

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

July 23, 2009

7:00 P.M.

Council members present were: Mr. Rapp, Mr. Capuano, Mr. Trotter, Jr., Mr. Blatt, Ms. Halleman, and Ms. Gifford. Mr. Grotenhuis was absent. Also in attendance were: Mayor Fink and Mr. Rick Prill, Administrator.

Council President Rapp called for the pledge to the flag.

Mr. Rapp reviewed items to be placed on the August 3, 2009 meeting Agenda as follows:

1. Minutes of the 6/17/09 and 7/6/09 Council Meetings have been prepared for review. Mr. Rapp noted that anyone with corrections to the Draft Minutes of 6/17/09 and 7/6/09 should provide them in writing to Mr. Prill.
2. Council has received a memo from Fire Chief Sabo with regards to the Fire Department donating a new (used) fire truck to the Borough to replace the truck that was recently taken out of service.

Mr. Rapp reviewed the following items for discussion:

1. Letter from the Northampton County Executive with regards to the Borough needing to name a representative and alternate for the upcoming meetings regarding the collection of the Earned Income Tax. Councilman Blatt volunteered to serve as the Borough's representative. Council President Rapp thanked Councilman Blatt for taking this assignment on and recommended that Mr. Prill serve as the alternate appointee. Mr. Prill indicated that he would be happy to do so and indicated that a Resolution will be put on the next meeting agenda for these appointments.
2. Mr. Rapp indicated that all members of Council have received a memo from Mr. Prill outlining the estimated costs of the Borough purchasing the street lights in the Borough and asked if anyone wanted to pursue this any further. The Council agreed that based on the projected purchase and maintenance cost for the street lights that it does not make sense to consider this option at this time.
3. Mr. Rapp noted that a request has been received from Dr. Jeffrey Gould, 510 Delaware Avenue, asking that the no parking restriction in front of their property be changed to allow for more parking on the street. Mr. Rapp noted that the Borough undertook a study of parking on Delaware a couple of years ago and the study recommended the current no parking areas for safety reasons, and therefore he is not in favor of granting this request. It was suggested that the existing parking area on the street could be changed to a drop off zone but no other Council member was in favor of expanding the on-street parking area.
4. Mr. Rapp indicated that a Handicapped Parking Space Application has been received from Ms. Jane Lechman of 924 Seneca Street. Chief Stephens has met with Ms. Lechman and confirms that due to her limited mobility, a handicapped

parking space in the front of her property is warranted. Mr. Rapp noted this matter will be placed on the August 3rd meeting agenda for approval. Councilwoman Gifford asked if there might be a process that could be implemented that would speed up approval of requests like these. She indicated she is not comfortable making a resident wait for a decision if there is a legitimate need for a handicapped parking space.

5. Mr. Rapp indicated that a parking pad and curb cross-over request has been received from Mr. Fenstermaker at 831 N. Hoffert Street. Chief Stephens commented that he and Jim Levernier have reviewed this request and confirm that there would not be any problem approving the request. Mr. Prill noted that there are no Zoning issues involved with the request. Mr. Rapp indicated that this application will be placed on the August 3rd meeting agenda for approval.

Mr. Rapp moved onto the next agenda topic – Announcements:

1. Mr. Rapp noted that a press conference with County Executive Don Cunningham has been scheduled for Thursday, August 6th, at 11:00 am, at the Gatta property in connection with the Borough being awarded \$226,000 of County Green Futures Funds for the acquisition of the property. Everyone is invited to attend and the PITA committee needs to be notified and invited as well. Mr. Prill also noted that he has advised Mr. Soriano who plans on attending.
2. Mr. Rapp noted that the closing has been scheduled for the Gatta property and will be held on August 11th in Don Lipson's office. If any Council member wants to attend, they are welcome to do so.
3. Mr. Rapp commented that the Borough has been recommended by the County to receive \$100,000 in Community Development Block Grant funds for our Phase 4 stormwater system rehabilitation program and that final approval is needed from HUD. This is a 2009 CDBG award but the work will take place in 2010.

Mr. Rapp asked if there was any other business to address:

Councilwoman Halleman commented on a copy of a letter the Borough received from Lower Saucon Township wherein they are requesting the Bethlehem Area Public Library, among other things, to hold-the-line on expenses in 2010 and in anticipation of State funding cuts, to not place an additional burden on the member municipalities to make up for any budget shortfall. Ms. Halleman feels that the Borough should send a letter supporting this effort. Councilman Blatt commented that he is supportive of asking the Library to hold-the-line on their expenses but noted that the voters in Fountain Hill approved a separate tax for Library funding and this is the amount the Borough has to work with to support the Library. Council President Rapp noted that Council will need to address the renewal of this tax in the near future.

Councilman Capuano indicated that the No Parking/Loading signs in the front of the former Republican Club building should be removed now that the building has been sold. Mr. Prill was asked to notify the Public Works Department to have the signs removed. Council President Rapp indicated that Council needs to take formal action at the August 3rd meeting approving the removal of these signs.

Council President Rapp commented that there used to be No Parking signs on the upper portion of Warren Street, restricting parking during winter months, and that these signs should be re-installed. Chief Stephens commented that he and Gus Entler, PW Supervisor, have reviewed this and agree that there should be no parking along this portion of the road during the winter months. Mr. Prill indicated that he will check to see if this No Parking restriction might still be authorized by ordinance. If not, a new ordinance will need to be adopted by Council. Mr. Prill asked Chief Stephens to specify the actual distance from the cul-de-sac that the No Parking restriction would regulate. The Ordinance will need to specify this distance if it does not already exist in an Ordinance. Mr. Prill also noted that the cul-de-sac extension of Warren Street will be coming before Council in the near future for approval and acceptance by the Borough.

Hearing no further comments, Mr. Rapp asked for a motion to adjourn. Councilman Capuano made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilwoman Gifford and the motion passed at 7:20 pm.

	Motion	2nd	Yes	No	Abstain
Tavis Grotenhuis			X		
Carolee Gifford			Absent		
Norman Blatt	X		X		
Fred Capuano		X	X		
Larry Rapp			X		
Doug Trotter			X		
Helen Halleman			X		
Mayor Ned Fink					

Lawrence E. Rapp, President of Council

Rick Prill, Borough Secretary