



**REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE  
BRYN ATHYN BOROUGH COUNCIL**

***COUNCIL CHAMBER***

**September 10, 2018**

The meeting was called to order by President Jeffrey Elsing at 7:00p.m. The following were present:

**MEMBERS OF COUNCIL**

Glenn Gurney  
Ric Asplundh  
Jeffrey Elsing

Duane D. Hyatt  
Mark Pennink  
Aurelle Genzlinger

ALSO: Victoria S. Trost, Bradley E. Cranch, Stephen Gray, Reid Heinrichs, Solicitor R. Rex Herder. Councilman Brent McCurdy and Mayor Ken Schauder were excused.

**MINUTES**

*On a motion by Glenn Gurney, seconded by Mark Pennink, Council voted unanimous approval of the August minutes.*

**FULL-TIME POLICE OFFICER**

President Jeff Elsing reported that the Civil Service hiring process was completed and Council is ready to make a conditional offer of employment for full-time police officer to Kevin Green.

*On a motion by Ric Asplundh, seconded by Glenn Gurney, Council voted unanimously in favor to make an offer of full-time employment to Kevin Green, conditioned on the completion of physical and psychological testing.*

Mr. Green accepted the conditional offer of employment. Mr. Elsing stated that Mr. Green has already completed and passed the required physical and psychological testing since he has been employed by the Borough since June as a part-time police officer.

*On a motion by Ric Asplundh, seconded by Glenn Gurney, Council voted unanimously in favor to hire Kevin Green as Full-Time Police Officer for the Bryn Athyn Police Department effective immediately.*

Vikki Trost administered the Oath of Office to Kevin Green who was sworn in as Full-Time Police Officer for the Bryn Athyn Police Department.

**TREASURER’S REPORT**

Treasurer Vikki Trost reported General Fund Revenue for August was \$56,125.84. General Fund Expenses were \$76,920.69. Net Income was -\$20,794.85.

Sewer Fund Revenue for August was \$144,402.47. Sewer Fund Expenses were \$34,168.90. Net Income was \$110,233.57.

Today PLGIT paid 1.75%. PLGIT I-Class paid 1.92%.

The second page of this report shows the cash balances to date. Included in the General Fund cash receipts were:

\$	275.45	in Interest Income
\$	5,352.64	in Transfer Tax receipts
\$	34,212.86	in Earned Income Tax receipts
\$	8,287.23	in Local Services Tax receipts
\$	1,860.98	in Comcast Franchise Fee receipts
\$	3,174.96	in Verizon Franchise Fee receipts
\$	786.50	in Building Permit receipts
\$	50.00	in Grading Permit receipts
\$	1,439.28	in Fines
\$	50.00	in Zoning Permit receipts
\$	80.00	in Road Opening Permit receipts
\$	30.00	in Police Report receipts
\$	445.50	in Professional Review fees

Included in the Sewer Fund Cash Receipts were:

\$	56,161.76	in ANC Reimbursements for STP Improvements per Agreement
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\$	6.41	in Interest Income
\$	27,224.00	in Category 2 Usage receipts
\$	44,952.00	in Category 3 Usage receipts
\$	9,333.00	in Category 4 Usage receipts
\$	6,675.30	in Masons Mill Pass-thru Usage receipts
\$	50.00	in Sewer Certification receipts

**TAX COLLECTOR**

Tax Collector, Bradley Cranch reported \$2,712.07 in Real Estate Taxes collected in August; \$39,215.35 remains uncollected.

**BILLS**

*On a motion by Duane Hyatt, seconded by Jeff Elsing, Council unanimously voted to authorize payment of the bills as shown on the attached list, which is made a part of these minutes.*

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

President Jeff Elsing thanked Reed Asplundh and the Civil Service Commission Members for their efforts in the hiring procedure for the new Full-Time Police Officer.

Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust

Mr. Elsing introduced and welcomed the new Executive Director of the Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust, Mr. Chris Mendel. Mr. Mendel offered remarks on the benefits of the Trust to the Borough including the thirteen miles of trail, 825 protected acres of contiguous land and having the second highest bird diversity in the state of Pennsylvania. Mr. Mendel also related that with the primary relationship with the Borough, the Trust conducts research with Bryn Athyn College and offers jobs and internships.

**MAYOR’S REPORT - None**

## POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief Stephen Gray reported the following activity for August:

Citations Issued: Traffic: 50 Non-Traffic: 00	50
Alarms	11
Animal complaints	02
Assist Bryn Athyn Fire / Ambulance	08
Assist other Police Agencies	54
Assist Citizens / Public Service calls	09
Miscellaneous Complaints	102
Special Traffic Details	10
Suspicious Circumstance Investigations	10
Vehicle Accidents	06
Vehicle Investigations / Warnings Issued	108

On Wednesday August 8<sup>th</sup> at 1pm, police investigated a burglary that occurred in the 2500 block of Alden Road sometime between 8/4/18 and 8/8/18.

On Tuesday August 14<sup>th</sup>, police conducted a vehicle stop at 4:49pm in the 3000 block of Huntingdon Pike. The stop resulted in the arrest of a 28 year old male resident of Philadelphia for drug possession.

On Wednesday August 15<sup>th</sup> at 4:20pm, police responded to the area of Buck Road and Waverly Lane for a report of a road rage incident which involved a 56 year old female driver who was being followed and harassed by a white male, approximately 30 years of age driving a late model white Toyota or Lexus – Unknown Registration. The suspect was cursing and brandishing a hunting knife towards the victim. The suspect fled prior to police arrival. Police checked the area, but were unable to locate the vehicle.

On Friday August 17<sup>th</sup>, Chief Gray participated in a drug and alcohol training for the new incoming Bryn Athyn College RA's. Chief Gray stressed the importance of the "Good Samaritan Law", noting that charges will not be brought in order to save a life.

On Monday August 20<sup>th</sup>, Chief Gray and Corporal Hotchkiss participated in a drug and alcohol training at Pendleton Hall for the Bryn Athyn College Freshman class.

On Sunday August 26<sup>th</sup> at 3:04am, police responded to the Civic and Social Club at 2668 Alden Road to investigate a report of an unwanted subject who was yelling and attempting to start fights with others at the bar. Upon arrival, police were advised that the individual had left the scene by way of a taxi ride. The C&S Club has since banned the member from their club.

On Thursday August 30<sup>th</sup>, Chief Gray and Corporal Hotchkiss conducted a safety training class for the First Grade students at the Bryn Athyn Elementary School.

**FIRE CHIEF’S REPORT - None**

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORT - None**

**SOLICITOR’S REPORT - None**

**BOROUGH MANAGER’S REPORT**

Zoning Ordinance

Vikki Trost reported that the final draft of the Zoning Ordinance of 2018 has been forwarded to the Montgomery County Planning Commission for review. The next step is to hold a public hearing prior to adoption.

*On a motion by Aurelle Genzlinger, seconded by Jeffrey Elsing, Council voted unanimously in favor to instruct the Borough Secretary to advertise a public hearing on October 1, 2018 in accordance with the requirements of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code.*

Sewer Delinquencies Update

Portnoff reports that the notices of delinquency have been signed for by all 3 owners, but none have responded as of yet. All are now eligible for legal demand letters, which will be sent out this week. The legal demand letter advises that a lien will be filed if payment is not made.

2019 Minimum municipal Obligation

The 2019 Minimum Municipal Obligation for the Police Pension Fund is \$9,242. This amount may be amended prior to December 31, 2018. A meeting will be scheduled for the Pension Committee to meet with our actuary, Joe Duda.

Montgomery County Boroughs Association

The next meeting will be hosted by Hatfield, Souderton and Telford Boroughs on September 27 at Generations of Indian Valley in Souderton. RSVP is due today.

Bryn Athyn School District

A notice was sent to all Borough residents informing them that the 2018-19 School Real Estate Tax was eliminated for the upcoming year. No School Tax bills will be sent.

Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust

A event is planned on November 2, 2018 at Cairnwood to raise awareness of the Pennypack Preserve in the community. Mayor Hyland Johns has asked if Borough Council will consider a sponsorship of \$500 or \$1,000. Council will consider the request at the next meeting. The Finance will make a recommendation at the October meeting.

**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

Chairman Jeff Elsing reported that the Police Department needs to hire another part-time police officer to replace Officer Kevin Green. We have lost two part-timers recently. The Public Safety Committee has a new candidate for the part-time position, Allesandro (Alex) Cricelli, who is a retired Philadelphia police officer, well trained, who will fit in well.

*On a motion by Aurelle Genzlinger, seconded by Glenn Gurney, Council voted unanimously in favor to extend an offer of conditional employment to Allesandro Cricelli.*

**PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE**

Ashley Road Sidewalk

Chairman Mark Pennink reported that after surveying and staking the right-of-way along Ashley Road, installing a path is not an option and the committee is looking at alternatives. Alternatives suggested are closing the road, painting the road and installing signs. It was noted that “no turn during certain hours” can be enforced by the Police Department. Signage would be posted at Ashely, Waverly and Dale Roads. It was noted that most of the cut-through traffic is going to the elementary school and the college. It was agreed that the committee should start with small fixes to determine the best resolution. Mr. Elsing, Gerry Bostock and Chief Gray will work on signs to be posted.

Chief Gray noted that the traffic volume does not meet the PA Dot requirements to reduce the speed limit to 15 mph on the road. Reed Asplundh, Ashely Road resident, stated that is more important to handle the school hours problem; allowing kids to play in the street is not a priority.

Mr. Elsing stated that the Borough must monitor anything that is done to solve the problem suggesting that first, the Borough should try the signs, and then move to closing the road if the signs don't resolve the problem. Mark Pennink suggested closing the road for a three month trial if the signs don't work.

#### 2018 Paving Project

Mr. Pennink reported that the paving is finally finished, adding that the traffic issues it caused were a nightmare. The project should come in under budget, even with the additional asphalt for a thicker road surface.

#### Bethayres Streetscape Project – Lower Moreland

Mr. Pennink reported that the sidewalk has been installed from the Valley Court Yard Center along Huntingdon Pike to the Lower Moreland High School driveway on Buck Road. He noted that it looks great and is already being used.

Mr. Gurney noted that the Tomlinson Road sidewalk needs attention. Mr. Pennink said that since the paving project came under budget he would like to use the remaining budget to get engineering work done on sidewalks. He would like to do two or three blocks next year.

### **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

#### Sewer Rates

Mr. Hyatt reported that the Finance Committee met in August and has been reviewing how the sewer usage rates billed to users were originally calculated. There may be a revenue shortfall this year. We may not be able to adjust the rates this year.

#### 2019 Budget

The 2019 Budget work is underway. The 2019 Budget Committee includes Jeff Elsing, Glenn Gurney, Duane Hyatt, Chris Carter and Vikki Trost. Committee heads should submit budget requests by the end of September to Vikki Trost. Budget presentations will be scheduled for October 16 and the Budget will be finalized by October 31. The Final Draft will be presented to Council on November 5 and the 2019 Budget must be adopted on December 3. Council will set the tax rates by ordinance on January 7, 2019.

### **LAND USE AND NATURAL RESOURCES/ SHADE TREE COMMITTEE - None**

### **PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE - None**

**ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE - None**

**PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT - None**

**ZONING OFFICER**

Vikki Trost reported that there was One (1) Zoning Permit application approved in August. Three (3) Building Permits were issued. One (1) Grading Permit was issued.

**SEWER ADMINISTRATOR**

Sycamore Road Pump Station

Chairman Glenn Gurney reported that the shed for the Sycamore Road pump station is nearing completion. It was noted that no odor has been reported by the Nashes.

2800 Quarry Road

The Committee is continuing work on a resolution to the septic system problem.

Equalization Project

Excavation for the holding tank should be the last week of October.

Reed Beds

Tanks to aid digestion have been ordered for the reed beds.

**BOROUGH ENGINEER - None**

**OLD BUSINESS - None**

**NEW BUSINESS - None**



## **QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR**

### Alden Road Repairs

Braden and Jane Bostock, 2752 Alden Road, raised the issue of the condition of Alden Road and concerns of safety for drivers and pedestrians. Mr. and Mrs. Bostock objected to Borough funds being spent on other roads and feel that Alden Road is ignored by the Borough Council. The Bostocks challenged Council to find funding to make repairs to the crown of the road, the crumbling concrete gutters, and to install sidewalks. Mr. and Mrs. Bostock alleged that Borough Council does not care about Alden Road.

Mr. Bennet Dunlap, 2676 Alden Road, stated that since there is no school tax now, the Borough tax should be raised to pay for Alden Road.

Mr. Pennink responded that the center of Alden Road was paved within the past five years, along with other repairs. Mr. Pennink noted that there was a plan to address the road when the sewers were done, but there were not enough funds available.

Mr. Pennink stated that everyone is invited to all meetings of Borough Council noting that at last year's budget meeting it was discussed that curbing, paving and drainage on Alden Road would be very expensive.

Councilman Hyatt stated that Bryn Athyn already has one of the highest tax rates in the County and there is no other way for the Borough to raise funds. Mr. Hyatt also noted that the School Tax may not always be so low. The Borough's borrowing capacity is not infinite, and how to pay for it needs to be discussed. In four years when the current debt is paid there will be \$100,000 per year available for new debt service. Mr. Hyatt explained that it will take some time for planning and that may seem far off, but not considering the time it will actually take for design and financing. The Finance Committee has been trying to set aside funds for future projects from the funds not spent in the Public Works budget.

President Elsing said that now is the time to review funding for projects. Mr. Pennink added that the Public Works Committee determines which roads are paved based on the amount of traffic. It was also noted that part of Alden Road is in Lower Moreland Township and that Lower Moreland will need to be involved in any improvement work.

It was noted that there is no quick fix for Alden Road and that any improvements would take a minimum of two years to complete engineering, bidding and funding. Residents asked that potholes be patched now for the safety of pedestrians.

Residents were invited to attend monthly Finance Committee meetings on the third Tuesday of each month.

Kimball Dunlap requested that holes be patched on Hobart Lane (Black Path between Alden Road and South Avenue).

It was agreed that Mr. Pennink will budget Alden Road engineering work for 2019. Borough Engineer Nick Rose will present a current as-is plan of Alden Road. A feasibility committee will be formed to include residents in the process. Mr. Pennink will look at the patching work needed on Alden Road.

There being no further business presented, the meeting was adjourned at 8:44pm.

Council's next regular meeting will be held on Monday, October 1, 2018 at 7:00pm in the Borough Hall.

Victoria S. Trost  
Secretary