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**March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

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## **COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES FOR MARCH 4, 2020**

Council President Wentz announced that there was an Executive Session that took place before tonight's meeting and it was decided that it was necessary to cancel tonight's Special Meeting as it was not advertised in a timely manner prior to the scheduled meeting.

The Executive Session was also for real estate litigation issues.

### **Attendance of Council**

Robert S. Gwin Jr., Brian K. Burke, Danyelle Blackwell, Michelle Billups, Sheikh Siddique, Lisa Faraglia, Matt Silva, Thomas P. Wagner, Laura A. Wentz, Hafiz Tunis Jr.

Donald P. Bonnett, excused

### **Attendance of Department Heads**

Scott Alberts  
Chris McSween

### **Present at the Meeting**

Barbarann Keffer, Mayor  
Vincent A. Rongione Esq., CAO  
Sean P. Kilkenny, Esquire  
Courtney N. Richardson, Esquire  
Alexis Cicchitti, Chief Municipal Clerk  
Sergeant of Arms, Stephen Ford

### **COUNCIL PRESIDENT, LAURA WENTZ**

Council President Wentz thanked everyone for coming out for the Black History Month & Veterans Expo. There were many exhibitors offering extensive information and was a great success.

Council President Wentz was also very pleased with the Awards Ceremony Presentation for the Black History Month Honorees. She further commented that the Shredding Event hosted by State Representatives Margo Davidson and Mike Zabel was also very successful.

Ms. Wentz also announced that she formed a new Council Committee. It will be the Events Planning Committee; Michelle Billups will serve as Chairwoman and Members will include Hafiz Tunis Jr. and Danyelle Blackwell. The Committee will start planning events for MLK Day and Black History Month 2021. This will be a Township-wide endeavor working with the school district, the State Representatives, the State Senator and hopefully Congresswoman Scanlon to plan events across the Township, including Juneteenth.

Councilman Tunis suggested that the Committee include some members from districts on the other side of the Township to be more inclusive. Councilwoman Billups suggest that Matt Silva be added to the Committee.

## **MAYOR BARBARANN KEFFER**

The Mayor announced that the 3<sup>rd</sup> event of the Listening Tour was held on Sunday at the Highland Park Fire House and that there was good input from residents. She thanked Alison Dobbins for coordinating the tour.

Mayor Keffer also thanked Council for passing the "Paving Ordinance." She and the CAO sat down with PECO and Aqua and had very constructive dialogue allowing PECO and Aqua to understand the Township's expectation when they are doing much needed **projects** in the Township to improve the infrastructure. There will be an ongoing conversation for a 5-year plan.

## **David Haman, Treasurer**

Mr. Haman stated that he is working on a report and will submit it to Council at the next meeting.

**Council President Wentz stated that the guest who was to give a presentation regarding the proposed Re-Districting Resolution had not yet arrived but could present later in the meeting, if necessary.**

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **LAW AND GOVERNMENT & RULES AND PROCEDURES COMMITTEE:**

Michelle Billups, Chairwoman

Members: Danyelle Blackwell, Matt Silva

**Resolution No. 08-20**, a Resolution of Upper Darby Township, Delaware County, Pennsylvania, enabling Council members to participate and vote during Council meetings by means of telecommunication devices subject to certain criteria; repealing all inconsistent Resolutions or parts thereof; providing a severability clause; and providing an effective date.

The Solicitor gave a brief explanation of attached Resolution No. 08-20.

Councilman Wagner stated that he is in favor of the Resolution but objected to having to have a vote each and every time on whether or not to permit a particular Councilperson to participate in a particular meeting. He felt that this could be mis-used for political reasons or other reasons to exclude a particular Councilperson.

Councilman Tunis stated that he was in favor of the Resolution and didn't believe that anyone would use this for a political reason.

Several other Council members gave input and it was suggested that the language in Section D could be amended.

**A revised Resolution will be sent to the Chief Municipal Clerk to be added to the March 18, 2020 Council Meeting Agenda.**

**Resolution No. XX-20**, a Resolution in support of a Citizens Commission for Legislative and Congressional Re-districting a

Fair Districts: Jeanne Mann

Council President Wentz stated that the presenter had not yet arrived.

She explained that Fair Districts had previously come with a Resolution and they have now re-vamped the Resolution and sent it to Mayor Keffer and the Council President who shared it with the Committee. Jeanne Mann was invited to give more information to Council on long debated items.

The Solicitor gave a reading on Resolution XX-20.

Council President Wentz stated that the Resolution will remain in the Law and Government Committee for further discussion and evaluation and is hoping that someone will come to the April Committee meeting for a presentation.

**FINANCE AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE:**

Robert S. Gwin Jr., Chairman

Members: Michelle Billups, Brian K. Burke

**Resolution No. 09-20**, regarding a multi-municipal application for a Transportation & Community Development Initiative Grant

The Solicitor gave a reading on Resolution No. 09-20.

In answer to some questions, CAO Rongione explained that this is a feasibility study to analyze bike lanes across the municipality. Lansdowne approached Upper Darby to ask if the Township wanted to be a part of it along with East Lansdowne and one or two other neighboring communities. It's a multi-municipal grant so no one municipality can apply by themselves and it is therefore an opportunity to share the cost in getting the study done.

The bike lanes will be adaptations to existing roadways and would be consistent in each municipality.

**This item will be placed on the Agenda for the March 18, 2020 Council Meeting.**

**Resolution No. 10-20**, a Resolution of Upper Darby Township, Delaware County, Pennsylvania, authorizing notice to bidders for the sale of two fire trucks

The CAO stated that this was a recommendation of the prior Administration that these assets be sold as they are very costly to repair and don't actually run on very many calls. The equipment is sitting in fire houses deteriorating in value and the maintenance cost is not worth what is gotten out of the trucks.

The money could be used for repairs on other trucks as the fleet is aging.

The Solicitor gave a reading on Resolution No. 10-20.

**This item will be placed on the Agenda for the March 18, 2020 Council Meeting.**

**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE:**

Brian K. Burke, Chairman

Members: Danyelle Blackwell, Matt Silva

Request Load/Unload Zone behind 38 Garrett Road on Ludlow for the expansion of Successful Aging Care Net (7<sup>th</sup> District) Petition signatures being updated by requestor. **\*\*\*PER POLICE APPROVAL**

**This item will be placed on the Agenda for the March 18, 2020 Council Meeting if the requirements for the petition are met.**

Request **REMOVAL** of the "No Parking from 8am until 5pm" restriction on the 2400 block of Dermond Road. Petition submitted to Council office.

**This item will be placed on the Agenda for the March 18, 2020 Council Meeting.**

Councilman Tunis stated that at Locust Street and Shirley Road, there is a load/unload zone that is adjacent to the Shirley Court Apartments which prohibits much needed parking spaces for residents. Councilman Tunis spoke to the management of the apartments and they agreed to have the load/zone from 9am until 6pm to allow for residential parking in the overnight hours.

He was advised to have the management of Shirley Court Apartments to confirm in writing that they are willing to change the hours of the load/unload zone and if that happens, a Resolution can be put on the Agenda.

It was suggested to have "Load/Unload Zone-Monday through Friday between 9am and 6pm."

**This item will be placed on the Agenda for the March 18, 2020 Council Meeting if the management of Shirley Court Apartments sends the appropriate paperwork.**

Councilman Siddique asked for an update on the handicap ramp for Powell Lane and Market Street. CAO Rongione stated that the Administration spoke to PennDOT earlier in the day and will be sending another letter to them tomorrow with more information.

**LEISURE SERVICES COMMITTEE:**

Lisa Faraglia, Chairwoman

Members: Matt Silva, Danyelle Blackwell

Council President Wentz asked if there was any date set for a tour of the parks to assess their condition. Councilwoman Faraglia advised that the Committee hadn't had an opportunity to meet.

Councilwoman Billups stated that she was asked by a constituent about trash cans being provided in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ward Playground. CAO Rongione stated that he and the Mayor have started weekly meetings with the Public Works foremen to establish maintenance schedules and tracking procedures.

**MUNICIPAL SERVICES, LICENSING AND PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE**

Brian K. Burke, Chairman

Members: Sheikh M. Siddique, Thomas P. Wagner, Hafiz Tunis Jr.

Councilman Silva stated that he recently sent an email to Chris McSween, Director of L&I regarding looking into how the permit process is conducted. He would also like to look into allowing the inclusion of a waste disposal plant for when people do remodeling work as there is an issue with dumping waste.

**Nothing for the March 18, 2020 Council Meeting**

**PLANNING, ZONING AND BUILDING CODE COMMITTEE:**

Robert S. Gwin Jr., Chairman

Members: Michelle Billups, Donald P. Bonnett

Councilman Gwin requested some reporting from the Administration with regard to plans that are being made for improvements on buildings and for new companies coming in and getting zoning requests for items coming up. They want an understanding of what is happening in the Township.

Mayor Keffer stated that land development or sub-division plans would be shared with the Committee.

**Nothing for the March 18, 2020 Council Meeting**

**PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE:**

Matt Silva, Chairman

Members: Michelle Billups, Sheikh M. Siddique

Councilman Siddique stated that there is a continued trash problem on the 7000 block of Greenwood Avenue.

Council President Wentz asked if he had submitted the required paperwork to the Council office and he had not. She instructed Councilman Siddique to follow procedure and submit the form provided to Council members to the Council office for forwarding to the appropriate departments for handling. Complaints/requests that go to the Request Department are assigned a tracking number for reference.

Councilman Gwin asked if there was any plan in place in the event that the virus hits our area.

Mr. Alberts stated that our first responders had received training and that the County has well established routines and protocols for quarantines of all kinds and that preparations are being made.

**Nothing for the March 18, 2020 Council Meeting**

**Council President Wentz stated that the Council had been attending the Citizens Police Academy and at some of the trainings there had been a quorum and thusly it became an Executive Session accordingly. The Citizen Police Academy sessions have been very successful and much information was gained.**

**DEPARTMENT HEADS:**

1. Administrative Services: Scott Alberts

Mr. Alberts submitted an overview to Council defining the responsibilities and services that fall under the umbrella of the Department of Administrative Services. His report is attached.

The CAO added that one of the projects being undertaken by the Department of Administrative Services is re-vamping of the Township website. The new and improved website will be much more comprehensive including information that is not currently available on the website.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Councilman Gwin asked about the status of the request for a flashing light on Garrett Road in front of Beverly Hills Middle School.

CAO Rongione stated that there has been an ongoing dialogue with PennDOT and that the Township is waiting for a response.

Councilman Gwin further asked if there was any progress with the situation on the 300 block of Owen Avenue. Mayor Keffer stated that they are looking into doing a feasibility study for Owen Avenue and Parkview Avenue for the installation of speed humps. It has been decided that delineators are a waste of money because they disappear.

Council President Wentz stated that she is keeping a folder of Old Business for reference at future meetings.

**NEW BUSINESS**

None

**ADJOURNMENT at about 8:50pm**