

COUNCIL OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF MURRYSVILLE
REGULAR VOTING MEETING
December 5, 2007

Mayor Somers presented the 2007 Community Service Award to Chief Randy Marts for his many years of dedicated service to the Murrysville Fire Department.

Council presented the 2007 Volunteer of the Year Award to Michael Maddy and the Murrysville Parks' Hunting Coordinators for outstanding performance and lasting contributions to the Municipality of Murrysville.

Public Hearing on CU-9-07, Mahoy Plan of Lots, 5726 Grant Avenue, 2.24 Acres, R-2 Zoning District, Tax Map 49-15-15-0-002, one lot requiring construction of a single family home within 50 feet of a steep slope.

Present for the Public Hearing were Council members Nancy Kacin, Larry Nicolette, Dennis Pavlik, and Joan Kearns. Jeff Franke, Bob Brooks and Theo van de Venne were absent. Also present were Mayor Joyce K. Somers, Chief Administrator John M. Barrett and Solicitor George A. Kotjarapoglus.

Paul McQuaid, Engineer from Morris Knowles & Associates gave an overview of this Public Hearing.

Mr. Pavlik inquired as to the steepness of the slope involved with this proposed house. Mr. McQuaid answered that most of the slope is less than 25 percent. There is a small section that is about 35 percent but a retaining wall will be built there to resist any slope pressure.

Mrs. Kearns asked Mr. McQuaid if it would be advantageous to have a dedicated easement for this site in the event that the property was ever sold out of the family. Mr. McQuaid answered that yes, there would be a dedicated easement.

The Public Hearing closed at 7:21 p.m.

Council of the Municipality of Murrysville held a Regular Voting Meeting on Wednesday, December 5, 2007 at 7:22 p.m. in the Municipal Building. Present at the meeting were Council members Nancy Kacin, Larry Nicolette, Dennis Pavlik, Joan Kearns. Jeff Franke, Bob Brooks and Theo van de Venne were absent. Also present were Mayor Joyce K. Somers, Chief Administrator John M. Barrett and Solicitor George A. Kotjarapoglus.

CALL TO ORDER: Mrs. Kacin called to order the Regular Voting Meeting of Wednesday, December 5, 2007.

DETERMINATION OF VOTING ORDER – ROLL CALL: Kim Blauvelt determined the voting order and called the roll: Mr. Nicolette, Mr. Pavlik, Mrs. Kearns, and Mrs. Kacin. Mr. Brooks, Mr. Franke, and Mr. van de Venne were absent.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mrs. Kacin led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF UNLISTED AMENDMENTS:

Under Executive Session – Mr. Barrett requested that the Executive Session be removed from the Agenda.

Mrs. Kearns moved to approve the amended agenda. Mr. Nicolette seconded. All present voted aye. Motion approved.

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEM:

4A. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE, INCLUDING CHECK # 6910 TO THE ITALIAN AMERICAN CLUB FOR THE EMPLOYEE HOLIDAY PARTY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$487.24.

Mr. Nicolette moved to approve the Consent Calendar Item. Mrs. Kearns seconded. All present voted aye. Motion approved.

COMMUNITY INPUT:

Dino DePaulo – 4065 Iris Court - President of the Heritage Estates Homeowners' Association. Mr. DePaulo spoke at length regarding the dangerous conditions that exist surrounding the detention pond in this neighborhood. He stated that the pond continually has water in it and therefore was a hazardous situation, particularly for the children of Heritage Estates. He asked Council if there was a possibility that this detention pond could be fenced in to avoid any future problems.

Council responded that this pond is not yet under the responsibility of the Municipality of Murrysville. Rich Connors, Director of Engineering, Public Works and Parks, responded that even when the Municipality takes over this pond, fencing will almost definitely not be an option. The reason for this is that fencing in a detention pond is too costly and requires a high level of maintenance.

Mr. Barrett, Chief Administrator suggested to Mr. DePaulo that the Municipality and Heritage Estates work together with the developer to find an alternate remedy to protect the residents of the plan and to make this area more of an asset to the community.

Mr. Nicolette further assured Mr. DePaulo that the Municipality of Murrysville will not take over any detention pond until it is in proper working condition and has proven not to be a safety liability for the neighborhood.

Jerome Wolff – 2380 Flagstaff Drive – Spoke against the rezoning of the former Buncher property at the corner of Route 22 and Berlin Farm Road. Mr. Wolff continued by suggesting to Council a proposal on how to proceed regarding to this property.

COMMENTS BY MAYOR SOMERS:

Mayor Somers reported that she had just returned from the Pennsylvania League of Cities and Municipalities Legislative Committee meeting in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, where she was elected to the State Board of Directors. Mayor Somers reported that the focus of this meeting was a seminar called "Path to Prosperity," which centered on the budgets of Pennsylvania cities and the numerous financial struggles cities are now facing.

COMMENTS BY THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR:

Mr. Barrett announced that the Municipality of Murrysville has received the Act 101 Recycling Performance Grant in the amount \$25,521. Mr. Barrett acknowledged Cherie Weber, Executive Assistant to the Municipality for her continued efforts in obtaining this grant.

Mr. Barrett commended Mr. and Mrs. Joe Jelovich for their enormous volunteer effort in creating the newly named Valley Trail at Murrysville Community Park. Mr. Barrett was appreciative of this significant contribution by the Jelovichs which will result in a great asset for the community.

Mr. Barrett reported that the ongoing problem with poor communications within the Municipal building is being dealt with by Bill Yant and the Emergency Management Council. They have worked hard to remedy this problem and through their efforts, a device will be placed on the building to enable the use of 800 MHZ radios.

LIAISON AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:

None

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

None

ENGINEERING:

10A. CONSIDER ADVERTISING ORDINANCE NO. 758-07, AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING A PARCEL OF LAND FOR USE AS A STORM WATER DETENTION BASIN IN THE RUBY COURT PLAN OF LOTS. Mrs. Kearns moved to table this item until the water detention basin is in suitable condition to be accepted by the Municipality of Murrysville. Mr. Nicolette seconded. All present voted aye. Motion to table approved.

ADMINISTRATION:

11A. DISCUSSION ON PROPOSED 2008 MUNICIPAL BUDGET.

This discussion primarily focused on Administrations' request for two additional laborers in the Public Works Department. Bob Bell, Foreman of Roads presented a detailed explanation as to why the department is in need of these two laborers, how they will be utilized, and how this

addition will benefit Murrysville. Jim Menhorn, Foreman of Parks, added that if these new employees are added, more projects can be completed within the parks which will also greatly enhance the community.

Mayor Somers added that when Public Works has hired staff in the past they have hired individuals who have specialty skills in addition to the qualifications needed as laborers. As a result, the Public Works department now has a work force with many talented employees who can work in numerous capacities.

Mr. Barrett, Chief Administrator reiterated Bob Bell's comments and continued by stating that Council should not only focus on the added expense involved in adding two employees in Public Works, but rather the many benefits such an addition would certainly incur.

Mr. Pavlik asked if the Public Works and Parks departments use a system known as "siloiing", which is the practice of separating specific job responsibilities within departments. Mr. Connors, Director of Engineering, Public Works, and Parks, answered by saying that the two departments are unified and often there is a great deal of cross-training and overlap within departments.

Mr. Pavlik then asked Mr. Connors if the Department of Engineering, Public Works, and Parks uses knowledge from past projects to improve future projects, which would strengthen the Municipality's regulations and thereby save money for the Municipality of Murrysville. Mr. Connors assured Mr. Pavlik that this is indeed the method used by this department.

Mayor Somers asked why there was such a difference in mileage in some of the Public Works' truck routes. Mr. Bell responded that the difference is a result of the size of the truck, their specific routes, and the number of trips necessary back and forth to the garage.

Mrs. Kacin added that if the Municipality does not add more staff to the Public Works/Parks department, it needs to think seriously about the amount of gifts being accepted which would improve our parks, but also require more maintenance within the parks. She concluded by saying she strongly supports the hiring of two additional employees.

Mrs. Kearns also supports this addition of employees and said that when the subject of park development began years ago, it was a given that as the parks in Murrysville improved and grew, more manpower would be necessary. She added that the Municipality has arrived at this point.

Mr. Pavlik commented that the issue of added two employees needs to be examined in comparison to the amount of money which would be spent by the Municipality for "special projects." He asked if it would be cheaper to the Municipality of Murrysville to contract out these jobs rather than hire two new employees.

Mr. Connors, Director of Engineering, Public Works, and Parks answered by saying that although it will always be helpful to have extra employees for these types of special projects, the request is really for the benefit of the entire department and the continued high level of service they provide for the community, not just the special projects.

Mrs. Kacin expressed her opinion that if the Director of Engineering, Public Works, and Parks, the Chief Administrator, the Foreman of Roads, and the Foreman of Parks all felt that two additional employees would benefit the Municipality of Murrysville, Council should follow their advice.

Mr. Nicolette asked staff to find an approximate benchmark from other communities as to the number of Public Works employees per miles of roads and acres of parks.

Mayor Somers concluded this discussion by commending the dedicated staff and volunteers of the Municipality of Murrysville. She said that a great deal of gratitude is owed to this staff for all the time and effort they put forth.

11B. CONSIDER AUTHORIZATION TO ADVERTISE ORDINANCE NO. 757-07, REVISION TO THE EMS TAX. Mr. Nicolette moved to approve. Mrs. Kearns seconded. All present voted aye. Motion approved.

11C. CONSIDER AWARD OF ANIMAL CONTROL SERVICES CONTRACT TO HOFFMAN KENNELS FOR YEAR 2008. Mr. Nicolette moved to approve contract with attached addendum for a period of one year. Mrs. Kearns seconded. All present voted aye.

NEW BUSINESS:

None

OLD BUSINESS:

None

OTHER BUSINESS:

None

ACTION ITEMS:

- ✓ Council requested staff to find a “benchmark” from other communities as to the number of Public Works employees per miles of roads and acres of parks.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Pavlik moved to adjourn. Mrs. Kearns seconded. All present voted aye. Motion approved.

Time: 9:00 p.m.

JOHN M. BARRETT
CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR

COUNCIL OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF MURRYSVILLE
REGULAR VOTING MEETING
December 5, 2007

kjb 1/3/08

cc: Mayor
Police
Council
Community Development
Finance
Engineering
Public Works
Solicitor
Front Office/Library
Recreation