we could have a choice. Mr. Borcik asked Mr. McMeans how many places sell used police cars. Mr. McMeans stated that he called the gentleman from Mosside and he said he had a few vehicles but never got back to him with details. Mr. Borcik asked the Chief to give council details on this vehicle and the Chief did. The Chief stated the cost that he gave to council includes the cost of the car, 3 year warranty and the removal and installation of all of the equipment. Mr. Cunningham asked if we could take some of the parts from the other car and put them on this other car and the Chief stated he told Mr. McMeans that he never received those items off of that vehicle. Mr. McMeans stated that the Chief gave him a list this morning. Mrs. Burwell asked Mr. McMeans if his procedure has been completed or if he needs more time to complete it. Mr. McMeans stated that he needed more time since this is the first quote that he had received. Mrs. Burwell stated she feels that council should let him continue with that and do what council instructed him to do and council can look at everything at one time and make a decision.

Mr. Cunningham stated we have a motion on the floor and he wanted to second it.

M-9 A motion was made by Mr. Borcik, seconded by Mr. Cunningham to purchase a police car from Mosside for \$11,360.00. Upon roll call vote, Mr. Borcik, Mr. Cunningham voted yes. Mrs. Burwell, Mrs. Broadwater and Rev. Turner voted no. Mrs. Titmus abstained. Motion failed.

Mr. Cunningham thanked the Chief for doing all the leg work on the bid for the car and stated that the Manager has other things to work on. Mrs. Burwell stated it should have been handled differently. There was then a discussion taken on this matter.

REQUEST TO BE ON AGENDA

None.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Stephanie Hawkins – 111 West 14th Avenue she stated she has been in her house for 18 years she is single and disabled, there is a huge tree in front of her house that Thom the Code Enforcement Officer told her about a year and a half ago that he was going to take care of and now it is pushing up her sidewalk so bad that when it rains when you walk on her sidewalk there is a big puddle of water. She has called the water company, the gas line protection and her insurance company and they will not cover anything for that tree which is not on her property which her and Thom already discussed it and he stated it wasn't on her property and it would be taken care of when the tree people came around a year or so ago. When the tree people came they practically laughed in my face. They went in my back yard and cut down a mulberry tree rather than cut down this tree that is laying on my roof and its pushing up the sidewalk. Mrs. Titmus stated we cannot tell you what Thom said. Ms. Hawkins stated the tree people that the Borough hires in the summer. Several people on Council stated that they are from the electric company. Mrs. Titmus asked if the tree was on the sidewalk. Ms. Hawkins stated it was. Ms. Hawkins stated she talked with the current Code Enforcement Officer and he told her to talk with council to see if she could get help and she stated why she should have to do that since she is struggling to pay her taxes as it is and it is not her tree. Mrs. Titmus stated that our Engineer will take a look at it.

Sharon Ford stated received a ticket and she can put it right out front. Now at last meeting it was stated you were going to start keeping track of the parking meters and have we started doing that? The funds received from the parking meters. Mr. McMeans stated that year to date from January and February the total for meters is \$12,717.58.

Carol James, 336 East 11th Avenue, asked for funds to be broke down from February 2012 to July 2012. Mr. McMeans stated that he hasn't because he has to go month by month in order to get the information. Where is the printing getting done? Mr. McMeans stated that we have a few places that we call and get the lowest price. Chief DeSimone asked if we can or cannot use Steel Valley Printing. Mr. Schneider explained that one of the council people raised an issue about whether Steel Valley

Printing could have the contract before he spent any time doing the research Mr. Cunningham said don't waste the time we won't be doing the printing any longer. That is what happened. Ms. James asked so you are not including Steel Valley Printing on your list. Mrs. Titmus stated did you not hear Mr. Schneider's answer. Chief DeSimone stated he is confused also, can we include them in trying to get bids, because it saves time and it is more convenient. Mr. Schneider stated he is still not sure of the ownership of Steel Valley Printing and he would need to know that to come up with an opinion. It is that simple. There was a discussion taken on this issue at this time.

Ms. James asked if the stations that are used as jitney stations if they have occupancy permits and are they up to code.

Her last question she sent a letter to the elected tax collector regarding the business privilege tax for the jitneys and she didn't get back to me. She understands that council is not responsible so how do we find out exactly who is responsible and what is going on with our tax collector. She is an elected official and who is she accountable to and again is she collecting the business privilege tax for the jitney service that is all she wants to know is yes or no. Mrs. Titmus stated we can't answer questions for her. She is separate from us. There was a discussion with many people talking. Mr. Borcik stated we get a report every month.

Rev. Turner stated Madam Chair if we are not breaking any laws Steel Valley Printers is close. Mrs. Titmus stated she understood and has nothing against them but we have to make sure we are doing what is legal. There was a discussion taken on this matter.

There was a Pitt student in the audience and she stated that the meeting was very interesting and informative and she has never been to a governmental meeting before and asked for an agenda.

M-10 A motion was made by Mr. Borcik, seconded by Mr. Cunningham to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. Motion carried.

The Homestead Borough Council meeting of March 14, 2013 was adjourned at 8.40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ian McMeans
Borough Manager