

**BOROUGH OF EAST WASHINGTON  
COUNCIL MEETING  
March 10, 2008  
MINUTES**

Council of the Borough of East Washington met in Regular Session on Monday, March 10, 2008, at 6:00 p.m., with the following Members and Borough Officials present:

- Mark A. 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
- James D. Ealy
- Robert G. Dickson
- Colin Fitch, Solicitor for the Borough of East Washington
- Heather Walsh, Borough Secretary
- James A. Helicke, Code Enforcement Officer
- Mark Connors, Constable
- Robert W. Redlinger, Chief of Police
- Milton J. Schuler, Real Estate Tax Collector

Also present: Charles Fife, Houston Borough Council President

Absent: Kelley L. Dickson

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Council President, Blake E. McCandless, called the Council Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Motion** made by Marilyn A. Posner and seconded by Joanne K. Coyle to approve the Minutes of the February 11, 2008, Borough of East Washington Council Meeting.

**Vote:** All Ayes. Motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF BILLS**

**Motion** made by Joanne K. Coyle and seconded by Robert G. Dickson to approve the current bills for payment.

**Vote:** Five (5) Ayes. One (1) Abstention (Jeffrey D. Bull), due to one of the bills being for work done by Bull International. Motion was carried.

**COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE**

Charles Fife, Council President from Houston Borough, stated that he would like East Washington Borough Council to provide support in the form of a letter to legislators requesting changes in the process of the Local Share Account Funds. Mr. Fife stated that his and some other

municipalities are looking to change the law to provide automatic distribution of half of the gambling revenues to local municipalities. The other half of gambling revenues would continue to be applied for in the same way. Separate distribution would be made of North Strabane's portion of such a distribution since North Strabane already receives its own distribution. Mr. Fife provided copies of suggested letters of support.

### **Letter of Support from Borough to Legislators**

**Motion** was made by Robert G. Dickson and seconded by Jeffrey D. Bull to support changes to the distribution of Local Share Account Revenues by letter to legislators.

**Vote:** All Ayes. Motion carried unanimously.

### SECRETARY REPORT

Borough Secretary Heather Walsh distributed the financial reports.

Mrs. Walsh announced that Senator J. Barry Stout will assist the Borough of East Washington in obtaining a DCED Grant in the amount of \$20,000.00 for purchase of a pick-up truck for use by the Borough Street Department.

### STREET DEPARTMENT REPORT

Jeffrey D. Bull stated that the plow and truck were having some problems and needed to be repaired.

Mr. Bull stated that the Borough received a letter Mrs. Anne McCormick claiming damage to a tire when the car her son was driving hit a storm drain on South Wade Avenue. She requested that the Borough pay for the replacement of two tires. After review of the location on South Wade, Mr. Bull said that he believed the Borough is not at fault, in this instance.

Council requested that the Borough Solicitor send a letter denying Borough assistance to the person making the claim.

Council President Blake E. McCandless stated that some of the new street work is showing wear.

Council held a brief discussion on plans for the roads in the coming spring and summer. Repairs of sidewalks were discussed, as well as finishing of street openings by utility companies.

### POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Police Chief Robert Redlinger stated that his department is making plans to assist in former President Bill Clinton's visit to Washington & Jefferson College the next day.

Chief Redlinger stated that Click It or Ticket Seat Belt use enforcement will take place in the Borough of East Washington from Monday, March 17, 2008 through March 30, 2008.

Chief Redlinger announced that his department will receive a grant of at least \$5,000.00 for equipment from Local State Representative Timothy Solobay.

Chief Redlinger stated that there is a possibility of a future aggressive driving deterrent campaign for his department.

Chief Redlinger announced that the new Department police car is now in production and completion is scheduled prior to April 1, 2008.

Chief Redlinger stated that the radio in the Ford police car is broken and due to its age, it is probably not repairable for a reasonable price.

Jeffrey D. Bull suggested removing police items from the Ford police car and using it for Street Department errands.

#### CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT

Code Enforcement Officer James A. Helicke stated that he inspected some properties requesting garbage exemptions due to vacancy. Mr. Helicke stated that the halfway house on Penn Street has been dissolved and the property was vacated. It is likely that a single family will move into the property.

#### COUNCIL REPORTS

Marilyn A. Posner stated that the Borough Solid Waste and Recyclables Committee received sixteen requests for exemption from paying the full waste and recycling charges. Committee recommendations are included in a Memo to Council that is attached to these Minutes. Properties that owners are declaring vacant were investigated by the Code Enforcement Officer and determined to be valid. The Code Enforcement Officer will re-inspect for vacancies at these locations every quarter.

Mrs. Posner stated that she has received information on increasing recycling pick-up from twelve times a year to twenty-six times a year (every other week). This cost would be .90¢ per unit per pick-up. The Borough has been using the figure of 655 units.

Mrs. Posner stated that she would like to wait for about six more months to confirm revenues from the billing of the waste and recycling to determine if the Borough can afford additional recycling collections.

Mrs. Posner stated that she is considering locations to hold a recycling fair for Borough residents. She has been in touch with a recycling broker. Allied Waste would provide boxes for residents to deposit items, and the broker would bring a truck and transport the items to various sites of companies/organizations that can recycle the items. Mrs. Posner expects that this could take a few years of trying to get the best results.

Mrs. Posner stated that the fair would be a recycling drop-off and flea-market combined. Mrs. Posner asked Council to help determine when to hold the fair and a location.

James D. Ealy stated that he is concerned with the traffic volume and the speeding problems on Borough streets due mostly to Wal-Mart and other new developments. The street with the most speeding and traffic problems are North (IS THIS NORTH AVENUE OR NORTH WADE) Avenue and South Wade Avenue and East Beau Street.

A Traffic Review Committee was established consisting of Borough Mayor Mark Pacilla and Mr. Ealy. This Committee will review the locations and report to Council its finding and suggestions to fix the problems. Mayor Pacilla made the suggestion of having an engineer review the locations, as well.

Council discussed the possibility of a No Outlet sign on LeMoyne Avenue at East Wheeling Street to cut down on traffic using Bakewell Alley to exit the dead-end road.

Council President Blake E. McCandless stated that he attended the PennDOT Local Outreach meeting on Monday, March 6, 2008. Mr. McCandless created a report of the meeting and distributed this to Council. A copy is attached to these minutes.

#### MAYOR'S REPORT

Borough Mayor Mark A. Pacilla stated that plans should be made to start sealing the middle strip of the Borough roads that were paved last Fall.

Mayor Pacilla would like the Borough building dumpster moved to a different location.

Mayor Pacilla stated that the Police Department needs to hire additional part-time officer to fill shifts. The Mayor and Police Chief will recommend some individuals to Council for hiring at the next Borough Council meeting.

#### **Borough Fireworks Donation**

**Motion** was made by Robert G. Dickson and seconded by Jeffrey D. Bull to donate \$250.00 to the Greater Washington Area Fireworks Committer for 4<sup>th</sup> of July 2008 on behalf of East Washington Borough.

**Vote:** All Ayes. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Pacilla stated that all of the street light bulbs in the Borough will be changed to the yellow-type bulb. This could increase the monthly cost.

Mayor Pacilla stated that Borough Council has been invited to attend former President Bill Clinton's speech in support of Hillary Clinton's presidential candidacy on Tuesday, March 11, 2008, at Washington and Jefferson College.

#### SOLICITOR'S REPORT

#### **Real Estate Tax Collection Resolution**

Borough Solicitor Colin Fitch, present in Cary Jones' absence, stated that two draft resolutions have been distributed to Council for consideration.

**Motion** was made by Robert Dickson and seconded by Marilyn A. Posner to adopt a Resolution appointing Milton J. Schuler to the position of Real Estate Tax collector for the Borough of East Washington, for the remainder of the current term, expiring January 4, 2010.

**Vote:** All Ayes. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Robert G. Dickson and seconded by Marilyn A. Posner to adopt a Resolution Establishing Division of Duties Between Real Estate Tax Collector, Milton J. Schuler and Deputy Real Estate Tax Collector, Heather Walsh.

**Vote:** All Ayes. Motion carried unanimously.

**Oaths of Office**

At this time in the meeting, Mayor Mark A. Pacilla administered an Oath of Office to Milton J. Schuler, Real Estate Tax Collector, and to Heather Walsh, Deputy Real Estate Tax Collector.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At this time, Borough Council held a brief Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT

**Motion** was made by Robert G. Dickson and seconded by James D. Ealy to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

**THE NEXT MEETING OF COUNCIL  
OF THE BOROUGH OF EAST WASHINGTON  
WILL BE ON MONDAY, APRIL 14, 2008, AT 6:00 PM**

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Walsh,  
Borough Secretary