

A regular meeting of the Borough Council of Quakertown was held November 1, 2017, 7:30 p.m.

The following members and officers were present: President L. James Roberts, Vice President Donald Rosenberger, Council members Lisa Gaier, Jann Paulovitz, Douglas Propst, Jon Roth, Solicitor Charles Fonzone, Manager Scott C. McElree and Asst. Borough Secretary Kris Barndt. Council member Michael Johnson showed up soon after the start of the meeting.

RESOLVED, That, the Minutes of October 4, 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. Councilman Johnson, absent.

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

October 2, 2017	-	\$	1,875.00
October 6, 2017	-		143,226.76
October 13, 2017	-		73,838.23
October 20, 2017	-		571,262.37
October 27, 2017	-		384,318.72
October 27, 2017	-		14,702.63

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

Visitors:

Stephen Biddle, 130 S. Main Street, indicated he wished to speak regarding the 2018 Council dates and also has a budget question.

Paul Solliday, 316 Franklin Street, indicated he wished to speak regarding Branch Street parking changes.

Patrick Whitney, 620 Park Avenue, and his neighbor Kyle Naugle, 624 Park Avenue indicated they have a request for the utility department.

Kathleen Wilt, 135 S. 9th Street, indicated she wished to speak regarding traffic.

Richard Hubbs, 58 N. 9th Street, indicated he wished to speak regarding the power outages.

President Roberts stated with regard to Mr. Hubbs question, the last power outage several days ago was due to a sparrow which flew into the substation.

Manager McElree mentioned that the Borough's electrical lines coming into the substation are provided by PPL and if that supply gets interrupted we lose power which is beyond the Borough's control. Manager McElree also mentioned the Borough lost power recently due to a direct lightening strike to our substation and knocked out a switch which is a major component.

PLANNING & ZONING COMMITTEE

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

REVENUE & FINANCE COMMITTEE

RESOLVED, That, the following Resolution 94-17, Quakertown Fire Department's request for disbursement for emergency services apparatus replacement, be adopted:

RESOLUTION 94-17

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.

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

Councilman Rosenberger indicated Mr. Biddle could speak at this time. Mr. Biddle made a request for the Council sessions to be put on the website including November 4, 2017 annual budget meeting. Manager McElree stated that would be done.

Councilman Johnson has just joined the meeting.

RESOLVED, That, the following Resolution 93-17, disposition of municipal records, be adopted:

RESOLUTION 93-17

RESOLVED, That, the Council of the Borough of Quakertown will conduct regular meetings at 7:30 p.m. on the following dates in year 2018: Tuesday, January 2 (Reorganization and Regular meeting at 7:00 p.m.), and the following Wednesdays; February 7, March 7, April 4, May 2, June 6, Thursday July 5, August 1, September 5, October 3, November 7 and December 5. 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 in year 2018: Mondays, January 22, February 26, March 26, April 23, May 21, June 25, July 23, August 27, September 24, October 22 and November 26. 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.

Councilman Rosenberger indicated that Mr. Biddle could speak again. Mr. Biddle asked if the approximate amount of debt that the Borough previously transferred from the utility account to the Park at 4th account is still currently about 1.1 million dollars. Manager McElree answered approximately yes.

HEALTH, SAFETY & WELFARE COMMITTEE

Councilman Johnson indicated that Mr. Solliday could speak at this time. Mr. Solliday questioned the new angled parking design along Branch Street and stated eliminating the left turning lane at 3rd Street is causing traffic to back up. Mr. Solliday suggested installing a sign by The Proper saying "Right Turn Only", giving vehicles extra space to try to merge over. Mr. Solliday mentioned the angled parking took away space from emergency vehicles to get through.

Councilman Johnson replied that the 4th Street bridge is still closed creating traffic issues and once that is open it should eliminate some congestion. Councilman Johnson also mentioned that emergency vehicles often run into locations in towns where traffic cannot pull over until they can find a spot to move out of the way. Councilman Johnson said he tried the new back-in parking to see how difficult it was and backed in no problem. The vehicle behind was not on his tail and stopped to let him back in. Councilman Johnson stated it is new for people to learn to back in but it is safer in town and traffic is moving slower. The timing of the traffic lights will be getting changed and 4th Street should be open soon. Then the Borough can see how traffic flows.

Manager McElree replied Branch Street use to be two 8 foot lanes and is now one 12 foot lane which was suggested and somewhat designed by PennDot keeping in mind that that would accommodate a wide load. Any wide load which travels on any state highway in Pennsylvania has to have a permit issued by the state. With any wide load permit issued, PennDot knows the perimeters of the width of the highway and obviously a permit would not be issued if the load exceeds the 12 foot width of the highway. The possibility of the parking and traffic change being a potential cause for more accidents is unknown, but the engineers have put at least three years of planning in along with reviewing current traffic studies. Manager McElree indicated over a five year period there were approximately 72 motor vehicle accidents, in the 100, 200 and 300 block of Broad & Branch Streets and there were approximately 300 motor vehicle violations for aggressive driving and speeding with at least one pedestrian stuck in that section of town. The Borough will have to see what the long term impact will be.

Kathleen Wilt agreed that once 4th Street is opened that may eliminate some of the congestion. Ms. Wilt mentioned just eliminating the lane past The Proper has helped with vehicles trying to do a quick merge. Ms. Wilt suggested placing a sign around The Proper for advance notice to drivers saying "Through Traffic Stay Left".

Mr. Hubbs asked if Branch Street will be used as a snow emergency route. Councilman Johnson answered usually in the winter the Borough has the vehicles move off of Broad and Branch Streets to remove all the snow. It would not matter if the vehicles are parallel parked or backed in.

RESOLVED, That, the following Resolution 95-17, Quakertown High School's request to hold a bonfire, be adopted:

RESOLUTION 95-17

WHEREAS, a request was received from George Banas, Jr., the Coach of the Quakertown Senior High School Football Team to conduct their 2017 Bon Fire and Pep Rally at the Borough's skating pond parking lot.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That, the Council of the Borough of Quakertown grants the request of the Quakertown Senior High School Football Team to conduct their 2017 Thanksgiving Bon Fire and Pep Rally on November 21, 2017 from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm, at the Borough's skating pond parking lot, provided they add the Borough as an additional insured on the insurance.

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

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMITTEE

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

President Roberts indicated that Patrick Whitney and Kyle Naugle could speak at this time. Messrs. Whitney and Naugle's request is to have a new telephone pole placed since the current pole is leaning and unsafe and they also asked to have the new pole moved to a different location other than Mr. Naugle's backyard.

President Roberts stated the pole would be taken care of.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

RESOLVED, That, the following Ordinance 1222, recognition of Public Works Week, be adopted:

ORDINANCE 1222

AN ORDINANCE OF QUAKERTOWN, COUNTY OF BUCKS AND COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, PURSUANT TO THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION ACT, AUTHORIZING AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT FOR RECYCLING REPORTING BY AND AMONG, THE TOWNSHIPS OF RICHLAND, WEST ROCKHILL, MILFORD AND SPRINGFIELD AND THE BOROUGHS OF PERKASIE AND QUAKERTOWN

Motion of Councilwoman Paulovitz, seconded by Councilman Johnson to waive the lengthy reading of Ordinance 1222. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was unanimously carried.

Motion of Councilwoman Paulovitz, seconded by Councilwoman Gaier to pass Ordinance 1222. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was unanimously carried.

PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE

Councilman Propst stated that there are not any items for action under the Parks & Recreation Committee.

President Roberts declared the meeting adjourned at 8:21.

BOROUGH OF QUAKERTOWN

L. James Roberts, Jr.
President of Council

Attest:

Scott C. McElree
Borough Secretary