

***MINUTES OF THE
TOPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
MONDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2014***

Members of the Topton Borough Council met on Monday December 8, 2014 at 7:30 P.M. at Borough Hall for the regularly scheduled meeting. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Stauffer with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call was taken and the following members were present Mayor Biltcliff, Mr. Beck, Ms. Lorah, Mr. Jost, Mr. Arndt, Mr. Wagaman, Mr. Gehman, and Mr. Stauffer. Also in attendance were Borough Secretary Marcus Dolny, Solicitor Joan London, and visitors.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Mr. Jost, seconded by Ms. L0rah the minutes of November 10, 2014 were approved unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS:

An email from Tara Huggard to the Borough in regards to a possible memorial for a fallen resident was read to council. Mr. Dolny will notify the sender of proper procedures, as council is open to entertaining the idea.

A letter from Alyce Deihl to Borough Council regarding water and sewer utilities was read.

HEARING OF VISITORS:

Scott Getz of Century 21 Real Estate introduced himself to council expressing interest in the Delong and Trexler building. Next step would be formal Application for Special Exemption in the Weis Street Overlay and handling Water and Sewer Connection for the property.

Leon Moyer asked about the community tree by the elementary school.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Personnel Committee – (Mr. Stauffer)

Mr. Stauffer recommended the council act on Nathan Liepensberger to fill the vacant public works position. Offering \$14.50/hr to start upon a successful background and clearance check and grant a \$.50 raise at the completion of his 6 month probationary period. A motion was made by Mr. Beck and seconded by Mr. Arndt passing unanimously.

Finance Committee – (Mr. Wagaman)

Mr. Wagaman made a motion to allow the payment of bills. Mr. Jost seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

On recommendation by Mr. Dolny, Mr. Wagaman made a motion to retain Reinsel Kuntz and Leshner for auditing services. The motion was seconded by Ms. Lorah and passed unanimously.

Property Committee – (Mr. Jost)

NO REPORT

Parks & Recreation Committee – (Mr. Beck)

NO REPORT

Streets Committee – (Mr. Arndt) –

Mr. Arndt was asked to look into parking on Barkley Street by Post office, nothing is recommended to be done at this time..

Utility Committee – (Mr. Gehman) –

NO REPORT

Public Affairs Committee – (Ms. Lorah) –

NO REPORT

Mayor's Report –

NO REPORT

Secretary's Report

- Mr. Dolny asked for permission to close the Borough on the 26th after Christmas. Employees would use their own time to make this happen. Mr. Wagaman made a motion to allow, seconded by Ms. Lorah and it passed unanimously.
- Former employee Robert Bennecoff is asking for a \$100 bi-weekly payment plan in order to repay money owed for education while employed here totaling \$1,100.00. Mr. Arndt made the motion to allow, seconded by MS. Lorah with the motion passing 5 to 2 with Mr. Jost and Mr. Gehman voting in the negative.
- Updated council in regards to delinquent accounts for water and sewer.
- Discussed the former Untermeyer property at 30 Klein Ave.
- Mr. Stauffer reminded that there will be a staff luncheon on the 24th again at 11:30.

Solicitor's Report

- Recycling Ordinance 6-2014 was brought before council for consideration. Visitor's Moyer, Rauenzahn, and Shaub expressed concerns and asked questions. Mr. Moyer even praised the ordinance. Ms. Lorah made the motion to adopt, seconded by Mr. Beck and the motion passed six to One with Mr. Gehman voting in the negative. The program will be implemented in early 2015 and the Borough will be sending literature out to notify the residents.
- Ms. London also presented council with a draft of the Planning Commission's Comprehensive Re-zoning Ordinance. This will be discussed for advertisement on January 12, 2015 council meeting.

Engineer's Report

1. Sewage Treatment Plant Copper Limit

It appears that Russ has a handle on the copper situation at the sewage treatment plant. On November 6th, he began feeding MasterCat 4230 and MasterCat 4244 for the purpose of removing Phosphorus; previously, he had been using DelPac 2000 for Phosphorus removal. Additionally, he changed from sodium bisulfate to magnesium hydroxide for pH control. On November 7th, the plant's effluent had a phosphorus level of 1.00 mg/l and a copper level of 0.037 mg/l. During the next couple of weeks, the phosphorus level was well below 1.0 mg/l and the copper level dropped to 0.10 mg/l. An updated report of these results of the MasterCat trial run was sent to DEP on November 24th and their response was that they were "glad to hear it".

The copper level normally decreases in the cooler weather; therefore, a comparison was made to the copper level during November 2013 when it was reported as 0.017 mg/l. The current copper level is about 40% lower than this time last year.

Russ is planning to continue using the MasterCat products as well as the magnesium hydroxide and will continue to monitor both the Phosphorus and copper levels, especially, when we return to warmer weather next spring.

The purchase of a forklift should be considered for the unloading of the MasterCat 4230 and 4244 and the magnesium hydroxide upon delivery to the treatment plant. These chemicals are available in totes which weigh almost 2 tons each. It is anticipated that about 5 or 6 totes will be required each month. It is also recommended that 2 or 3 week's supply of spare chemicals be stored on site in the event delivery is delayed for any reason such as inclement weather or supply shortages. A forklift will enable the moving of the totes as required at the plant.

2. Bacteria Kill at Sewage Treatment Plant

The Topton Home has furnished a stack of Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) for all of the chemicals that they use. We will look through these MSDS in order to see if there are any chemicals being used at the Home that may be of concern at the treatment plant.

3. Grease Blockage in Sanitary Sewer Lines

Attorney London had provided copies of the agreements with the Lutheran Home at Topton regarding their connection to the Borough of Topton's sanitary sewerage collection system. Although the agreement does not include any specific limitation on the strength of the sewerage from the Home, it does include a paragraph whereas the Home agrees that the sewage discharged into the Borough's system shall conform with all of the requirements of the Borough and any regulatory agencies having jurisdiction. We suggest that the Borough's ordinances and regulations be reviewed in order to determine if there are any limitations on such things as fats, oils and grease or BOD.

4. DRBC Docket

We provided a copy of the DRBC Docket (NO. D-2001-041 CP-2) to Russ so that he is aware of the all conditions including the monitoring and reporting requirements for certain parameters as well as the need to prepare an Emergency Management Plan by **March 10, 2015**.

5. Annual Wasteload Management Report

As reported last month, DEP determined that the treatment plant is organically overloaded; therefore a corrective action plan is required to be submitted by **December 12, 2014**.

DEP's determination is based on a new spread sheet that DEP came up with a few months ago and the results of an organic overload is caused by data from up to 4 years ago. We will meet with Russ this week in preparing the corrective action plan which will basically conclude that those high reported values from year's past were inaccurate and that no action is required.

6. Toad Creek Improvements

Preliminary plans are being prepared and will be submitted to the Borough for review.

7. Zoning Ordinance Update

The Planning Commission has completed their review. Awaiting Borough Council's review and approval.

Old Business

Executive Session

- ~ At 9:17 on motion by Mr. Wagaman, seconded by Mr. Beck, passing unanimously council entered into executive session to discuss possible litigation and personel.
- ~ At 9:59 council reconvened regular meeting on motion by Mr. Jost and seconded by Mr. Wagaman passing unanimously.

Mr. Beck made a motion to ratify the solicitor's filing of preliminary objections regarding pending litigation. The motion was seconded Mr. Gehman and passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT:

Council adjourned at 10.01 PM on a motion by Ms. Jost, seconded by Mr. Wagaman

The next Borough Council meeting will be held on December 22, 2014 at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted
Marcus V. Dolny
Borough Secretary