

MINUTES
BOROUGH OF GREENCASTLE
COUNCIL MEETING
October 2, 2017
7:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Robert Eberly, Council President Frank Webster, Jr., Council Members Charles Eckstine, Larry Faight, James Farley, Duane Kinzer, Craig Myers and Matthew Smith. Also present were Borough Manager Eden Ratliff and Borough Secretary Ericka Faight.

President Webster gave the invocation and led the meeting in reciting the pledge of allegiance.

President Webster announced that an executive session was held prior to the meeting to discuss matters.

Public Comment

Wade Burkholder, 235 E. Baltimore Street, informed Council that the street light at the intersection of Rt. 11 and Walter Avenue has been out since at least January and asked why it has not been fixed. Mr. Ratliff explained that the power company is aware of the light and he is unsure why the light has not been repaired.

Roger Johnston, 400 E. Baltimore Street, spoke on behalf of the Shade Tree Commission concerning the ribbons around the square. Mr. Johnston stated that although Breast Cancer Awareness month is a wonderful cause, ribbons should not be placed on the trees as they may cause harm to them.

Robert Wertime, 207 Leitersburg Street, expressed concern with the lack of shielding on the new streetlights and asked that Council hold public discussions prior to making any decisions on merging with Antrim Township.

Bob Spessard, announced that Council Member Smith will be riding his bicycle to Las Vegas to raise money for Blue Ribbons for Justice.

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes of previous meetings:

On an Eckstine/Myers motion, Council voted unanimously to approve Borough Council Meeting Minutes of September 5, 2017.

REGULAR AGENDA

Report of Disbursement and Payment of Bills

On a Faight/Smith motion, Council voted unanimously to approve the September 2017 Disbursement Report in the amount of \$114,480.19.

Reports from Elected Officials

President's Report

President Webster asked that everyone keep the Vegas shooting victims and all those effected by the recent storms in their prayers. Mr. Webster also commended Chief Phillippy on the continued downtown presence.

Mayor's Report

Chief Phillippy announced that he and Officer Russell recently attended domestic violence training and it was the most informative training he has been to in a long time.

Chief Phillippy recommended the hiring of Sean Tuthill as a part-time officer.

On a Kinzer/Faigh motion, Council voted unanimously to approve the hiring of Sean Tuthill at the part-time rate with no expectation of full time employment.

Mayor Eberly requested that everyone remember those in our community who are gathering supplies for shipment to areas affected by the recent storms.

Manager's Report

Mr. Ratliff announced that there is a proposal to change the Industrial area near Walter Avenue to Mixed Use.

Reports from Committees

A. Administration & Finance:

1. On a Myers/Faigh motion, Council voted 5-2 (Mr. Kinzer and Mr. Eckstine voting no) to approve changing the Borough and Police Office hours to the following effective November 6, 2017 with a sixty (60) day evaluation period:

Monday

8:30 a.m.-7:00 p.m.

Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday

8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Friday

8:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

2. On a Smith/Myers motion, Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution 2017-06 for the sale of the 1997 GMC Single Axle Dump Truck 36,220 GVWR.
3. On a Smith/Farley motion, Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution 2017-07 for the sale of the 2006 F350 Ford 4WD Pick-up Truck.

B. Personnel:

1. On a Myers/Faigh motion, Council voted unanimously to acknowledge receipt of the 2018 Minimum Municipal Obligations for the Borough of Greencastle Employees Non-Uniformed Pension Plan and the Borough of Greencastle Police Retirement Plan.

2. On a Farley/Smith motion, Council voted unanimously to review and accept the Act 44 Annual Disclosure Form submitted by Robert J Hall, R.J. Hall Company, Inc. to determine if there are any conflicts of interest in managing the pension funds.

C. Public Safety:

1. On a Faigh/Eckstine motion, Council voted unanimously to adopt Policy #100217 regarding foot patrols as recommended by the Police Chief and Public Safety Committee.
2. On a Kinzer/Eckstine motion, Council voted unanimously to approve a September 28, 2017 request from Georgina Cranston on behalf of the Greencastle- Antrim Chamber of Commerce requesting Borough approval for street closure during the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony on November 17th from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. subject to receipt of PennDOT approval and final approval from the Borough Police Chief.

D. Public Facilities:

1. On a Myers/Faigh motion, Council voted unanimously to approve a handicap parking space to be installed on the 200 block of N. Allison St.

E. Community Development:

1. On a Kinzer/Faight motion, Council voted 6-1 (Mr. Eckstine voting no) to adopt Policy #092117 regarding the creation of a Joint Investigative Committee with the Township of Antrim.

Mr. Farley asked how much of the Borough Manager's time would be consumed by the committee and how volunteers would be solicited. Mr. Ratliff stated letters would be sent to various boards to encourage them to appoint one of their own members as a representative and the committee would most likely only meet once a month.

Mr. Faight stated that he would not support a merger if it meant any jobs would be lost.

Mr. Wertime asked if the committee meetings would be public.

Mr. Kinzer stated that he felt Mike Ross should be a committee member, Mr. Ratliff responded that he and Township Manager, Brad Graham discussed Mr. Ross as a possible candidate and decided the committee should consist of local individuals. Mr. Kinzer stated that it should have someone on it with history.

Jim Thomas asked what the criteria would be serve on the committee. Mr. Ratliff responded that the individual have no other affiliation with Borough government.

Mr. Faight stated that the goal is to foster a better relationship with Antrim Township.

Jim Thomas stated that we need to foster better relationships, but not by merging.

Mr. Kinzer stated that the Borough is on a moratorium with water hook-ups for new service, stating that the Borough cannot expand any further. Mr. Ratliff responded that the Water Authority has a good operation with a great board, and we are not relying on expansion to survive.

Steve Miller stated that the Borough cannot go into this without exploring all options including staffing and employee levels, and cautioned that to say no staffing are on the table is bias. Mr. Miller felt that only Borough or Township residents should be on the committee, and that all options should be laid out.

Dave Nichols said that he was surprised by the vote, and that he has heard stories of how the proposal was started and asked Council to clarify what started the discussion. Mr. Webster explained that the recommendation started at the committee level. Mr. Nichols stated that with so many manager transitions, employee morale is down and he asked if there was something wrong with the Borough or its employees, and asked if the work is not getting done. Mr. Nichols said it was difficult for him to understand what Council could be seeking.

Mr. Faight stated that he had no opinion either way, the proposal was brought to him as the committee Chairman and he felt bound to move forward with the discussion.

Mr. Ratliff stated that the idea was born out of conversations about whether or not it has been discussed before.

Mr. Faight asked Mr. Ratliff if he had been approached by other Council members or the public, Mr. Ratliff replied that he had been approached by both.

Mr. Eckstine stated that this issue comes up somewhere every few years but usually because one municipality is bankrupt.

Ben Thomas, Jr. noted that mergers are usually due to financial issues and that municipalities are struggling.

Mr. Eckstine stated that he is not ready to throw in the towel for the Borough yet.

Dave Nichols thanked everyone for letting him express his opinions, he has lived in the Borough for 56 years and has been employed by the Borough for 26 years, and he is looking out for the residents.

2. On a Kinzer/Smith motion, Council voted unanimously to approve a Land Development Plan submitted by Civil Planning and Design on behalf of the Besore Memorial Library as recommended by the Community Development Committee and Borough Planning Commission.
3. On a Myers/Farley motion, Council voted unanimously to adopt Resolution 2017-5 proposing a truck route around the State Route 16 in the Borough of Greencastle.

F. Correspondence:

1. On a Smith/Faight motion, Council voted unanimously to approve a September 22, 2017 request by Verstanding Broadcasting requesting the posting of "No Parking" signs at specific locations for the Greencastle Christmas Parade to be held Saturday, November 18, 2017 beginning at 9:21 a.m. subject to receipt of a valid Certificate of Liability Insurance Form naming the Borough of Greencastle as an additional insured.

Reports from Council Members

Mr. Kinzer mentioned that he notice that Mr. Ratliff was asked to be on the board of the Chamber of Commerce and that he objected. Mr. Kinzer felt that the Council President or his appointee should serve on the board.

Mr. Eckstine noted that the [Chamber of Commerce] board requested Mr. Ratliff because during a previous election it was realized that one entity wanted to get control of the votes so the chamber amended their bylaws to allow them to select their own board members. Mr. Ratliff noted that he would serve on the Chamber board as a volunteer.

Mr. Myers stated that he is part of the committee that made the recommendation and that it was brought up as a something to explore, and he also does not support the depletion of employees. This is just a fact finding mission and he has heard from residents that this is "a long time coming". Mr. Myers also stated that the fire department and the school are already Greencastle-Antrim, and no one is giving up on anybody, but the Borough is landlocked and he will wait for the committee recommendations.

Mr. Eckstine stated my vote speaks for itself.

Mr. Farley said my vote speaks for itself also, and reminded everyone this is exploratory only and non-binding.

Mr. Eberly wished Mr. Smith a good trip and noted that previous joint efforts have not worked, but unity is a good thing.

On a Kinzer/Myers motion, Council voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:30p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ericka Faight
Borough Secretary