

Police and Public Safety Committee Meeting

Minutes

March 31, 2021

The meeting of the Police and Public Safety Committee was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Committee Chairman Terry Mest. Present in addition to Mr. Mest were committee members Charles Heller, Lori Carnes, and ex-officio member Frank Deery.

Also in attendance were Council members Keith Endy and Barry Christman; Marianne Deery, Mayor; Police Chief Barry Leatherman; Patricia Loder, Borough Manager, and interested citizens.

Mr. Mest made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 24, 2021 meeting of the committee. The motion was seconded by Mr. Heller and approved.

Police Chiefs Report

Chief Leatherman reviewed the Police Chiefs report submitted on March 1st, 2021. Chief Leatherman also advised the committee of requests for handicap parking signs at 304 and 394 South Reading Avenue. Following discussion, the committee agreed to place the handicap parking requests on the agenda of the April 5th meeting of Council.

Unfinished Business

Mrs. Loder advised the committee that the Boyertown Area Fire & Rescue Board of Directors appointed Gregory W. Deiterich, Fire Chief. No Council action is required.

New Business

BMBA Request to hold Philadelphia Avenue Street Fair 2021 – The committee reviewed and discussed a request submitted by the Berks Mont Business Association to hold the Philadelphia Avenue Street Fair on Saturday, June 12th, with a rain date of Sunday, June 13th, and to request approval for the closure of East Philadelphia Avenue from Reading Avenue to Monroe Street between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Following discussion, the committee agreed to place this matter on the agenda of the April 5th meeting of Borough Council.

Pickleball Tournament Request – Mrs. Loder reviewed a request from the Boyertown Picklers to hold a non-sanctioned Pickleball Tournament at the Boyertown Community Park on Saturday, May 1st, and Saturday, May 8th, rain dates Sunday, May 2nd, and Sunday, May 9th, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to dusk. Following discussion, the committee agreed to place this matter on the agenda of the April 5th meeting of Borough Council.

Fun Days 2021 – Mrs. Loder advised the members that Good Time Amusements offered to staff the ride ticket booth at Boyertown Fun Days 2021. Good Time Amusements understands that the Park and Recreation Board members have expressed personal concerns about staffing the ticket booth themselves due to the Covid 19 virus; and as such had informed Borough Council that they would not hold the event in 2021. Good Time Amusements also made an offer to lease the park from the Borough in order to hold the event in 2021.

A lengthy discussion ensued concerning the pros and cons of permitting the event to be held on June 3rd through June 5th, 2021. At the conclusion of all discussion, the committee agreed to place this matter on the agenda of the April 5th meeting of Borough Council for their authorization to allow the event to be held on June 3rd through June 5th and with the understanding that Good Time Amusements will staff the ride ticket booth.

Request for All-Way Stop Sign at Monroe and Second Street – Mrs. Loder introduced resident James Hartenstine who resides in the 500 block of East Second Street. Mr. Hartenstine requested the committee consider an All-Way Stop Sign at the intersection of Monroe and Second Streets. Mr. Hartenstine stated that sight visibility at the intersection is poor and that vehicle operators often are driving well above the speed limit. Discussion was held on the subject, and Chief Leatherman stated that a traffic study is required. Chief Leatherman recommended that the first step should be a sight meeting with the traffic engineer to review the conditions and get his professional opinion. The committee agreed, Mrs. Loder will arrange a site meeting with the traffic engineer.

Colebrookdale Railroad Improvement Plans – Mrs. Loder advised the committee that she and Council President Deery, Mayor Deery, and traffic engineer Chris Lincoln met with Nathaniel Guest and numerous other employees of the Colebrookdale Railroad to discuss a request by the railroad to remove the barricades at the vacated portion of East Third Street and replace them with an eight inch curb and landscaping. Mr. Lincoln stated that an eight inch curb would not be sufficient to provide adequate protection of pedestrians. Mr. Lincoln is researching the use of approved traffic bollards which would be installed behind the curb.

Mrs. Loder also noted that the location where the railroad proposes to install the eight inch curb appears to be outside of the vacated portion of Third Street. This information has been provided to Solicitor Hartman for his input. Mrs. Loder advised that Mr. Lincoln has not completed his research on approved bollards; therefore, no action is required at this time.

Amended Agreement of Lease 16 W Philadelphia Avenue – Mrs. Loder advised the committee that the auditor retained by the Police Commission found a discrepancy in the pollution insurance coverage. The lease requires a \$1,000,000 annual aggregate; the policy held by EBRP provides a \$25,000 annual aggregate insurance coverage. Through investigation with the insurance agent EBRP Commission learned that \$1,000,000 annual aggregate requirement is excessive because there is no hazardous material stored at the property. The \$25,000 annual aggregate insurance coverage provides sufficient coverage. This amended lease reduces the pollution insurance coverage requirement to \$25,000. Following a brief discussion, the committee agreed to place this matter on the agenda of the April 5th meeting of Council.

Parking Enforcement Officer – Mrs. Loder and Chief Leatherman advised the members that the parking enforcement officer is currently on sick leave, and it is uncertain if he will be able to return to work. Mrs. Loder inquired if the committee would like her to advertise the position. It is a part time maximum 20 hours per week position with an hourly pay rate of \$12.36. Following discussion, the committee directed Mrs. Loder to advertise the position.

Public Comments

There being no further business to conduct a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:21 p.m. was made by Mr. Mest and seconded by Mrs. Carnes. The next meeting of the Police and Public Safety Committee will be held on Wednesday, April 28th, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Loder
Borough Secretary