

PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

June 25, 2018

KENNETH E. KROBERGER, PRESIDENT
Finance/Personnel/Administration

1. Call to order.

The June 25, 2018, Public Meeting of the Board of Commissioners was called to order at 7:30 PM by President of the Board, Kenneth E. Kroberger. The following individuals were in attendance.

Kenneth E. Kroberger	President
James A. Santi	Vice President
Thomas A. Duffy	Commissioner
Denise M. Hull	Commissioner
Liz K. McNaney	Commissioner
Michael J. Lapinski	Township Manager
Alex J. Kaker	Assistant Township Manager
David Brill	Finance Director
David W. Duffy	Police Chief
Monica Wall	Township Engineer
David Onorato	Township Solicitor

2. Pledge of Allegiance
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3. Public Hearing

The purpose of this hearing is to hear comment pursuant to the consideration of Ordinance 2018-002, an Ordinance amending Section 195-35 of the Upper Gwynedd Township Code to permit light-emitting diode (LED) sign for certain uses in the R-2 Residential Zoning District.

Brief explanation by David Onorato, Township Solicitor

Mrs. Hull read the above purpose of the hearing. She then introduced David Onorato, who said this ordinance allows for LED signs in the R-2 Residential Zoning District. The signs are currently allowed in other zoning districts for educational, religious and philanthropical uses with restrictions. Mr. Onorato added the ordinance limits the size of the LED portion to 50% of the sign size, the sign can't be closer than 250' to residents, it must be perpendicular to road and the sign must be turned off during the hours of 9 pm and 7 am.

Mrs. Hull introduced the four exhibits.

Exhibits:

T1: Ordinance 2018-002

T2: Proof of Publication of Legal Advertisement – June 4 and June 11, 2018

T3: Montgomery County Planning Commission Review Letter

T4: UGT Planning Commission Review Letter

4. Request for public comment

Mr. Kroberger asked for questions or comments in favor of or in opposition of this ordinance change.

There were none

5. Motion to close the Public Hearing and open the Public Meeting

Mr. Kroberger asked for a motion to close the hearing which was made by Mr. Duffy and seconded by Mrs. McNaney. The motion to close the Public Hearing and open the Public Meeting was unanimously approved.

6. Motion to approve the Minutes of the Workshop Meeting held May 16, 2018

Mr. Kroberger noted that everyone received copies of the Workshop Meeting Minutes with the Agenda packet. Hearing no questions or comments, upon motion of Mr. Santi, seconded by Mrs. Hull, the Minutes of the May 16, 2018 Workshop Meeting were approved as presented.

7. Motion to approve the Minutes of the Public Meeting held May 29, 2018

Mr. Kroberger also noted that the Public Meeting Minutes were received with the Agenda packet. Hearing no questions or comments, upon motion of Mr. Duffy seconded by Mrs. McNaney, the Minutes of the May 29, 2018 Public Meeting were approved as presented.

8. Motion to approve the Department Reports filed by Township Staff.

Mr. Kroberger asked for comments or questions. Hearing none, upon motion of Mrs. Hull, seconded by Mr. Duffy, the Departmental Reports were approved as submitted.

9. Presentation of public comments and concerns (limit of five minutes per individual).

Glen Johnson, 325 Newbury Court, thanked the Parks and Recreation department for a well-done golf outing at Cedarbrook Country Club. Mr. Johnson asked for an update on the baseball lights. Mr. Lapinski said the developer is working with Brendan Stanton (BSI Electrical Contractors) about getting updated pricing and he will coordinate with Nor-Gwyn Baseball about getting lights installed. Mr. Johnson said sixty (60) days have passed and still nothing is done. Mr. Kroberger said Township staff is working on getting this completed as quickly as possible. Mr. Lapinski will coordinate with the developer and see what is going on. Mr. Kroberger said we will check with BSI for an update. Mr. Lapinski reported the developer (David Perlman) has agreed to install the lights sooner than what is required in the agreement. Mr. Johnson is also concerned about the Newbury punchlist getting completed. Mr. Lapinski said almost everything has been completed on the list. Mr. Johnson said the gate wasn't installed correctly. Mr. Duffy said an engineer should go out and inspect the fence. Mr. Benner will check with Mike Grigoruk of T&M Associates to see if the gate was installed correctly and the punchlist get completed. Mr. Johnson requested a Commissioner meet with him at the site.

Joseph Mack, 309 Newbury Court, said the gate at Newbury Court has not been installed correctly and may last only a month. Mr. Mack presented a letter he wrote to the Board regarding safety at Newbury Court. Mr. Mack said he addressed the same points in this letter back in 2014. He said that nothing has happened with the fence on the Farm Lane property. Mr. Lapinski said there is language in the Newbury II resolution for preliminary plan approval that the fence will be maintained by Newbury II and there will be a hold harmless agreement with the Newbury I HOA. He added this will take place when the developer for Newbury II receives final plan approval. Mr. Mack expressed concern regarding the height of the fence at Farm Lane. He also asked who will maintain the rip/rap in the inlet at the Farm Lane property. Mr. Onorato said this is the first he is hearing anything about it. A discussion ensued regarding the location of the rip/rap. Mr. Kroberger said we will have to look at that. Mr. Mack is also concerned with the electrical pedestals and the height of the water after a storm. He added the height of the pedestal is below the spillway level and may be underwater during a heavy storm. Mr. Kroberger said Mr. Benner will look at the electrical pedestal. Mr. Lapinski said there is a resolution that requires the developer to complete certain things before receiving final plan approval. Mr. Lapinski said he will get Mr. Mack a copy of the resolution.

Kathryn Doughty of 1157 Gwynedale Way said she has lived in UGT for twenty-five (25) years and is concerned with price of her sewer bill. She asked why the sewer bill fee is a flat fee and not based on water usage. She said she is only one person and is on a fixed income. Mr. Duffy said it has always been a fixed priced and has never been based on water usage. He added that UGT does not bill for water usage. We have two (2) water authorities that service our area. Mr. Kroberger said not all of your water usage goes through the sewer system. Much is used for drinking water, watering the lawn, washing cars and so forth. He added the usage would have to be determined by the water department and added it would be difficult to make the determination as to what your water is being used for. Mr. Kroberger reported our bills are lower in comparison to most municipalities in the area. Mr. Duffy added the Borough of North Wales pays about three times more that UGT residents. Mrs. Doughty said she would like Commissioners to take this into consideration and would like seniors to get a break on their sewer bills. Mr. Duffy said we can look at it and see if we come up with any ideas.

Joe Mack added in the April minutes that the HOA would be responsible for the concrete spillway and asked if that is correct. Mr. Lapinski said we will have to go back and look at the minutes. He added the dam structure is the Township's responsibility and everything else is the HOA.

10. HVAC Preventive Maintenance (Full Service) Annual Contract Renewal with Postler & Jaeckle for the Administration Building in the amount of \$20,432.

Mr. Kroberger stated, this company takes care of all our HVAC and our control system. It is an increase of \$596 from last year's price. They have done a good job maintaining the equipment.

Hearing no questions or comments, upon motion by Mr. Duffy, seconded by Mrs. Hull the motion was unanimously approved.

11. Motion to appoint Mike Lapinski as Township Manager / Secretary

Mr. Kroberger said Mr. Lapinski has been with the Township for the past five (5) years and has continued to perform all his duties as Assistant Manager and as Acting Township Manager over the past six (6) months and has performed both with distinction. He added the employees have a very good working relationship with Mr. Lapinski.

Hearing no questions or comments, upon motion by Mr. Kroberger, seconded by Mr. Santi the motion to appoint Mr. Lapinski as Township Manager/Secretary was unanimously approved.

Approval of employment agreement

Hearing no questions or comments, upon motion by Mr. Duffy, seconded by Mrs. McNaney, the motion to approve the employment agreement with Mr. Lapinski was unanimously approved.

Mr. Lapinski thanked the Board for their trust. He added this is a very proud moment in his career. Mr. Lapinski looks forward to serving the Board and the community to the best of his abilities.

12. Motion to appoint Alex Kaker as Assistant Township Manager / Assistant Secretary and serve as the alternate representative to the Wastewater Quality Improvement Partnership (WQIP)

Mr. Kroberger said Alex Kaker is presently the Parks and Recreation Director. He was hired part time in 2014 full time in 2015 and the P & R department has grown tremendously. Mr. Lapinski noted several accomplishments by Mr. Kaker. He said the average surplus for the department programming has increased \$17,000, program participation rates and revenue including the carnival (\$105,180 in ticket sales in 2017) have increased, new programs have been added (night sky campout, earth day programs) and Mr. Kaker was instrumental in designing the pickleball lighting. Mr. Lapinski added that Mr. Kaker has stepped up in assisting him over the past six (6) months. He thanked Mr. Kaker and stated it is a pleasure working with him. Mr. Kroberger said Mr. Kaker will complete his master's degree in Public Administration from Villanova University in August with a 3.93 GPA. He has proven to us by his efforts that this path is what he wants to take, and the Board, staff and residents will benefit by this appointment. Mr. Kaker will take on the rolls above and will continue as Director of Parks and Recreation.

Hearing no questions or comments, upon motion by Mr. Kroberger, seconded by Mr. Santi the motion to appoint Mr. Kaker as Assistant Township Manager was unanimously approved.

Mr. Kroberger invited Mr. Kaker to sit at the dais.

JAMES A. SANTI, VICE PRESIDENT

Public Safety

13. Motion to approve Ordinance 2018-006, the Volunteer Fire Company & VMSC Tax Relief Plan

Mr. Santi said it is difficult to get volunteers. There has been recent legislation in the state to help out volunteers with EIT credit. This tax relief ordinance is for those who qualify up to \$1000 per year for EIT and up to 20% for real estate tax credit. Mr. Santi said this is a thank you to the volunteers and an incentive for other to joins as a volunteer.

Hearing no questions or comments, upon motion by Mr. Santi, seconded by Mrs. Hull the motion was unanimously approved.

14. Motion to approve Ordinance 2018-009, raising the speed limit on Hancock Ave. to 35 MPH (between E. Prospect and Dekalb Pk.)

Mr. Santi said Chief Duffy presented this change as it became a burden for the police to patrol the speed limit in this area. The recommendation was 40 MPH, but the Board agreed to increase the speed limit to 35 MPH.

Mary Jane Reeves, Gwynedd Woods said she uses Hancock Road and is scared of that road because it is narrow. She said she is always tailgated because she goes the speed limit. Mrs. Reeves said she doesn't agree that the speed limit should be increased because of safety. She feels it is a dangerous road. Mr. Santi said the study by the Police Department showed there were very few accidents on the road. He added it will still be patrolled by the Police. Mr. Kroberger noted we will continue to keep an eye on the speed limit.

Hearing no questions or comments, upon motion by Mr. Santi, seconded by Mrs. Hull the motion was unanimously approved.

15. Motion to approve the Wissahickon Watershed Green Ribbon Trail, Walk the Wissahickon on Sunday, September 30, 2018 at 7:00 am.

Mr. Santi reported this is a charity event to raise money and awareness for open space preservation. This is the fifth time this race has occurred.

Hearing no questions or comments, upon motion by Mr. Santi, seconded by Mr. Duffy the motion was unanimously approved.

16. Motion to approve the Wissahickon Watershed Green Ribbon 5-mile Trail Race Saturday, November 3, 2018 at 9:00 am.

Mr. Santi said this is also a charity event for open space preservation hosted by the Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association.

Hearing no questions or comments, upon motion by Mr. Santi, seconded by Mrs. McNaney the motion was unanimously approved.

17. Motion to approve the 4th Annual Home at Last Dog Rescue 5K Run on Saturday, October 27, 2018 at 9:00 am

Mr. Santi reported that this race is held in conjunction with a pet fair at Parkside Place.

Hearing no questions or comments, upon motion by Mr. Santi, seconded by Mrs. Hull the motion was unanimously approved.

THOMAS A. DUFFY

Public Works/Parks/Recreation

18. Motion to approve the curfew extension request by Nor-Gwyn Baseball to use the field lights until 12:00 midnight July 10-15 and August 6-13 for tournament play.

Mr. Duffy said this is for a one-hour extension of the lights to cover any rain delays or extra innings.

Hearing no questions or comments, upon motion by Mr. Duffy, seconded by Mrs. McNaney the motion was unanimously approved.

DENISE M. HULL

Zoning/Planning/Code Enforcement

19. Motion to approve Ordinance No. 2018-002 – LED sign amendments

Mrs. Hull said the hearing for this ordinance was heard earlier tonight.

Hearing no questions or comments, upon motion by Mrs. Hull, seconded by Mr. Santi the motion was unanimously approved.

20. Motion to approve Merck & Co. waiver request from Chapter 113-1 & 124-5 for afterhours crane work on Building 28 for roof replacement (All Sundays in July and August)

Mrs. Hull said the next three (3) motions are typical Merck requests for after hour crane work at various buildings for continued projects.

Hearing no questions or comments, upon motion by Mrs. Hull, seconded by Mrs. McNaney the motion was unanimously approved.

21. Motion to approve Merck & Co. waiver request from Chapter 113-1 & 124-5 for afterhours crane work on Building B60 for AHU Replacement Project. (All Sundays in July and August 4, 2018)

Hearing no questions or comments, upon motion by Mrs. Hull, seconded by Mr. Santi the motion was unanimously approved.

22. Motion to approve Merck & Co. waiver request from Chapter 113-1 & 124-5 for afterhours crane work on Building 45 Steam Line Project. (All Sundays in July)

Hearing no questions or comments, upon motion by Mrs. Hull, seconded by Mr. Duffy the motion was unanimously approved.

23. Motion to authorize David Onorato to appear at the June 26, 2018 ZHB meeting on behalf of the Township in opposition to ZHB #18-4

Mrs. Hull reported this is at 314 Highland Ave. The applicant is requesting a detached garage on the property line. Our code says it must be six feet (6') from the property line. Mrs. Hull said this is for Solicitor Onorato to appear in opposition of ZHB 18-4.

Hearing no questions or comments, upon motion by Mrs. Hull, seconded by Mr. Duffy the motion was unanimously approved.

LIZ K. MCNANEY

Wastewater Treatment

24. Motion to approve the permanent easement agreement with WVWA

Mr. Onorato said the Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association (WVWA) has signed this agreement.

Hearing no questions or comments, upon motion by Mrs. McNaney, seconded by Mr. Duffy the motion was unanimously approved.

25. Motion to approve Resolution 19-2018 releasing 707, 708 and 714 Stoler Avenue from UGT's Act 537 Plan to Lansdale Borough's Act 537 Plan.

Mrs. McNaney said sometimes it's not always feasible for UGT to provide sewer facility services to specific properties and is more feasible to allow certain properties to be serviced by our neighboring municipalities.

Hearing no questions or comments, upon motion by Mrs. McNaney, seconded by Mrs. Hull the motion was unanimously approved.

OTHER BUSINESS

26. Approval of the June 2018 bills.

Mr. Kroberger noted that the Board had received a copy of the General fund bills. Hearing no questions, upon motion by Mr. Duffy, seconded by Mr. Santi, the General Fund bills were approved.

Mr. Kroberger said the next item is the Sewer Bills and asked for questions or comments. Hearing none, upon motion by Mrs. Hull, seconded by Mrs. McNaney, the Board unanimously approved the Sewer Fund bills.

Mr. Kroberger advised that the Board was also being asked to approve invoices from all other funds which include VEBA and some other funds. Hearing no questions or comments, upon motion by Mr. Santi, seconded by Mr. Duffy, the Board unanimously approved these invoices as well.

Mr. Kroberger said that there were several invoices that had been prepaid due to timing. Hearing no questions or comments, upon motion by Mrs. Hull, seconded by Mr. Duffy, the Board unanimously approved the pre-paid invoices.

27. Call for Adjournment.

Mr. Kroberger asked if anyone has anything to add. Mrs. McNaney said we spoke about providing residents more information about what we are discussing here instead of just an agenda and doesn't know why this hasn't been done. Mr. Kroberger said much of the information may have to be redacted. Mrs. McNaney feels it would be helpful for the residents and would like to discuss it further. This will be added to the next Workshop Agenda.

Mrs. McNaney then asked the following Township staff to provide updates over the past month.

Mr. Kaker said Parks and Recreation has been adding new programs, such as Night Sky Campout. We raised 985 pounds of food for Manna on Main last year and will do it again next month. The concert series runs each Wednesday through July and our first movie in the park is being held this Friday night.

Mr. Lapinski said we have planning sessions with Merck on our ongoing MS-4 program. We are looking into shifting gears on Ivy/Grannery with other existing basins that need to be maintained and possibly retro-fitted to allow for credit on our MS-4 implementation plan that is mandated by the State.

Chief Duffy said there is a lot going on that can't be discussed yet. He added the department recently hosted a Coffee with a Cop event, the Junior Police Academy will be hosted on July 23rd. Chief Duffy said both events are in partnership with the Police Athletic League (PAL).

Mr. Brill said we are in the process of changing our accounting/HR/payroll software.

Mr. Kroberger announced the Board will be going into Executive Session for personnel.

There being no further business, upon motion by Mrs. McNaney, seconded by Mr. Duffy the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Michael J. Lapinski
Secretary

/djl

Approved July 23, 2018