

LATROBE CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, MARCH 14, 2011
LATROBE, PENNSYLVANIA

Mayor Griffin called the Regular Monthly Meeting of Latrobe City Council to order at 6:34 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 - present

Robert Forish - present

Mayor Barbara Griffin - present

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

Mr. Skapura moved to adopt the February 14, 2011 minutes, second by Mr. Jim. Vote 7-0.

BILLS PRESENTED FOR PAYMENT

Total Expenses \$258,551.23

Total Payroll 84,074.80

GRAND TOTAL \$342,626.03

REPORTS OF CITY OFFICERS FROM FEBRUARY 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"

Mr. Baldonieri moved to approve the reports and bills presented for payment, second by Mrs. Wolford. Vote 7-0.

John Foley and Jim Rockney of Norfolk/Southern Railway addressed Council concerning the collapse of the retaining wall on Railroad Street alley. They requested council to vacate a portion of Railroad Street, so they can permanently repair the wall for future use. They also explained they may need a sliver of property from Giannilli's and Mr. Giannilli is supporting the vacation of Railroad Street.

Members of Council requested of Norfolk/Southern compensation in return of vacating Railroad Street, including maintaining lights in tunnels, continuing their work with the Latrobe Foundation in reference to the proposed trail along Lincoln Avenue thereby removing rails and repaving intersections where rails would be removed, and monetary consideration.

Mr. Foley and Mr. Rockney stated they would consider these requests within reason, although their main concern right now is safety. They stated they have looked at the rest of the wall for stability concerns and there are sections that require minor repairs. They will also continue annual bridge inspections and track control.

City Solicitor Kelley will prepare a Memo of Understanding that will comprise of these requests for compensation, and stated that a subdivision will still need approved for the Giannilli property.

CITIZENS REQUESTS

Ron Weimer, Chairman of the Planning Commission and Revitalization Committee Member, responded to a letter to the editor article in the Latrobe Bulletin. Mr. Weimer stated that we did not receive the Roethlisberger grant for the police dog, but he is looking into other avenues such as the Military to obtain a dog at no cost to the city.

Curk Fry of 228 Lloyd Avenue asked about Rolling Rock Town Fair's contribution to the police dog years ago.

Mr. Baldonieri informed Mr. Fry it was his understanding that the money was returned.

Jim Bolton of 225 Irving Avenue complimented Mr. Bush and his crew by saying they did an extremely good job this winter.

Mr. Bolton then advised council that at 9:30 P.M. on a Saturday night Depot Street is lit up like the Las Vegas Strip. He still believes the city can be saving money. He also stated that Maintenance should have seen the scale at the Transfer Station was going bad and had it replaced sooner. He said the City should spend \$10,000.00 and reassess the whole town.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

BOARD/AUTHORITY REPORTS

Parking Authority Chairman Martin Molina introduced the Parking Authority's Solicitor Daniel Hudock, and informed Council that Mr. Hudock has been in conversation with PNC about a bond issue, and that the Redevelopment Authority has no money to give us.

Attorney Hudock addressed Council and stated that tomorrow the Parking Authority is having a meeting with PNC Capital Advisor to discuss numbers on debt service to pay for repairs to the Parking Garage. Attorney Hudock stated the RACP grant is still in play and Senator Ward is working hard to get this money.

Deputy Mayor Baldonieri questioned if the Authority was going to reapproach Gibson-Thomas about the Design/Build vs. Design/Bid/Build process.

Attorney Hudock said that is a decision the Authority would make and have decided to go ahead with the Gibson-Thomas approach that requires 3.5 million dollars.

Deputy Mayor Baldonieri asked why this was not reconsidered upon council's urging.

Attorney Hudock said they have not had a meeting since then and He was not aware council was urging.

Mr. Molina stated the authority is going to talk about it at tomorrow's meeting and rescind that request.

Mr. Jim stated even if you go with a design/build situation, you still have to watch them.

Mr. Baldonieri stated he does not want to cut Gibson-Thomas out of this process and they are more than welcome to be involved and welcome to bid on this process.

Mr. Hudock stated the Design/Build is a great idea and is people are moving toward the idea, but mainly in the private sector, as Pennsylvania is one of four states in the union that has the Separation Act that protects unions and requires bidding of plumbing, HVAC, electrical, and general contracts. He said you cannot have one contract; must have separate contracts. There is a push to change this, but for now, it would be very unwieldy to do.

Mr. Baldonieri said we are not concerned with unwieldy right now; we are concerned with costs and speed. We need to do this as expeditiously as possible and move things along.

Mr. Jim called attention to page two referencing financing 3.5 million. He stated the City will have to guarantee the loan and is liable for repayment.

Attorney Hudock said the City has to be involved as the Authority does not have the money to increase their debt service, and the credit rating of the City is much greater.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

RESOLUTION 2011-17

Establishing time for paid parking in on street and off-street parking systems. Mrs. Wolford moved to adopt this resolution, second by Mr. Baldonieri. 5-Yes, 2-No (Giovannagelo, Forish)

RESOLUTION 2011-18

Establishing no parking/loading zone on the easterly side of Ligonier Street abutting property utilized by Esposito TV Sales and Service. Mr. Giovannagelo moved to adopt this resolution, second by Mr. Skapura. Vote 7-0.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

RESOLUTION 2011-19

Approving Church Relocation Land Development Plan of CBC Latrobe Acquisitions, LLC. Mr. Baldonieri moved to adopt this resolution, second by Mrs. Wolford. Vote 7-0.

RESOLUTION 2011-20

Approving the Industrial Wastewater Pre-treatment Plant Land Development request of CBC Latrobe Acquisitions, LLC. Mr. Forish moved to adopt this resolution, second by Mr. Skapura. Vote 7-0.

ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE DEPARTMENT

ORDINANCE 2011-5

Establishing wages, hours and fringe benefits of positions of the City of Latrobe for fiscal year 2011. Mr. Baldonieri moved to enact this ordinance, second by Mr. Forish. Vote 7-0.

Mrs. Wolford made a motion for the City Manager to obtain appraisal for the Sixth Ward Playground, second by Mr. Baldonieri. Vote 4-Yes, 3-No (Jim, Giovannagelo, Forish)

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Mr. Jim made a motion to authorize the Solicitor to prepare and advertise an ordinance to vacate Railroad Street and prepare a Letter of Understanding with Norfolk/Southern for consideration of compensation for the vacation of the Street, second by Mr. Skapura. Vote 7-0.

Items discussed earlier are to be in the letter of understanding.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mr. Baldonieri asked if a meeting has been set up with AFSCME regarding the Meter Attendant position.

Mr. Stadler said a meeting has been set for March 24, 2011.

Mr. Skapura questioned if the funding of the brick cross walks needed something turned in soon regarding the states grant money.

Solicitor Kelley stated he is waiting for the test analysis to come back to determine if we will file a complaint or accept and if not timely could have to pay back the \$400,000.00

NEW BUSINESS

City Manager Richard Stadler stated he received an e-mail today from Jeanne Ashley regarding LUPR applying for a \$30,000.00 DCNR grant. The project would involve the area behind the horseshoe courts along Memorial Drive and would be a playground for age's four to six. Ms. Ashley requested a letter of support from the City for this development project.

Mrs. Wolford made a motion to amend the agenda to include a motion to write a letter of support, second by Mr. Baldonieri. Vote 7-0.

Mrs. Wolford made a motion to write a letter of support for LUPR to apply for a DCNR grant for \$30,000.00, second by Mr. Giovannagelo. Vote 7-0.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Richard Stadler reported that City Auditor Mr. Tomsey has completed the 2010 audit and it has been forwarded to DCED. It shows a deficit of \$148,167.60. He stated that our cash position at the end of 2010 was \$105,000.00. Public Works had a budget overrun of \$135,000.00 and total budget is a 3% overage of expenditures. The city's unrestricted fund balance is now \$299,850.00. Taking off

the \$47,500.00 budgeted from the surplus to balance 2010's budget, approximately \$100,000.00 more was spent than projected.

Mrs. Wolford asked if the company that was interested in leasing or purchasing the Transfer Station was still in touch.

City Manager Stadler stated the company is still in contact and has made numerous information requests.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Griffin reported that she attended the Fireman's Banquet and it was very nice. She said she sat at Councilman Forish's table.

Mr. Giovannagelo made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting of Council, second by Mr. Skapura. Vote 7-0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:56 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara J. Buck, Secretary
