

**Regular Meeting
May 29, 2018**

Chairman Heasley called the Regular meeting to order at 7:30 P.M.

The Pledge of Allegiance was repeated.

Roll Call – Commissioners Lilly, Heasley, Bergstrom, Poston and Dizard responded to roll call. The Solicitor and Engineer were present.

Chairman Heasley advised we will dispense with the reading of the minutes.

Chairman Heasley advised we will now hold a Public Hearing and Public Meeting to consider adoption of Ordinance No. 1998 – Granting Volunteer Firefighter Service Earned Income Tax Credit.

Attorney Mueller asked anyone intending to speak at the hearing to stand and be sworn in.

Attorney Mueller advised the purpose of this ordinance is to grant an earned income tax credit of \$300 per year to active firefighters.

Tim Kaczmarek, Union Avenue, said he urges the passage of the ordinance and anything else you can do to assist the volunteer firefighters. He said we are headed for paid firemen.

There being no further comment, Attorney Mueller closed the Hearing.

Chairman Heasley said it would now be to vote on the adoption of Ordinance No. 1998 granting the credit.

Mr. Dizard so moved, and the motion was seconded by Mrs. Bergstrom. Motion carried.

Chairman Heasley said in regard to this ordinance, Resolution No, 1773 establishes the annual criteria for the Volunteer Service Credit Program. He said Robin worked with the fire chiefs and it s based on a 100-point system. This includes answering calls, training and various maintenance service.

Mr. Dizard moved to adopt Resolution No. 1773. Motion seconded by Mrs. Bergstrom and carried.

Remarks from Visitors:

Pam Kisiel, Caroline Street, said the Ivanhoe Street house that burned is still standing and she has learned of other demolitions being done.

Mr. Dizard said these that have been done are using last year’s grant funds. He said there is also an emergency need at 12 Greenwich Street with a row house that is causing damage to the adjacent structure. He said this process takes a long time and we do have some funds in this year’s budget which he hopes we can spend on demolition said there is a \$500,000 application for demolition and we should hear this year about whether it is funded.

Mr. Kisiel said what if you don’t get it? He asked when will you know? Mr. Kisiel said the porch of that house is about to fall in.

Mr. Dizard said he has seen the house and he knows it just 5 or 6 feet from Mr. Kisiel’s house.

Mrs. Kisiel said the grass is awful and needs taken care of and we cannot do it. Dave has had two strokes.

Mr. Dizard said the zoning and ordinance office is undertaking making a list of all the properties that need cut. Mr. Kissel said it is over his knees and there are snakes and rodents in there. He asked why you cannot say when the house will be demolished.

Mr. Dizard said there are no funds right now. He said we did the asbestos inspection already so that is done for when we can go forward. He said the demolition will probably cost \$12,000 to \$15,000 and we will put it on the top of the list.

He said that Norb Cieslinski is going to prepare a list of vacant structures and properties for demolitions and they will prepare a priority list for when funds are available.

Mr. Dizard asked if the summer kids could take care of the lawn there?

Mr. Kisiel said a year or so ago Cieslinski told him he cannot do anything about tires laying on a property and that is crap. He said your own ordinance does not allow them to lay around.

Mr. Dizard said we can have the summer kids take care of the lawn and Kisiel said there is debris all over the place. He said there is no insurance and what happens if someone gets hurt?

Chairman Heasley said the kids are covered under our comp insurance.

Mrs. Kisiel said you have to do something about it.

Mrs. Bergstrom asked about getting an estimate and Chairman Heasley said we don't have the money.

Mr. Kisiel said you told me the same thing last year.

Chairman Heasley said we just don't know a definite time frame and Mr. Dizard said it takes time for the legal process. He said there are zero dollars available through the CD grant program now for demolition.

Mr. Kisiel said he notices that all the demolition is in the southern part of the Township and none in the north.

He asked what comes next and Mrs. Bergstrom asked if we can get a bid to be ready.

Mr. Dizard said there may be a way if we can consider it an emergency but usually it has to go to bids.

Attorney Mueller said that the property is still the owner's responsibility and whatever happens will be their responsibility to take care of it.

Mr. Kisiel said the guy keeps going into the house.

Chairman Heasley said as soon as we can we will put this one at the top of the list. Mr. Kisiel said again that all the demolition is in the southern part of town. Mr. Dizard said we do what we have to do as far as the condition of the structures.

Regis Bartel, N. Meadow Street, said he had property maintenance issues with a neighbor. She has been cited before and she'll cut the grass when the hearing comes up then let it go again.

He said he thinks she deals drugs too.

Mr. Dizard said we have the address and the zoning office is aware of what she keeps doing with the property. He said we have to start citing her again. He said once the Magistrate rules then it starts again.

Mr. Bartel said there are snakes and rodents in there and he is putting poison out. He said there is all kinds of equipment in the garage and the woman owns the property. Mr. Bartel said it is ridiculous.

Mr. Dizard said we will look at it again and start the legal process.

Attorney Mueller said it may not seem right but you have to go through due process in these matters. She said it is frustrating to you and even if the person is found guilty they often get off on appeal. That's how it has to be done though.

Mr. Dizard said the Magistrate can fine people but that does not mean the person will correct the problems. Since 2013 we have had 23 citations against a certain individual and he chooses to pay the fines but refuses to clean up the property. We have done everything within our power but we are stymied.

Tim Kaczmarek, Union Avenue, asked if the Township would donate in support of the Tarentum fireworks this year. He said Brackenridge buys \$300 worth of tickets to help fund it. Everyone in the area benefits from the fireworks display.

Mr. Kaczmarek said the volunteer firemen need help in every way.

Mr. Heasley asked if we can use tax money to support the fireworks show?

Attorney Mueller said the First Class Code does allow for some donations but they are for certain functions.

Mr. Kaczmarek said maybe an organization can help.

Mrs. Bergstrom asked if there is a fee charged and Mr. Kaczmarek said there is not.

Evelyn Lawrence, 560 Burtner Road, said there is a water problem on Burtner Road that runs from Citizens Hose and covers an entire lane of the road.

Mr. Heasley said there used to be a drainage ditch there but it is possible PennDOT has covered the natural drainage. He said there were tennis courts there before and they would be used for ice skating then drained. He said we can contact someone to look at it. Chairman Heasley said it is worse in the winter with the freezing of the water.

Joel Barbizza, Esquire Drive, asked why we don't allow chickens in a residential area. He said in Pittsburgh you can have 5 chickens per 2,000 square feet.

Chairman Heasley said that our ordinance only allows chicken in an agriculture area.

Attorney Mueller said the Township could amend its ordinance to allow for chickens.

Mr. Barbizza said he was raised on a farm and he would like his kids to be able to raise chickens.

Mr. Antonelli said someone could propose an amendment but there is no guarantee of it passing.

Mr. Dizard said the Planning Commission had a hearing about chickens and they were not in favor of them in residential areas.

Mr. Poston said chickens stink.

Josh Nulph, Recreation Board Chairman, said they had the Touch A Truck event on May 19 and there were many kinds of vehicles represented. He said there were about 1,000 in attendance and it was fine until late in the day when it started raining but people stayed.

He said the Recreation Board will hold a movie night in August and they are trying to find something that is for a wider audience. He said they meet here the 3rd Tuesday of the month but there will be no meeting in June.

Mr. Heasley thanked Josh and the Recreation Board for the activities they are providing to the community.

Committee Reports, Mrs. Bergstrom, reporting for Fire and Property and Grants, said Jim Erb advised they had 300 EMS calls this month and will probably have over 3,500 for the year. She said Citizens had 6 calls during the month. Hilltop had 8 alarms and they are getting equipment with their grant.

Mrs. Bergstrom said Harrison Hills had 14 calls and did 16 hours of training. She said they worked with her on the Ordinance passed tonight for the firefighter tax credit.

She said that Chuck and she met with the CEO of the Hospital concerning a grant of \$45,000 and they will submit a formal application. Mrs. Bergstrom said we filed a \$500,000 GEDF grant for the biking and walking trail development and we are working on the Silver Lake development.

Mr. Antonelli said he is working on clearances for the foot bridge work.

Mr. Dizard said the HP ramps are being installed from Mile Lock Lane to Eat and Park.

Finance, Mr. Poston reporting in Mr. Lilly's absence, read the Bills Payable in the amount of \$44,207.38 and moved to approve them. Motion seconded by Mrs. Bergstrom and carried

Mr. Poston read the bills due from the Bond account in amount of \$21,109.69 and moved to approve them. Seconded by Mr. Dizard and carried.

Mr. Poston said the Paid Bills to be Ratified total \$103,588.26 and moved to approve. Motion seconded by Mrs. Bergstrom and carried.

Mr. Dizard, Zoning and Ordinance, said there were 15 occupancy inspections and 11 passed, bringing in \$750. He said there were 146 complaints received being the highest ever. He said the staff is really trying to get things done.

Mr. Dizard said the year to date figures are well above last year. Zoning certificates were \$1,700 and permits, \$5,700. He said that is lower than last year but we have no big new development as we did then. He said the complaints included junk cars, trash, and high grass all over the township. They also checked into unregistered rentals and had 8 vehicle complaints.

Mr. Dizard said since last year they have tagged over 250 cars and most of them were removed by the owners.

Mr. Dizard said one of the zoning officers is leaving in a week or so since he resigned and we are sorry to see him leave. He said we are hiring Thomas Grant as of June 1 to take his place.

He will work 20 to 25 hours per week on a part-time basis mostly on ordinance violations.

Mr. Dizard said we are also completing review of a contract with Jim Desmone to perform rental inspections for the Township. He said he has worked in Brackenridge Brough for a number of years.

Mr. Dizard said Norb Cieslinski is going to make a review of all the vacant properties and lots that need cut throughout the Township for a comprehensive list.

Mr. Poston said I thought that was done with that CMU intern and the kid that went through the entire Township making note of all property conditions.

Mr. Dizard said that was done but we need this current review. He said Norb will also work with the information on hand.

Mr. Dizard said Lindsay Fraser compiled a complete list of violations at the Heights Plaza and all parties connected with same including the tenants have been notified. He said the owner is in default and new mortgage company is going after them for \$16.5 million.

Mr. Poston, Public Safety, read the Police Report for the month as follows:

242	Accounted Phone Calls to Records Office
323	Reported Police Support and Service Calls
11	Traffic Accidents
2	Prisoners Detained
2	Juvenile Misdemeanor/Felony Arrests
12	Adult Misdemeanor/Felony Arrests
40	Traffic Citations
10	Non-Traffic Citations
0	Ordinance Citations filed by Police
89	Parking Tickets

Fines collected from Allegheny County Court	77.68
Fines collected from District Court	2,474.35
Fines form Parking Tickets	430.00
Copies of Reports of Accidents	30.00
Total	\$ 3,012.03
Disbursements to Police for District Court Hearings	457.20

Mr. Poston said officers attended simulated firearms training and rifle instructor training.

He read two letters of thanks to the Police from ladies who were in distress, one who had lost the wheel of her scooter in the Plaza and another who was in an accident.

Mr. Poston said I have been working on a retirement exit plan for the Chief. He said Chief Klein has been here 35 years and has been Chief for 25 of those years. He said he has not taken a sick day in his career.

Mr. Poston said this would be a retirement agreement and what would have been 5 years is now down to four years and then he would have to retire. He said Chief Klein gave up concessions to get to the terms of this agreement.

Mr. Poston said he would be 64 when he retires and this agreement would save the Township money. He said he gave the information to the Board for their review

Mr. Poston moved to approve the retirement agreement with Chief Klein which would end in four years.

Mrs. Bergstrom said she does not have the final wording of the document, she hadn't seen it and she cannot act on it without seeing it.

Mr. Poston showed it to Mrs. Bergstrom and said we discussed the length of the agreement and the only change in the document is that it would be 4 years instead of five.

Mr. Poston said Chief Klein has given us many years of exceptional service and has been a member of the State and the County Chiefs of Police Associations and has been honored by the Allegheny County District Attorney. He said the D.A. wanted Chief to come work for him and he does do undercover work.

Chairman Heasley asked the audience if they had questions.

Mrs. Rudolph said her only question would be why there would be any question about giving him the agreement. She said she would be disappointed if it was not approved.

Mrs. Bergstrom asked if the DROP program is still in the agreement and Mr. Poston said you have reviewed it all but the change in the title of the agreement.

Mr. Erb in the audience said the Board has always made sure that we have the best and this Police Department is the best of all in the area. He said they have a great Chief and great officers.

Chief Klein said nothing has changed.

Mrs. Bergstrom said she would have to vote no because she has not seen the current document.

Chief said you could abstain from voting if you were unsure of the terms.

Chairman Heasley seconded the motion. Mrs. Bergstrom voted no. Mr. Dizard voted no. Mr. Lilly was absent.

Mr. Dizard said he feels the same as Robin about seeing the document and that is why he voted no.

Mr. Poston said it is not a contract, it is a retirement agreement and Chief has to leave at the end of it.

Mrs. Bergstrom said she has questions about it.

Motion failed due to lack of a majority vote.

Chairman Heasley, Public Safety, said they have begun the grass cutting throughout the Township including the strip along Freeport Road which is five miles

of grass to be cut each week. Chairman Heasley said they repaired 5 catch basins and replaced another in preparation of street paving.

The department poured concrete to replace the curbs and sidewalks around the new basins and replaced rusty manhole lids on various street for the paving project.

Chairman Heasley said they cut and cleaned up around all the honor rolls for the Memorial Day weekend and continue to pick up leaf bags for composting. Another catch basin was just repaired also on Chestnut Street since it was collapsing.

Chairman Heasley said Russell Standard would be doing a seal coat and chip project and Mr. Antonelli said they should start next week.

He said this fiberglass chip seal provides a better surface on the alleys and they will last longer.

Chairman Heasley read Resolution No. 1774-Establishing Residential Permit Parking along Sylvan Avenue, Glenmar Street, Peral Street, Pearl Street Extension, South Meadow Street, Laurel Alley and Parkway Avenue as detailed therein.

MR. Dizard so moved. Motion seconded by Mrs. Bergstrom and carried.

Mrs. Bergstrom asked what happens if someone parks there without a permit? She was advised they would get a ticket.

Chairman Heasley advised next is to accept the resignation Douglas Gallagher effective June 8, 2018.

Mr. Dizard reluctantly moved to accept this resignation. Motion seconded by Mrs. Bergstrom and carried.

Chairman Heasley said we appreciate Doug's efforts while he was employed here.

Chairman Heasley said net is to make the \$1,250 Second Quarter Allocations to each fire company.

Mrs. Bergstrom so moved; seconded by Mr. Dizard and carried.

Chairman Heasley said the next action is to accept the proposal from Comcast Business to upgrade the internet and phone service. Mr. Dizard said we will have much better internet service and moved to accept the proposal. Motion seconded by Mrs. Bergstrom and carried.

Chairman Heasley said we have a proposal from Creighton Printing for 5,000 flyers with Township Website and Savvy Citizen information at a cost of \$875.

Mr. Dizard said they will be sent out with the quarterly sewage bills so there will be no mailing cost. Mr. Dizard so moved; seconded by Mrs. Bergstrom and carried.

Chairman Heasley said the next item is to authorize the one-year cost of the Savvy Citizen app at \$1,832.

Mr. Poston asked if anyone in the audience uses it and two people said they use it.

Mr. Rudolph said all the same information is on the website.

It was advised that we have been a test community so it has not cost us anything for a year but the one-year rate goes into effect June 1. Mr. Dizard said we

are getting a two month credit because we got another municipality to sign up with Savvy Citizen. He said there are 727 users and if we can get 1,000 that is pretty good.

Mrs. Bergstrom suggested waiting on this to see what kind of response we get from the flyers. Mr. Dizard said the rate is higher if we pay monthly because we don't get the advantage of the credit.

Mr. Poston said if only 700 people are using it that is a pretty high cost to provide it free to the users.

Mrs. Bergstrom said from some of the comments it appears that people think it is expensive.

Mr. Dizard moved to table the action. Motion seconded by Mrs. Bergstrom and carried.

Chairman Heasley said next is to authorize the Solicitor to amend Chapter 20, Parts 1 and 2, the Garbage and Recycling Ordinance.

Mr. Dizard said one change would be that a single residential user that lives on the property of a commercial use can use their dumpster and the second item is to take out the art about separating recyclables since they no longer must be sorted and the third items to correct that the landlord is responsible for the bill, and the tenant cannot be made responsible for it. The fourth item is to require commercial users to recycle glass.

Attorney Mueller said that is not a requirement now but you can include it in an amendment.

Attorney Mueller discussed whether those residents using a dumpster would still have to recycle and whether Waste Management would collect from them.

Chairman Heasley said they may not be agreeable to that since they would not necessarily be the commercial collector.

Mrs. Bergstrom asked about commercial recycling and the Secretary advised although it has been in effect since 1991 not many of the smaller businesses report their recycling.

Chairman Heasley said we could table this for further consideration. MR. Dizard so moved. Motions seconded by Mrs. Bergstrom and carried.

Chairman Heasley said that Waste Management has requested that they be able to make some changes in their Thursday collections since that seems to be their heaviest day. They would move some streets to other days of the week to even it out. They will make the announcement to the residents and remind them if necessary until they get used to the changes.

Mr. Dizard so moved and said the contract must be modified since the streets are listed as part of the contract. Mr. Dizard said this would be in our best interests so Waste Management can provide the service and still balance their work load.

Attorney Mueller said Part One of the Ordinance has the schedule so we may need an ordinance or resolution to amend that.

Mr. Dizard asked her to prepare whatever we need. Motion seconded by Mrs. Bergstrom and carried.

Chairman Heasley read the list of changes that they asked for.

Mr. Poston noted to Lindsay that while he was out looking for a lost dog today he saw a big pile of trash on Juniata Street. Lindsay said she knew there was some on Keystone Street and that many be the same pile of junk.

Mrs. Bergstrom said there were 25 tires on Altermoor Drive that the Rachel Carson Trail drug out and Secretary advised Randy has already decided to collect those and take them to Highland Tire for disposal.

Chairman Heasley said next is to authorize the payment of \$41,000 to CRS Contracting LLC as recommended by the Township Engineer, for the Keystone Communities Grant Demolition.

Mr. Dizard so moved, seconded by Mrs. Bergstrom and carried.

Mr. Dizard said this was the State grant we received for 54 Center and 78 Pine Street.

Mr. Poston asked if these lots could be in the side yard program and r. Dizard said they could be.

Chairman Heasley said tee dt action is to have Norbert Cieslinski perform certain duties regarding vacant properties and high grass and weeds, at a rate of \$17 per hour us mileage.

Mr. Dizard said I explained earlier that this would give us a comprehensive list of these abandoned properties and moved to have Norbert do so.

Mrs. Rudolph in the audience asked how many positions do you have in that office?

Mr. Dizard said there is one full time person, one part time about 23 hours per week and one office staff for about the same hours. There were two full time but one has yet resigned and has been replaced by an art time person. He said Bucky works 25 hours per week.

Jim Erb asked if the potions were posted?

Mr. Dizard said they were posted when we hired last year and we worked from those applicants to hire now.

Mr. Erb said this came up a year ago and he wondered how the Board puts these jobs out. He said last year the person who was second was told he would be the next one considered for a job and that didn't happen apparently. He said the results may be different now than before if you advertised.

Mr. Dizard said it is consistent with what we did last year.

Mr. Kisiel asked wo Norb reports to and was advised by Mr. Dizard that would be Lindsay Fraser.

Mr. Kisiel said Norb told him five years ago he couldn't do anything about tires and he knew it was in the ordinance.

Motion seconded by Mrs. Bergstrom and carried, with Mr. Poston voting no.

Chairman Heasley said next is to approve a contract with James Desmone to provide occupancy inspections at a cost of \$50.

Mr. Dizard said that is the charge we have now and he will get \$30 and the Township, \$20 of the fees. He said the reinspection would also be split at \$15 and \$10. MR. Dizard moved to go forward with a contract with Mr. Desmone. Motion seconded by Mrs. Bergstrom and carried.

Chairman Heasley said the last agenda item is to hire Thomas Grant as a part time zoning ad ordinance officer effective June 1, 2018 at a rate of \$18 per hour.

Mr. Dizard said he would work 20-25 hours per week and moved to ire Grant. He said he would be concentrating on ordinance enforcement and not inspections.

Mr. Poston asked if he works more hours do we have to come back and approve that?

Mrs. Bergstrom said the equivalent of these people is close to 3 full time employees though only one is full time.

Mr. Erb said he felt if this was a new position on that it should be posted for applications.

He suggested posting all available Township positions.

Mr. Dizard said he was second in line when we hired last year for a part time position.

Mr. Poston said when we hire from the police list they are 1 - 2 - 3 so we went to the next one.

Mrs. Bergstrom said this is not the same position by the hours. Mr. Dizard added to his motion that Thomas Grant would not work ore than 25 hours per week and it would come back before the Board if more hours were needed. Mrs. Bergstrom seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mr. Antonelli said has the recommendation for final payment to A. P. Wise for the 2017 CD demolition program. The total is \$12,523.50 and the Township's share is \$7,964.50, with COG paying the balance from the grant of \$4,559 and asked for the Board's approval.

Mr. Dizard so moved and said at last word the final work on the demolition sites was not completed. Mr. Antonelli confirmed that they were done. He said they just need seeded and mulch and he has photos of the properties.

Mr. Lilly agreed and Mr. Antonelli said Wise will do the work as soon as possible.

Motion seconded by Mrs. Bergstrom and carried.

Mr. Antonelli advised the Chestnut Street Sewer Separation Project needed an adjustment to the UAJSA line and we have a proposal of \$2,800 and need the Board's approval.

Mr. Dizard said this would be paid from the Bond Account.

Mrs. Bergstrom oved to approve the cost of \$2,000 for the work. Seconded by Mr. Dizard and carried.

Mr. Antonelli said as part of the EPA Consent Order, Pittsburgh Drain Services located a sewer lateral at a cost of \$4,350 and asked for the Board's approval. This would be from the Bond Account also.

Mr. Antonelli said State Pipe would t do the work on private property but they did some cleaning work that they will bill for.

Mr. Dizard oved to approve this cost. Motions seconded by Mrs. Bergstrom and carried.

Mr. Antonelli asked to have a very brief executive session with the Board following the meeting to discuss legal matters.

Mr. Poston moved to adjourn. Motion seconded by Mr. Dizard.

Mrs. Rudolph said six or seven years ago we have two people in the zoning and ordinance office and now we have 5 ordinance officers.

Mr. Dizard said I could explain the reason for that and Mrs. Rudolph replied that we don't have that kind of time.

Meeting adjourned at 9:13 P.M.

ATTEST:

TOWNSHIP OF HARRISON

Executive Secretary

By _____
President, Board of
Commissioners