

## **FEBRUARY 1, 2016 FIRST REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING**

The February 1 2016, first monthly meeting of the month of Honey Brook Borough Council was held at Borough Hall and all members answered Roll Call. Also in attendance were Christopher Falencki, Borough Engineer; Kim Venzie, Borough Solicitor; Bill Ford, Public Works Superintendent; Denise Zatrutz, Borough Clerk; Anthony Campbell, Building/Zoning and Codes Officer; and Patrick Ely, Chief of Police.

### ***Approval of Previous Minutes***

Mr. Florio made a motion, seconded by Mr. Mimm, to approve the minutes of the January 18, 2016, meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

### ***Payment of Bills***

Mr. Halvorsen made a motion, seconded by Mr. Florio, to approve bills for payment as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

### ***Public Presentations***

Kevin Gore, 965 Maple Street – Mr. Gore questioned the action of Council regarding the tie vote that was taken at the last meeting. He advised that according to his research, Council needed to have a special meeting to break the tie vote. It was clarified that he was referencing a motion that was made to look into the hiring of a part-time Borough Manager. The vote was 3-3, as Mr. Ott was not in attendance at the meeting. The Mayor chose not to break the vote but rather to have the vote retaken when there was a full Council to vote on the motion. Solicitor Venzie stated that she believes there was nothing wrong with the way the vote was handled. Mr. Gore also inquired about why the Borough Chief of Police was plowing snow.

Jim Bree, Waynebrook Drive – Mr. Bree inquired why it took four days to get Park Street cleared. He stated that the street corners are still hazardous. He also stated that he too would like to know why Chief Ely was operating the backhoe. Mr. Mimm stated that he felt that Honey Brook Borough and Honey Brook Township were two of the best plowed communities in the area from his travels.

Dawn Super, Park Street – Mrs. Super inquired about the extension given to clear sidewalks. She said the extension was given to Thursday of last week. She asked what happens to those who still have not complied. Zoning Officer Campbell advised that he inspected the Borough on Friday morning, and anyone not in compliance received the notification tag requiring the homeowner to comply by today. Those still not in compliance will move to the next violation step.

Mr. Bree noted that the Firehouse Lane sidewalks had been cleared, but that snow had been placed back on the sidewalks. Mr. Ford stated that the sidewalks were never cleared. Ms. Kelp (Waynebrook Drive) concurred that she never saw the sidewalks cleared.

Councilman Rosciolo inquired how the sidewalk clearing extension was approved. He asked if a vote had been taken. President Curtis stated that she sent a message out to Council and that she heard back from everyone except Mr. Rosciolo. Ms. Venzie stated that during state of emergencies or to protect the well-being of residents, this type of action is common. She noted that one of her firm's municipal clients' plowing subcontractors did not show and left them during the blizzard to go out and find someone to plow.

The question again came up about the Chief plowing. Chief Ely asked to have the floor. He advised he assisted in moving back an area for snow to be dumped. He noted that Mr. Ford had a commitment to assist with traffic control for a funeral, and he moved snow to ensure that the work continued. He assured Council and the residents that he would have been able to respond to any complaints or emergencies. He also noted in severe storms in the past he has assisted in the same manner. He noted he has patrolled in the plow truck.

Mr. Rosciolo noted that he has never been utilized to plow as a public works employee. Mr. Ford advised that he called on him twice after being put on the public works employee list, and both times he did not adequately do or finish his assignments. Ms. Jenzano noted perhaps going out and plowing in a blizzard in the Borough's truck that he had never driven before was probably not a good idea for the first time plowing. Mr. Rosciolo stated that his background, especially driving military equipment, would qualify him to drive. He also noted that there was snow dumped in his yard and there may be possible damage.

### ***Engineer's Report***

Honey Brook Community Church – They have been unsuccessful setting up a meeting with PennDOT.

Streetscapes – Letter was sent to the contractor regarding required repair work which will need to be completed by May 31, 2016.

CC DCD Revitalization Grant – Preparing design and bid documents. Work will hold as long as feasible to see if it can be done concurrently with the proposed James Street project, still waiting for approval through the Multimodal Grant program. One easement is necessary and the County approval on the bid package will be submitted as required.

Multimodal Grant – Application review complete and project was recommended. Due to the status of the state budget, there is no timeframe for when these applications may be awarded.

At this time, Mr. Falencki left the meeting.

### ***Solicitor's Report***

The proposed Outdoor Fireplace ordinance review was completed. Mr. Florio made a motion, seconded by Mr. Halvorsen, to authorize the Solicitor to proceed to advertise for adoption. The motion passed unanimously.

### ***Secretary's Report/Communications***

CCSWA Donation – Communication was distributed to Council regarding the donation of \$10,000 from the CCSWA. Ms. Jenzano made a motion to accept and acknowledge the donation of \$10,000 from the CCSWA earmarked for the police department. The motion passed unanimously.

### ***President's Report***

None

### ***Mayor's Report***

None

### ***Monthly Reports***

Treasurer's Report – Treasurer distributed the year-to-date P&L comparison.

Tax Collector's Report - The County report has not been received to date. It was noted that the tax bills had been mailed.

Police Chief's Report – Monthly report was distributed to Council. Chief advised that he is looking into a new digital camera and VASCAR for the Durango.

Public Works Report – Monthly report was distributed. Mr. Ford reported that parts were required for the “white” truck and the transmission needs to be checked on the “green” truck.

Planning Commission – Minutes from the recent Planning Commission meetings were distributed to Council.

Code/Building/Zoning Report – Mr. Campbell advised that U&O permits were issued in January.

### ***Committee Reports***

Code/Ordinance – Mr. Florio reported that the Code/Ordinance committee has issued a draft stray and feral cat ordinance for review.

### ***Old/Pending Business***

Part-time Cleaner for Borough Hall/Annex – Ms. Jenzano made a motion, seconded by Mr. Halvorsen, to hire Mere Dombach as a part-time building cleaner at \$14.00 per hour for approximately 4 hours bi-weekly. The motion passed unanimously.

Part-time Borough Manager – Mr. Florio asked to discuss the topic that he brought up at the last meeting regarding the hiring of a part-time Borough Manager. Mr. Florio said he acknowledged comments that were noted at that meeting that the salary is not in the 2016 budget. He suggested to allocate funds in the 2017 budget and perhaps begin a search in the fall of this year to have a candidate that could be appointed next year.

Mr. Rosciolo stated that he believes Council has not addressed the violation of code that was previously noted.

After further discussion, Mr. Florio noted that he formally withdraws his motion that was made at the last meeting.

Mr. Rosciolo stated that he would be filing a legal challenge.

Snow Removal Concerns – Mr. Mimm recommended that Public Works design a plan to have a place to haul snow from intersections in major storms that recently occurred. Mr. Mimm stated years ago the Borough was able haul snow and dump on the former elementary school property. He said perhaps a site could be negotiated in case of this situation in the future.

RU2Fast Sign – Mr. Rosciolo read from the January 5, 2015 minutes whereby a motion passed that stated that the RU2Fast sign would be out for a minimum of two days and maximum of four days in one spot. He said he wanted to clarify the remarks made by Councilwoman Jenzano at the last meeting were incorrect that such action was not passed by Council. Ms. Jenzano said she clarified what he had previously said that there was a *Resolution* adopted which she clarified that there was not a *resolution* adopted. She noted what he had just read clarified it as a motion. Mr. Halvorsen said that the police are responding to calls and complaints and are saving lives. He believes this should be their focus. Mr. Florio stated the need for the sign was brought up at the summer of 2014 meetings by the residents. Ms. Jenzano noted the residents were at those meetings regarding the proposed Ingerman development and the concern of traffic and speeding was brought up and that the speed sign had been voted on to purchase. Mr. Halvorsen said he would rather see police presence monitoring traffic than a sign. Mr. Ott noted that LTAP would provide free LTAP speed monitoring. Mr. Ford noted that he had mentioned that at the summer of 2014 meetings.

### ***Public Presentations***

Kelly Kelp, Waynebrook Drive – Ms. Kelp inquired if there was an eMail notification system of when there are announcements such as the extension for sidewalk clearing. It was advised that this type of system is not in place.

Kevin Gore – Mr. Gore stated that the role of a Borough Manager is a bigger role than just managing employees. He said a manager can help bring businesses in to town that is needed.

There being no further business, the meeting was properly adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Janis A. Rambo  
Borough Secretary