

**BOROUGH OF EAST WASHINGTON  
COUNCIL MEETING  
March 19, 2007**

**MINUTES**

Council of the Borough of East Washington met in Regular Session on Monday, March 19, 2007, at 6:00 p.m., with the following Members and Borough Officials present:

Mark Pacilla, Mayor of the Borough of East Washington

Joanne K. Coyle, Borough Council Vice-President

Jeffrey D. Bull, via telephone conference call

Marilyn A. Posner

Robert G. Dickson

Milton J. Schuler

Robert W. Redlinger, Chief of Police of the Borough of East Washington

James A. Helicke, Code Enforcement Officer of the Borough of East Washington

Cary Jones, Solicitor for the Borough of East Washington

Heather Walsh, Borough Secretary

Absent: Blake E. McCandless, Borough Council President, who was attending the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs Conference in Hershey, Pennsylvania this day; Kelley L. Dickson.

Also present: Christie Campbell, Observer-Reporter; Mark Connors.

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Council Vice-President, Joanne K. Coyle, called the Council Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Motion** made by Milton J. Schuler and seconded by Marilyn A. Posner to approve the Minutes of the February 19, 2007, Borough of East Washington Council Meeting.

Vote: All Ayes. Motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF BILLS**

**Motion** made by Robert G. Dickson and seconded by Marilyn A. Posner to approve the current bills for payment.

Jeffrey D. Bull stated that a bill should be added to the proposed bill list that was sent out. The truck broke down the previous week and a hose had to be made. The bill is for \$105.46 payable to Myzak Hydraulics.

Vote: All Ayes. Motion carried unanimously.

**SECRETARY REPORT**

Borough Secretary Heather Walsh distributed the financial reports. The reports consist of current bank balances, and the most recent income and expenditures.

Mrs. Walsh stated that the Borough has a bank account called the "Playground Account" which has approximately \$11,400.00 in it. This account is money leftover from \$20,000.00 donation provided by the Coen family a few years ago. The money is intended for use in maintaining the Borough Playground.

Robert G. Dickson and Milton J. Schuler will review the condition of the playground to determine if any work would need to be done or purchases made. After that, any leftover funds will be placed into a certificate of deposit.

Mrs. Walsh stated that PennDOT has advised local municipalities of the April 21, 2007, Great Pa. Cleanup Day. Christie Campbell was asked to put a news brief in the Observer-Reporter that the Borough is seeking residents to volunteer. The Borough Secretary will send letters to local groups that might be able to participate.

Mrs. Walsh stated that she has been corresponding with General Code regarding the codification of the Borough's ordinances. Cary Jones is to send to General Code copies of ordinances passed after No. 481. Mrs. Walsh will have more information for Council from General Code for discussion at the next Council meeting.

Mrs. Walsh stated that the Borough is starting to receive information about a Census to be conducted in the year 2010. The Washington County Planning Commission has scheduled a meeting March 28, 2007, to explain participation in the program.

Mrs. Walsh stated that the Tri-County Boroughs Association has informed the Borough of a Banquet for members to be held on Saturday, May 12, 2007, 5:00 p.m.

Mrs. Walsh distributed to the Mayor, Council, and the Borough Solicitor copies of the completed 2006 Audit submitted by Martin L. Ware, CPA. The Audit should be reviewed for discussion, if needed, at the next Borough Council meeting on Monday, April 16, 2007.

#### STREET DEPARTMENT REPORT

Jeffrey D. Bull stated that the Borough Street Department truck was in for inspection and they indicated the need for some repairs that could cost around \$3,000.00. Mr. Bull got a second opinion and the new report is that the work is not needed.

Mr. Bull stated that the Street Department would not need to purchase any additional road salt right now, as there is currently an adequate supply.

#### CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT

Borough Code Enforcement Officer, James A. Helicke, stated that the Borough received a request for a variance to the sideline requirements for a property at 40 LeMoyne Avenue. The property owners requested a building permit, which he denied. The homeowners want to put an addition on to the existing house within eight feet of the existing property line. The Zoning Hearing Board will hear this matter on Tuesday, March 27, 2007, at 6:30 p.m. at the Borough Building.

James A. Helicke, stated that a couple of years ago the Borough adopted the PA Uniform Construction Code. This April, additional certification will be needed for the Borough Code Enforcement Officer in order to continue to administer and enforce Borough ordinances and issue building permits for the Borough. Borough Council should decide to have either the Code Enforcement Officer certified or use a third party to conduct construction inspections and issue building permits in the future. There are a several different types of certifications that a Code Enforcer could receive, which would allow the person to perform from only certain types of administrative duties all the way to construction inspections.

Robert G. Dickson stated that he would meet with Mayor Mark Pacilla, Council President Blake E. McCandless, and Code Enforcement Officer James A. Helicke to discuss the best course of action for the Borough with regard to this matter.

Mayor Mark Pacilla stated that it is possible to certify the Borough Code Enforcer for some types of administrative work and enforcement and use a third party to do the other things regarding construction code.

Jeffrey D. Bull inquired of Mr. Helicke how many building permits he has issued in the past five years as code enforcer. Mr. Helicke replied that he issues around twelve per year.

Joanne K. Coyle asked Mr. Helicke if he has a written report ready for this meeting.

Mr. Helicke stated that he submitted a report of completed rental inspections to Council President Blake E. McCandless. Mr. Helicke and Mr. McCandless are working on the best way to address the inspections more regularly in a spreadsheet document.

Jeffrey D. Bull asked Mr. Helicke about a complaint from a resident of Jefferson Village about a problem with their building.

Mr. Helicke stated that a resident has complained about the condition of a doorframe on an exterior door that would not allow the door to properly shut. He has sent a letter to the owner of the building regarding its condition. It should not be considered a health or safety issue at this time; it is just in need of repair.

Joanne K. Coyle inquired of Mr. Helicke regarding a Council Street resident complaining of a van parking in front of the building where they reside. Mrs. Coyle wanted to know if apartment dwellers are required to use their designated parking areas.

Mr. Helicke stated that residents are not required to use designated parking areas.

Heather Walsh stated that she responded to the e-mail and told the resident that the police department considers the vehicle to be legally parked, and that is all that is required.

## COUNCIL REPORTS

Marilyn A. Posner stated that the Solid Waste Management and Recycling Committee is moving forward. Examples of bid specifications from other municipalities have been received. The Borough will need to create its own list of specifications.

Marilyn A. Posner inquired about a “paper” alley that had been paved by the residents that lived along it. It is currently not considered part of the Borough’s surface roads. Mrs. Posner asked if this alley and any others were brought in and considered to be part of the Borough’s road system and maintained by the Borough, would this affect the liquid fuels allocation from PennDOT.

Cary Jones and Robert G. Dickson both stated that the liquid fuels allocation does not have anything to do with alleys.

Mayor Pacilla stated that maintenance of a Borough alley would be at the Borough’s own general fund expense.

Council indicated that resurfacing of an alley not maintained by the Borough would be at the expense of the property owners, and the work would have to be done by an independent contractor hired by those residents.

Mayor Mark Pacilla suggested that Council take some time when together and review the Borough map and the status of the alleys within the Borough. New Borough maps are currently being printed and will be distributed to Council at the next meeting and discussed.

Milton J. Schuler - No report.

Jeffrey D. Bull stated that he was in attendance at the PennDOT Outreach Meeting on March 8, 2007. He talked to Arthur J. Battistone of PennDOT, who may have some ideas for East Washington. Mr. Bull will meet again with Mr. Battistone in the future.

Robert G. Dickson – No report.

#### MAYOR’S REPORT

Borough Mayor Mark A. Pacilla, stated that he would like to revisit Borough Council’s decision in November 2006 to allocate the excess interest from the Police Pension Fund to the Municipal Account. He may ask Council to amend their decision at the next meeting. He would like to consider past decisions and the Borough’s obligation to its pensioners.

Mayor Mark A. Pacilla, stated that he heard about a dog biting a person in the Borough.

Police Chief Robert W. Redlinger stated that no report was made to the Police Department about a dog bite.

Mayor Mark A. Pacilla stated that Council Vice-President Joanne K. Coyle has completed the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board Grant Application and it has been submitted. This is a refundable grant. The Borough would get reimbursed for purchasing breathalyzers and any other work towards getting the word out about underage drinking.

Mayor Mark A. Pacilla stated that he met with Borough Police Chief Robert W. Redlinger, Borough Road Department Supervisor Ronald R. Miles, and the company Digital Ally regarding the purchase of digital video cameras for the two Borough Police Cars. Mayor Pacilla stated that he considers the purchase of this equipment to be a safety necessity for the Borough’s police officers

and Borough residents. Digital Ally offers the lowest cost for these cameras. Mayor Pacilla stated that he is asking Council to approve the purchase of one camera for each Borough police car, at the cost of \$3,995.00 each.

**Motion** made by Marilyn A. Posner and seconded by Milton J. Schuler to approve the purchase of one digital video camera for each Borough Police Car.

Vote taken: Ayes – 3; Nays – 2. Motion carried.

#### SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Borough Solicitor Cary Jones stated that the Borough has received notice from the Tax Claim Bureau of a Judicial Sale of the property known as 103 LeMoyne Avenue. Mr. Jones is currently working on a response to the notification.

#### OLD BUSINESS

Council Vice-President Joanne K. Coyle inquired as to the status of the zoning ordinance work to be completed by Robert G. Dickson and Cary Jones.

Cary Jones stated that he and Mr. Dickson would need to set up a meeting.

#### ADJOURNMENT

**Motion** was made by Robert G. Dickson and seconded by Milton J. Schuler to adjourn the meeting.

**THE NEXT COUNCIL MEETING OF THE BOROUGH OF EAST WASHINGTON  
IS ON MONDAY, APRIL 16, 2007, AT 6:00 PM**

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Walsh,  
Borough Secretary