

BOROUGH OF CHURCHILL
2300 WILLIAM PENN HIGHWAY
PITTSBURGH, PA 15235

Minutes of Meeting

June 11, 2018

The regular monthly meeting of the Borough of Churchill was held in the Municipal Building on Monday, June 11, 2018 and was called to order by Mr. Jurewicz at 7:32 p.m. Mr. Jurewicz led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance. Members present included Mses. Yankes, Greco, and Law, and Messers. Collins and DeFranco and Mayor Gamrat. Mr. Dworin was absent. Also present were Officer in Charge William Pleins, Manager Donna Perry and Solicitor David Mongillo.

WORKSHOP & REGULAR MEETING MINUTES - There was a motion made by Ms. Law and seconded by Mr. Collins that the minutes of the Workshop Meeting of May 7, 2018 be approved as previously presented. The motion was approved unanimously. There was a motion made by Mr. Collins and seconded by Mr. DeFranco that the minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 14, 2018 be approved as previously presented. The motion was approved unanimously with Mr. Jurewicz abstaining because he was absent from the meeting.

MAYOR – Mayor Gamrat read his report for May, 2018 regarding police activities of interest and importance. There was a motion made by Ms. Yankes and seconded by Ms. Law that the Mayor's Report be accepted and filed as presented. The motion was approved unanimously.

MANAGER & FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORTS – Under the Manager's report, Ms. Perry said the paving bids were open last Wednesday with a slight problem. The low bidder was removed the very next day due to an alleged clerical error and we are trying to confirm that. The sewer lining work has begun and also open cut repairs are started. She requested that Penn Dot apply the high friction treatment on Beulah Road near the entrance to the former Churchill Valley Country Club property. It was applied further up at the bad bend coming toward the Borough Building and has been highly successful. We are hoping they comply and apply this. The rain has played havoc on all the roads. We have used 23 tons of hot patch to date. Just patching has put a crimp on the budget. Ms. Perry read the Fire Department report in Mr. Zatlin's absence. There were 36 calls for the month and 146 for the year. There were three significant calls, a car carrier trailer overturned on the Parkway, a kitchen fire in Penn Center and a small fire in the wall of a house on Henley Drive. There was a motion by Mr. DeFranco and seconded by Ms. Greco that the Manager report be accepted and filed as presented. The motion was approved unanimously.

REAL ESTATE TAX COLLECTOR – In the absence of Mr. Duerring, Ms. Perry read the Tax Collector’s report. Taxes collected at face were \$116,133.00 less discounts of \$2,017.74 for a total of \$114,116.00. The balance collectable is \$149,332.00.

TREASURER’S REPORT - The following report for the month of May, 2018 was previously presented to Council. It showed the following:

<u>CHECKING ACCOUNT</u>	<u>BEGINNING BANK BALANCE</u>	<u>RECEIPTS</u>	<u>O/S CHECKS AND DISBURSEMENTS</u>	<u>ENDING CASH BALANCES</u>
REGULAR ACCOUNT	1,614,578.62	592,053.42	553,270.69	1,653,361.35
CAPITAL RES. ACCT.	240,970.90	32,009.92	64,000.00	208,980.82
ROAD & HIGHWAY	249,378.90	10.55	.00	249,389.45
SEWAGE AGENCY	208,807.71	202,885.54	117,716.72	293,978.53
SPECIAL ACCT.	13,273.72	8,274.18	17,233.24	4,314.66
POLICE PENSION FUND	-0-	3,124.01	3,124.01	-0-
EMPL. PENSION FUND	-0-	927.44	927.44	-0-
EMPL. SEC. 457 D.C.P.	-0-	1,400.00	1,400.00	-0-

There was a motion by Mr. Collins, and seconded by Mr. DeFranco that the Real Estate Tax Collector and Treasurers Report be accepted and filed as presented. The motion was approved unanimously.

EARNED INCOME TAX

DEED TRANSFER

DELINQUENT REAL ESTATE TAX - Ms. Perry reported that the Earned Income Tax Collector had collections of \$56,194 for the month of May, 2018.

Deed Transfer Tax collections were \$9,023.00.

Jordan Tax Service collected \$4,758.00 in delinquent real estate taxes.

There was a motion by Ms. Law, seconded by Ms. Yankes that the Earned Income Tax, Deed Transfer, and Delinquent Real Estate Tax reports be filed. The motion was approved unanimously.

LISTEN TO VISITORS – Solicitor Mongillo reminded all visitors that if there is a group wishing to address council on the same subject matter they should appoint one person to speak. That

spokesperson would be limited to 10 minutes. He also said that with regard to the property on 2244 Harmain Road, he reached out to the attorney who handles delinquent taxes for the school district. He explained our intent and is looking into a sheriff's sale on the property as one possible option. He will update us on this.

Harry Robins of 2212 Harmain Road brought a petition signed by 18 residents of Harmain Road. He represented the group asking for something to be done about the house located at 2244 Harmain Road. He requested Council to put immediate pressure on to collect taxes due and also address the deplorable conditions. He said he expects to see something done in the next 30 days.

Barry Kisloff of 176 Thornberry Drive asked council to read an article that appeared in the June 2, 2018 Post Gazette. It referenced the Gorsline vs. Board of Supervisors of Fairfield Twp. Case. The article was regarding the Supreme Court reversing the decision that allowed drilling in residential areas.

Gibby Hart of 2223 Harmain said her property in the back faces 2220 William Penn Highway. The resident there tilled his yard and she had a lot of water come in her house. She would like the Borough Public Works to take a look at it.

Lowell Mate of 27 Churchill Road had questions regarding the proposed ordinance establishing a new Chapter 52 ("Human Relations Commission").

Larry Lepidi of 2027 Hampstead Drive wanted to know who prepared the proposed ordinance establishing a new Chapter 52 ("Human Relations Commissions"). He also said this was not properly advertised.

Ken Balkey of 2007 Hampstead Drive said he wanted to follow up on the information his wife presented at last month's meeting regarding the removal of trees on Royal Oak Ave. We don't have a tree removal ordinance and he feels that the trees aid in storm water retention and providing oxygen not just aesthetics.

Mayor Gamrat read a proclamation for William G. Pleins on his 25 years of service. He started with the Borough on June 15, 1993 and was made Officer in Charge on May 1, 2018.

MOTION TO ADOPT ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A NEW CHAPTER 52 ("HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION") OF THE BOROUGH OF CHURCHILL IN ORDER TO PROHIBIT DISCRIMINATION IN EMPLOYMENT, HOUSING AND PUBLIC ACCOMMODATIONS – Given the questions and discussion that took place, there was a motion by Ms. Law and seconded by Mr. Collins to table further discussion on this ordinance. The motion was approved unanimously and the Ordinance was not passed.

MOTION TO REAPPOINT ROBERT FERRY TO SERVE ON THE RECREATION BOARD – There was a motion by Ms. Yankes and seconded by Mr. DeFranco to reappoint Robert Ferry to serve on the Recreation Board for a three year term expiring 5/2021. The motion was approved unanimously.

MOTION TO APPOINT SCOTT HENDERSON TO THE 1ST DEPUTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR POSITION – There was a motion by Mr. Collins and seconded by Mr. DeFranco to appoint Scott Henderson to the 1st Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator position for a two year term expiring 6/11/20. The motion was approved unanimously.

MOTION TO APPOINT LOWELL MATE TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION – There was a motion by Mr. Collins and seconded by Ms. Greco to appoint Lowell Mate to the Planning Commission for a four year term expiring 6/11/22. The motion was approved unanimously.

BILL APPROVAL - Ms. Perry read the bills for the month and they totaled \$336,926.31. There was a motion by Ms. Greco and seconded by Mr. Collins to adopt Resolution No. 4446 to pay the bills. Bills in excess of \$15,000 or more this month were \$21,378.30 - Vigliotti Landscape & Construction for May road maintenance, \$144,808.89 – Alcosan for sewage service. The motion was approved unanimously.

AROUND THE TABLE – Mr. Jurewicz said regarding fracking, we have to provide access to natural resources. We will continue to look into it. As far as code enforcement, we continue to struggle with it and have to make a decision regarding it. Any issues on specific properties bring to his attention. We feel your pain.

Ms. Greco said regarding the tree situation, the Borough does not have the authority as to how trees are trimmed on private property. We should explore other places ordinances and follow up on this.

Mr. DeFranco said he agreed with Mr. Jurewicz regarding the Chapter 52 ordinance. He said it was not done quite right so we should look into it.

Mayor Gamrat congratulated Lowell Mate on his appointment to the Planning Commission and Officer Pleins on his 25 year service on the police force. He said he has seen the trees on Royal Oak Manor and that it is worth pursuing this issue. With regard to the code enforcement, things are not the way we would like them to be. He said to the residents on Harmain, "I know it's disgusting and shouldn't be".

Ms. Law said we all agree about 2244 Harmain Road. We have to find a way to address these things. Our code enforcement officer is shared and we will have to look into this. We are all equally frustrated. Council can only work within the law. With regard to the Gorsline decision, she read it and that decision had to do with a zoning issue. She said we will review the ordinance regarding Chapter 52. She congratulated Lowell Mate and Officer in Charge Pleins.

Mr. Collins congratulated Officer in Charge Pleins, Scott Henderson and Lowell Mate. He thanked all the residents for coming and said all of the issues were well received and will be discussed. The code enforcement officer is part of the T.C.V.C.O.G and we only have him two days a week. This may not be the right way to go. We need to improve on it. He said the property at Harmain Road may be a land bank situation. We will be investigating.

Ms. Yankes said she is totally in favor of a tree commission. We are looking at the deer problems as well. The next Town Hall meeting is July 11, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. at the Borough Building. The topic will be Deer. The Pennsylvania Game Commission and U.S.D.A. will be sending reps out to the meeting. Please bring your questions regarding the urban deer management or email the office with them.

Mr. Mongillo said we can look at the proposed Human Relations ordinance and make amendments. We need to make the intent more clear. He does not believe a hearing was required. He said we will look at all of it and make sure it is compliant with the law.

Mr. Jurewicz thanked everyone for taking part in the meeting. He said we share your concerns and frustration with code enforcement and will look at the program.

ADJOURN - There was a motion by Mr. Jurewicz, seconded by Ms. Law to adjourn at 8:44 p.m. The motion was approved unanimously.

Donna J. Perry
Borough Secretary