

**BOROUGH OF EAST WASHINGTON
COUNCIL MEETING May 9, 2011
MINUTES**

Council of the Borough of East Washington met in Regular Session on Monday, May 9, 2011, at 6:00 p.m., with the following Members and Borough Officials present:

Mark A. Pacilla, Mayor
Blake E. McCandless, Borough Council President
Joanne K. Coyle, Council Vice-President
Marilyn A. Posner, Council
Jeffrey D. Bull, Council
Kelley L. Dickson, Council
Robert G. Dickson, Council
Billy C. Josay, Council
Cary Jones, Borough Solicitor
Heather Walsh, Borough Secretary
Donald A. Solomon, Chief of Police
Michael E. Behrens, Code Enforcement and Zoning Officer
Mark Connors, Constable

Audience Members: Betty Anderson, Megan Exter, Dr. Maryann Weinstein, Tom Shade, Terry Blackburn, Andrea Alderson and Kelly Alderson

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6:00 p.m. Council of the Borough of East Washington held a public hearing regarding an amendment to the zoning ordinance.

Council President Blake E. McCandless called the Council Meeting to order at 6:20 p.m., which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Robert G. Dickson and seconded by Kelley L. Dickson to approve the Minutes of the April 11, 2011, Regular Meeting of Council of the Borough of East Washington.

Vote: All Ayes. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

Motion was made by Jeffrey D. Bull and seconded by Joanne K. Coyle to approve the current bills.

Vote: Ayes (6); Abstention (1-Bull). Motion carried.

REPORTS FROM AUDIENCE MEMBERS

Dr. Maryann Weinstein, South Watson Avenue, stated that she would like to know if it is possible to consider South Watson for paving in the near future.

Jeffrey D. Bull stated that there is not a current plan in place for paving any streets in the Borough. Council will look into the matter of paving streets.

Kelly Alderson, of North Watson Avenue, reported that there is serious road subsidence of the concrete in the alley between North Watson and Wilmont Avenue. He is concerned that the erosion under the concrete could eventually cause him a sewer line problem. He is requesting maintenance on the concrete by the Borough to avoid him having a problem in the future.

Jeffrey D. Bull will review the area.

Terry Blackburn, South Wade Avenue, reported a large amount of running water in Hemlock Alley.

Marilyn A. Posner stated that there is a spring there. It is also running in front of her house at 149 South Wade Avenue, which is immediately across the street from Hemlock.

Betty Anderson, from Young Lungs at Play, asked Council to post free signs at the playground that declare it a tobacco-free zone. Council will consider her request.

Kelly and Andrea Alderson, of North Watson Avenue, stated that they are concerned about the large amount of deer in the Borough causing damage and a health hazard.

Council discussed how to deal with the deer. Cary Jones will contact the Pennsylvania Game Commission and report back to Council.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Borough Secretary distributed the current financial statements.

STREET DEPARTMENT REPORT

Jeffrey D. Bull stated that the leaves and brush were collected by the street department. Pothole patching is around 80% complete.

Mr. Bull stated that a few days will be spent working at the Park-n-Ride.

The street sweeper will be used for a few days in the week ahead.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT

Borough Code Enforcement Officer Michael E. Behrens submitted his report.

Mr. Behrens stated that the Lemoyne Multi-Cultural Community Center has been issued a temporary occupancy permit for their new Head Start addition, pending some minor fixes.

Mr. Behrens asked if he should pursue any action on political signs on properties in the Borough.

Borough Solicitor Cary Jones stated that there is a size limitation of 18 square feet for temporary signs in the Borough and only one sign is permitted on each property. This is pursuant to the Borough Ordinance regulating signs.

Mr. Behrens will address the issue with Borough property owners.

Mr. Behrens is to set an appointment with the Director of Faith Christian School, and Mayor Pacilla will join him to discuss the parking issues in front of the school on East Beau Street.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Borough Police Chief Donald A. Solomon stated that the 2003 Ford Crown Victoria police car should now be sold.

Motion was made by Jeffrey D. Bull and seconded by Robert G. Dickson to advertise to receive bids for purchase of the Borough's 2003 Ford Crown Victoria police car.

Vote: All Ayes. Motion carried.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Billy C. Josay – No report.

Marilyn A. Posner stated that the Steel City Harley Davidson store is accepting difficult to recycle items on Saturday, May 14, 2011.

Kelley L. Dickson – No report.

Robert G. Dickson stated that he would be away for June's Council meeting.

Jeffrey D. Bull - No report.

Joanne K. Coyle stated that she has been looking into some minor playground purchases.

Blake E. McCandless – No report.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Mark Pacilla stated that the Lemoyne Multi-Cultural Community Center will hold an open house on Thursday, May 12, 2011, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. to show the newly constructed Head Start addition. Mayor Pacilla asked Council members to try to attend.

Mayor Pacilla stated that there should be follow up on the Crime Watch for North Avenue.

Mayor Pacilla asked if anyone has any questions about Coro Pittsburgh implementing the Comprehensive Plan.

Mayor Pacilla stated that James McKean has been sworn in as a part-time police officer for the Borough.

ACTION ITEMS

Jeffrey D. Bull stated that he met with Mayor Pacilla, Joanne Coyle, Rob Phillips from the Redevelopment Authority and Kevin Wilmot from Widmer Engineering to review the bids for the Borough Building Sidewalk Project for the Community Development Block Grant. They discussed the low bid from W & J Woodhouse. There was a calculation error in the line item total as opposed to the

total that increases the price from a total of \$76,000.00 to \$96,000.00. This will be discussed with the low bidder to confirm that the higher amount should be used and that it is still the lowest bid.

Mr. Bull suggested reviewing this again with Rob Phillips. In the meantime, he recommends awarding the contract to the lowest responsible bidder.

Motion was made by Robert G. Dickson and seconded by Kelley L. Dickson to award the Borough Building Sidewalk Project contract to the lowest responsible builder.

Vote: All Ayes. Motion carried.

Jeffrey D. Bull stated that the Redevelopment Authority recommends using the entire 2009 CDBG money (\$30,000.00), and half of the 2012 CDBG money (\$15,000.00), to avoid a project amendment and a 30-day waiting period. It may be possible to use the remaining \$15,000.00 for another project or a trade with the City of Washington.

Motion was made by Jeffrey D. Bull and seconded by Robert G. Dickson to approve an advance of \$15,000.00 from the 2012 CDBG towards the Borough Building Sidewalk Project and reserve the remaining 2012 CDBG of \$15,000.00 for a future project.

Vote: All Ayes. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Robert G. Dickson and seconded by Kelley L. Dickson to contract with Widmer Engineering to retain their services to oversee the Borough Building Sidewalk Project for a sum not to exceed \$2,000.00.

Vote: All Ayes. Motion carried.

Jeffrey D. Bull stated that Widmer Engineering recommends Council consider a sidewalk alongside the Borough Building and changes to the curb on Thayer Street across from the Borough Building.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

No report.

OLD BUSINESS

Amendment to Zoning Ordinance

Council decided to table the adoption of an amendment to the zoning ordinance regarding regulating satellite dishes in the Borough.

Jeffrey D. Bull asked that Cary Jones review other local municipalities for an example of how they may regulate satellite dishes.

NEW BUSINESS

Council President Blake E. McCandless stated that City of Washington Mayor, L. Anthony Spossey, sent a letter to Borough Council that they had been awarded a DCNR Grant of \$75,000.00 to draft a recreation plan. Mackin Engineering has been hired to draft the plan. Borough Council earlier adopted

a Resolution in support of the application for the grant by the City of Washington, with no money requested from the Borough. Mayor Spossey now requests that the Borough provide the sum of \$8,000.00 to help with the additional costs for drafting the plan.

Borough Council discussed ideas for some of the Borough park properties. Some suggestions were a walking trail at the end of Christman. Also, there was mention of an additional park or playground near North Avenue.

Council will respond in writing to deny Mayor Spossey's request.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Robert G. Dickson and seconded by Jeffrey D. Bull to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF EAST WASHINGTON IS MONDAY, JUNE 13, 2011.

Respectfully submitted,
Heather Walsh,
Borough Secretary