

Workshop Meeting Activity

November 14, 2022

TITLE

MOTION

SECOND

Approve the October 17, 2022 Legislative Meeting Minutes.

Commissioner Darragh

Commissioner Haluka

Adjournment

TOWNSHIP OF ALEPPO

WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES

November 14, 2022

CALL TO ORDER:

President George Jones called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance and roll call. Those in attendance were Vice President Arthur Williams, Commissioner Dan Darragh, Commissioner Judy Haluka, Solicitor Harlan Stone, Manager Gwen Patterson, and Secretary Patty Krecek. Commissioner Amy Richert was not in attendance. President Jones announced that the meeting is being recorded.

MINUTES:

Commissioner Darragh made a motion to approve the October 17, 2022 Legislative Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Haluka seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

ACT 57 PROPERTY TAX PENALTY WAIVER ORDINANCE:

Manager Patterson said the Ordinance has been advertised for adoption at the Legislative Meeting on November 21, 2022. President Jones said the tax penalty waiver is mandatory because it is a new state law.

2023 DRAFT BUDGET STATUS UPDATE:

Manager Patterson said the Commissioners will be receiving a draft of the budget at the Legislative Meeting on November 21, 2022. She said there is no proposed tax increase for 2023. Manager Patterson said that Treasurer Clay Steup is going to give a brief overview of the status of the Township's general finances at the Legislative Meeting on November 21, 2022.

NEW BUSINESS:

DEER CULLING/NO-FEEDING ORDINANCE:

Manager Patterson said a couple of residents have contacted her about excessive amounts of deer. She said in the Sewickley Herald two weeks ago there was an article about Franklin Park and McCandless Township having deer culling programs. She also said they have ordinances prohibiting feeding deer. Manager Patterson said she contacted Suburban Whitetail Management, which is the agency mentioned in the Herald, and they said they will work with a municipality or individual residents. She said if a resident has property with enough acreage, Suburban Whitetail will work directly with the resident and the Township does not have to be involved in the culling program. President Jones asked Manager Patterson to put the article from the Sewickley Herald on the Township's website.

Manager Patterson provided samples to the Commissioners of the Franklin Park and McCandless Township ordinances for prohibiting feeding the deer. Solicitor Stone said if there is a resident who is habitually feeding the deer, the Township has a Nuisance Ordinance, which enables them to cite the resident and take them to the magistrate. He said if the Commissioners want to adopt an ordinance for no feeding the deer, they will need to determine how the enforcement of the ordinance will work. Commissioner Haluka said they should have a discussion about whether the Township would be willing to take residents to the magistrate over feeding deer before they decide about the ordinance. Solicitor Stone said that currently if a resident complains, the Township can act based on the complaint. He said if there is an ordinance and a resident complains, and the Township does not enforce the ordinance, the resident might question why the Township is not enforcing it. Commissioner Darragh said the ordinance can be written so that the Township gives the resident a notice to stop feeding the deer before there is any kind of enforcement. President Jones asked the Commissioners to review the sample ordinances and they will discuss this again next week.

SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE REVISION PROPOSAL:

Manager Patterson provided a proposal from HRG Engineering for a re-write of this ordinance. She said this ordinance is from the 1990's, so it is time to revise it. She also said the cost for this is in the 2023 budget. Manager Patterson said the approval of the proposal will be on the agenda for the Legislative Meeting on November 21, 2022.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT JOB OPENING:

Manager Patterson said Jim Vescio has taken a job with his son's company, so there is an opening in the Public Works Department. She said the position has been advertised and she has received two applications. She said the Township is still accepting applications.

SUPPORT FOR HOUSE BILL 955 AMENDING TITLE 45 REGULATING MUNICIPAL ADVERTISING REQUIREMENTS:

Manager Patterson said this topic was brought to her attention by the COG. She said there are certain rules that govern how municipalities advertise and they have to advertise in newspapers with paid circulation. She said when the Herald went to a free paper it no longer qualified as the Township's paper of record, and the Citizen, which serves the Emsworth and Avalon areas, is ceasing to publish. Manager Patterson said that will leave all of the municipalities with the much more expensive advertising in the Post-Gazette. The Township currently advertises in the Beaver County Times. She said the Township has to advertise all of its ordinances, meetings, etc. She said the COG has written a letter to the Senators expressing support for a bill that would allow municipalities to advertise on their websites instead of solely in newspapers with paid circulation, and the COG has suggested that each municipality also express support for the bill by sending a letter to the Senators. Solicitor Stone said the newspapers lobbied for years to hold off on this bill. He said that during the COVID pandemic there was a temporary act, which said municipalities could advertise on their website. He said it was very effective because residents indicated they had a very good experience, they were notified quickly, and the cost of advertising was reduced to the municipalities. Solicitor Stone said the bill was introduced in 2021 and it never made it out of the Committee. He said the letter from the Township will ask the Senators to reintroduce the bill. Manager Patterson said she currently puts notices on the Township's website in the section titled Public Notices. The Commissioners said they support the idea. President Jones asked Manager Patterson to prepare a draft letter and the Commissioners will review it at the Legislative Meeting on November 21, 2022.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION:

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Not requested.

ADJOURNMENT:

President Jones adjourned the meeting at 7:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Krecek
Township Secretary