

Public Safety Committee

April 23, 2008

6:00 PM

Chairperson:

Council Chambers

Minutes

In Attendance:

Jerry Walter, Chairperson
Jane Braunlich, Member
Glen Pritchard, Fire Chief

Mayor George Doscher
Mike Bookser, Police Chief
Connie Flasher, DAS
Mike Lutz, CEO

Michael Kutschbach is absent.

Jerry Walter called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Citizens:

- ❖ Michelle Smith a local business owner explained to the Committee that she is coordinating the "Summer Solstice Spectacular" on June 19 through 22nd.
 - She explained to the Committee about how this particular event was coordinated in the past.
 - She explained to the Committee what she activities she plans on having at this event.
 - There was discussion about where this event will be held.
 - Mr. Walter questioned how can free parking be established for this event.
 - Chief Bookser stated that Council would just need to make a motion to say free parking is authorized for this event.
 - There was discussion by the Committee.
 - Ms. Smith stated that she would like to see if the Borough could authorize free swimming at Memorial Park's Pool in order to acclimate the residents to the pool facilities.
 - The DAS stated that she will present this to the Parks & Recreation Committee for their approval.
 - Mayor Doscher stated that he believes that this is a great idea and that they would have to get Council's approval about using the Hawley parking lot as well as authorizing free parking everywhere since it affects the Borough's revenue.
 - The Committee determined that they would like to bring to Council Ms. Smith's request to use Hawley Avenue for the event as well as request for there to be free parking during the event.
 - Mr. Walter seconded by Mrs. Braunlich made a motion to recommend to Council to authorize for free parking in the Borough during the "Summer Solstice Spectacular".
 - The Committee also determined that they would like the Parks and Recreation Committee to review the request to allow free swimming during the weekend of the event.
 - There was discussion by the Committee.
 - Mr. Walter stated that he would like these issues to be brought up at the Pre-Council meeting.

Mayor:

- ❖ Mayor Doscher stated that he would like to have an Executive Session on April 29, 2008 at the Finance Committee meeting to discuss the pay range and benefit package that will be offered to the Police Chief Candidate.
 - He stated that on May 1, 2008 he would like to bring the candidate in during an Executive Session to have a question and answer session with Council.

- He stated that if Council is comfortable with the candidate then they would be able to vote to hire at the regular Council meeting on May 7, 2008.

Fire Department:

- ❖ Chief Glen Pritchard noted to the Committee that the QRS (Quick Response Service) is a couple of weeks away from being able to assist the EMS with calls in the Borough of Bellevue.
 - He also noted that the Volunteer Fire Company is filling out the paperwork for a state grant for approximately \$20,000 for new equipment.
 - He also noted that they are applying for other federal grants.
 - He stated that they applied for \$70,000 and \$325,000 for a equipment and a new pumper.
- ❖ Chief Pritchard noted to the Committee that the Volunteer Fire Company has spent \$1,900 to purchase a hose covers to house the hoses on the engines.
 - He stated this purchase was for safety reasons.
- ❖ He noted that there is a live burn on June 7th at North Park.
 - He stated that he would like to invite Council and the Mayor to join them for the day.
 - He explained that this would be an opportunity for the members to have a better understanding of what a fire company does by experience it themselves in a protected environment.
- ❖ There was discussion by the Committee about the equipment that the Volunteer Fire Company has purchased.

Police Department:

- ❖ Nothing at this time.

Code Enforcement:

- ❖ The CEO reviewed his reports.
- ❖ The CEO explained to the Committee about a situation on 249 N. Balph Avenue.
 - He stated that after receiving a phone call from a resident and the Health Department about rats and garbage he had investigated the property.
 - He stated that there was rubbish in the yard of the house that looked like it was thrown over the side fence.
 - He stated that they were able to establish that the residents of 245 N. Balph Avenue, after looking in the garbage were the ones throwing their garbage in this property's yard.
 - He stated that he has contacted the Police Department and they have been cited for violation of a state crime.
 - He stated that they are requesting for them to pay restitution for the time that it takes the Borough to clean the area.
 - Mayor questioned if this property was abandoned.
 - The CEO stated that it is vacant at this point.
 - The CEO stated that it will cost approximately \$750 to clean up this property and it needs to be done for health safety purposes.
 - He stated that the money could come out of the demolition clean up line item in the budget.
- ❖ He stated that the bids that he received to demolish the 251 Grant Avenue property that was burned down is \$12,000.00
 - Mr. Walter questioned if there is a certain amount that DPW can do once it is torn down to reduce the costs.
 - The CEO stated that he doesn't know if there are any demolition company that would be willing to do part of the work and not the whole job.

- The CEO noted that there are demolition requirements that state that all wood and metal on the property need to be removed.
- There was discussion by the Committee about how the materials from the demolishing of the property would be hauled away and disposed of.
- There was discussion by the Committee about how long properties can be vacant before the Borough can sell them.
- The CEO stated that the Solicitor would be able to determine this.
- There was discussion by the Committee about what would have to be gone through in order to obtain ownership of these condemned and abandoned properties.
- The Committee requested the DAS to contact the Solicitor to see what can be done about condemning the 249 N. Balph Avenue property and if GLS has obtained the delinquent county taxes for this property.
- Mr. Walter seconded by Mrs. Braunlich made a motion to expend the amount not to exceed \$750.00 to clean the 249 N. Balph Avenue property.
- ❖ The DAS explained to the Committee that the Zoning Ordinance was given to the County for review but she has received it back with some questions that need to be addressed.
 - She further explained that Pashek and Associates have been contacted to review the County's questions and concerns, will do revisions and then send their recommendations back to us.
 - She further explained that she has talked to Allegheny General Hospital and they are anxious to know what the Borough time frame is in adopting this Ordinance so that they can start work on the parking lot.
 - She stated that Council has the decision to take in account the County's concerns and change the Ordinance or to adopt it the way that it is.
 - She stated once that is established then Council will have to advertise the Ordinance.
 - Mrs. Braunlich questioned if the DAS had sent the County's letter to the Borough's Planning Commission.
 - The CEO stated that Council had disbanded the Borough's Planning Commission.
 - She stated that the Borough's representatives for the Borough for the Joint Planning Commission would need to review this.
 - The Mayor questioned if they reviewed it in the first place.
 - Mrs. Braunlich stated that they did but since there is a change they are to review it again.

Administration:

- ❖ Nothing at this time.

Council Members:

- ❖ Nothing at this time.

Old Business:

Nothing at this time.

New Business:

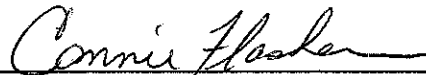
- ❖ Nothing at this time.

Citizens:

- ❖ There are no citizens present that wish to speak.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted



Connie Flasher
Secretary

Motions to be made:

- 1. Motion to recommend to Council to authorize for free parking in the Borough during the "Summer Solstice Spectacular".**
- 2. Motion to expend the amount not to exceed \$750.00 to clean the 249 N. Balph Avenue property.**