

BOROUGH OF RED HILL
COUNCIL MINUTES
Wednesday, September 9, 2009
7:30 pm

President, Thomas Paul, called CALL TO ORDER a meeting of the Red Hill Borough Council to order on the above date at 7:35 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Faith Diascro, Paul Snyder, Charles McCleary, John Smith, Mark Rober, Doris Decker

OTHERS PRESENT: Secretary, Darlene Stoudt; Mayor, David Schiffgens; Solicitor, Mark Hosterman; Engineer, Ryan Kern

VISITORS:

ACTION ON MINUTES: A motion to approve the Minutes of September 2, 2009 was made by John Smith and seconded by Paul Snyder. Motion carried unanimously.

CITIZENS PARTICIPATION: -

Anthony Ferrugio - 904 Vanguard Drive - Preston Court

Anthony complained to the borough about the safety problem that exists on the walking path. He stated, children, citizens, skate boarding, ATV's are constantly occupying the path. Cars are traveling on the path creating a very dangerous environment for the residents. He asked the borough to place bollards and install NO MOTORIZED VEHICLES signs at the end of the walking path.

Mr., Hosterman stated that this a THP issue that could be satisfied using money from the THP bond. At this point of time, the borough is not responsible for the cost of the bollards

Mr., Hosterman stated this issue will be discussed in an executive session tonight, and the borough will answer your request at the end of the meeting/

RHFC/FIRE MARSHALL: - John Lehr, Fire Marshall

Events for RHFC:

Faith Diascro made a motion to accept any events for the RHFC until October 14th and Charles McCleary seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

John Lehr performed a fire inspection at the "New Dawn Deli."

UPPER MONTGOMERY JOINT AUTHORITY: - Larry Morton

Larry Morton stated that the engineer will be providing UMJA with updated drawings showing the lines and manholes that are relined.

UMJA did not receive a grant from Commonwealth Financing Authority, and hoping to receive the grant in 2010.

RHPC/UPRPC: David Schiffgens

BUDGET & PERSONNEL: - Charles McCleary

Charles McCleary stated to council the total income YTD is \$623553.89 and YTD expenses are \$425,277.68 with a net income of \$198,276.21.

Budget meeting - September 14, 2009 at 7:00 pm.

CODE REVIEW: - Doris Decker

GENERAL SERVICES: - John Smith

PARKS & RECREATION: Paul Snyder.**SANITATION AND RECYCLING: Faith Diascro**

Faith Diascro addressed the following topics:

- Faith Diascro stated the trash bag inventory is 16,000.
- Faith stated she is waiting for an answer from Springfield Paper Specialties on price of purchasing the trash bags from their company.

REVITALIZATION - Doris Decker

Doris Decker stated to council that Brian O'Leary and Joe Hoffman addressed the committee on the following topics:

Brian O'Leary Addressed The Committee On The Following Issues:

History of the Community:

- 40 million Dollars has been awarded for revitalization project since 2000.

Eligibility:

Red Hill Borough Is Eligible For the Program:

- Income, population change, employment change, real estate base, welfare recipients, value of new construction, children under 5 in poverty, and female headed families.

Program Description:

- Historic façade improvement program
- Creation of public plazas
- Streetscape improvements
- Parking lots
- Installation of street lights
- Assistance with attracting businesses
- Construction of affordable housing
- Cleanup of contaminated sites
- Planting of street trees.

Brian O'Leary stated that there are two steps in the program:

1. Creating a Community Revitalization Plan - to qualify for any grant implementation money, communities must have a revitalization plan that examines four core issues;
 - Economic development
 - Public safety
 - Housing
 - Infrastructure and transportation
 -

Red Hill can apply up to \$25,000 to prepare a plan by planning consultants with economic development expertise.

2. Applying for Implementation Grants.
 - Red Hill can apply for up \$433,920 in grants each year with no guarantee that this amount will be granted.
 - Red Hill is part of a regional planning effort; the borough must provide a 10% cash match for any grants.

Joseph E. Hoffman, Grants Manager, BIA

Joe Hoffman addressed the committee on the significant needs and opportunities within Red Hill at the present time:

3. Main Street
 - Curb and Sidewalk between 4th to 6th Street followed by 3rd to 7th street
4. Community Park needs:
 - Additional tree planning, parking areas, playground equipment and one additional multi-purpose ball field.
5. Upper Perkiomen Library needs:
 - Construction of an accessible elevator.
 - Replacement of hard to operate current doors with automatic doors and ramps on the front of the building.
 - Exterior parking is insufficient.

Additional Needs by Agency

- Fire
- Ambulance
- Water And Sewer Authorities
- Trash Collection And Recycling
- Routine Street Repair And Resurfacing
- Economic Development
- Regional Comprehensive

Grant Opportunities

6. Two types of grant opportunities exist:
 - Grants that re-occur on an annual basis.
 - DEP
 - DCNR
 - CDBG
 - AFG
 - Keystone Commonwealth Fund Library Program
 - Penn vest
 - DCED Capital Fund Grants, Both State And Federal Brownfield's Grants
 - Penn Dot Safe Routes To School And Smart Transportation Grants

Grants that are either part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

- Federal Economic Stimulus Program or part of the State Economic Stimulus program - deadline September 30th.
- Tree grants are available thru the Montgomery County Tree Vitalize Program.
- Grants are available for alternative, clean renewable energy (solar, wind, geothermal and bio fuels)

MAYOR: David Schiffgens

ENGINEER: Ryan Kern, Barry Isett Associates

The following projects are currently under review:

Kershner/Weaver Tract -

Land Acquisition One, LLC received Conditional Use approval for the Kershner Tract and the Weaver Tract with the borough approving a Village Housing Overlay District for both parcels. Mr. Robert Irick contacted BIA to discuss the ultimate right-of-way interpretation of Hendricks Road. BIA recommended that BIA review the previous approved plans for the Weaver tract and offer their interpretation. Coordination with Bob Erick regarding municipal boundary. Preliminary plans will probably be submitted in the fall.

Paone Townhouse Development –

The Borough is in the process of setting up a meeting between RHB, BIA and Bohler engineering to discuss the project. Meeting is tentatively scheduled for April 2009. BIA met with borough officials and developer on 4/20/09. BIA is awaiting a revised cost estimate from the developer for Washington Street. **No changes since last month.**

Preston Court –

The borough officials, BIA and solicitor performed a site walk of Preston Court to review the comments in the 2/19/09 LTL review letter. Outstanding construction items and a list of additional items will be needed to be addressed prior to project completion. BIA will prepare a letter that itemizes the additional construction tasks that need attention. As requested, BIA prepared a supplement punch list for the development and finalized the overall cost opinion. **Awaiting further orders.**

MS4 DEP Permitting –

BIA reviewed the comment letter from DEP regarding MS4 Year 4 and 5 annual report. Upon authorization from Borough Council, BIA is prepared to begin addressing DEP'S comments and prepare the resubmission package for the September 2009 deadline. BIA submitted the updated MS-4 report to DEP on June 4th. The new 5-year permit application is due this fall. DEP will send a certified package to the Borough in the coming months. **No further work at this time.**

Arancibia Property -

Ryan Kern attended the June Planning Commission meeting to discuss expansion to the Kimberly Arancibia property, 902 Main Street, Red Hill. Property owner is seeking a zoning variance for off-street parking and side yard setback. Project was withdrawn due to incomplete site plan. On 7/01/09, BIA received revised site plan. **Planning commission gave conditional approval at 7/16/09 meeting. Received revised land development plan. BIA Issued a comment letter on 8/12/09. Zoning hearing meeting is scheduled for 8/31/09.**

MetroPCS Antenna -

Received MetroPCS Antenna plan submission in late July'09. BIA issued comment letter on August 19th 2009. Attended August 20th Red Hill Planning Committee meeting. The Planning Commission recommended the waiving of land development process and recommended Conditional Use Approval (with the condition of an in lieu of fee for three street trees)

Saini Subdivision -

BIA performed a site inspection in early September to view the property, provide photo documentation, and compare construction completeness to the site plans. BIA is in the process of finalizing a completion punch-list.

SOLICITOR: Mark Hosterman

Mark Hosterman stated that THP and MetroPCS will be discussed in executive session.

SECRETARY/TREASURER: –

A motion was made by Faith Diascro to approve the List of Bills for payment, seconded by Paul Snyder. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Charles McCleary to accept the Treasurer's Report for August 2009 as presented. John Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

PRESIDENT: Thomas Paul

Tom Paul stated that Upper Perk Downtown Club requested a donation for the Halloween Parade.

Charles McCleary made a motion to give a \$100 donation to the Upper Perk Downtown Club and Paul Snyder seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Tom Paul adjourned the council meeting at 8:25pm for executive session.

Tom Paul reconvened the council meeting at 9:16pm with the following motions:

Mr. Anthony Ferrugio was informed on the following decision.

Doris Decker made a motion to instruct the Ryan Kern, BIA to get prices on locked bollards and Paul Snyder seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-1. Faith Diascro abstained.

Paul Snyder made a motion to instruct Conrad Bender to get prices on three **No Motorized Vehicles** signs and Mark Rober seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-1. Faith Diascro abstained.

Doris Decker made a motion to schedule the MetroPCS conditional hearing and requesting Mark Hosterman to ask for an extension of time from the developer on October 14, 2009 and Faith Diascro seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Trash bags:

Faith Diascro was authorized by council to purchase trash bags from any vendor; not to exceed \$15, 638.00 and Doris Decker seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment: - On a motion of Mark Rober, seconded by Doris Decker and a unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 9:26 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Darlene Stoudt