

**HOUSE COMMITTEE MEETING  
MINUTES  
September 21, 2021**

The meeting of the House Committee was called to order at 7:55 p.m. by Chairman Gene Gabel. Present in addition to Mr. Gabel were committee members Keith Endy, Barry Christman, and ex-officio member Frank Deery.

Also in attendance were Council member Charles Heller; Marianne Deery, Mayor; Patricia Loder, Borough Manager; Bruce Hansley, Street Supervisor; Jason Newhard, SSM, Inc.; and interested citizens.

A motion to approve the minutes of the August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021 meeting of the committee was made by Mr. Gabel, seconded by Mr. Endy, and approved.

Mr. Gabel called for public comment on the agenda; no comments were forthcoming.

**Unfinished Business**

**Lighting and Parking Lot Layout Plan 25 SRA & 16 WPA** – Mr. Unger advised Mrs. Loder that the lighting plan has been revised and will be provided to her shortly. In addition, Mr. Unger is in the process of obtaining prices for milling and macadamming an area between the lower and upper portion of the parking lot. Mr. Unger will also request an alternate price to overlay the entire parking lot.

**Use and Occupancy Permit for Transfer of Ownership** – Mr. Gabel recognized Mr. Charles Haddad who addressed the committee concerning enactment of an ordinance to require issuance of a Use and Occupancy Permit prior to the transfer of property ownership. Mr. Haddad feels that a U & O Inspection prior to the transfer of ownership is needed to ensure that properties are in compliance with the building code and to ensure control over the maintenance of properties. Discussion was held on the subject and the committee expressed concern about infringing on a property owner's right to sell a property "as is". It was also noted that buyers typically pay for a home inspection prior to purchasing a property. Real Estate agents and property owners present expressed concern that such an ordinance imposes an unfair hardship on long time property owners who wish to sell their property. Agents also noted that the mortgage appraisal process uncovers safety concerns such as knob and tube wiring. Following a somewhat lengthy discussion, Mr. Haddad stated that he would contact West Reading officials to inquire how they handle properties that are offered for sale in "as is" condition. Further discussion will be held on this subject.

**Registration of Rental Property Tenants** – Mr. Gabel recognized Mr. Haddad who stated that according to the 2020 census ½ of Boyertown's population resides in rental units. Mr. Haddad feels it is important to enforce the Borough ordinance requiring registration of tenants in rental properties by May 1<sup>st</sup> annually. Mr. Haddad expressed his opinion that residents residing in rental units should be involved in the community and knowing who they are would provide an opportunity to involve them in community activities.

Mrs. Loder stated that the ordinance was enacted in 1984 for the purpose of identifying individuals in residential rental units in order to assess the \$15.00 per capita tax. The tax collector is authorized to collect the information and historically had done so; however, many years ago the school district and the district municipalities joined together to collect the information through the district's data base and the annual census enumeration process. Due to the pandemic the district and municipalities did not conduct the annual census enumeration in 2020 or 2021.

**Municipal Trash Collection** – Discussion concerning a Municipal Trash Collection Program was tabled to a future meeting.

### **New Business**

**Park & Recreation Board Recommendation to Appoint Susan Lopez as an Advisory Member** – The Park and Recreation Board request Borough Council appoint Susan Lopez to the Park and Recreation Board as an advisory member to complete the unexpired term of Deborah Bertolet, term to expire on 1/01/2023. This matter will be listed on the agenda of the October 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of Borough Council.

**Park Use Agreement – Boyertown Multi Service Turkey Trot** – Mrs. Loder reviewed with the committee a Park Use Agreement to permit the Turkey Trot to begin and end at the Boyertown Community Park on Thanksgiving Day, November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021. This matter will be listed on the October 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of Borough Council.

### **Public Comment**

There being no further business to conduct, a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m. was made by Mr. Gabel and second by Mr. Christman. The next meeting of the House Committee is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021 beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Loder  
Borough Secretary