

**BOROUGH OF HATBORO
COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, MARCH 23rd, 2009**

PRESENT

President Zygmunt, Vice President LaSorsa, Councilpersons Guenst, Ostrander, Tompkins, & Rich, Mayor Hawkes, Borough Manager/Chief Gardner, Planner/Assistant Manager Hartey, Assistant Secretary Hegele, Superintendent Thomas, BCO/Zoning Officer Fugate, Borough Engineer Dougherty & Borough Solicitor Pionzio.

ABSENT

Councilperson Reymer & Treasurer Lutz was absent this evening.

CALL TO ORDER

President Zygmunt called the March meeting of the Council of the Borough of Hatboro to order at 7:00 P.M.

INVOCATION

Mayor Hawkes asked for everyone to observe a moment of silence for Philadelphia Police Officer John Pawlowski and other officers who died in the line of duty.

MINUTES

President Zygmunt stated Council is in receipt of the February 12th and February 23rd, 2009 Council Meeting Minutes. Vice President LaSorsa made a motion to approve the February 12th and February 23rd, 2009 Council meeting minutes. This motion was seconded by Councilperson Guenst and approved by Council unanimously.

PRESIDENTS REPORT

President Zygmunt stated he had nothing to report this evening.

BOROUGH MANAGER/CHIEF OF POLICE REPORT

Borough Manager/Chief of Police stated he had several items to report on this evening, the first was the COPS Hiring Grant. Borough Manager/Chief Gardner stated he just found out that this Grant was just made available and the paperwork needs to be submitted by April 15th, 2009. Borough Manager/Chief Gardner stated the Borough could utilize the extra officer in many different capacities including but not limited to traffic, community service and shortages. Mayor Hawkes stated he is in favor of pursuing this grant opportunity. Borough Manager/Chief Gardner stated the COPS Grant funds the hiring, salary and benefits associated the hiring of one police officer.

Borough Manager/Chief Gardner stated the second item is the Memorial Pool Fence Project. Borough Manager/Chief Gardner stated the bid documents have been prepared, the bid opening has been scheduled and open the bids are tabulated they will be presented to Council for approval at the April 13th, Committee Meeting which will have to be advertised as a voting meeting.

Borough Manager/Chief Gardner stated the third item is the Spring Avenue Pennypack Creek Spring Cleanup. Borough Manager/Chief Gardner stated this is scheduled for Sunday, April 19th, 2009, they do not need any assistance from Public Works, just pick up of the bags which will take place the following Monday. Councilman Tompkins stated last year this was a success; the group got a lot of stuff including a shopping cart from the creek and would like to see more people come out and volunteer this year.

Borough Manager/Chief Gardner stated the last item is the Wachovia Bank Structural Evaluation Report. Borough Manager/Chief Gardner stated he was in receipt of a proposal from Knudsen Engineering regarding a structural evaluation for the Wachovia Property.

TREASURERS REPORT

1. CASH BALANCES & INVESTMENT INCOME REPORT

President Zygmunt reported Treasurer Lutz was absent this evening. Vice President LaSorsa reported the interest earned in February 2009 was \$1,514.97. This was for all 14 accounts at TD Banknorth at a rate of 0.550%. Total account balance is \$3,608,858.15. Councilperson Ostrander made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report for the month of February 2009. This motion was seconded by Councilman Rich and approved by Council unanimously.

2. APPROVAL OF WARRANTS LIST

President Zygmunt stated Council is in receipt of the warrant list and manual checklist. President Zygmunt stated Council has had the opportunity in advance to review the warrant list and direct any questions to the Chief or Department Head. Vice President LaSorsa made a motion to approve the warrant list for the month of March 2009. This motion was seconded by Councilperson Ostrander and approved by Council unanimously.

3. PAYMENT OF BILLS

Vice President LaSorsa made a motion to authorize the payment of bills and ratification of transfers for the month of March 2009. This motion was seconded by Councilperson Ostrander and approved by Council unanimously.

MAYORS REPORT

Mayor Hawkes stated the Senior Games are scheduled for May 11th to May 15th for anyone over 50.

Mayor Hawkes stated there is information at Borough Hall for anyone who needs assistance with mortgage foreclosure.

Mayor Hawkes stated he recently received a request from the Gardeners Club of Hatboro who would like to do a beautification project at Borough Hall this coming spring. Mayor Hawkes stated there would be no cost to the Borough for this project and the Mayor supports this idea and feels this will help enhance Borough Hall.

SOLICITORS REPORT

Solicitor Pionzio stated she did not have anything to report this evening.

SUPERINTENDENTS REPORT

President Zygmunt stated the Public Works report was submitted in advance and copies of the report were available on the table in the front of the meeting report. Superintendent Thomas stated he had nothing additional to report.

FIRE MARSHALS REPORT

President Zygmunt stated the Fire Marshals report was submitted in advance and copies of the report were available on the table in the front of the meeting room.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

President Zygmunt stated this privilege of the floor is for residents to address Council to discuss voting items on tonight's agenda. Mr. Ed Henry asked if once the Borough applies for funding under the COPS Grant were they committed. Borough Manager/Chief Gardner stated yes. There was no other comment from the public.

COUNCIL/COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE- Mayor Hawkes

Mayor Hawkes stated he had two items on his agenda for this evening to approve the purchase and upfitting of a 2009 patrol vehicle for the police department. Councilperson Ostrander made a motion to purchase a 2009 patrol vehicle for the police department including upfitting. This motion was seconded by Councilperson Guerst and approved by Council unanimously.

Mayor Hawkes stated the second item on his agenda was to consider Resolution #2009-09, COPS Hiring Grant, a resolution adopted by the Borough Council of the Borough of Hatboro authorizing the application for funding associated with the hiring, salary and benefits of a police officer pursuant to the United States Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office), COPS Hiring Recovery Program.

WHEREAS, On March 16, 2009 the United States Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office) has announced available funding associated with the hiring, salary and benefits of Police Officers, and;

WHEREAS, the application period for said grant closes on April 14, 2009, and;

WHEREAS, the Borough of Hatboro desires to investigate and seek funding associated with the hiring, salary and benefits associated with the hiring of one police officer;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Borough Council of the Borough of Hatboro hereby authorizes and directs Chief of Police James Gardner, to proceed with the timely filing the funding application under COPS Hiring Recovery Program.

Vice President LaSorsa made a motion to approve Resolution #2009-09, COPS Hiring Grant. This motion was seconded by Councilperson Ostrander and approved by Council unanimously.

B. **FIRE BOARD** – Vice President LaSorsa

Vice President LaSorsa stated he had one item for his agenda this evening, the consideration of Resolution #2009-06, Enterprise Fire Company Project Funding Resolution. Councilman Tompkins made a motion to approve Resolution #2009-06, Enterprise Fire Company Project Funding. This motion was seconded by Councilperson Ostrander and approved by Council unanimously.

C. **PUBLIC WORKS** – Councilman Rich

Councilman Rich stated he had nothing for his agenda this evening.

D. **ZONING, PLANNING & HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMITTEE** – Councilman Tompkins

Councilman Tompkins stated he had three items on his agenda this evening; the escrow release for Station Park in the amount of \$15,776.10. Vice President LaSorsa made a motion to approve the Station Park Escrow Release in the amount of \$15,776.10. This motion was seconded by Councilman Rich and approved by Council unanimously.

Councilman Tompkins stated the second item on his agenda was to consider a fee waiver request for Rental Property Inspection from the Willow Grove Community Development Corp. Councilperson Guent made a motion to approve the fee waiver request for rental inspections for properties owned by the Willow Grove Community Development Corp. This motion was seconded by Councilman Tompkins and a vote was taken by all of Council with Councilman Rich, Councilman Tompkins, Vice President LaSorsa, Councilperson Guent and Councilperson Ostrander voting no. President Zygmunt stated the motion died and the request denied.

Councilman Tompkins stated the third item on his agenda was to discuss the appointment to the Joint Appeals Board. Councilman Tompkins stated Council received two letters of interest. President Zygmunt asked Assistant Secretary Hegele to contact the two interested parties and set up an interview with both for Monday, April 13th prior to the Committee Meeting.

E. **PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE** - Councilperson Guent

Councilperson Guent she did not have anything for her agenda this evening.

F. **FINANCE, PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE BUDGET & INSURANCE COMMITTEE** - Vice President LaSorsa

Vice President LaSorsa stated Council was in receipt of the memo done by Borough Manager/Chief Gardner. Borough Manager/Chief Gardner met with representatives from TD Banknorth recently to discuss options that may be available to the Borough to realize better interest returns on the Borough accounts. Vice President LaSorsa thanked Borough Manager/Chief Gardner for a good job gathering the information included in the memo. Vice President LaSorsa stated he is not comfortable with recommendations, the Borough would need to hire a CPA or someone with an MBA to monitor this daily and this would have to be done right in order to work. Vice President LaSorsa would like to hold and continue with the current plan and wait and see if rates rise, which they should in time. Councilman Tompkins asked if payroll could be used as cash flow or to even consider this during budget time next year. Vice President LaSorsa stated the Borough needs someone in house with this type of expertise to do something like this. Councilman Tompkins stated might not need full cash flow would have to look at numbers to see. Councilperson Guent stated the Borough needs to stay as liquid as possible, there are a lot of projects, grants with matches, maybe this should be looked at later after all the projects are done. President Zygmunt stated the Fire House project should tie up almost 1 million, the acquisition of the property across the street; this merits looking at later and plan for the future. Vice President LaSorsa stated TD Banknorth is ranked 14, is one of the strongest banks in the country and the Borough residents need to know this and that the tax money is in a strong financial institution. Borough Manager/Chief Gardner stated that in his recent meeting with the bank they indicated that there is an indication that things are going to get better in the 3rd quarter of 2009.

G. **PUBLIC AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE** - Councilperson Reymer

Councilperson Reymer was not present tonight. There was nothing for her agenda this evening.

H. **ADMINISTRATION & CONTRACTS COMMITTEE** - President Zygmunt

President Zygmunt stated he had several items for his agenda this evening; the first item on his agenda, to consider award of the Commuter Lot Reconstruction Bid to Bray Brothers in the amount of \$372,329.75. Vice President LaSorsa made a motion to approve the award of the Commuter Lot Reconstruction Lot to Bray Brothers in the amount of \$372,329.75. This motion was seconded by Councilperson Guenst and approved by Council unanimously.

President Zygmunt stated the next item on his agenda was to consider Resolution #2009-07, Montgomery County Revitalization Grant for Wayfinding Signs. Vice President LaSorsa made a motion to approve Resolution #2009-07. This motion was seconded by Councilperson Guenst and approved by Council unanimously.

President Zygmunt stated the last item on his agenda was to consider Resolution #2009-08, Montgomery County Revitalization Grant for Improvement of Public Parking. Councilperson Guenst made a motion to approve Resolution #2009-08. This motion was seconded by Councilperson Ostrander and approved by Council unanimously.

I. **EMERGENCY SERVICES AND PEDESTRIAN SAFETY COMMITTEE** - Councilperson Ostrander

Councilperson Ostrander stated she did not have anything for her agenda this evening.

OLD BUSINESS

Vice President LaSorsa stated Council is in receipt of fee waiver request from Fire Company for the firehouse project. Vice President LaSorsa stated this would be deferred until the April meeting. Councilman Tompkins stated Borough Council cannot waive zoning issues for the project. Fire Company President Chris Gowen stated there is a meeting later in the week with Pennoni and BCO/Zoning Officer Fugate. President Zygmunt questioned if Council could make recommendations to the Zoning Hearing Board. Borough Solicitor Pionzio stated yes. Assistant Manager/Planner Hartey stated SALDO requires Planning Commission to comment on the project and the Planning Commission is meeting on Tuesday, April 7th and this is on there agenda.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to come before Council this evening.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

There was no comment from the public.

ADJOURNMENT

President Zygmunt adjourned the March 23rd, 2009 Council meeting at 7:43 P.M.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

President Zygmunt stated there would not be an executive session this evening.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane C. Hegele
Assistant Borough Secretary
Open Records Officer