



**REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
BRYN ATHYN BOROUGH COUNCIL**

COUNCIL CHAMBER
July 2, 2018

The meeting was called to order by President Jeffrey Elsing at 7:00p.m. The following were present:

MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

Glenn Gurney
Mark Pennink
Jeffrey Elsing

Aurelle Genzlinger
Duane D. Hyatt

ALSO: Victoria S. Trost, Stephen Gray, Reid Heinrichs, Derek Zecher, R. Scott Cooper, Mayor Ken Schauder, Solicitor R. Rex Herder. Councilman Ric Asplundh and Brent McCurdy were excused.

SWEAR-IN ADMINISTRATIVE CORPORAL DOUGLASS HOTCHKISS

Mayor Kenneth Schauder administered the Oath of Office to Officer Douglass Hotchkiss who was appointed to the position of Administrative Corporal for the Bryn Athyn Police Department.

MINUTES

On a motion by Aurelle Genzlinger, seconded by Mark Pennink, Council voted unanimous approval of the June 4, 2018 minutes.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Treasurer Vikki Trost reported General Fund Revenue for June was \$58,470.62. General Fund Expenses were \$119,552.88. Net Income was -\$61,082.26.

Sewer Fund Revenue for June was \$942.06. Sewer Fund Expenses were \$23,180.77. Net Income was -\$22,238.71.

Today PLGIT paid 1.69%. PLGIT I-Class paid 1.86%.

Included in the General Fund cash receipts were:

\$	39,301.97	in Real Estate Tax receipts
\$	5,781.56	in Earned Income Tax receipts
\$	167.21	in Local Services Tax receipts
\$	1,028.50	in Building Permit receipts
\$	1,903.38	in Fines
\$	50.00	in Zoning Permit receipts
\$	10,000.00	in Cairnwood Contributions
\$	30.00	in Police Report receipts
\$	50.00	in Fireworks Contributions
\$	20.00	in Fingerprinting Fees

Included in the Sewer Fund Cash Receipts were:

\$	67.00	in Category 2 Sewer Usage receipts
\$	825.06	in Finance Charges and Late Fee receipts
\$	50.00	in Sewer Certification Fee receipts

TAX COLLECTOR - None

BILLS

Councilman Mark Pennink noted that the \$1,450 bill for Franc Environmental covered the cost to insert a camera/probe into the storm sewer in Alden Road in the area in which a geyser of water formed due to a clog in the drain. Mr. Pennink reported that a tree root was removed from the 100 year old pipe, but property owners have damaged the pipe by tapping into the pipe without permission or permits. The pipe will definitely clog again.

Mr. Pennink stated that the Public Works budget will pay the \$3,361.41 cost of body repairs to the 2012 GMC Sierra pickup truck this time. Councilman Gurney agreed that the Sewer Department will pay for any future damages to the pickup truck.

Members of Council agreed that the required police background check for new employees is the expense of the employee.

On a motion by Duane Hyatt, seconded by Glenn Gurney, Council unanimously voted to authorize payment of the bills as shown on the attached list, which is made a part of these minutes.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

President Jeff Elsing announced that the appointment of Officer Doug Hotchkiss to the position of Administrative Corporal recognizes his commitment to the Police Department.

Mr. Elsing reported that the part-time officer staff continues to grow as qualified candidates are vetted.

Mr. Elsing proposed that the Civil Service Commission be instructed to prepare a list of qualified candidates for the position of Full-Time Police Officer. This position has been budgeted for this year.

On a motion by Glenn Gurney, seconded by Mark Pennink, Council voted unanimously in favor of instructing the Bryn Athyn Civil Service Commission to prepare a list of qualified candidates for the position of Full-Time Police Officer.

President Elsing reported that Reed Asplundh has agreed to guide the new members of the Civil Service commission through the process. The BA Civil Service Commission will meet on Tuesday, July 3 to begin the process. Mr. Elsing thanked Mr. Asplundh for his assistance.

MAYOR’S REPORT - None

POLICE CHIEF’S REPORT

Chief Stephen Gray reported the following activity for June:

Citations Issued: Traffic: 30 Non-Traffic: 01	31
Alarms	11
Animal complaints	02
Assist Bryn Athyn Fire / Ambulance	09
Assist other Police Agencies	39
Assist Citizens / Public Service calls	08
Miscellaneous Complaints	84
Special Traffic Details	09
Suspicious Circumstance Investigations	16
Vehicle Accidents	02
Vehicle Investigations / Warnings Issued	59

On Saturday June 2nd at 1:58am, police observed a vehicle traveling southbound in the 2700 block of Huntingdon Pike swerving into the northbound lane of travel. A vehicle stop was conducted, and field sobriety tests administered. The driver, a 39-year-old Philadelphia resident, was arrested for DUI.

On Wednesday June 6th at 5:24pm, Officer Michelle Williamson was investigating a report of a burglary in the 2700 block of Alwick Road. While at the scene, Officer Williamson received a report that a female was attempting to break into a home in the 2800 block of Alwick Road. Within minutes, Officer Williamson located the burglary suspect, who then assaulted Officer Williamson. Lower Moreland Police Officers arrived to assist, and the suspect was taken into custody. Officer Williamson suffered a concussion during the altercation. As of July 2nd, Officer Williamson has not yet been medically cleared to return to work. The suspect, a 30-year-old female resident of Philadelphia, has been charged with burglary, criminal trespassing, theft, receiving stolen property, aggravated assault, simple assault and resisting arrest.

On June 8th, Corporal Doug Hotchkiss and his wife, Kerry, became parents for the first time to a daughter, Molly Anne.

On Thursday June 14th at 12:33am, police cited a 53-yearold Hatboro resident for trespassing at 3401 Masons Mill Road in the Masons Mill Business Park.

On Thursday June 14th at 10:18pm, police responded to the Bryn Athyn Church School to check on a report of someone walking on the roof of the school. This was heard, but not seen, by an employee inside the building. The Bryn Athyn Fire Company responded with a ladder, which police used to access the roof. No one was located on the roof and all appeared to be in order.

On Friday June 29th at 7:38am, police stopped a vehicle for speeding in the 3000 block of Buck Road. Further investigation led to police charging the driver, a 25-year-old Warrington resident, with possession of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia, speeding, and driving an unregistered vehicle.

On Friday June 29th at 11:32am, police took a report of trespassing at a residence in the 2600 block of Alden Road. The resident reported that a 39- year-old woman entered their unlocked home while it was unoccupied. Nothing was missing from the home; however, the woman left a note on their countertop advising them that she is currently homeless. The resident did not wish to pursue any charges for trespassing or burglary.

Chief Gray reported that traffic on Tomlinson Road is very heavy due to the bridge work detour on Philmont Avenue.

Councilman Jeff Elsing stated that it is important for residents to report any suspicious activity or persons.

FIRE CHIEF’S REPORT

19 Fire Calls reported in June, 13 in Lower Moreland, 4 in Bryn Athyn and 2 in Bucks County; 119 Ambulance Calls in June, 70 in Lower Moreland, 10 in Bryn Athyn, 4 in Bucks County, 14 in Abington.

Mayor Schauder reported in the absence of Chief Zecher that Huntingdon Valley Fire Company had a fire involving underground wiring in their fire station. The Bryn Athyn Fire Company hosted HVFC for three days here in the municipal building while repairs were made to the HVFC station. Mayor Schauder noted that for three days the fire companies were dually dispatched. The arrangement was coordinated with Academy of the New Church Security and that the HVFC Engine and Rescue Truck were housed.

Mayor Schauder reported that the merger process between Bryn Athyn and Huntingdon Valley Fire Companies has begun. A study will tell what equipment is needed for the joint operation.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORT

Scott Cooper reported that the team has prepared for the 4th of July activities.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT - None

BOROUGH MANAGER’S REPORT

Hazard Mitigation Plan – Resolution 2018-04

Vikki Trost reported that Montgomery County has adopted a hazard mitigation plan as required by Section 322 of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000. In order to receive any future PEMA and FEMA assistance, the Borough must adopt the County Hazard Mitigation Plan.

President Jeff Elsing read the proposed resolution aloud. Scott Cooper explained that the proposed resolution lists risks that are possible, adding that we have notification methods through Emergency Management operations. Mr. Cooper noted that Bryn Athyn Borough is mostly vulnerable to natural hazards. The County Plan is 315 pages and is available for review online. During the discussion of the proposed resolution Council members agreed to remove the word “most” from the first paragraph in relation to the vulnerability of natural disasters that may affect this borough.

On a motion by Duane Hyatt, seconded by Glenn Gurney, Council voted unanimously in favor to adopt the Montgomery County 2017 Hazard Mitigation Plan Update, Resolution 2018-04, after striking the word “most” before the word “vulnerable” in the first line.

***Montgomery County 2017 Hazard Mitigation Plan Update
Municipal Adoption Resolution***

***Resolution No. 2018-04
Borough of Bryn Athyn, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania***

WHEREAS, the Borough of Bryn Athyn, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania is vulnerable to natural hazards which may result in loss of life and property, economic hardship, and threats to public health and safety, and

WHEREAS, Section 322 of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000) requires State and local governments to develop and submit for approval to the President a mitigation plan that outlines processes for identifying their respective natural hazards, risks, and vulnerabilities, and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Bryn Athyn acknowledges the requirements of Section 322 of DMA 2000 to have an approved Hazard Mitigation Plan as a prerequisite to receiving post-disaster Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funds, and

WHEREAS, the Montgomery County 2017 Hazard Mitigation Plan has been developed by the Montgomery County Planning Commission in cooperation with other county departments, and officials and citizens of Borough of Bryn Athyn, and

WHEREAS, a public involvement process consistent with the requirements of DMA 2000 was conducted to develop the Montgomery County 2017 Hazard Mitigation Plan, and

***WHEREAS**, the Montgomery County 2017 Hazard Mitigation Plan recommends mitigation activities that will reduce losses to life and property affected by natural hazards that face the County and its municipal governments,*

***NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the governing body for the Borough of Bryn Athyn:*

- *The Montgomery County 2017 Hazard Mitigation Plan is hereby adopted as the official Hazard Mitigation Plan of the Borough of Bryn Athyn, and*
- *The respective officials and agencies identified in the implementation strategy of the Montgomery County 2017 Hazard Mitigation Plan are hereby directed to implement the recommended activities assigned to them.*

***ADOPTED**, this second day of July, 2018*

BOROUGH OF BRYN ATHYN

Portnoff Associates Collection of Delinquent Accounts

Vikki Trost will obtain an update of the status of the delinquencies turned over to Portnoff Association for collection.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Woodland Road Parking Complaints

Chairman Jeff Elsing reported that Chief Steve Gray and Mayor Ken Schauder visited the Woodland Road area to investigate parking problems discussed by Council last month. The residents were contacted and are communicating now. Chief Gray and Mayor Schauder will report further at next month's meeting.

Ashley Road Sidewalks

Mr. Elsing reported that the residents on Ashley Road were contacted directly about the problems and no objections to proceeding with surveying and staking the ROW were received. Mr. Elsing recommended moving forward with staking out the ROW for a sidewalk to meet the Dale Road sidewalk. It was noted that the estimated costs of a sidewalk project is \$58,000. Mr. Pennink noted that he has half that amount in his budget this year.

July 4th Fireworks

Mr. Elsing reported that Fireworks are planned for July 4th and that Buck Road will be closed at 8:30pm or when the parking lot is full. Mayor Schauder suggested that fireworks be held every other year due to the expense and amount of work to organize the event.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Chairman Mark Pennink reported that the road paving bid from Lower Moreland came in between \$95,000 to \$100,000, but that the actual cost depends on the amount of material that is actually used.

Mr. Hyatt noted that if the Public Works budget is not enough for the Ashley Road sidewalk project this year, that the funds can be rolled over into next year to complete the project.

Mrs. Genzlinger added that the Ashley Road residents would like to have signs posted and the road closed during school opening and closing.

Mr. Gurney stated that he would prefer to install sidewalks along Buck Road and Tomlinson Road before Ashley Road. Mark Pennink concurred that Buck Road sidewalks are terrible and he does not want to pave Buck Road until sidewalks and curbs are done. Mr. Pennink noted that property owners do not repair their sidewalks, but wait for the Borough to take care of them. Mr. Pennink also noted that part of the problem on Ashley Road is that the sidewalks don't connect to get to the elementary school.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Chairman Duane Hyatt reported that the main topic for the Committee last month was the Sewer Fund Budget shortfall. The Committee is looking into the cause of the shortfall to understand the issues so that any billing adjustments are equitable for all users.

LAND USE AND NATURAL RESOURCES/ SHADE TREE COMMITTEE - None

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE - None

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE - None

PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT - None

ZONING OFFICER

Vikki Trost reported one (1) Zoning Permit application approved in May; Four (4) Building Permits issued; and No Grading Permits issued.

SEWER ADMINISTRATOR

Sycamore Road Pump Station

Reid Heinrichs reported that the foundation for the vapor scrubber enclosure building was poured, while the walls and roof are being assembled at Gurney-Kerr Contractors. Mr. Heinrichs reported that there were no odor complaints, even on very hot days.

STP Improvements

Mr. Heinrichs reported that there is progress on the pricing for the holding tank project.

Quarry Road

Mr. Heinrichs reported that there were no other complaints for on-lot systems from Quarry Road property owners reported to Montgomery County Health Department.

BOROUGH ENGINEER - None

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Pennink asked if a meeting has been set up with the Academy to discuss the municipal building lease. Mr. Elsing will set that meeting up.

NEW BUSINESS - None

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

Mr. Jonathan Kline, 2913 Cherry Lane, asked members of Council if his son could operate a blacksmith forge in his backyard if he changed the fuel from coal to dried corn. It was explained to the Klines that there were two issues with the blacksmith forge – Burning Ordinance #656 and Zoning Ordinance violations. Mr. and Mrs. Kline were contacted by the Chief of Police following a complaint by a neighbor of the smoke from the blacksmith forge on June 8, 2018. Solicitor Herder explained that the Zoning Officer makes a determination on the permitted uses and that they may file an appeal with the Zoning Hearing Board, within a 30 day time frame. The Zoning Hearing Board renders a decision and the applicant has a further right of appeal to the Court of Common Pleas if they disagree with the decision. Mr. Herder stated that Borough Council does not interpret the Zoning Ordinance and cannot tell the Klines they are in compliance. Mr. Gurney recommended that the Klines meet with the Zoning Officer. Members of Council urged the Klines to resolve some issues with their neighbors.

Mr. Bill Buick asked if the Zoning Ordinance Update has been forwarded to Montgomery County yet. It has not been sent.

SET DATE FOR NEXT MEETING

Council's next regular meeting will be held on Monday, August 6, 2018 at 7:00pm in the Borough Hall.

ADJOURN

There being no further business presented, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.

Victoria S. Trost
Secretary