

UPPER MERION TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
BUSINESS MEETING
FEBRUARY 21, 2019

The Board of Supervisors of Upper Merion Township met for a Business Meeting on Thursday, February 21, 2019, in Freedom Hall, in the Township Building in King of Prussia. The meeting was called to order at 7:40 p.m., followed by a pledge to the flag. Courtship

ROLL CALL:

Supervisors present were: Bill Jenaway, Greg Philips, Carole Kenney, and Tina Garzillo. Also present were: Sally Slook, Acting Township Manager; Joseph McGrory, Township Solicitor; Rob Loeper, Township Planner; Mike Joyce, Township Engineer's Office. Absent: Greg Waks.

MEETING MINUTES:

It was moved by Mr. Philips, seconded by Mr. Jenaway, all voting "Aye" to approve the November 15, 2018 and December 6, 2018 Business Meeting Minutes as submitted. None opposed. Motion approved 4-0.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS:

An executive session was held prior to this meeting regarding personnel matters and The Board was going back to executive session after this meeting to discuss personnel matters.

NEW BUSINESS

SWEARING IN OF TWO NEW POLICE OFFICERS BY JUDGE JAMES GALLAGHER

Chief Nolan addressed the Board and Township Manager and stated we are here tonight to swear in two new police officers. About a year ago, the Upper Merion Township Police Department began a recruitment campaign in the tristate area in order to fill expected openings in the Police Department. The recruitment resulted in over 200 applicants for the position of police officer. In the 2019 Operating Budget, the Board of Supervisors approved the addition of two officers to the force. At this time Chief Nolan introduced John Atkins. John is a 2006 graduate of Arkadelphia High School in Arkansas. He graduated from Ouachita Baptist University in 2010 with a Bachelor degree in History and a minor in Political Science. John served as a Lieutenant in the US Army from 2010 to 2014 and is currently a Captain in the Army Reserves. He was previously employed as a police officer with the Prince William County in Virginia. John started his employment with the Upper Merion Township Police Department on February 11, 2019 and is currently assigned to field training.

Chief Nolan then called Anthony Alosi forward. Anthony is a 2002 graduate of Roman Catholic High School in Philadelphia. He graduated from Albright College in 2006 with a Bachelor degree in Criminology. Anthony was previously employed as a police officer with the Philadelphia Police Department where he finished as valedictorian of his recruit class. He started his employment with the Upper Merion Township Police Department on February 11, 2019 and is also currently assigned to field training. At this time Judge James Gallagher administered the oath of office to John Akins and Anthony Alosi.

PRESENTATION RE: BOARD OF COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE

David Karen mentioned all of the Board of Community Assistance (BCA) appointed members including him is Lydia Dan Sardiñas and Brett Montich. The

Valley Forge Casino representatives are David Zerfing and Ira Lubert. Mr. Karen noted that the BCA advised the Board of Supervisors (BOS) on providing assistance and support with monies received from the Valley Forge Casino Resort (VFCR). Non-profit and 501(c) organizations propose projects or plans which directly impact the community and residents of Upper Merion Township. The BCA evaluated those proposals and distribute monies accordingly. College scholarships are also provided to noteworthy Upper Merion Township high school seniors who propose specific community service projects. Mr. Karen briefly explained the organization application and the scholarship application process. Scholarship recommendations range from \$1000.00 all the way to a \$10,000.00 reward for our special General Von Steuben Scholarship and there is also a Ronald G. Wagenmann Scholarship for \$5,000.00. To access the application, Mr. Karen directed the public to visit the Upper Merion Township website, and noted that Upper Merion Township staff, BCA and BOS members also have the application. Mr. Karen announced that all award recommendations will be made to the Board of Supervisors at the May 23rd Board of Supervisors Meeting. There is no need for applicants to attend however the meeting will be televised on UMGA-TV. The award recipients, after approval from the BOS, will be posted on the Upper Merion Township Website. Letters will also be sent to all applicants regarding their application status. Mr. Karen noted the deadline is April 1, 2019 and encouraged the public to submit applications.

Board Comments:

Regarding the Board of Assistance presentation, Ms. Kenney expressed immense gratitude to the BCA members for their hard work. Ms. Garzillo also expressed gratitude to the BCA. She also thanked the Valley Forge Casino Resort for having this initiative and noted it's wonderful that so many people have benefited from this program. Ms. Kenney reiterated that even though the applicants for the grants and scholarships don't have to attend the BOS meeting, they are always welcomed to come to any of our meetings, watch the meetings at home, or view the meeting online days later.

CONSENT AGENDA RE:

1. Resolution 2019-7 re: Appoint Nicholas Hiriak, Finance Director as Chief Administrative Officer of Upper Merion Police/Non-Uniform Pension Plans
2. Bid Recommendation re: Mullen Property Demolition to BRB Contractors in the amount of \$42,390.00
3. Bid Recommendation re: Moore Road Bridge Repairs to JPS Construction Company in the amount of \$209,000.00
4. Proposal for Additional Consulting Services for the Stormwater Capital Study to Gannett Fleming in the amount of \$24,000.00
5. Request to Grant Homestead Exemption to Township Resident
6. Resignation of Ian Kingsley from the Transportation/General Authority
7. Resolution 2019-8 re: Disposition of Township Vehicles to Auction
8. First Avenue Linear Park Bus Shelter Installation and Maintenance Memorandum of Understanding between Clear Channel Outdoor, Inc. and Upper Merion Township
9. Approve Professional Services Agreement with ARRO Consulting, Inc. re: Matsunk WPCC and Trout Run WPCC – Process Equipment Painting/Coating Project in the amount of \$35,100.00

Public Comments:

Mike Napolitan, a resident, requested Item 4 and 8 from the Consent Agenda be removed and voted on separately. Mr. Napolitan also expressed his concerns regarding both matters. It was clarified from the Board members that Item 4 did not have anything to do with a rain tax as Mr. Napolitan had thought.

Chris Basler with the King of Prussia District stated that Clear Channel owns all the bus shelters in King of Prussia. Mr. Basler stated that a Montgomery County grant, the Montco 2040 Vision Implementation Program, will be utilized to purchase five new bus shelters that will be replacing the six outdated ones. It was also noted that Clear Channel has agreed to amend the existing agreement where the Township owns them but Clear Channel will maintain all repairs to the actual shelters themselves up to the insurance deductible amount, once it reaches that it will go under the Township's insurance. It was noted that the insurance will cost the Township \$220 per year for all five shelters. Mr. Basler also stated that the King of Prussia District will be installing trashcans near each of the shelters and will be maintaining those as well as other elements of the Linear Park that will be starting construction later this year. Mr. Napolitan expressed further concerns regarding the Township taking ownership of the shelters.

Joe McNally, a resident, asked what the projected revenue from the advertising on an annual basis is and Ms. Slook stated that they did not have that information at this time and would get back to him. Mr. McNally asked what the liability insurance was and it was stated that insurance policy information was not available at the moment. He also expressed his concerns regarding the BOS agenda.

Board Action:

It was moved by Mr. Philips, seconded by Ms. Garzillo, all voting "Aye" to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. None opposed. Motion approved 4-0.

PUBLIC HEARING RE: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING UPPER MERION TOWNSHIP CODE CHAPTER 132, RESIDENTIAL RENTAL HOUSING LICENSING AND INSPECTION, TO AMEND CERTAIN DEFINITIONS, REGULATIONS, PROCEDURES, ENFORCEMENT, AND PENALTY PROVISIONS FOR THE REGISTRATION, LICENSING AND INSPECTION OF RESIDENTIAL RENTAL PROPERTIES WITHIN THE TOWNSHIP

RESOLUTION 2019-6 RE: AMENDING THE CHECKLIST OF ITEMS TO BE INSPECTED IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE RENTAL HOUSING REGISTRATION AND INSPECTION PROGRAM

Mr. McGrory presented all exhibits for the Ordinance Amending Upper Merion Township Code Chapter 132. Mr. McGrory directed attention to Mr. Jenaway who worked on the ordinance. Mr. Jenaway stated that this is a culmination of a two year process to implement, test and refine a rental property inspection process for apartment buildings only, not to single family homes or townhouses that are rented. The process includes a 22 item checklist that would be used to evaluate the potentials for accidents, injuries, fires and complaints that are generally received or responded by Upper Merion public safety agencies. Agencies include Code Enforcement, Fire & EMS and the Police. There are two concerns as to why we entered this process two years ago, one was the number of aging apartment buildings and the other is the apartment expansion. This process enables the individuals who would be doing the work to evaluate for potential hazards. The process moving forward is that these inspections will be conducted by our career firefighter and EMS staff. They will not only be doing a public safety survey but will be aiding in the preplanning process for those particular buildings. Mr. Jenaway also noted that we are one of the few municipalities in the region that are not doing this today.

Public Comments:

Mr. Napolitan asked whether the apartment buildings will still be submitting a monthly report to the Township regarding occupancy and if that occupancy data will be published. Mr. McGrory responded and stated that he did not know whether the data would be published and that the Code Enforcement would receive on a periodic basis the turnover and then have 10 days to review that property at that point in time.

Board Action:

It was moved by Mr. Jenaway, seconded by Mr. Philips, all voting "Aye" to approve Resolution 2019-6 as presented. None opposed. Motion approved 4-0.

CONDITION USE HEARING – MOBILITE: N. GULPH & KIRK AVENUE.
INSTALLATION OF A 40 FT. WOOD POLE WITH OMNI DIRECTIONAL
ANTENNA IN PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY

Mr. McGrory reminded the Board that the applicant was not at the first hearing, at the second hearing the applicant appeared with no counsel, and is now requesting this hearing be continued. The applicant gave a letter with an unlimited extension and it was noted that if a certain date was chosen, then there is no need to advertise again.

Board Action:

It was moved by Mr. Philips, seconded by Mr. Jenaway, all voting "Aye" to continue this hearing to the April 25, 2019 Board of Supervisors Meeting at 7:30 p.m. at Freedom Hall. None opposed. Motion approved 4-0.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE & PAYROLL:

Board Action:

It was moved by Mr. Philips, seconded by Ms. Garzillo, all voting "Aye" to approve the Accounts Payable and Payroll. None opposed. Motion approved 4-0.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS:

FARMER'S MARKET

Ms. Garzillo reminded the public that the indoor Winter Farmer's Market is still continuing and the next indoor Winter Farmer's Market will be on February 23, 2019 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. It was also noted that there will be multiple events occurring in the Township building on Saturday. On the upper level Black History Month will be celebrated and the Farmer's Market will be held on the lower level with a record number of 14 vendors participating.

INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENT

Mr. Jenaway wanted to make the public aware that the day before yesterday; the public safety agencies responded to a significant event in the Township and even had to use the resources of the Montgomery County Rescue Task Force as well as the Montgomery County Urban Search and Rescue Task Force. The incident was deemed an industrial accident even though it happened on a residential property because of all the resources needed to move equipment. Mr. Jenaway also stated that the individual that was extricated from the rescue situation was doing better. He also expressed gratitude to all the agencies that responded.

Ms. Garzillo also mentioned that Engine 56 was involved as well as

volunteers from King of Prussia and other local fire departments including Plymouth Meeting. Ms. Garzillo also expressed gratitude to all the agencies involved in this incident.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION

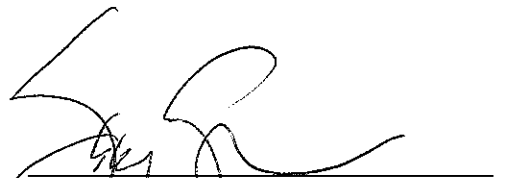
Ms. Garzillo mentioned that the Black History Month Celebration at the Township Building is on Saturday, February 23, 2019 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The event is sponsored by the Upper Merion Township Library and this year it is called Hidden Treasures of African American History. Ms. Garzillo also noted that there will be vendors throughout the day. There will be kid crafts from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Daisy Century, a historical interpreter, will be there from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m., from 12 p.m. to 1:15 p.m. there will be African American soul food samples and Joseph Hatcher and his band will be there for a song and dance.

From the Public:

Mr. Napolitan expressed a few of his concerns regarding the agenda, minutes and asked why the SEPTA trail was not being included in the community survey. Ms. Garzillo responded and said that the purpose of the survey was to get a sense of what residents are thinking such as their concerns, satisfactions and input on what needs improvements. The community survey was not meant to serve as a referendum on any development such as the SEPTA trail. Mr. Napolitan responded and announced that he would be running for a Township Supervisor.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Board, it was moved by Mr. Philips, seconded by Mr. Jenaway, all voting "Aye" to adjourn the meeting. None opposed. Motion approved 4-0. Adjournment occurred at 8:55 p.m.



SALLY SLOOK
ACTING TOWNSHIP MANAGER

mm
Minutes Approved:
Minutes Entered:

