

Minutes
Workshop Meeting
Hummelstown Borough Council
Thursday September 12, 2019
7:30 PM

The September 12, 2019 Workshop Meeting of the Hummelstown Borough Council was called to order at 7:30 PM by Council President, Brian Foster. Members in attendance included; Dee VanGavree, Chad Lister, Ryan Taggart, and Randy Lutz. Also in attendance were Mayor Dave Roeting, Sgt. Justin Hess, Assistant Zoning Officer Steve Wyld, Finance Director Deb Hummer, Borough Manager Mike O'Keefe and Solicitor Jon Yost. Patti Krow arrived later.

Review/Discussion of proposed extension of the existing refuse contract with Republic Services – Andy Warntz, Division Manager

Mike O'Keefe introduced Andy and explained to council that the Borough is in the 5th year of a 5 year contract with Republic Services. The Borough has the option of extending the contract annually over the next 5 years (2020-2024). Andy gave council an overview of all the changes that have affected recycling costs. China is no longer taking the majority of other countries recycling. In the past Republic Services received \$10/ton for recycling. It is now costing \$60/ton to dispose of it. When Andy gave the Borough a proposed rate for an extension for 2020 they were paying \$50/ton. They are going to honor the proposal rate because negotiations were already in progress. Republic is proposing a disposal increase of \$1.26/unit/qtr. and \$2.40/unit/qtr. for recycling. This will increase the annual cost per unit from \$221.44 to \$236.04 (6.61%). With this increase Deb Hummer suggested raising the rates by \$3/unit/qtr.

Recommendation to put the approval of the Republic Services 2020 proposal on the September 19 agenda made by Dee VanGavree and Ryan Taggart.

Review/Discussion of proposal from Borough auditor, Brown Schultz Sheridan & Fritz to conduct the 2019 audit for a fee of \$17,100.

Deb Hummer stated that this is only a \$150 increase from last year. The whole audit has become very streamlined and all the auditors are a pleasure to work with.

Recommendation to put the approval of the proposal from Brown Schultz Sheridan & Fritz on the September 19 agenda made by Chad Lister and Dee VanGavree.

Review/Discussion of 2020 Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) for the Uniformed and Non-Uniformed Pension Plans.

Deb Hummer reported that all the actuarial figures used to calculate the obligation remained the same from the previous year. The total of the MMO for each plan is higher due to the increase in wages. She also reported that the State Aid received the previous year was lower than anticipated due to the strength of the plans and expects to receive little, if any aid for 2019 and possibly even 2020.

Review/Discussion of proposed sewer lateral maintenance responsibility regulations.

Steve Wyld reported he has been busy working on the sewer ordinance to strengthen and clarify some of the gray areas. The additions to the ordinance will help explain the responsibility of the homeowners and the Borough for certain repairs during different scenarios. With some of the changes Steve feels it would be a good idea if the Borough purchased a lateral camera to be used to check clean-outs. He sent the list of changes to Matt Bonanno at HRG and Matt approved of them. Steve will work on finalizing the changes and update the ordinance before next month's meeting so that Jon Yost can advertise it.

Review/Discussion of proposed change to Zoning Ordinance to regulate "Vacation/Short Term Rentals"

Steve Wyld presented council with a draft ordinance to regulate these rentals. The change will make these types of rentals a conditional use and will require the approval of council. There will be various criteria that will need to be met before a permit will be given. After much discussion Steve will be looking into requiring initial inspections of the property before a permit is given along with possibly requiring some type of liability insurance by the homeowner. Steve also discussed the possibility of changing the current ordinance to exclude Bed and Breakfast establishments in Residential Single Family (RSF), Residential Mixed (RM) and Residential Two-Family (RTF). He will incorporate all the additional information into an ordinance and present it at the next Planning Commission meeting. Steve also mentioned that the Borough inspection agency, Commonwealth Code, is now offering property inspections as part of their services and gave him some literature. He will contact them to come to the next Planning Commission meeting and council members agreed that would be a good idea.

Update of “Capital Budget Itemization Request” submitted via Rep. Mehaffie’s office for possible inclusion in the State Capital Budget

Mike O’Keefe reported that this project would include the old 7-11 property and the Hummel Nature Trail. The submission deadline was September 4th which gave him no opportunity to present this to council but after notifying Brian Foster he submitted it. You must be sponsored by a state representative to get on the list for funds. Erin Letavic of HRG worked on the one page request. The Borough has requested \$550,000 from the state and would be required to match those funds. This generally takes a couple of years. It was suggested that extra funds be set aside each year for the match.

Other Business

Brian Foster reminded everyone of the Arts Festival on Saturday, September 14th.

Patti Krow thanked everyone for their cards and prayers. Roy is home and doing well.

Mike O’Keefe mentioned that Steve Deck from Tri-County Planning will be attending next week’s meeting to discuss the possibility of a county-wide stormwater plan.

Executive Session – Personnel Matter

Council rose into executive session at 8:45 PM to discuss a personnel matter. The meeting was reconvened at 9:30 PM

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Respectively submitted,

Deb Hummer, Finance Director