

## **June 21, 2010 Council Meeting Minutes**

The June 21, 2010 Council Meeting was called to order at 7:30 P.M. in Council Chambers at the Municipal Building, Deputy Mayor Sara Kuhn presiding.

### **Approval of Agenda Items**

Deputy Mayor Sara Kuhn approved Agenda will stand as presented.

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

Council and the audience stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Roll Call**

**Present:** Mrs. Kuhn  
Mr. Palumbo  
Mr. Underwood

Also present were: Manager Rayan, Solicitor Brimmeier, Controller Futules, Planning Director Davidson and Administration Secretary Sorce.

### **Citizens to Address Council:**

This is in regards to the residents of the Crescent Gardens Drive Area. Please note for the record Council has received a petition with approximately 50 names from the neighbors of this community. Anyone wanting to address Council, please come to the microphone and give your name and address.

Citizens of Marycrest Drive, Crescent Garden Drive, Canaveral Drive and many other streets in that area had concerns about the 2 feet high grass at some of the properties. They don't know who owns some of the properties and have concerns about people breaking in and illegal activity along with the condition of the properties. They would like to know what the township can do to get the grass cut. Other residents were upset about groups of children on the streets after curfew. The curfew for the Municipality of Penn Hills is 10:30 P.M. Monday through Thursday and Friday and Saturday 11:00. They asked what they should do if the children were out after curfew. Mrs. Kuhn told them they should dial 911. Mrs. Kuhn told residents she wanted to make it very clear that there is a curfew in Penn Hills and that the residents should call 911 if they have any concerns about their neighborhood. The curfew is something Mayor and Council have put into place and it is a law. The parents are the ones who are going to be responsible for their children. Don't ever feel this isn't important enough. They have to abide by the curfew. One resident also was concerned about the grass that was cut and not picked up after. Moe told him that they were on a schedule and with the weather we are having the grass is growing faster and in order for the grass cutters to keep on schedule they have to cut and then come back to clean up. Mrs. Kuhn responded that it is

not as easy as it seems to file a complaint and have the grass cut immediately. You cannot just go on to private property. There is a process. Moe responded that there are at least 50 properties on that list. The grass cutters are trying to keep up with this, with all the rain they have to cut and then come back and clean up. I feel the complaints were addressed properly.

Another resident is concerned about the foster homes in their neighborhood. He said the gentleman bought a couple more houses in the plan, moved his relatives into these homes and made more foster homes. They are very concerned about the number of unsupervised children on the street. Not only are they concerned about the safety of the children without any adult supervision, but the trash that they are leaving on the streets. The residents asked if Council could look into the amount of foster homes that can be in a neighborhood. They went to the gentleman of these properties and he is not a very cooperative person. Solicitor Bonnie Brimmeier said that the residents should call the police and if the children are not safe that they should also try to call CYS and get them involved. Mrs. Kuhn said that she didn't think the Municipality or any community can make a determination of how many foster homes can be put in a neighborhood. Our hands are tied legally. If the children are not properly being taken care of, I think you should contact CYS. It is very heartbreaking and unfair to see the neighborhood you live in not being taken care of because of a few people.

Mrs. Kuhn wanted to make the public aware that most of the complaints that Mayor and Council have to address are issues on Code violations and because of that about a year ago we implemented in our Code Department that we separate the municipalities into divisions. And by doing that we have different zones so that there might be 2 code officers that take care of Section A, B,C, D, etc. This way if certain complaints are made we can go to that particular code enforcement officer and see why those issues are not being addressed. That being said, every council meeting, we do receive a report from Code Enforcement. They do do their work. Moe, is there a list of addresses of the properties that need to be cut? Moe responded he would look into it and get the list. A resident asked if campers are permitted in driveways? Howard Davidson responded they are permitted on the side driveways and rear driveway and do not need to be out of site, but do need current registration. Bonnie Brimmeier will look into how many foster children per house are permitted. A resident was concerned there are too many kids at one house. Mrs. Kuhn asked Moe and Bonnie to check into the 5 Foster Homes and see why the children are running random and are not supervised. Moe responded he will check with Bonnie and see what way they are going to proceed with this. The resident responded thank you very much.

Moe responded by saying he would like to encourage all the residents that if you would observe anything on the street that you contact the police, that is why we have the police department, we have officers patrolling the roadways and they need to be contacted immediately. There are no small complaints out there so call 911 and the police will be there for you. You must do that. Bonnie made a suggestion that if you are seeing lots of kids sitting in the streets take photographs and then the police can identify

them by the pictures you took. One resident said that he did that and the family of the children drew a complaint of child harassment.

Mrs. Kuhn responded thank you very much and we will direct the Manager to get back to you on what is being done and exactly what has taken place. Moe asked residents to itemize everything that we discussed with the address associated with that particular problem. This way I can follow up on each one and make sure that we didn't forget anything. I took notes also. Mrs. Kuhn asked if there could be one spokesperson and Mr. John Luther volunteered. Mrs. Kuhn responded thank you very much.

One resident asked for a copy of the list for the grass cutting. Moe said he would try to get him one from Code Enforcement.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Underwood made a motion to approve June 21, 2010 Council Meeting Minutes.

Mr. Palumbo seconded the motion.

There being no further discussion the motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.

### **EXPENDITURES**

#### **Approval of Warrants**

Mr. Palumbo made a motion to approve the Master Expenditure Summary date June 21, 2010 including 13 C.d. Requisitions in the amount of \$124,078.07; Master Checks numbering 14758-14879 in the amount of \$823,689.92 making a grand total of \$947,767.99.

Mr. Underwood seconded the motion.

Mrs. Kuhn asked Moe about check #14827, page 2, Chester Engineer. This is Plum Creek and I am assuming to make sure that this is also going to be partially reimbursed by Plum Boro or if this is a different project. Moe responded it is the same project. Part is coming out of Plum's portion.

Checks #14793& #14844, Gateway Engineers. Several of these checks are for this feasibility study, they are on page 5. Mrs. Kuhn asked if this is being paid out of what we had budgeted and if this is the correct amount for the feasibility study. Moe answered yes and Mrs. Kuhn thanked him.

There being no further discussion the motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.

## **Resolutions**

Mr. Underwood made a motion to adopt **Resolution #2010-042** authorizing Fedele Insurance Services, Inc. to place The Municipal Insurances including coverage for the various fire trucks and flood insurance for the Policy year July 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010.

Mr. Palumbo seconded the motion.

Mrs. Kuhn asked Chris Fedele that she noticed on the memo we are changing our effective date and going from July 1, 2010 to Jan. 1, 2011 and I assuming Moe that we are doing that to be on our Fiscal Year. Is that Correct Moe? Moe replied that is correct, that is the bulk of the reasoning. Mrs. Kuhn asked so are we voting on the 6 month or 18 months tonight? Moe responded 6 months at this point and then recommending in January for Travelers to go ahead and provide coverage for 2011. Mrs. Kuhn said I see we do have some increase property values by 3.5% assuming that it is for the new replacements. Chris said yes. The only other thing I want noted is the Municipality's Experience Modification factor is very good and that is very important because of the fact it is across the board at a good rate. I want to state to whomever is in charge what a good job and that it saved the taxpayers a lot. We also have a 5% premium savings because we have the state certified safety committee so that is also a savings. It looks like its \$2400/month so that would be about \$28,000/yr. Chris said you have to apply for certification each year. Mrs. Kuhn responded I have to say a job well done by everyone and I appreciate it. Moe said Cynthia Carson is handling the Safety Committee and the certification. Good Job.

There being no further discussion the motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.

## **REPORTS**

Mrs. Kuhn read a letter from a resident about our Universal Volunteer Fire Department. She said she will take the time to read the letter to honor the fire department and appreciates when residents take the time to show the good in the community. The resident feels that the 3 fireman should be recognized for saving her husband's life. Their services are truly appreciated. Mrs. Kuhn responded that Penn Hills is very lucky to have such dedicated fire departments. I want to thank them as the whole board does.

Mayor and Council would like everyone to know how unfortunate that our Volunteer #7 fire Department is very very much in need of a new ladder truck. The ladder truck is completely out of service and not serviceable. Mrs. Kuhn asked Moe about how much would it cost to replace the ladder truck and Moe responded around \$850,000.00 roughly to replace this aerial truck. It would be such a shame if we had to go outside of the community if we were in need of a ladder truck. Mrs. Kuhn said we have to get the attention of the residents of Penn Hills. She knows times are difficult for contributions, but these are volunteer fireman, and \$850,000 is almost impossible of a

situation. Moe sent Representative Murphy and Doyle letters explaining the situation. Mrs. Kuhn asked Moe is some how he could make up a letter similar to the one sent to Murphy and Doyle to the YMCA, Library and Senior Center and ask all citizens of Penn Hills to sign the letter and mail. Mrs. Kuhn said when it comes from the residents and votes it might get more attention.

Mrs. Kuhn responded that she went to the School Board Meeting and the Volunteer Firemen were asking the school district if it would be possible for them to use the elementary school for their training center. Mrs. Kuhn asked if Moe could set up a meeting with Business Manager, Moe and herself. Mrs. Kuhn said that the Firemen take care of their buildings.

### **DISCUSSION SESSION**

Mrs. Kuhn would like to delay to next Council Meeting when full Council is available. Mr. Davidson replied O.K. to postpone.

There being no further business, Deputy Mayor Kuhn asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Mr. Underwood made motion to adjourn.

Mr. Palumbo seconded the motion.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 P.M.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION –PERSONNEL**

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Maureen M. Sorce  
Manager's Secretary

Date