

**MINUTES OF MEETING  
OF SEWICKLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL  
MUNICIPAL BUILDING  
SEWICKLEY, PENNSYLVANIA**

**MARCH 13, 2018**

The Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. with President Jeff Neff presiding and leading the Meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call showed the following members present:

Christine Allen	William Cornman	John Dunn	Tom DeFazio
Sean Figley	Todd Renner	Larry Rice	Hendrik van der Vaart

Also present were Mayor Brian Jeffe, Borough Solicitor Richard Tucker and Borough Manager Kevin M. Flannery.

There were 15 visitors.

President Neff asked for a Moment of Silence for Bob Yant who passed away on March 6, 2018. Mr. Yant was a retired member of the Cochran Hose Company and former Public Works employee and Foreman from May 4, 1970 to June 28, 2007.

Unfinished Business:

Solicitor Tucker stated that this is the time for the Wasileski Consolidation Plan of Lots Public Hearing. However, the applicant was not present for the Public Hearing. Borough Manger recommended a Motion to Continue the Public Hearing to the April 10, 2018 Council Meeting. The motion was made by Mr. Rice and seconded by Mr. Figley and approved by Council, 9-0.

Approval of Minutes:

On motion of Mr. Renner, seconded by Mr. van der Vaart, the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of February 13, 2018 were approved, 7-0-2, with Mr. Rice and Mr. DeFazio abstaining as they were not present for the meeting and the reading of same dispensed with as copies were provided to the Members of Council, Mayor and Solicitor.

Comments from the Council President, Members and Mayor:

Mayor Jeffe announced that Jan Lewis, a Retired Air Force Captain will serve as Keynote Speaker for the 127<sup>th</sup> Memorial Day Parade.

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President Neff announced that an Executive Session will be held at the conclusion of the meeting regarding a personnel matter.

President Neff announced that the resignations of the 5 members of the Sewickley Parking Authority have been accepted.

President Neff appointed Richard Webb, of 26 Beaver Street, to the Sewickley Parking Authority for a term to expire December 31, 2022. President Neff appointed Daniel Albano, of 622 Locust Place, to the Sewickley Parking Authority for a term to expire December 31, 2021. President Neff stated he is hopeful to find three additional members.

Mr. DeFazio reviewed the performance measures for Explore Sewickley for 2018. There were no comments or questions.

Council was in agreement to work with the Quaker Valley School District regarding under assessed commercial buildings in the business district.

Mr. Cornman stated that he would be away on vacation for the April 10, 2018 Council meeting.

Ms. Allen stated that she and Jennifer Markus of Explore Sewickley were invited to speak at a business meeting in Dormont. Ms. Allen addressed Council on the Gerrymandering Issue and introduced Mr. Doug Kringes of Fair Districts PA who discussed a better way to create a fair map for the Pennsylvania districts. He stated that it would be more neutral like California and Iowa. Darlene Dech of 823 Ackley Terrace asked Council to support Senate Bill 22 and House Bill 722.

Mr. van der Vaart provided an overview of residential taxes levied by the Borough, Allegheny County and the Quaker Valley School District to help Council Members have context behind any discussions on modifying property taxes and cost-of-living concerns in Sewickley. He further commented that while the Borough and Allegheny County have held taxes steady (net) since 2013, the School District has raised taxes for a net increase of about 10%. He encouraged all to learn more about proposals to modify property taxes and the potential impact on Sewickley residents.

Statement of Citizens:

Council reviewed Explore Sewickley's Monthly Report. Ms. Markus asked if Council has established a date for the meeting and presentation with the PA Downtown Center in coordination with the Main Street Program. President Neff advised that an hour before the April 10 or May 8 Council meetings would be fine.

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Ms. Markus stated that there would not be a Sewickley Unleashed event this year, just a 5K Race on May 19, 2018. On motion of Mr. DeFazio, seconded by Mr. Dunn, Council voted, 9-0, to approve the 5K Race for May 19<sup>th</sup> beginning at 8:30 a.m.

Council reviewed an email from Margaret Dury requesting repairs to Duquesne Way adjacent to Safran's Market.

Mr. Peter Floyd, of 337 Bank Street, stated his opposition to the removal and rehab of the curbs. Mr. Floyd also stated that we do not need storm sewers and can save \$150,000.

On motion of Ms. Allen, seconded by Mr. Dunn, Council voted, 8-1, with Mr. Rice voting no, to approve the request of Mike Senate of Café Racer to rent War Memorial Park in total on Saturday, August 11, 2018 for the Café Racer Motorcycle Event contingent on the payment of the \$1,000 rental fee, \$50.00 Alcohol Permit, Certificate of Insurance for \$1,000,000 and \$1,000,000 rider, and to hire Sewickley Police for the event.

Council reviewed two Right to Know Requests.

New Business:

Council reviewed filing from Antioch Baptist Church of Sewickley for real estate tax exemption.

Approval of Accounts:

On motion of Mr. Cornman, seconded by Ms. Allen, Council voted, 9-0, with Mr. Dunn abstaining only to the approving of Comcast bills as he is employed by Comcast, to approve the General Fund account payables, in the amount of \$221,080.71, for the month of March 2018, as presented.

On motion of Mr. Renner, seconded by Mr. Cornman, Council voted, 9-0, to approve the Capital Reserve #6 account payables, in the amount of \$35,664.30, for the month of March 2018, as presented.

On motion of Mr. Rice seconded by Ms. Allen, Council voted, 9-0, to approve Road Construction account payables, in the amount of \$6,504.62, for the month of March 2018, as presented.

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On motion of Mr. Renner, seconded by Mr. Figley, Council voted, 9-0, with Mr. Dunn abstaining only to the approving of Comcast bills as he is employed by Comcast, to approve the Sewer Fund accounts payable, in the amount of \$139,951.31, for the month of March 2018, as presented.

The February 2018 General Fund and Sewer Fund Budget reports were received and filed.

The February 2018 Fund Statement Report was received and filed.

The February 2018 Labor and Vendor Report was received and filed.

Council reviewed the monthly Legal Expense Report.

Department and Commission Reports:

Council reviewed the Building Inspector's Report, indicating that 6 permits were issued, with fees of \$4,652.08 collected on \$390,458.20 worth of construction. There were 11 building inspections performed and 5 code enforcements issues.

Council reviewed the Public Works Report for February, highlighting snow removal, cleaning of Hoey's Run, and the cleaning of dock areas due to flooding.

Council reviewed the Wastewater Treatment Plant Report for February, indicating that 34.926 million gallons of sewage were treated and 382,326 cubic feet of digester gas was used. Borough Manager reviewed the previous month's Engineer Report for work on the Plant. President Neff stated that he will be meeting with staff regarding other alternatives.

Council reviewed the February Police Report highlighting 195 calls for service per the Uniform Crime Report, and the Cochran Hose Company Report highlighting 25 calls for the month and 4 QRS calls.

There was no Civil Service Commission Meeting in March.

There was no Historic Review Meeting in March.

Council reviewed the March 7, 2018 Planning Commission Meeting Minutes. In addition, the Planning Commission will be holding an Informational Meeting on the draft A-Frame Sign Ordinance on April 4, 2018.

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Council reviewed the Shade Tree Commission Meeting Minutes of February 12, 2018. In addition, the Shade Tree Commission Inventory Project began on March 5, 2018.

There was no Zoning Hearing Board Meeting in March.

Borough Manager:

Borough Manager reviewed the 2018 Road Project Schedule, with Bid Opening on March 29, and tentative bid award at the April 10, 2018 Council Meeting.

Council reviewed the fuel prices for the month which showed a \$0.25 per gallon decrease in prices.

Borough Manager advised that the Green Light Go Program adaptive timing is up and running. We have noticed a small issue at Walnut Street and Route 65 with vehicles blocking the intersection. This does throw the timing sequences off, and we are patrolling the area to prevent the congestion.

Council reviewed the 2018 Employee Benefits Statements for full time employees.

Borough Manager advised that the new on-line registration system for the renting of shelters at War Memorial Park is working well. The first week had 117 reservations, with 25% of the reservations made during hours the Borough Office was not open.

Council reviewed the February 2018 FNB Wealth Management Pension Reports for the Borough of Sewickley Police Pension Report and the Non-Uniform Pension Report which reflected that adjustments would be occurring in the market as presented at the February meeting.

Council reviewed the 2017 Event Overtime Report which tracks Borough Police and Public Works time for the community events on an annual basis.

Council reviewed letters to and from Aleppo Township on billing procedures for the sanitary sewer services.

Borough Manager provided a brief tutorial on the process for the Spring Planting and advertisement.

Borough Manager reviewed comments on the proposed By-Law Changes of the Quaker Valley Council of Governments.

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Borough Manager advised that Mark Turnley will be present at the April 10, 2018 Council Meeting to present and review the 2017 Borough of Sewickley Audit.

Borough Manager congratulated Ms. Christine Allen and Mr. John Dunn for completing the entire Newly Elected Officials Course presented by the Local Government Academy.

Councilman Rice asked Mr. Flannery if the March 1<sup>st</sup> letter requesting for \$1801.24 from New England Motor Freight, for damage caused during the February 22, 2018 accident at Beaver Street and Locust Place, included the hours spent by the Public Works personnel in assisting the electrician with the light pole repairs. Mr. Flannery indicated that the \$1801.24 did include those hours. However, upon review by Mr. Rice on April 5th, while the hours were not included, there was no need or intent to capture the time (approximately 2 hours) of a Borough employee who was doing what would normally have been considered his usual and customary work. Mr. Flannery clarified the situation. Mr. Rice and Mr. Flannery discussed the need for absolute transparency and clarity in communications. The matter is closed.

The Borough Manager's Report was received and filed.

Solicitor's Report:

Solicitor Tucker reviewed highlights of this month's activities which include Emergency Repairs for the Wastewater Treatment Plant, Parking Authority, Railroad License fee and real estate tax assessment appeals.

Council reviewed the Solicitor's invoice in the amount of \$4,116.50.

Solicitor Tucker reviewed Real Estate Tax Assessment Appeals.

Solicitor Tucker reviewed letter to Railroad Management Company providing support for payment compliance.

Solicitor Tucker reviewed a Sherriff's Sale for 611 Broad Street, which has been rescheduled for June 4, 2018.

The Solicitor's Report was received and filed.

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Tax Collector's Report:

On motion of Mr. Renner, seconded by Ms. Allen, Council voted, 9-0, to accept and order received and filed the Real Estate Tax Collector's Report and exonerations for the Month of February 2018.

Council reviewed the Jordan Tax Service Delinquent Real Estate Tax Report in the amount of \$12,662.74.

On motion of Ms. Allen, seconded by Mr. Rice, Council voted, 9-0, to accept and order received and filed the Allegheny North Tax Collection Committee Earned Income Tax Report from Keystone Collections for the month of March, 2018.

Executive Session:

Council went into Executive Session at 8:38 p.m. for a Personnel Matter, with the Executive Session concluding at 8:53 p.m.

Adjournment:

On motion of Mr. Rice, seconded by Mr. Figley, the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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KEVIN M. FLANNERY  
Borough Manager and Secretary

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JEFF NEFF  
President of Council