

***MINUTES OF THE
TOPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
MONDAY August 8, 2016***

Members of the Topton Borough Council met on Monday August 8, 2016 at 7:00 P.M. at Borough Hall for the regularly scheduled meeting. The meeting was called to order by President Mr. Stauffer with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call was taken and the following members were present Mr. Biltcliff, Mr. Beck, Mr. Arndt, Ms. Lorah, Mr. Jost, Mr. Gehman and Mr. Stauffer. Borough Secretary Marcus Dolny, Solicitor London, Ryan Kern (late) and visitors were also in attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Mr. Gehman, seconded by Mr. Arndt the minutes of July 11, 2016 were approved unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS:

None

Mayor's Report –

No report

HEARING OF VISITORS:

None

Solicitor's Report

Ms. London requested an executive session.

Ms. London will be working with Cohen Law Group to communicate with more municipalities regarding the Service Electric cable franchise agreement.

Ms. London informed council she will create an abandoned property ordinance and present it to council at September's council meeting.

Ms. London made council aware that the East Penn Manufacturing final maintenance agreement is prepared and ready to sign. Mr. Dolny and Mr. Stauffer will be signing this on Thursday August 11, 2016.

Ms. London reviewed communication the Borough received from Longswamp Township regarding proposed zoning ordinance creating an overlay district affecting borough owned property. Longswamp Township will be discussing this matter at their regularly scheduled meeting September 13, 2016 at 7:00pm.

Mr. Gehman made a motion requesting Solicitor London to attend the Longswamp Township meeting on Tuesday September 13, 2016 at 7:00pm. Ms. Lorah seconded this motion and it passed unanimously.

Secretary's Report

Mr. Dolny presented to council that the Borough has received the first check for the health insurance premium refund.

Ms. Lorah made a motion to refund 6 employees who were full time in 2015 their base premium paid throughout the year. Mr. Jost seconded this motion and it passed unanimously. Mr. Stauffer abstained from this vote due to conflict of interest.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Affairs Committee – (Mr. Stauffer) –

No report

Personnel Committee – (Ms. Lorah)

Ms. Lorah requested an executive session to discuss personnel matters.

Finance Committee – (Mr. Wagaman)

Mr. Jost made a motion to pay bills as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gehman and passed unanimously.

Property Committee – (Mr. Jost)

No report

Parks & Recreation Committee – (Mr. Beck)

- Great turnout at movie night
- Possible more movies for next year

Streets Committee – (Mr. Arndt) –

No report

Utility Committee – (Mr. Gehman) –

- Camera work to inspect sewer lines under railroad will be performed August 14th into the 15th

Engineer's Report

1. Sewage Treatment Plant – Copper Limit

The copper level was rising in late May and early June; however, with the chemical feed rates being adjusted, the copper levels for the months of June and July have been well below the permit limits. Both June and July, the copper level was reported to average 0.014 mg/l (Permit Limit = 0.025 mg/l).

2. Sewage Treatment Plant – Annual Reporting

We have not received any feedback from DEP related to the revisions made to the 2015 Annual Wasteload Management Report which was submitted on June 6, 2016.

3. Sanitary Sewer System I & I

Pursuant to smoke testing the sewer system a couple of months ago, the following proposals have been received have been requested:

Kline's Services submitted a proposal to the Borough to televise the sanitary sewer main in Haas Street between Franklin and Center Streets and an additional 500 feet towards the treatment plant. The line in Haas Street runs below the railroad tracks. They also proposed to plug the manhole in Henningsville Road near W. Keller Drive and use their vacuum truck to pump out the manhole and transfer the sewage downstream so that they can televise the sewer main in that area where smoke was observed coming out in the sidewalk area. Their proposal includes providing all equipment and personnel (including traffic control) and is in the amount of \$7,250.00.

The proposal has been accepted and the work is scheduled to be done during the night time hours between Sunday, August 14 and Monday the 15th.

On July 25, 2016, we sent a packet of information to Mr. Rehab of Mechanicsburg, PA, requesting a proposal to perform closed circuit television inspections of 35 laterals located throughout the Borough where the smoke testing indicated broken pipes or leaky joints. We have not yet received a proposal from them.

As per DEP's directive, the Borough is to conduct 75 house inspections each year by the end of August; otherwise, there will be a violation of DEP's directive.

4. NPDES Permit Renewal

DEP is advising that the new permit will not be issued prior to the expiration of the current permit and they are not saying when to expect the new permit. In the mean time the Borough shall continue to operate under the expired permit until such time as the new permit is issued.

5. Toad Creek Improvements

A kick-off meeting was held with BCCD on 2/19/16. A pre-application meeting was held with DEP on 5/3/16. A field meeting has been scheduled for September 14th (the earliest that DEP was available). A design submission will be finalized thereafter.

6. Borough Park Master Site Plan

BIA met with the committee on March 21st to review alternative site layouts for the park. The committee discussed a number of issues which resulted in a hybrid plan of various proposed changes and improvements. The public meeting was held on Monday, June 20th. BIA is currently preparing the draft report, plan, and cost estimates.

7. Borough Town Square Improvements

Per discussions with the Borough, the construction date for Home Avenue has been pushed back to the beginning of 2017 and will be bid with the entire Town Square project. This will help save construction costs and allow property owners more time to perform sidewalk and curb replacements. BIA is requesting that the Borough consider bidding all of the curb work as part of the project and then assessing the property owners. This will ensure construction uniformity. Regarding the sidewalks, BIA recommends that a letter is issued to the affected property owners. We are awaiting authorization from Council before sending out the letters.

After discussion regarding letters to be sent to homeowners Mr. Gehman made a motion to remove the option of slap jacking from the letter. The motion was seconded by Mr. Beck and passed unanimously.

Mr. Gehman made a motion to remove all planting strips in the construction area. The motion was seconded by Mr. Arndt and passed unanimously.

Ms. Lorah made a motion for the Borough to install and repair curbing and planting strips as identified assessing property owners the cost of curb work however absorbing the cost of the planting strips. Motion was seconded by Mr. Beck and passed unanimously.

After discussion regarding requiring all property owners in the construction zone to replace curb and sidewalk Ms. Lorah made a motion to leave the original decision stand that only properties deemed necessary of repairs be required to do so. The motion passed 4 to 2 with Mr. Stauffer and Mr. Gehman voting in the negative.

Mr. Gehman requested the office to look into a possible ordinance requiring replacement of sidewalk and curbing.

Mr. Beck made a motion to issue letters to property owners identified by engineer with revisions as stated by council. Mr. Arndt seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

ADJOURNMENT:

Council adjourned at 9:05 PM on a motion by Mr. Lorah, seconded by Mr. Arndt.

The next Borough Council meeting will be held on September 12, 2016 at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted
Sherry D. Palinkas
Administrative Assistant/
Open Records Officer