

## MINUTES

### AGENDA MEETING OF HAMPTON TOWNSHIP COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2019

President Peters called to order the Agenda Meeting of Hampton Township Council at 7:30 pm in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building located at 3101 McCully Road, Allison Park, Pennsylvania.

Those present: M. Peters, President; B. Blackburn, R. Dunlap (via video call), C. Johnson, Members; J. Speakman, Controller, V. Tucceri, Legal Counsel; W.C. Lochner, Municipal Manager.

Mr. Peters remarked that January 9<sup>th</sup> is National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day. He stated that law enforcement professionals have chosen a career that is both physically and emotionally demanding, and often are underappreciated by those that they have chosen to serve. He asked those in attendance to join him in thanking Chief Vulakovich and the men and women of the Hampton Township Police Department for their service to the community.

Mr. Peters also noted that in November the HTPD was awarded a Gold Award in the Community Traffic Safety Awards by the AAA. He explained that this is an award that encourages communities to address local traffic safety issues in a coordinated and cost-effective way. Mr. Peters and the other members of Council again thanked Chief Vulakovich.

### PINE CREEK LAND TRUST PRESENTATION – 2018 CROUSE RUN NATURE RESERVE COMPLETED PROJECTS

Pine Creek Land Conservation Trust Board Members Liz Spence and Colleen Lizzy were in attendance to present an overview to Council of the 2018 Crouse Run Nature Reserve completed projects. Ms. Spence also thanked the members of the HTPD for their service. Ms. Spence's presentation included a detailed history of the Crouse Run Nature Reserve, an overview of the natural characteristics of the valley located in the reserve, the projects that were undertaken to clean up the valley, the various grants that the Pine Creek Land Conservation Trust has received for the work, pollution reduction measures that were taken to reduce the sediment load in Crouse Run, improvements made to the streambanks, an overview of the trails that were installed, a summary of the amount of use by residents and other organizations, an overview of a Township coordinated project to remove invasive species, the various completed 2018 projects, the results of previously completed projects, and listing of several future planned projects. Mr. Peters thanked Ms. Spence for her presentation. Mr. Lochner and Ms. Spence briefly discussed the Pine Creek Land Conservation Trust's plan to build a bridge across Crouse Run.

### DISCUSSION REGARDING THE PROPOSED CITIZENS TOWN HALL MEETING – MARCH 6, 2019

Mr. Lochner stated that the recommended date for the citizens town hall meeting is March 6, 2019. He explained that this item was added to follow up on comments that were received from Township

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Council members requesting a town hall style meeting to allow residents to discuss key issues and share information that they may feel is pertinent. He noted that the meeting will need to be advertised to comply with the Sunshine Law. He requested that the members of Council endorse the meeting and grant Township staff the authorization to advertise the meeting.

**DISCUSSION REGARDING THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BUDGET REQUEST – TEMPERED WATER AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER**

Mr. Lochner remarked that this is a request for a \$20,000 expenditure from the Capital Budget to address the hot water circulation systems in the Community Center. Mr. Lochner explained the public health reasons for why this correction needs to be made as soon as possible. He requested Council’s authorization of this item at the end of the month. Mr. Peters asked if there are sufficient funds in the Capital Improvement Budget to cover this expense. Mr. Lochner replied yes.

**DISCUSSION REGARDING THE 2019 RATES FOR ENGINEERING CONSULTING SERVICES – TRANS ASSOCIATES**

Mr. Lochner commented that this is a housekeeping matter. He added that Trans Associates has made an adjustment to their hourly rates, which must be recognized by Township Council. Mr. Peters asked how the rates compare to the 2017 levels. Mr. Lochner replied that there is an increase, but it is not overly significant.

**DISCUSSION REGARDING THE CERTIFICATION OF A NEW PART-TIME POLICE ELIGIBILITY LIST**

Chief Vulakovich commented that the required testing, as per Township Ordinance 795, has been completed. He noted that the new list that has been generated can be used for up to two years. Chief Vulakovich requested that Council certify this list for future hires.

**DISCUSSION REGARDING THE POSSIBLE APPOINTMENT OF A NEW PART-TIME POLICE OFFICER**

Chief Vulakovich reported that Officer Kline retired in November of 2018 and Council promoted Officer Jeff Cupelli to replace him at the previous meeting. This has created a vacancy on the part-time police roster. Based upon the rankings in the eligibility list, Chief Vulakovich requested Council’s authorization to present a conditional offer of part-time employment to Benjamin Colosimo, pending his ability to pass the physical and psychological evaluation.

**DISCUSSION REGARDING THE ALLEGHENY COUNTY CIVILIAN POLICE REVIEW BOARD**

Chief Vulakovich provided an overview of the Civilian Police Review Board that is being proposed by Allegheny County. He summarized his main concerns with Hampton Township

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participating in this Board, which were forwarded to Council in his memo dated January 7, 2019. The concerns voiced by Chief Vulakovich included; the required makeup of the Board, a lack of Board members with law enforcement experience, the lack of sufficient required mandatory training for the Board members, and a potential lack of understanding by the Board members of the way a police department operates. Chief Vulakovich elaborated on the numerous types of testing and training, both foundational and continuing, that police officers must complete. He detailed the additional types of training and testing required by the Hampton Township Police Department, specifically focusing on the various ways that officers are trained to determine how much force to use when responding to an incident. He added that HTPD officers are trained well, and frequently, through the Township, the Allegheny County Police Academy, and other institutions and organizations that provide police training. Chief Vulakovich's comments touched on the documentation of training, the policies and procedures of the HTPD, and the required review by the District Attorney's office of certain types of police incidents and policies. He noted that the HTPD's policies and procedures are continually reviewed and updated to be in line with the best policing practices at that time.

Chief Vulakovich explained the established procedure in place for any citizen to file a complaint against a specific officer, or the HTPD as a whole, noting that Township Council has the ultimate say in complaints that are filed. He summarized the outside agencies that automatically investigate complaints related use-of-force or civil rights violations. Chief Vulakovich stated his opinion that it is not necessary for an outside agency to dictate to the HTPD how to operate when up-to-date policies and procedures are already in place and oversight from outside agencies is already mandated. He spoke to the difference in the quality of oversight between a board of undertrained individuals with minimal law enforcement experience versus the required oversight by educated and experienced outside agencies. Chief Vulakovich respectfully requested that Township Council decline any participation in the Allegheny County Civilian Police Review Board, should it come into effect. Mr. Lochner also requested Council's authorization to communicate these concerns to the Township's representative on County Council. Mr. Lochner expressed several additional concerns regarding the means of measuring performance and the differing standards utilized by the various police departments that could participate. Mr. Peters, Mr. Lochner, and Chief Vulakovich discussed the previous incidents in the Township that required an investigation by an outside agency. Mr. Lochner stated that the Township welcomes outside attention on the Department and promotes the idea of checks and balances.

Mr. Speakman addressed Item A on Page 8 of the proposed ordinance and asked if this is a program that Allegheny County is adopting for County police officers. Mr. Lochner replied that they are adopting it for not only their police, but also the 130 municipalities in Allegheny County. Ms. Blackburn noted that the ordinance requires municipalities to opt-in or opt-out of participating in the board. Mr. Lochner reported that the Township wants to put on record with the County Council the reasons for declining to participate. Ms. Blackburn reviewed the expenses for the Board and questioned what will be the source of the funds to cover these costs, which is not answered in the draft of the ordinance provided by the County. Mr. Lochner agreed to add this to the Township's list of concerns. Several remarks were exchanged regarding the various levels of participation

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listed in the ordinance. Ms. Blackburn commented that the County already provides resources to help municipalities review policies/procedures and training for their police departments. She stated that, since the Township already has a County resource, this aspect of the board would be a duplication of services. Ms. Blackburn also noted that the ordinance is not clear on what types of situations would go in front of the Civilian Police Review Board, given the existing infrastructure of agencies that investigate police departments. Chief Vulakovich replied that any complaint, no matter how minor or major, could be taken in front of the Board. Ms. Blackburn asked what gap this board envisioned to be filling. Mr. Lochner restated the concerns voiced throughout this discussion and noted that it is not in the best interest of the Township to participate.

**OTHER PUBLIC SAFETY BUSINESS**

Mr. Lochner introduced Eric Schmidt, the new Managing Director of the Shaler Hampton EMS to the members of Council. Mr. Schmidt will be in attendance at the Council Regular Meetings to present the monthly EMS report.

Chief Vulakovich provided a summary to the members of Council regarding an incident that took place on December 22, 2018 involving a number of Hampton residents that had mail and/or packages stolen. He noted that an arrest is pending in the case due to the excellent work of Sgt. Halli, Officer Hoffman, and Detective Grondwalski, and through the use of the traffic cameras on Route 8 that were authorized by Council. Sgt. Halli was in attendance and provided a detailed summary of the incident in question, as well as how the case was solved by the HTPD, focusing on the role that the traffic camera at the Wildwood Road/Route 8 intersection played in identifying the perpetrator. The members of Council thanked Officer Halli for his excellent work.

**DISCUSSION REGARDING A POSSIBLE PROPERTY ACQUISITION**

Mr. Lochner stated that, in conjunction with the upgrades to the WPCP, there is the possibility that that Township could acquire property through a voluntary sale. He reported that more information will be forwarded to Council as it is received.

**DISCUSSION REGARDING THE REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS FROM THE IMPROVEMENTS SECURITY FOR THE WILDWOOD SPORTS CENTER REVISED SITE PLAN**

Mr. Orban stated that bonding for this project is around \$1 million. He stated that his recommendation at this time is that Council not approve any releases to the improvements security. He noted that the site is in violation due to unauthorized off-site earth work, for which they need to obtain a permit, and violations with the Allegheny County Conservation District for the erosion/sedimentation controls and stormwater facility. He stated that, until these violations are rectified, staff is recommending no release of bonding. He noted that this recommendation may change if the property owner obtains the necessary permit for the fill work. Mr. Peters asked if the Wildwood Sports Center is open for business. Mr. Orban replied yes and noted that he issued

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a Temporary Certificate of Occupancy after Allegheny County signed off its issuance. He noted that the occupancy is for the dome structure, which meets all building code requirements. Mr. Orban added that there are no outstanding life/safety items, with the problems being related to site work violations.

**DISCUSSION REGARDING THE WINDMONT FARMS PRELIMINARY PRD (FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES)**

Mr. Orban outlined the schedule for the remaining review meetings with the various Township Boards and Commissions. He stated that the developer commented during the previous EAC meeting that they would like to submit revised plans to address any outstanding engineering comments. He reviewed the deadlines that were established by Council at the December Regular Meeting for the submission of revised materials by the developer and Township residents. Based on the deadline established by Council of January 1, 2019 for the developer to submit revised plans for the public hearing, Mr. Orban recommended that Council direct staff to indicate that the Township will maintain the submission deadlines stipulated at the December 19, 2019 meeting. Mr. Lochner commented that the developer has the right to state during the public hearing that they agree to make any changes to the plan that are necessary for compliance with the engineers' recommendations, and to submit those changes after the public hearing. Mr. Lochner outlined Township staff's concerns with altering the established timeline. He concurred with Mr. Orban's recommendation and requested authorization to notify the developer the following day. Mr. Peters agreed and strongly recommended that Council follow the established course of action by notifying the developer that the Public Hearing is scheduled for February 13, 2019 and based on the plans submitted on January 2, 2019. Dr. Johnson agreed.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Lochner reported that the solicitor's office has been working on a draft of an oil and gas/fracking ordinance with the assistance of Township staff and residents with expertise in this topic. He reported that draft copies of the first draft will be disseminated to Council with the Administrative Report. Mr. Lochner briefly addressed the planned timeframe and noted that a subcommittee containing various members of the Environmental Advisory Council and Planning Commission will be reviewing the ordinance as well. Ms. Blackburn and Mr. Orban discussed an appropriate timeframe for review by the subcommittee, PC, EAC, and Allegheny County.

Mr. Lochner reviewed several upcoming community events, including the Hampton Community Opioid Partnership Summit on January 15, 2019, the Hampton Community Library Annual Chili Cook off on January 26, 2019, and the HCA's Taste of Hampton on February 2, 2019.

Mr. Lochner briefly detailed changes that were made to the sewer rate increase mailer.

Mr. Lochner requested that Council adjourn to an Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter.

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**There being no further items for discussion, Mr. Peters adjourned to an Executive Session at 9:47 pm, after which no further action was taken.**

Susan A. Bernet,  
Clerk of Council

Michael L. Peters,  
President of Council