

**BOROUGH OF EAST WASHINGTON
COUNCIL MEETING
April 16, 2007
MINUTES**

Council of the Borough of East Washington met in Regular Session on Monday, April 16, 2007, at 6:00 p.m., with the following Members and Borough Officials present:

- Mark Pacilla, Mayor of the Borough of East Washington
- Blake E. McCandless, Borough Council President
- Joanne K. Coyle, Borough Council Vice-President
- Jeffrey D. Bull
- Marilyn A. Posner
- Robert G. Dickson
- Milton J. Schuler
- Kelley L. Dickson, via conference telephone
- Cary Jones, Solicitor for the Borough of East Washington
- Robert W. Redlinger, Chief of Police of the Borough of East Washington
- Heather Walsh, Borough Secretary

Also present: David Posner

Absent: James A. Helicke, Code Enforcement Officer

Council President, Blake E. McCandless, 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 March 19, 2007, Borough of East Washington Council Meeting.

Vote: All Ayes. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

Motion made by Joanne K. Coyle and seconded by Milton J. Schuler to approve the current bills for payment.

Borough Secretary Heather Walsh stated that a bill for reimbursement to Council President Blake E. McCandless for PSAB Conference expenses has been added. The amount is \$341.85.

Vote: All Ayes. Motion to approve current bills carried unanimously.

CDBG Grant Funds

Motion was made by Robert G. Dickson and seconded by Joanne K. Coyle for Mayor Mark A. Pacilla to finalize the trade of the CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) money for Fire Protection with the City of Washington; if that is not possible, have the City return the money to the Borough.

Vote: All ayes. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Mark A. Pacilla asked Marilyn A. Posner to contact the Washington County Redevelopment Authority and get some information on uses for the funds.

SECRETARY REPORT

Borough Secretary Heather Walsh distributed financial reports. The reports consist of a spreadsheet of current expenditures and income compared to the approved 2007 Budget and a current balance sheet.

Mrs. Walsh stated that the Borough received its annual Liquid Fuels Allocation of \$36,000.00 from PennDOT to the PLGIT (Pennsylvania Local Government Investment Trust) Fund.

STREET DEPARTMENT REPORT

Jeffrey D. Bull stated that the Borough Street Department has been cleaning storm drops. The Department has been successful using only one worker.

Mr. Bull stated that he would like the brick path in the park at North Wade Avenue and East Beau Street to be repaired.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Borough Police Chief Robert W. Redlinger stated that the police car cameras have been installed in the police cars. The cameras have been used for six or seven traffic stops already. Training for the officers will take place on Thursday, April 19, 2007.

Mayor Pacilla stated that he and the Chief are looking into some financing help for the cameras that were purchased.

Blake E. McCandless stated that the 2007 Budget allocated \$3,000.00 towards equipment for the police department and he is concerned that the purchase of cameras exceeds that amount.

Joanne K. Coyle and Marilyn A. Posner stated that the purchase of the cameras was discussed prior to the vote, and everyone felt that they needed to consider the safety of the police officers. They added that there was money for equipment left over from the previous year's budget.

Chief Redlinger stated that a police department shotgun is to be modified at a cost of approximately \$67.00.

Chief Redlinger stated that he will schedule a speed check for East Beau Street in the near future.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT

Blake E. McCandless stated that Code Enforcement Officer James A. Helicke has completed some more rental property inspections.

Mr. McCandless stated that W & J College has received a building permit for the Kim House at 101 South Wade Avenue. The work has started on the interior, and work on the roof, soffit, and fascia will begin soon.

Mr. McCandless stated that some questions have come up about the size of some political signs in the Borough. The sign limit in the Borough is 18 square feet. The sign at the top of East Beau Street is 16 square feet.

Mr. McCandless stated that due to new regulations, Code Enforcement Officer James A. Helicke is no longer able to issue building permits for new construction as of April 9, 2007.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Council President Blake E. McCandless stated that he attended the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs Spring Conference in Hershey, Pennsylvania. Mr. McCandless brought back a packet of materials and distributed copies to the Mayor and Council. He also distributed a copy of his report on the various panels he attended at the conference. Copies are attached to these minutes.

Joanne K. Coyle stated that Council should consider a tax on homes and property that are accessed by Borough roads but are in South Strabane Township. Council decided to discuss this with the Supervisors of South Strabane Township.

Jeffrey D. Bull stated that the wiring at the Borough building is complete. Rhodes Carpet and Installation is ready to install the flooring. Information about the insulation is needed from the Mayor. The lockers are painted. Chairs have been donated. Lateral files have been purchased for the police department.

Mr. Bull stated that his meeting with PennDOT has been tabled for a month.

Robert G. Dickson stated that Columbia Gas installed a new gas line at Wade Hall on South Wade Avenue. A large patch was put in the street over the hole and it is bad.

Mr. Dickson stated that there are too many "for rent" signs in front of Jefferson Village Apartments on East Wheeling Street.

Mr. Dickson stated that some windows and the front porch were removed at Wade Hall. Also, the Kim House had a porch railing removed.

Borough Solicitor Cary Jones will check to see if this would be considered demolition under the historic district ordinance.

Marilyn A. Posner stated that the garbage contract committee is still creating the bid specifications.

Milton J. Schuler reported that the railing on the new sliding board at the Thayer Street Playground should be replaced or repaired. He also stated that there are two boards missing from the gate.

Mrs. Walsh stated that Ron Miles of the road department would like to purchase woods chips and new garbage cans for the playground. The porto-john for the playground has been ordered for May 1, 2007, through September 30, 2007.

Mr. Schuler suggested replacing the fabric that goes under the wood chips. He reported that there is a huge hole with water in it under the swings.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Mark A. Pacilla, stated that he is looking into a grant from Senator Barry Stout's office to pay for the new police car cameras.

Mayor Pacilla stated that a "press release" regarding the Borough's use of new cameras in the cars should be distributed to the media as a deterrent to crime in the Borough.

At the next regular meeting, Mayor Mark A. Pacilla will discuss the options regarding the allocation of interest from last October from the uniformed pension fund.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Borough Solicitor Cary Jones stated that the Zoning Hearing Board approved the request made by Mr. Henry & Mrs. Cynthia Koskoski for a variance to the sideline requirements at their property at 40 LeMoyne Avenue in order to build an addition on to their home. Mr. Jones does not recommend a Borough appeal in this matter.

Mr. 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. This sale is to take place on May 24, 2007, at 9:30 a.m. The buyer of the property would own it free and clear of all liens and mortgages. The Borough of East Washington currently has tax liens on the property. The minimum bid on the property is \$8,911.00, which is the County of Washington's costs and realty transfer tax amount. That amount might be able to be changed to include the lien taxes from the Borough and Washington School District. This would bring the minimum bid amount to approximately \$82,000.00. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania would get paid first on what they are owed. Then the Borough would get the amount of its claim. Then any mortgagee would get any monies owed to them. There are extensive Federal tax liens. It is believed that if the IRS is properly notified before the sale, it would have 120 days after the sale to purchase it at the price paid at the sale.

Mr. Jones will draft an agreement for the Borough with regard to the matter. Council asked Mr. Jones to confirm the best course of action for the Borough and report to Council prior to the next meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At this time, Borough Council, Mayor and Solicitor held a brief Executive Session regarding personnel matters.

NEW BUSINESS

General Code Codification

Blake E. McCandless stated that Borough Council needs to complete a questionnaire regarding the layout of the New Code Book in order to proceed with the codification. Borough Council reviewed the packet and made some decisions. The information will be sent to General Code.

Treasurer

Blake E. McCandless stated that he would like Council members to bring to the next meeting the name of someone that might be able to serve as Borough Treasurer.

Resolutions for Banners Across East Beau Street

Motion was made by Jeffrey D. Bull and seconded by Robert G. Dickson to adopt a Resolution granting permission for a banner to be hung across East Beau Street for advertisement of the 2007 Pony League World Series from August 1, 2007 to August 30, 2007.

Vote taken: Ayes: 4; Nays: 1. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Jeffrey D. Bull and seconded by Robert G. Dickson to adopt a Resolution granting permission for a banner to be hung across East Beau Street for advertisement of the 2007 Washington County Agricultural Fair from August 1, 2007 to August 30, 2007.

Vote taken: Ayes: 4; Nays: 1. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Jeffrey D. Bull and seconded by Robert G. Dickson to adopt a Resolution granting permission for a banner to be hung across East Beau Street for advertisement of the 2007 Farmers' Market from April 2007 to October 2007.

Vote taken: Ayes: 4; Nays: 1. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Jeffrey D. Bull and seconded by Robert G. Dickson to adopt a Resolution granting permission for a banner to be hung across East Beau Street for proclaiming Congratulations Graduates of Washington & Jefferson College from May 14, 2007 to May 21, 2007.

Vote taken: Ayes: 4; Nays: 1. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Blake E. McCandless suggested that Council consider an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance that would ban use in the Borough of any type of outdoor furnace.

Solicitor Cary Jones will review some examples of other municipalities' ordinances for this and will advise Council how to proceed.

OLD BUSINESS

Council President Blake E. McCandless inquired as to the status of the zoning ordinance work to be completed by Robert G. Dickson.

Robert G. Dickson stated that he would get the materials to Mr. Jones.

Borough Secretary Heather Walsh distributed Borough Maps to Council.

Blake E. McCandless stated that the 2006 Audit will be discussed at a meeting on April 18, 2007, with Lisa Vipperman of Martin Ware's office.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Robert G. Dickson and seconded by Marilyn A. Posner to adjourn the meeting.

**THE NEXT COUNCIL MEETING OF THE BOROUGH OF EAST WASHINGTON
IS ON MONDAY, MAY 21, 2007, AT 6:00 PM**

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Walsh,
Borough Secretary