

**Minutes of the Work Session ZOOM Meeting
Of the Brough of Chester Heights
222 Llewelyn Road
Chester Heights, PA 19017
October 26th, 2020**

Call to Order President Baum called the public meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led those in attendance in the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members Present Drew Baum, President
Ginamarie Ellis, Vice President
Laura M. Lim, Pro Tem
Susan Clarke, Council
Dave Firkser, Council
Fred Wood, Mayor

Officials Present Matthew R. Houtmann, P.E., Engineer
Gerald C. Montella, Esq., Solicitor

Public Comment – was given by:

Marta Driscoll
458A Lenni Road

Trish Williams Godwin
116 Logtown Road

Solicitor's Reports – Solicitor Montella updated Council on Snow Removal Bids due on October 26th, 2020. 1 bid was received by MOR Construction. Engineer Houtmann and Solicitor Montella agreed to open bid at the next public Meeting and, review previous information over the prior years to compare the bid received to assist in making a decision.

Solicitor Montella updated Council on the Stray Dog contract. Solicitor Montella spoke with Alan Strickler and is drafting a contract for his review. Solicitor Montella will also seek information from D & D Kennel and a stray cat vendor. Solicitor Montella informed Council the contract will be with Alan Strickler, not D & D Kennel, Mr. Strickler will pick up stray dogs and deliver to D & D Kennel at which time D & D Kennel will bill the borough. Solicitor Montella may draft a memo of understanding with the cat vendor due to the minimal number of calls.

Engineer's Reports – Engineer Houtmann updated Council on the Old Quarry Knoll walking trail agreement that had a 9-month time allowance. Engineer Houtmann spoke with Specialist Solicitor Pete Rohana. Mr. Rohana suggested an amendment to the developer's agreement to allow for more time to install the walking trail due to Council's upgrades for a larger walking trail, Council agreed Solicitor Rohana should proceed with an amendment. Engineer Houtmann is meeting Pro Tem Lim, Steve Conrad, and Tom Mazzenga at the park to discuss cost and what was

proposed prior to Council extending the walking trail and everyone will have a better idea of how to proceed.

Finance/Insurance – Mayor Wood presented the 2021 Proposed Budgets

- ✚ 2021 Proposed General Fund
- ✚ 2021 Proposed Liquid Fuels Fund
- ✚ 2021 Proposed Fire Protection Fund
- ✚ 2021 Proposed Open Space Fund

Mayor Wood acknowledged that the proposed budgets will be adjusted over the next couple of weeks due to information being received. Once all the adjustments have been made, the 2020 vs 2021 Budget information will be distributed for comparison. Highlights: Fire Protection Plan to use all money raised from taxes for Fire Company, IRA for fulltime employees matching amount \$3,000.00, park improvements to community park – playground equipment, maintenance at DiSalvo park, Darlington Creek park – possible walking trail, clean up from miscellaneous dumping. Pro Tem Lim thanked Engineer Houtmann for getting MS4 plan approved which provides \$35,000.00 towards basin 1 to reduce sediment and improves the environment for the borough. Basin 2 will be on schedule for 2022. Pro Tem Lim also mentioned possible planning for the 75th Anniversary to include historical signs at \$250.00 per sign with some fluctuation if needed.

Old Business

Mayor Wood presented information about landscaping around the Borough sign, he is waiting to receive the written portion of the bid. The bid will be from a local landscaping business owned by Eva Manko who has created a design plan. For the current season what was proposed: 2 dwarf spruce trees, which need to be ordered due to receiving them in a timely manner and other assorted perennials and annuals to accommodate the holiday season so trees can be lit. The installation fee for this is \$1400.00. The bid will include a maintenance agreement for area upkeep and include seasonal plantings. Mayor Wood suggested future water and electrical run to this area. Mayor Wood asked for approval to allow vendor to order the dwarf spruce trees prior to receiving the bid due to delayed shipping and the design plans will be sent to Council for review.

Vice President Ellis inquired about the reassessment status of the school district. Solicitor Montella requested Council's permission to contact the school districts Solicitor for an update on status.

Resolution 10-A-20 **Solicitor Montella** presented Resolution 10-A-20 Authorizing application to the 2020 PECO Green Region Open Space program for the Chester Heights Community Park walking trail project.

Whereas, the Council for the Borough of Chester Heights desires to undertake the Chester Heights Community Park Walking Trail Project;
Whereas, the Council for the Borough of Chester Heights has received and Understands the 2020 PECO Green Region Open Space Program Guidelines: and Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, That Council for the Borough of Chester Heights Hereby Approves this Project and Authorizes application to the 2020 PECO Green

Region Open Space Program in the amount of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00), And Be It Further Resolved, That if, the application is Granted, the Borough commits To the expenditure of matching funds in the amount of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) necessary for the project's success.

MOTION

Upon Motion, Council (Ellis/Firkser) voted and unanimously approved Resolution 10-A-20 a Resolution to authorize the application to the 2020 PECO Green Region Open Space program for the Chester Heights Community Park Walking Trail project. The Borough commits to the expenditure of matching funds in the amount of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) necessary for the project's success.

New Business

Councilwoman Clarke reported on the USDA – Spotted Lantern Fly:

The Spotted Lantern Fly appeared in 2014 in Berks County and resurged in 2018. Some areas are starting to see a decrease due to a fungus that kills them. The fungus appears like white markings on the bug. Wawa has signed up for the USDA program. USDA priority areas are 1) airports, truck centers (anywhere the bug could get carried out of the quarantine zone), 2) agricultural areas especially vineyards, 3) everything else. The USDA representative informed Councilwoman Clarke that areas like Wawa are lower priority due to limited resources. Chemicals can be used in our area which require a licensed company to apply them. USDA said they might be able to provide one of the chemicals free of charge, as long as the licensed company applies them. The best website for information - <https://extension.psu.edu/>. If the Borough has any community events the USDA will be happy to come and set up an informational table for residents and suggested social media posts and newsletter updates as often as possible.

Councilwoman Clark informed Council that the USDA is usually slower in the winter months and may be able to search areas in the Borough for "Trees of Heaven" which is the preferred host for the bug. Once these "Trees of Heaven" are found, the Borough can notify the homeowner and they can either cut down the tree or contact a licensed company to treat the infestation if so desired. Keep in mind that there is a limited time for treatment due to other forms of insects, birds, etc.

1. Educate residents on all information possible
2. "Tree of Heaven" learn and identify, treat
3. Spotted Lantern Flies – destruction and prevention for the future
4. Licensed Professional to carry out a safe plan

Additional period for public comment – given by:

Marta Driscoll
458A Lenni Road

Gary Koener
Camp Meeting

ADJOURNMENT Upon Motion, (Lim/Firkser) unanimously voted to adjourn meeting at 7:57 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Darlene Kurten
Recording Secretary