

**COUNCIL MEETING
DECEMBER 9, 2015**

In attendance:

Council

Mark McCouch
Tom Johnson
Gregory S. Nesbitt
Deborah Tustin
W. William Whiteside

Staff

William T. Walker - Township Manager
Richard Sabol - Finance Director
Russ Dunlevy, PE - Engineer
Mary Eberle, Esq. - Solicitor

Mr. McCouch asked for public questions and comments from the public and none were provided. The conditional use hearing adjourned at 8:10PM.

Mr. McCouch called the regular Council meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 8:10 PM. The meeting was held in the Township Building, 1025 Horsham Road, Horsham, PA. Mr. McCouch asked for questions and comments from the public and none were provided.

Mr. McCouch asked for the will of Township Council concerning the minutes. It was moved by Mr. Nesbitt, seconded by Mr. Whiteside, to approve the following minutes as presented: Council Meeting 2 November 2015, Council Agenda Meeting 11 November 2015, Council Meeting 11 November 2015, and Council Meeting 23 November 2015. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Walker provided the Treasurer's Report for November 30, 2015. He reported that the balance in the General Fund as of 30 November 2015 was \$5,722,898.07

Mr. McCouch asked for the will of Council concerning the List of Checks. It was moved by Mr. Nesbitt, seconded by Mr. Whiteside, to ratify the List of Checks in all funds in the amount of \$1,686,072.57 and to further move to authorize payment of same. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Walker explained the subdivision and land development plan of Donnelly/Spinio, Rose Lane, 15-12-S. The applicant proposed a minor subdivision to create one additional building lot with the R-2 Low Density Residential District. In conjunction with the minor subdivision plan application, the Applicant submitted a Conditional Use application to permit a driveway and stream culvert to be constructed within the Riparian Corridor Conservation District. Waivers were reviewed and there was an agreement on compliance.

Mr. Walker identified the subdivision and land development application of the Hallmark Group, 328 Witmer Road, 15-13-D. The purpose of this plan is to construct a new cul-de-sac street for twelve new single-family detached building lots. Additionally, single-family dwellings are proposed on each of the two outparcels located along Witmer Road. The plan also depicts an existing Powerline Connector trail easement to benefit the township from Witmer Road to Horsham Township's property, Lukens Park. Waivers were reviewed and there was an agreement on compliance.

Mr. McCouch asked for the will of Council concerning the Heinrich Tract, 522 Mullin Road, 15-5-D. The Applicant missed the notification of several properties on Mullin Road that require notification. Mr. Nesbitt made a motion, seconded by Ms. Tustin, to table a resolution as proposed granting final approval with conditions to the application. ROLL CALL VOTE

Mr. Johnson - Aye
Mr. Nesbitt - Aye
Ms. Tustin - Aye
Mr. Whiteside - Aye
Mr. McCouch - Aye
Motion passed unanimously

Mr. Walker identified previous reports about problems associated with the planting, controlling, and removal of bamboo. Mr. Whiteside made a motion, seconded by Ms. Tustin, to adopt the proposed ordinance providing for the amendment of the Horsham Township Code by adopting regulations for the planting, controlling, and removal of bamboo. ROLL CALL VOTE

Mr. Johnson - Aye
Mr. Nesbitt - Aye
Mrs. Tustin - Aye
Mr. Whiteside - Aye
Mr. McCouch - Aye
Motion passed unanimously

Mr. Walker reported on Horsham Township's application for the PennDot Multimodal Transportation Fund program to improve safety and pedestrian facilities along Horsham Road between Limekiln Pike and Highgate Drive. He stated that the costs associated with this grant application are greater than estimated and that it is requested that the motion be tabled. Mr. Whiteside made a motion, seconded by Mr. Nesbitt, to table the resolution as proposed authorizing an application to PennDot Multimodal Transportation Fund program to improve safety and pedestrian facilities along Horsham Road between Limekiln Pike and Highgate Drive. ROLL CALL VOTE

Mr. Johnson - Aye
Mr. Nesbitt - Aye
Ms. Tustin - Aye
Mr. Whiteside - Aye
Mr. McCouch - Aye
Motion passed unanimously

Mr. Walker reported that Montgomery County is upgrading its 911 system and this includes the replacement of radios. Mr. Nesbitt made a motion, seconded by Ms. Tustin, to adopt the resolution as authorizing an agreement with the Horsham Fire Company No. 1 Relief Association for reimbursement of emergency radios and hereby authorizing execution of same. ROLL CALL VOTE

Mr. Johnson - Aye
Mr. Nesbitt - Aye
Ms. Tustin - Aye
Mr. Whiteside - Aye
Mr. McCouch - Aye
Motion passed unanimously

Mr. Walker reported on a tentative agreement reached with the American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees (AFSCME). The terms of the agreement include a wage increase of 4% for 2016, 3.75% for 2017, and 3.5% for 2018; a change to a health insurance with a higher co-pay; and re-opener language for an expected health insurance "Cadillac tax." Mr. Whiteside made a motion, seconded by Ms. Tustin, to authorize the execution of the proposed AFSCME collective bargaining agreement. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Walker reported that in December of every year the Township considers a resolution to balance accounts with a surplus and deficit in the General Fund. Ms. Tustin made a motion, seconded by Mr. Whiteside, to adopt the resolution as proposed re-appropriating unexpended funds in the General Fund. ROLL CALL VOTE

Mr. Johnson - Aye
Mr. Nesbitt - Aye
Ms. Tustin - Aye
Mr. Whiteside - Aye
Mr. McCouch - Aye
Motion passed unanimously

Consider the 2016 Budget and Tax Levy ordinance. Mr. Walker stated that the 2016 Budget remains as proposed, without change, and that it does not include a tax increase. Mr. Johnson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Nesbitt, to adopt the 2016 Budget and Tax Levy Ordinance as proposed. ROLL CALL VOTE

Mr. Johnson - Aye
Mr. Nesbitt - Aye
Ms. Tustin - Aye
Mr. Whiteside - Aye
Mr. McCouch - Aye
Motion passed unanimously

Mr. McCouch announced that the date and time for the annual organizational meeting will be Monday, January 4, 2016, @ 7:00PM in the Township Building.

Township Council considered a zoning change ordinance for 500 Blair Mill Road, 108-110 New Rd. & Parcel #36-00-08779-00-5. The Township Solicitor explained the land development process for this project. She stated that comments about the zoning change were made at previous meetings, and that this meeting provides an opportunity for the Township Council to deliberate. The requirements for this process are established by Pennsylvania's Municipalities Planning Code (MPC).

Township Council identified and explained their reasons for supporting a zoning change. Mr. Johnson made a motion, seconded by Ms. Tustin, to adopt the ordinance as proposed amending the Zoning Chapter 230 Article XXI, GC-2 District to permit an Easton Rd. Mixed Use Commercial Development by Conditional Use and to amend the Zoning Map to rezone 500 Blair Mill Rd., 108 & 110 New Rd., and Parcel #36-00-08779-00-5 on Morris Rd. to GC-2. ROLL CALL VOTE

Mr. Johnson - Aye
Mr. Nesbitt - Aye
Ms. Tustin - Aye
Mr. Whiteside - Aye
Mr. McCouch - Aye
Motion passed unanimously

At 8:50 pm there was a conditional use hearing for Horsham Blair LP property, Easton Rd./Blair Mill Rd.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 10:35 PM.

William T. Walker