

Workshop Meeting Activity

July 13, 2020

TITLE

MOTION

SECOND

Approve the June 15, 2020
Legislative Meeting Minutes.

Commissioner Darragh

Commissioner Richert

Adopt the Parking Overlay Amendment
to the Zoning Ordinance.

Commissioner Darragh

Commissioner Haluka

Adjournment

TOWNSHIP OF ALEPPO

WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES

July 13, 2020

CALL TO ORDER:

President Jones called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. with roll call. Those in attendance were Commissioner Daniel Darragh, Commissioner Amy Richert, Commissioner Judy Haluka, Solicitor Harlan Stone, Manager Gwen Patterson, and Secretary Patty Krecek. Vice President Arthur Williams participated by telephone. The meeting is being recorded.

MINUTES:

Commissioner Darragh made a motion to approve the June 15, 2020 Legislative Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Richert seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

AMAZON:

Commissioner Richert provided an update on the communications between the Township and Amazon. She said that before the restrictions due to COVID-19, she was meeting in person once a month with representatives from Amazon to discuss problems. They discussed signage, ordering waste baskets, and other concerns. She is now re-engaging with Amazon to let them know about the recent complaints regarding the drivers, and Amazon has been very responsive. She said the link for the video from the Township's meeting last week was emailed to Amazon and they are setting a date for the week of July 27th to meet in person. Amazon did issue a response by email to address the issues from the video. Commissioner Richert read the email from Ryan McClain, Operations Manager, and a copy of the email was provided to the Board.

EMERGENCY EXIT FROM MANOR:

Manager Patterson stated that she worked with Solicitor Stone on a couple of changes to the language for the easement agreements. She said the changes were made and she is waiting for the final documents. As soon as those are received, she will be coming up with a strategy to approach the property owners (five residents and The Manor) to start discussing the easements.

2020 SEWER BOND REFINANCING:

Manager Patterson said this project is ongoing. She is having working group calls with the bond counsel and the financial advisors to discuss the status and having a call with Moody's to check on the Township's rating. She said the refinancing is still on schedule for September.

NEW BUSINESS:

PARKING OVERLAY AMENDMENT TO ZONING ORDINANCE:

Commissioner Darragh made a motion to adopt the Parking Overlay Amendment to the Zoning Ordinance. Commissioner Haluka seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

REQUEST FOR AMENDMENT TO ZONING ORDINANCE REGULATING DISTILLERIES, WINERIES, AND BREWERIES:

Manager Patterson stated that the Township received a letter requesting a change to the Zoning Ordinance to allow Distillery, Winery, Brewery and On-Site Liquor Sales as a Conditional Use in the R-3 Zoning District. Steven Victor from Victor-Wetzel Associates spoke on behalf of Kim McLaughlin, the owner of the distillery, to explain the plan for McLaughlin Distillery. The Board recommended that the request be sent to the Planning Commission for review at their August 2020 meeting.

The following residents spoke to the Board and stated why they are not in favor of this change: Fred and Jerri Gregorich from 546 Glenfield Road, Elizabeth and Fred Burnette from 183 Ferry Road, and Jeffrey A. Thomas from 195 Ferry Road.

ZONING ORDINANCE COMPREHENSIVE REVISION PROPOSAL:

Manager Patterson stated that the ASO (Aleppo, Sewickley, Osborne) Plan update and revisions are almost completed. The consultant is hoping to present the revised Plan to the Board for review in August 2020. Manager Patterson said they can now begin the Zoning Ordinance revisions, and she provided a proposal from HRG with a cost of \$22,702.53. She said the Planning Commission is anxious to get this project started and the engineer, Ben Gilberti, will be at the meeting next week to answer questions.

TRAFFIC SIGHTLINES ON MCCOY PLACE ROAD:

Manager Patterson said there is a bend on McCoy and residents have expressed their concerns about their sight line at the bend. Last week the Public Works crew painted a single yellow line around that part of the bend as a way to help remind people to stay in their lane as they are coming around the bend. Manager Patterson stated that the next step would be to look into putting no parking signs on both sides of the street in certain sections of McCoy; however, this idea should be discussed with the property owners (approximately four) who would have a sign in front of their house because they would be unable to park in front of their house (the properties do have driveways). President Jones stated that the Board has been addressing the issue with McCoy Place Road traffic for quite some time. He said they have thought about putting speed bumps or lines. He said he had an experience on McCoy just the other day. There was a landscape truck parked in front of one of the houses and he had probably 20 feet of sight and had to go into the other lane. President Jones asked Manager Patterson to contact the property owners for their feedback on the no parking signs.

TOWNSHIP PROPERTY IMPROVEMENT REQUEST - FLAGPOLE ON SEWICKLEY HEIGHTS DRIVE:

Manager Patterson stated that the Township received a request form asking for a permanent flagpole at the entrance to the Sewickley Heights Manor with a United States flag. Manager Patterson said she contacted the resident who submitted the request, Roger Valenti, and he said homeowners would chip in to buy the flagpole, the flag would be donated, and he would like it to be a Township flagpole to be installed and maintained by the Township. He said it would not be lighted, so the flag would have to be raised and lowered every day, and he would get neighbors to volunteer to do this. Commissioner Haluka expressed her concern about the maintenance and adhering to flag etiquette in a proper way, e.g., ensuring that the flag is raised and lowered every day, and she would not want to take on that responsibility. She also said the flag cannot be lighted in the location they want to put it and it might be 20 or 30 feet high. Commissioner Darragh suggested they contact the Homeowners Association. President Jones asked Manager Patterson to pass this along to the Sewickley Heights Manor Board for input.

TRAVELING GLASS RECYCLING PROPOSAL - SEWICKLEY BOROUGH:

Manager Patterson said a member of the Sewickley Borough Council called to discuss glass recycling. The Pennsylvania Resources Council (PRC) is applying for a grant for a permanent recycling location; however, there is an opportunity for a temporary glass recycling dumpster for one week for \$900, and if an additional dumpster is needed, it would be an additional \$300. The dumpster would be at the Quaker Valley Shopping Center or at the high school or middle school. Sewickley would like to have a partner to share the dumpster cost. Manager Patterson stated that after this discussion, she had a QVCOG meeting and a donor has funded two travel sites for glass recycling - Avalon for one week and Leetsdale for one week. After August 1, 2020, she will know the exact dates. It will be open to QVCOG members and the Township is a member. President Jones stated that this Saturday there is going to be an online discussion about solid waste of the future sponsored by the QVCOG. He said to wait until after that discussion. Manager Patterson will contact Sewickley and let them know this was discussed, but there is no decision yet.

SEWICKLEY/LEETSDALE SEWER PROPOSAL:

Commissioner Darragh said he attended a meeting about 10 days ago with the Sewickley Borough Manager, the Township President, and an engineer. He provided the following summary: He asked who is in charge and Jeff Neff said, "I don't want to have anything to do with sewage." Dan Slagle has been acting on behalf of Sewickley, but works directly for Leetsdale. Commissioner Darragh said he really needs to get a better sense of the costs. He asked Dan Slagle if he could go to the DEP now and ask if the Leetsdale plant can be re-certified for a higher volume. Dan Slagle said it would cost \$10,000. Commissioner Darragh suggested they talk to the eight municipalities that are part of this and see if everybody will pitch in to pay the fee. This way they can determine if re-certification is possible or if it will have to be an expansion. President Jones said it appears Sewickley is now making an effort to get answers to their questions; however, it was very clearly stated that Sewickley wants out of the wastewater business, which directly impacts Aleppo Township because they treat the waste.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION:

Chris Grimm from 1255 Merriman Road spoke to the Board and stated the following three concerns: 1) Flagpole - Since it will be on Township property, is the Township responsible if it would fall on someone or fall on a vehicle? 2) Storm drain - He still gets water in his yard. Manager Patterson said the engineer is reviewing the issue and is coming up with one or two sketch designs to try to resolve the issue. 3) The noise from radios and lights from the Industrial Park due to the parking overlay - Does the Zoning Ordinance have restrictions for these? Solicitor Stone suggested he get a copy of the Zoning Ordinance and report violations to the Township office.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned by President Jones at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Krecek
Township Secretary