

LATROBE CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, JUNE 13, 2011
LATROBE, PENNSYLVANIA

Mayor Griffin called the Regular Monthly Meeting of Latrobe City Council to order at 6:30 P.M.

Mayor Griffin asked all to rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

The City Secretary read Roll Call:

Fabian Giovannagelo - present
Richard Jim - present
Rosemarie Wolford – present
Michael Skapura - present
Deputy Mayor Kenneth Baldonieri - absent
Robert Forish – absent
Mayor Barbara Griffin - present

Also present were the following: James E. Kelley, Solicitor; Joseph Bush, Public Works Director; James R. Bumar, Police Chief.

Mayor Griffin stated for the record that an Executive Session was held after the May 23, 2011 agenda meeting for personnel matters.

Mr. Giovannagelo moved to adopt the May 9, 2011 minutes, second by Mr. Skapura. Vote 5-0.

BILLS PRESENTED FOR PAYMENT

Total Expenses	\$223,467.72
Total Payroll	<u>129,780.29</u>
 GRAND TOTAL	 \$353,248.01

REPORTS OF CITY OFFICERS FROM MAY 2011

Treasurer's Report

See attachment "A"

Police Report

See attachment "B"

Public Works Report

See attachment "C"

Fire Report

See attachment's "D"

Code Report

See attachment's "E"

Tax Collector's Report

See attachment "F"

Mrs. Wolford moved to approve the reports and bills presented for payment, second by Mr. Jim. Vote 5-0.

CITIZENS REQUESTS

Monica Gray of 104 Forbes Drive, on behalf of Ridgeview Heights neighborhood, spoke about two properties that according to her are depleted beyond belief. Ms. Gray stated that she has contacted numerous agencies, including the City Code Enforcement, and everyone says they cannot help her.

Solicitor Kelley stated there is an ordinance that requires certain items be stored under roof and not outside.

Mayor Griffin said she went up to the property in question at 149 Laurel Lane to see the situation after speaking to Monica at an earlier date. Mayor Griffin met with the new property owner, who is the former deceased property owner's daughter. Mayor said the daughter plans on moving into her mother's property.

Monica stated there are also two dogs in the house that have been left unattended, and Action for Animals were supposed to post something on the door this morning.

Mayor Griffin said that after twenty-four hours Action for Animals could go into the property to remove the animals.

Monica commented that the Code Office sent letters about the junk in the yard last October and nothing has been done as of yet. She said there is standing water, flies, fleas, high grass, and overgrown trees.

Solicitor Kelley provided that the property owner is responsible.

Monica stated the daughter is now probably the property owner and lives at 35 Forbes Drive, and her property is also a mess. Ms. Gray does not want to see her at the property either, as the condition of both properties is a concern.

The City will look into the matter further.

Curk Fry of 228 Lloyd Avenue said he is stepping on some people's toes, but is compelled to say the City is a disgrace. He was extremely upset that flags were not displayed in the city on Memorial Day.

Mrs. Wolford defended the Public Works department by explaining how swamped the Transfer Station is due to all the contractors repairing the Hailstorm damage to homes in town. Mrs. Wolford agreed that the flags should have been up, but a decision had to be made and this did not happen because of us not being patriotic.

Mr. Fry volunteered to hang the flags and said others would also volunteer.

Mark Wolford of 11 Joanne Drive complained about noise generated from Excelsior Health Hospital. Mr. Wolford said that over the last several years the noise has become extremely loud. He stated the noise is from the ventilation units on top of the building on the north face. He has contacted the Code Officer and she contacted the maintenance manager of the hospital. The maintenance manager had the bearings replaced, but that did not make any difference. Mr. Wolford then contacted the Police, whereby the Chief informed him that it is a civil matter not a police matter. Councilmember Jim told Mr. Wolford to try contacting the Environmental Protection Agency as they handle noise pollution.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

BOARD/AUTHORITY REPORTS

Martin Molina of the Parking Authority was not present for tonight's meeting since he did not have anything to report, but had explained to city officials earlier that he had phone calls in to Gibson-Thomas and was awaiting their return call.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Police Chief Bumar reported that the new Police Officer Michelle White Preston would begin work on June 20, 2011. Chief reported that K-9 Rocky has been certified in narcotics and this weekend already had found heroin in a pile of laundry. Rocky will be certified for patrol this week and will start work by the 20th.

Councilmember Skapura asked if we had apparatus for the police car to avoid an incident that happened recently with a K-9's death from being left in a car.

Chief Bumar stated he has ordered a device to be installed on July 8, 2011, and we are not leaving Rocky in the car.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Solicitor Kelley read a proposed motion to adopt a resolution granting a variance to properties located at 807 Ligonier Street and 810-812 Ligonier Street from the Code of Ordinances requiring incombustible materials for an awning proposed to be located upon each of these properties.

Mrs. Wolford made a motion to table the proposed resolution until the next council meeting, and to discuss it further at the next agenda meeting, second by Mr. Giovannagelo. Vote 5-0.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Councilmember Jim made a motion to amend a proposed resolution for a drop-off/loading zone parking area for the New Horizons School, to reduce to three spots on a temporary basis, second by Mr. Giovannagelo. Vote 5-0.

RESOLUTION 2011-29

Establishing a ten-minute parking-school drop off zone on the north side of East Second Avenue abutting property of the New Horizons School. (as amended) Mr. Giovannagelo moved to adopt this resolution, second by Mr. Skapura. Vote 5-0.

Mr. Giovannagelo made a motion authorizing the City Solicitor to develop a security policy for the City municipal building, second by Mr. Skapura. Vote 5-0.

RESOLUTION 2011-30

Authorizing the seeking of COPS/application grant under the Universal Hiring Program of the United States Department of Justice. Mrs. Wolford moved to adopt this resolution, second by Mr. Giovannagelo. Vote 5-0.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

RESOLUTION 2011-31

Approving the purchase of de-icing salt by the City of Latrobe from the Indiana/Westmoreland Council of Governments. Mr. Giovannagelo moved to adopt this resolution, second by Mr. Skapura. Vote 5-0.

RESOLUTION 2011-32

Amending Contract No. C000043909 with the Department of Community and Economic Development. Mrs. Wolford moved to adopt this resolution, second by Mr. Skapura. Vote 5-0.

Mr. Jim made a motion authorizing the City Manager, or his designee, to prepare and advertise bid specifications for the purchase of (3) thirty yard roll-off boxes and (2) forty yard roll-off boxes, second by Mr. Giovannagelo. Vote 5-0.

Mr. Skapura made a motion authorizing the City Manager, or his designee, to prepare bid specifications and enter into negotiations for a new contract for sanitation collection services to be provided to the City of Latrobe, second by Mrs. Wolford.

Mayor Griffin formed a Committee to study sanitation collection services for a new contract. Mayor appointed herself, Mrs. Wolford, and Mr. Jim to this committee.

City Officials are also to meet with Ellen Keefe of PA Cleanways to obtain her expertise on municipal contracts.

Mr. Jim moved to table the sanitation collection bid specification motion until we have an opportunity to examine alternative methods of providing garbage services, second by Mr. Giovannagelo. Vote 5-0.

Mrs. Wolford made a motion to authorize the City Manager, or his designee, to prepare and advertise bid specifications for the 2011 street-paving program, second by Mr. Giovannagelo. Vote 5-0.

ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Mrs. Wolford made a motion to adopt a resolution approving the sale of 6th Ward Playground property and abutting lot, second by Mr. Skapura.

Mrs. Wolford made a motion to table the proposed resolution until Council can investigate a Payment in Lieu of Taxes Plan, second by Mr. Giovannagelo. Vote 5-0.

Mrs. Wolford made a motion to amend the agenda to discuss contract of City Manager, as item #3 under Administration and Finance, second by Mr. Giovannagelo. Vote 4-Yes, 1-No (Mayor).

RESOLUTION 2011-33

Authorizing disposition of public records set forth on attached schedules for disposition of the records of office/department of the City of Latrobe. Mr. Jim moved to adopt this resolution, second by Mr. Skapura. Vote 5-0.

Mrs. Wolford stated she has served on Council for eight years, and because of her commitment to the City along with the other members of Council, they have had to make some tough decisions. She believes in doing what is necessary and best for the City, and sometimes changes is a good thing, such as hiring a new Police Chief, thereby bringing new energy, ideas, focus, and enthusiasm. The City now has a police dog and a police website. Mrs. Wolford said to continue the momentum she would like to open up the City Manager's position to applicants, and implement the 90-day notification in the City Manager's contract, and begin process to advertise for

the position, and direct Secretary to issue the proper ninety-day notification, second by Mr. Giovannagelo. Vote 4-Yes, 1-No (Mayor)

Mayor Griffin stated the City Manager took a 20% pay decrease this year and we should not in the middle of the year say that is it.

Mrs. Wolford stated this is not personal, and the city needs new ideas.

Mayor Griffin formed a Personnel Committee to address filling the City Manager's position and to interview applicants. Mayor appointed Mrs. Wolford, Mr. Skapura, and Mr. Baldonieri to this committee.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mr. Skapura asked if the City has any PILOT programs currently in effect. Mr. Kelley stated he is only aware of NCR.

Mr. Skapura questioned if we can devise a letter to be sent to tax-exempt entities for a PILOT program.

Mr. Kelley said Council could direct City Manager or his designee to do this.

Mr. Giovannagelo asked if we could create a Municipal Waste Authority.

Solicitor Kelley stated if council desires to have one created, they could and he as the Solicitor would take the necessary steps.

Council agreed the newly formed Sanitation Collection Study Committee could also review this subject.

Mr. Skapura asked Chief Bumar about impounded cars; if we can charge for these impounded cars.

Chief said there are not many.

Mr. Skapura said Council could look into it and talk about it at the next agenda session.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

None.

MAYOR'S REPORT

None.

Mr. Skapura made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting of Council, second by Mrs. Wolford. Vote 5-0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:04 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara J. Buck, Secretary
