

**COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 23, 2012**

In attendance:

Council

Mark McCouch
W. William Whiteside, III
Andrew Santacroce
Deborah Tustin

Staff

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

Absent: Gregory S. Nesbitt

President McCouch opened the public hearing at 7:02 p.m. for a proposed amendment to the Horsham Township Home Rule Charter concerning competitive bidding requirements.

President McCouch asked for comments. Andrew Starr, 926 Langdon Avenue, asked how the proposed amendment would benefit taxpayers. Mr. Walker stated that the proposed changes would reduce the involvement of the solicitor, engineer, and staff, in the preparation of bidding documents. Also, the proposed amendment would reduce costs associated with advertising, bid challenges, and project delays. The Township Solicitor then added that the costs incurred by a bidder for obtaining bid and performance bonds, which are then frequently passed onto the municipality, would be reduced. Mr. Walker further explained that by increasing the bidding requirements would mean less administrative work, faster response to on-going maintenance responsibilities and ultimately lower costs for routine maintenance projects and supply contracts.

Mr. Walker stated that the last time purchasing requirements were changed in Horsham Township was 1998. Since that time there has not been any inflationary adjustment for purchasing requirements. A new state law, effective January 1, 2012, changed the threshold for formal bidding to \$18,500, and the use of telephonic quotes at \$10,000. The proposed amendment would adopt those requirements.

Mr. Starr asked for an explanation of how quotes and bids differ. The Township Solicitor explained this in detail, and Mr. McCouch concluded the hearing by stating that changes would be determined by referendum. The public hearing closed at 7:15 p.m.

President McCouch opened the Council Meeting at 7:15 p.m. in the Township Building, 1025 Horsham Road, Horsham, PA, and led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

President McCouch asked for questions or comments from the public and there were none.

Mr. Walker provided an HLRA report. He stated that the HLRA's next meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 15 @ 7:00 p.m. in the Community Center. The planner, RKG Associates, will be in attendance, and an update will be given for the final preferred reuse plan that is due on March 31.

President McCouch asked for the will of Council concerning the List of Checks. It was moved by Mr. Santacroce, seconded by Mr. Whiteside, to approve and authorize payment of the List of Checks in the amount of \$195,644.87. Motion passed unanimously.

Council reviewed the zoning hearing board application of Kathleen M. & Carol A. Hey, 425 Prospect Avenue. The applicant requested zoning relief from Article XI, Section 230-67(C) of the Horsham Township Zoning Ordinance of 1995, as amended, related to front yard setbacks within the R-5 Residential District. Council will remain neutral on the application.

Mark Zlotnick, 640 Serrill Drive, was recognized and he identified the current status of a zoning hearing board issue in his neighborhood.

The Solicitor asked about the current status of Jamcam. Mr. Walker responded that there has not been any further communication with the applicant, and that he would contact them for an update on their application.

Mr. Walker stated that the Greater Horsham Chamber of Commerce approached Horsham Township about renting office space. He recommended that Horsham Council consider an agreement with the organization to use vacant space in the Community Center. Ms. Tustin made a motion, seconded by Mr. Whiteside, to accept the agreement as proposed with the Greater Horsham Chamber of Commerce for office space rental. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Santacroce made a motion, seconded by Mr. Whiteside, to adopt the ordinance as proposed amending the Horsham Township Charter for competitive bidding requirements.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. McCouch: Aye Mr. Santacroce: Aye Ms. Tustin: Aye Mr. Whiteside: Aye

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m. to an Executive Session for the purpose of discussing real estate and personnel matters.

William T. Walker