

A regular meeting of the Borough Council was held December 3, 2014, 7:30 p.m.

The following members and officers were present: President L. James Roberts, Vice President Donald Rosenberger, Councilmembers David Erwin, Michael Johnson, Douglas Propst, Lisa Gaier and Daniel Williams, Junior Councilperson Joy Zheng, Manager Scott C. McElree and Asst. Borough Secretary Kris Barndt.

RESOLVED, That, the Minutes of November 5, 2014, be approved as written. Motion of Councilman Rosenberger, seconded by Councilwoman Gaier. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was unanimously carried.

RESOLVED, That, the following check registers be approved for payment:

October 31, 2014	-	\$	8,842.23
November 7, 2014	-	\$	21,877.43
November 13, 2014	-	\$	2,000,000.00
November 14, 2014	-	\$	804,646.10
November 21, 2014	-	\$	16,189.69
November 25, 2014	-	\$	254,901.09

Motion of Councilman Rosenberger, seconded by Councilman Propst. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was unanimously carried.

RESOLVED, That, the Financial Statement, Police Department, Zoning Administrator and Building Inspector reports be received and filed. Motion of Councilman Williams, seconded by Councilman Johnson. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was unanimously carried.

Visitors:

Chris Goolsby, 111 E. Broad Street, Apt. #1, Quakertown. President Roberts indicated that he could speak during the Parks & Recreation portion of the agenda.

Susan Lewis – West End Styles on 14th Street, indicated that she wishes to speak regarding McCooles' parking. President Roberts indicated that she could speak during the Health, Safety and Welfare portion of the agenda.

PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE

RESOLVED, That, the following Resolution 123-14, approving Quakertown High School's request to use the Memorial Park baseball stadium, be adopted:

RESOLUTION NO. 123-14

WHEREAS, a request was received from the Quakertown School District seeking the use of Memorial Stadium for their Varsity baseball games for the 2015 season as the High School construction has impeded the use of their fields.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That, the Borough Council of Quakertown grants the request of the Quakertown School District to use Memorial Stadium for their 2015 Varsity Baseball games.

Motion of Councilman Williams, seconded by Councilman Erwin. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was unanimously carried.

President Roberts indicated that Mr. Goolsby could speak at this time. Mr. Goolsby suggested posting signs in the park in Spanish and English, as well as, posting rules to games. Mr. Goolsby mentioned there is an increase of stores selling pocket knives.

PLANNING & ZONING COMMITTEE

RESOLVED, That, Ordinance 1206, an amendment to the Quakertown Borough Zoning Ordinance and Map by changing the zoning classification of parcel no. 35-008-392 from MR-Medium Residential to LI – Light Industrial classification for the property located at 120 East Mill Street, Quakertown, PA. Motion of Councilman Propst, seconded by Councilwoman Gaier. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was unanimously carried.

REVENUE & FINANCE COMMITTEE

RESOLVED, That, the following Resolution 122-14, regarding the proposed 2015 Budget, be adopted:

RESOLUTION 122-14

WHEREAS, the Borough Council of the Borough of Quakertown has reviewed and held public meetings on the consideration of the proposed 2015 Budget.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That, the 2015 Budget be adopted as presented.

Councilman Rosenberger mentioned that there will not be an increase in utility rates, property taxes or any other fees. The debt service fee will be reduced for residential customers from \$14.00 to \$9.00 a month.

Motion of Councilman Rosenberger, seconded by Councilman Johnson. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was unanimously carried.

RESOLVED, That, Ordinance 1208, an Ordinance of the Borough of Quakertown, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, fixing the tax rate of 1.625 mills on real estate within the Borough for the fiscal year 2015, be passed.

President Roberts mentioned that Quakertown Borough has the lowest tax rate in any municipality in Bucks County and has not changed in decades.

Motion of Councilman Rosenberger, seconded by Councilman Williams. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was unanimously carried.

RESOLVED, That, the following Resolution 121-14, appointing Hutchinson, Gillahan & Freeh to perform annual audits of the Borough, be adopted:

RESOLUTION 121-14

RESOLVED, That, the Borough Council of Quakertown, Pennsylvania, appoints the firm of Hutchinson, Gillahan & Freeh of Quakertown, Pennsylvania, to perform the 2014 annual audits of the Borough financial statements at the proposed fee of \$23,200; \$3,300 if a single audit is required and \$95.00 per hour of additional services and the audit of the Real Estate Tax Collector at the proposed fee of \$1,900 with an additional fee to be discussed if more time is needed as detailed in the Hutchinson, Gillahan & Freeh engagement letters dated October 24, 2014.

Motion of Councilman Rosenberger, seconded by Councilman Propst. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was unanimously carried.

Note: The Resolution read at the Council meeting has been changed and is reflected in the Resolution above to include the audits of pensions.

Councilman Rosenberger asked who would sign the letter from the Borough since there is only one signature line on the engagement letter. Councilman Rosenberger suggested the letter be signed by management and Chairman of the Audit Committee. It was agreed that a second line would be added for both signatures.

RESOLVED, That, the following Resolution 126-14, a request by the Quakertown Fire Department for disbursement of funds for vehicle replacement, be adopted:

RESOLUTION 126-14

WHEREAS, the Quakertown Fire Department has requested the disbursement of \$80,000 for the acquisition of emergency services apparatus replacement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That, the Council of the Borough of Quakertown, grants the release of \$80,000 to the Quakertown Fire Department from the Electric Fund (7) to be used for emergency services equipment.

Councilman Rosenberger mentioned this is a disbursement for year 2014's commitment which is part of the twelve year truck replacement plan which the Fire Company presented to Council approximately five years ago.

Motion of Councilman Rosenberger, seconded by Councilman Johnson. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was unanimously carried.

RESOLVED, That, the following Resolution 127-14, approving 2015 Council and Work Session meeting dates, be adopted:

RESOLUTION 127-14

RESOLVED, That, the Council of the Borough of Quakertown will conduct regular meetings at 7:30 p.m. on the following dates: Wednesdays, January 7, February 4, March 4, April 1, May 6, June 3, July 1, August 5, September 2, October 7, November 4 and December 2, 2015. The meetings will be held in Council Chambers on the second floor of Borough Hall, commencing at times listed on said dates; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That, the Council of the Borough of Quakertown will hold Work Sessions on the following dates: Monday, January 26, February 23, March 23, April 20, May 18, June 22, July 27, August 24, September 28, October 26 and November 23, 2015. The meetings will be held in Council Chambers on the second floor of Borough Hall commencing at 7:30 p.m. on said dates.

Motion of Councilman Rosenberger, seconded by Councilman Propst. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was unanimously carried.

HEALTH, SAFETY & WELFARE COMMITTEE

RESOLVED, That, the following Resolution 124-14, approving towing two year contract extension with Bucks County Auto Care, be adopted:

RESOLUTION 124-14 APPROVING TWO YEAR CONTRACT EXTENSION TO BUCKS COUNTY AUTO CARE

WHEREAS, that on January 3, 2012 the Council of the Borough of Quakertown awarded a three year bid for towing services to Bucks County Auto Care; and

WHEREAS, the 2012 – 2014 towing contract provided for a two year extension that extended the contract for 2015 and 2016 at the discretion of Borough Council; and

WHEREAS, Bucks County Auto Care has submitted a letter requesting Borough Council to consider a two year extension with the following permitted increases in fees:

Non-Business hours towing fee per towed vehicle: \$165.00
Business hours towing fee per towed vehicle: \$137.00
Storage charge per day starting at midnight of day towed: \$44.00
Borough Service Fee (Business of Non-Business hours) per towed vehicle: \$57.00

Motion of Councilman Johnson, seconded by Councilwoman Gaier. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was unanimously carried.

Councilman Johnson indicated that Susan Lewis, owner of West End Styles could speak at this time. Ms. Lewis stated there are ongoing issues at McCooles with people parking and trespassing on her property. Adam of S & S Quality Services, 1314 W. Broad Street and Tim Ruth of Battery Warehouse are also having the same issues. They would like some kind of resolution for this situation since it is affecting their businesses. A towing company has been contracted to remove vehicles which are parked on their properties.

Manager McElree stated most of these issues are on private property so the Borough is limited as to what they can do. A solution might be for parking overflow to park on 14th Street since curb side parking is permitted.

Manager McElree mentioned that he will contact Jan Hench once she finishes the property surveys she is having prepared.

Council Johnson announced the Fire Police Department's election results from October. The new Fire Chief is Brian Guent, the Deputy Chief is Scott Cassel, the Captain of Fire Police

is Paul Yoder and the Lieutenant Fire Police is Matt Pearson. All positions have two year terms which will take effect January 1, 2015.

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMITTEE

RESOLVED, That, the following Resolution 125-14, awarding bids for water and wastewater chemicals, be adopted:

RESOLUTION 125-14 ACCEPTING BIDS AND AWARDING CONTRACTS

RESOLVED, by the Council of the Borough of Quakertown, That, the following bids be accepted and contracts awarded to:

Gulbrandsen Technologies of Clinton, New Jersey for:

Aluminum Chloride @ \$0.049/lb. effective January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015,

Aluminum Chloride @ \$0.05/lb. effective January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2017.

UNIVAR USA, Inc. of Middletown, Pennsylvania, for:

Potassium Permanganate @ \$3.45/lb. effective January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2017.

The contracts are awarded in accordance with bids opened November 13, 2014.

Motion of Councilman Erwin, seconded by Councilman Propst. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was unanimously carried.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Councilwoman Gaier stated that there are not any items for action under the Public Works Committee.

Councilwoman Gaier mentioned that there are some safety concerns regarding tree roots which are buckling several sidewalks and it has been proposed that the Borough look into removing these trees, preparing the sidewalks and then possibly replace the trees in some type of planters.

The Borough Manager was directed by President Roberts to research and get some costs on tree removal, repairing of the sidewalks and the cost of replacing trees in planters along with maintaining them. A strategic plan would need to be created for tree removal areas.

President Roberts announced that the Borough tree lighting will be Friday, December 5, 2014.

President Roberts declared the meeting adjourned at 8:08 pm.

BOROUGH OF QUAKERTOWN

L. James Roberts, Jr.
President of Council

Attest:

Scott C. McElree
Borough Secretary