

ROSSLYN FARMS BOROUGH COUNCIL
Public Hearing and Regular Council Meeting
October 14, 2019

Meeting time: The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm.

Location: Rosslyn Farms Community Center

Attendees: President Steve Tassarò was present. Council members Barbara Becker, Chad Green, and Lee Griffin were present. Also present were Mayor Jim Stover, Secretary/Treasurer Dorothy Falk, and Solicitor Daniel Conlon.

Regrets: Jonathan Glance, Nate Prepelka, Tina Bucci Stacy

Meeting Materials: A sign-in sheet and agenda were provided to those in attendance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

PUBLIC HEARING

President Tassarò opened the public hearing at 7:00pm to consider the adoption of an ordinance that would require a permit for accessory structures in excess of 200 square feet. Solicitor Conlon summarized the ordinance. A discussion followed.

Resident Andrea Harkins asked about other requirements included in the ordinance. Solicitor Conlon explained that any structure would be subject to all building code requirements.

President Tassarò closed the public hearing at 7:10pm.

APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES

Ms. Becker made a motion to accept the minutes from September 8, 2019 as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Griffin and passed unanimously.

CITIZEN'S FORUM

President Tassarò invited citizens to speak.

Resident Dan Harkins asked that Council consider additional efforts to let residents know what items, including ordinances, are under review at its meetings before taking action. Solicitor Conlon reviewed the advertising requirements of the Pennsylvania Borough Code. A discussion followed. President Tassarò indicated that Council is considering a Communications Committee to address the issue going forward.

Mr. Harkins asked about a code enforcement issue. He will provide the details to President Tassarò.

Ms. Griffin indicated that there is a tree with ivy growing on it that needs to be addressed. Her husband can take care of it, if Council agrees. Council approved the removal of the ivy.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:Ordinance advertised for adoption:

Accessory structures – Ms. Griffin made a motion that council adopt the ordinance as presented that would require a building permit for accessory structures in excess of 200 square feet. Mr. Green seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Police contract – Solicitor Conlon presented a copy of a renewal contract for police services with Scott Township, which includes a 2% annual increase in each of the next two years. Solicitor Conlon also presented a draft ordinance which would be required for an intermunicipal agreement. It has been written to allow future renewals to be approved by resolution. A discussion followed.

Ms. Griffin made a motion that council authorize Ms. Falk to advertise the draft ordinance as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Becker, and it passed unanimously.

Ms. Becker made a motion to approve the two year renewal contract with a 2% annual rate increase. A discussion followed. Ms. Griffin expressed her support for the work of the Scott Township police but requested increased police coverage during peak traffic hours. She also requested additional time to review the contract, which had been distributed a few hours before the meeting. There was no second to the motion to approve the contract, so the motion died. The contract will be discussed at the November council meeting.

Edgecliff: Solicitor Conlon summarized three options that would allow the borough to make improvements to the walking trail, which is currently on private property:

- The borough can initiate proceedings by obtaining consent from 51% of abutting property owners to get title to the section of the property that it wants. This would require a survey, an ordinance, and possibly a public hearing.
- The property owners can initiate the above proceedings by filing the required petition.
- Property owners can hire legal counsel to prepare a corrected status of deed. The borough could then get an easement.

A discussion followed. No action was taken at this time.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Angora guide rail: President Tassarò requested three bids for the guide rail. Two responses under the bidding threshold were received. However, they were not to the original project specifications. The borough engineer will follow up to see if they can be brought into compliance.

Consent order: In a discussion with President Tassarò, the borough engineer has indicated that the original consent order has been abandoned so there are no current consent order requirements. Council will include funds for televising in 2020.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Stover gave the police report. There were 14 incidents reported, including multiple domestic disturbances at one residence and several truck violations.

Mayor Stover met with Todd Kravitz from PennDOT and the Scott chief of police regarding a truck turnaround near the gravel area and a potential sign indicating “no through truck traffic to Rt 60”.

SECRETARY/TREASURER’S REPORT

Ms. Falk presented council with reports for Deposits, Profit and Loss, and Account Balances.

Disbursements: Ms. Falk presented council with a list of disbursements for bills received since the October meeting. A discussion followed. Ms. Griffin made a motion that council approve the disbursements as presented. Mr. Green seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Draft 2020 budget: Ms. Falk presented Draft B of the 2020 budget. A discussion followed. The budget will continue to be refined for the next meeting.

2018 audit: Ms. Falk presented council with the audit report for 2018. A discussion followed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Parks: A discussion was held regarding charging for use of the ballfields. Council agreed that fees were justified, as they are charged for use of other borough facilities. They will be implemented next summer.

OLD BUSINESS:

Role of Community Center Commission (CCC): Betsy Tassaró provided a brief history of the commission. A discussion followed. Ms. Becker made a motion that council resolve to restate the powers of the Community Center Commission as presented and discussed. Ms. Griffin seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Ms. Becker reported that Sylvia Bergstadt has resigned from the CCC. Ms. Becker made a motion that Isabel Ford be appointed to the CCC and serve as a liaison with the Rosslyn Farms Community Club. Ms. Griffin seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Ms. Tassaró will send an updated CCC contact list to Lorianne Holt to post on the website. She reminded Council that there would be a rededication of the Belltower and an open house on November 2 at 1pm.

NEW BUSINESS:

Committees: A discussion was held regarding the evolving responsibilities of a proposed Communication committee. Mr. Green offered to chair the committee.

President Tassaró reintroduced the issue of the police contract. A discussion followed. Ms. Griffin left the meeting at 9:00pm.

ADJOURNMENT:

Ms. Becker made a motion that council adjourn the meeting at 9:05pm. Mr. Green seconded the motion, which carried.