

A regular meeting of the Borough Council of Quakertown was held December 6, 2017, 7:30 p.m.

The following members and officers were present: President L. James Roberts, Vice President Donald Rosenberger, Council members Lisa Gaier, Michael Johnson, Douglas Propst, Jon Roth, Solicitor Charles Fonzone, Manager Scott C. McElree and Asst. Borough Secretary Kris Barndt. Councilwoman Paulovitz was absent.

RESOLVED, That, the Minutes of November 1, 2017 be approved as written. Motion of Councilman Rosenberger, seconded by Councilwoman Gaier. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was unanimously carried. Councilwoman Paulovitz, absent.

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

November 3, 2017	-	\$	873,110.15
November 10, 2017	-		30,550.93
November 17, 2017	-		531,981.16
November 22, 2017	-		9,340.02
November 30, 2017	-		277,664.11

Motion of Councilman Rosenberger, seconded by Councilman Roth. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was unanimously carried. Councilwoman Paulovitz, absent.

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

Visitors:

Stephen Biddle, 130 S. Main Street, indicated he wished to speak regarding the 2018 budget.

Bert Jones, 391 W. Broad Street, indicated he had a suggestion regarding the weekend of the Halloween parade and the Arts Alive! event.

Kathleen Wilt, 135 S. 9<sup>th</sup> Street, indicated she wished to speak regarding the new electronic sign on Route 309 and Broad Street.

David Davies, 210 Washington Court, indicated he wished to speak regarding a petition for the new electronic sign on Route 309 and Broad Street.

Manager McElree introduced Jim Arms and Erin Keller from Dallas Data Systems who presented a check to the Borough for the Shop with a Cop program. The proceeds were from an endeavor which Dallas Data Systems held and the winner was determined by how many votes a local government could produce from their website. There were three placings with Quakertown coming in first, receiving \$2,500 and the Borough's choice to use the winnings was the Shop with a Cop event. Manager McElree mentioned Quakertown Borough received almost 9,000 votes from the community.

Officer Robert Lee explained Shop with a Cop started seven years ago with ten students participating and a balance of \$1,000. The program has grown to ninety students participating and a balance of over \$40,000. Officer Lee thanked the community and sponsors and said it is a great program for children that are disadvantaged. Walmart is a partner of the program where each child has an allotted amount of funds and shops with a cop to buy Christmas gifts. Their parents receive a \$100.00 gift card to buy gifts and also \$100.00 gift card to buy food to have a Christmas dinner.

## **PLANNING & ZONING COMMITTEE**

Councilwoman Gaier stated that there are not any items for action under the Planning & Zoning Committee.

Councilwoman Gaier indicated that Ms. Wilt could speak at this time. Ms. Wilt questioned the zoning meeting which is opened to the public next week regarding the new sign. Councilwoman Gaier replied that there is a scheduled hearing on December 12, 2017 to hear an appeal from a property owner to the Zoning Hearing Board.

Ms. Wilt questioned why the sign has not been finished. Councilwoman Gaier stated based on the advice of Counsel and the fact that there may be pending litigation regarding the sign, the Borough Council will not be making public statements about the sign. With that being said Zoning Officer Doug Wilhelm stated the work has not been stopped and should be completed by the end of December.

Ms. Wilt questioned the set back and height of the sign, if the sign is considered an electronic sign, the timing of the messages and the square feet of the sign. Ms. Wilt wanted to say on a positive side the Shop with a Cop is a great program, the Christmas lights in town look so nice, the tree lighting ceremony was a lot of fun with so many people attending and visiting the stores to shop, and Ms. Wilt feels it is great that at the beginning of every Council meeting the President delivers an invocation and actually mentions the word Christmas.

Councilwoman Gaier indicated Mr. Davies could speak at this time. Mr. Davies stated he started a petition, which has approximately 2,526 people, for the new sign to be removed and is boycotting any business that advertises on the sign. Mr. Davies handed a website link to Councilwoman Gaier to view signatures for the petition. Councilman Rosenberger asked if the petition mentions what town they live in. Mr. Davies stated not that he knows of.

Mr. Davies mentioned he read that the corner of Route 309, where the sign was installed, is part of the Highway Beautification Act of 1965 and since was amended twice. Mr. Davies stated there was a curb amendment and that portion of Route 309 is frozen from the ordinance from what was ruled. Mr. Davies asked whether that location was ruled commercial or industrial in 1959.

Solicitor Fonzone replied that Councilwoman Gaier is not part of the Zoning Department as Mr. Davies assumed. Solicitor Fonzone continued explaining that Councilwoman Gaier has been a member of Council for a few years and Mr. Davies cannot expect her to know everything that happened in this Borough going back to that early date.

Mr. Davies replied he feels that the sign violates the curb amendment which supposedly effects that location. Mr. Davies stated he would let PennDot know since they are in charge of policing that and just wanted to make Council aware.

## REVENUE & FINANCE COMMITTEE

RESOLVED, That, the following Resolution 97-17, appointing auditing services for the Borough and the Quakertown Area Industrial & Commercial Development Authority for 2017, be adopted:

### RESOLUTION 97-17

RESOLVED, That, the Borough Council of Quakertown, Pennsylvania, appoints the firm of Hutchinson, Gillahan & Freeh of Quakertown, Pennsylvania, to perform the 2017 annual audits of the Borough financial statements at the proposed fee of \$25,600; \$3,400 if a single audit is required and \$100.00 per hour of additional services and the audit of the Quakertown Area Industrial & Commercial Development Authority at the proposed fee of \$1,550 and \$100.00 per hour of additional services as detailed in the Hutchinson, Gillahan & Freeh engagement letters dated November 1, 2017.

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

Councilman Rosenberger stated the Budget Committee which consists of Councilman Rosenberger, President Roberts and Councilman Propst have been working with the Borough Manager in meeting with the police for the contract negotiations. The Police Agreement expires at the end of December and he feels they are very close to reaching an agreement that the Budget Committee will be proposing to Council for acceptance, however, they are not at that point tonight. Councilman Rosenberger explained this meeting will be adjourned and continued on December 18, 2017 at 7:30 pm at which time the desire is to have the Police Agreement ready for discussion and approval. The budget will also be moved to December 18, 2017 for approval.

Councilman Rosenberger indicated that Mr. Biddle could speak at this time.

Mr. Biddle stated he is having a difficult time talking and handed a list of questions to Councilman Rosenberger to read and have answered.

Mr. Biddle questioned what the commercial and industrial revenues are for water since the budget states \$1,550,000 for residential service. Finance Director Julie Bender stated the revenues are all totaled together and that sum is for all three billings. The finance software does not allow separate totals. Councilman Rosenberger replied that Mrs. Bender would research the individual sums and provide them to Mr. Biddle.

Mr. Biddle questioned what the commercial and industrial revenues are for electric since the budget states \$14,500,000 for residential service. Councilman Rosenberger stated the same applies with electric and that sum is the total for commercial, industrial and residential. Mrs. Bender would provide the individual sums to Mr. Biddle.

Mr. Biddle questioned the individual projected budgeted costs for IT Management for the various departments and asked what the telephone expenses are for the Parks & Recreation Department, Code Enforcement Department and Finance Department. Councilman Rosenberger stated those three departments are included under Administration. Mrs. Bender

explained included in each department's costs are telephone and mobile services, T1 lines, hot spots, gatekeepers which collect information from our AMI utility meters, on call service, and PA One Calls.

Councilman Rosenberger stated the next item on the agenda is the passing of the 2018 budget. Councilman Rosenberger questioned if Council agreed to hearing the Police Agreement and the budget further on December 18<sup>th</sup>. Council agreed and the budget will be bypassed until then.

Councilman Rosenberger stated the following item on the agenda is setting the real estate tax rate for 2018 which will also go before Council at the continued meeting on December 18<sup>th</sup>.

RESOLVED, That, the following Resolution 102-17, approval of interfund operating transfers, be adopted:

#### RESOLUTION 102-17

WHEREAS, during the closing of the financial records for the year ended 2017, the Finance Department reviewed fund activity and wish to make the following Interfund Operating Transfers:

Electric Fund – 07

To the Pool Fund - 09 \$150,000  
To the Park Fund - 10 \$100,000

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That, the Council of the Borough of Quakertown authorizes the Finance Department to make the requested Interfund Operating Transfers.

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

#### **HEALTH, SAFETY & WELFARE COMMITTEE**

Councilman Johnson stated there are no items on the agenda, but in regard to the traffic conditions during the Quakertown Autumn Alive Festival and the Halloween parade, he felt traffic was more congested because of the 4<sup>th</sup> Street bridge being closed.

Bert Jones, owner of Beer City, questioned if both events have to be on the same weekend. Councilman Johnson replied the portable toilets and other items are already set up for the Halloween parade the following day.

Mr. Jones stated most of his business occurs during the weekend and when there are road closures Saturday and Sunday it affects his business. Mr. Jones asked if Council or event planners could take into consideration separating the events.

Councilman Propst added the bridge was a county job and the Borough was told when the street was to be closed. The bridge closing also affected the Borough's big concert in the park. Councilman Propst mentioned the Autumn Alive Festival and Halloween parade are coordinated outside of the Borough and are not Borough sponsored events. Both organizations do come to Council for road closings, so Council could possibly take that into consideration.

### **PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMITTEE**

Councilman Roth stated that there are not any items for action under the Public Utilities Committee.

### **PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE**

President Roberts indicated, in the absence of Councilwoman Paulovitz, that there are not any items for action under the Public Works Committee.

### **PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE**

RESOLVED, That, the following Resolution 98-17, Michael Cygan's request to hold Amy's Ride/Walk Against Pancreatic Cancer event, be adopted:

#### **RESOLUTION 98-17**

WHEREAS, a request was received from Michael Cygan of Quakertown, Pennsylvania to hold a bike ride and walk event called Amy's Ride/Walk Against Pancreatic Cancer to benefit pancreatic research and treatment.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That, the Council of the Borough of Quakertown grants the request of Michael Cygan to hold Amy's Ride/Walk on Saturday, May 19, 2018 starting at 7:00 a.m. at the amphitheatre and ending at 1:00 p.m. provided he adds the Borough as an additional insured on their insurance.

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

RESOLVED, That, the following Resolution 100-17, setting Borough events for 2018, be adopted:

#### **RESOLUTION 100-17**

WHEREAS, the following Borough events have been scheduled for 2018 requesting Borough Council's approval to hold throughout the year; and

WHEREAS, additional events such as ticketed concerts at the amphitheater will also be placed in front of Council in the future for approval;

<i>Date - 2018</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Place</i>
Saturday, March 24	Easter Egg Hunt	10:00 am	Memorial Park
Saturday, April 21	Spring Clean Up Day	8:00 am	Pool Parking Lot
Saturday, May 12	Glow in the Park	7:00 pm	Park at 4th
Saturday, May 26 – Sept. 3	Pool Opens	12:00 pm	Quakertown Pool
Saturday, June 18 – August 3	Kids Camp	9:00 am	Memorial Park
Wednesday, July 4	Community Day	7:00 am	Memorial Park
Sunday, July 15, 22, 29 August 12, 19, 26	Concerts in the Park	6:30 pm	Park at 4 <sup>th</sup>
Friday, July 27	Movie in the Park	7:30 pm	Park at 4 <sup>th</sup>
Tuesday, August 7	National Night Out	6:00 pm	Memorial Park
Saturday, September 8	Park-Side Food Fest	4:00 pm	Park at 4 <sup>th</sup>
Saturday, September 15	Shredding Event	8:00 am	Borough Hall Parking Lot
Saturday, October 13	Fall Festival	4:00 pm	Park at 4 <sup>th</sup>
Monday, December 3 – 12	Letters to Santa	8:30 am	Borough Hall
Saturday, December 8	Story Time with Mrs. Claus	10:00 am	Borough Hall

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That, the Council of the Borough of Quakertown grants the requests of the listed events for the year 2018 which pertain to Memorial Park, Park at 4th and Borough Hall.

Motion of Councilman Propst, seconded by Councilman Roth. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was unanimously carried. Councilwoman Paulovitz, absent.

Councilman Propst announced some of the upcoming Borough events.

President Roberts declared this meeting adjourned until December 18, 2017.

BOROUGH OF QUAKERTOWN

---

L. James Roberts, Jr.  
President of Council

Attest:

---

Scott C. McElree  
Borough Secretary