

PARKESBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Regular Meeting
April 6, 2009 – 7:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President David Jones.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag by all present.

Council members present were: David Jones, Charles Persch, Thomas Curtin, Kenneth Knickerbocker, Kathleen Rick and Melinda Keen. Virginia Miller arrived at 7:15 p.m. Also present were: Mayor John P. Hagan, II, Borough Manager, James Thomas and Borough Secretary, Wendy A. Keegan.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: After adding the community market to the Progress and Development Committee report, a motion to approve the agenda was made by Charles Persch and seconded by Melinda Keen. All in favor.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion to approve the minutes of the March 16, 2009, Regular Meeting was moved by Thomas Curtin and seconded by Charles Persch. All in favor.

APPROVAL OF BILLS: A motion to approve the bills submitted was moved by Charles Persch and seconded by Melinda Keen. All in favor.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (Agenda Items Only)

- Beverly Ely of West Street questioned the Independence Blue Cross bill.

PRESENTATION:

- Jane Fava of the Brandywine Valley Association spoke about the Water Resources Education Network Grant for outreach and education. She would like to set up a rain garden in Minch Park.
- Southern Chester County Babe Ruth League – Request permission to hold opening day parade on April 18, 2009. A motion to approve the request and designate Jim Thomas to work out a schedule with Chief Sheller without additional overtime was made by Kathleen Rick and seconded by Charles Persch. All in favor.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Parks & Recreation—Kathleen Rick

Met with Southern Chester County All American Midget Football League and worked out an agreement to use the football field. A letter of confirmation will be sent.

Progress & Development—Thomas Curtin

The revitalization plan update has been sent to the County for review; Ms. Keen suggested the stormwater language be updated; working on the logistics for the Community Farmer's Market – it will consist of local produce, crafters, fund raising and yard sale items; there will be a charge per table; A motion to engage in a Saturday Community Product Market with a budget not to exceed \$2200.00, which will be paid for by the fees for the tables, was made by Thomas Curtin and seconded by Melinda Keen. All in favor.

Streets & Property—Melinda Keen

Working on news bulletins to hang in the library; trying to save money on electric in the Borough Hall

Police & Fire—Charles Persch

Met on March 26th with Doug Werley regarding the pension for police and non-uniformed employees; the fire company banquet is scheduled for May 1st at the VFW; the fair will be held the first week of July; the police department would like to take advantage of a grant for a full-time police officer.

Library—Melinda Keen

A book sale and book signing will be held at the Borough Hall on April 25th along with the community yard sale; A reception to honor the staff and volunteers of the library will be held May 12th or 19th; the library would like the use of the Borough Hall for this event.

Emergency Management Coordinator—Robert Detweiler

Mr. Jones reported that NIMS training was held at the fire house.

Finance—David Jones

Mr. Jones reported on the budget problems; meetings were held with department heads and state representatives; the Borough may be looking at a deficit of over \$300,000; the deficit is due to the lack of real estate activity and revenues; because of unemployment, earned income taxes are low; engineering and solicitor fees are high; there was a significant overrun in the storm water project; Mr. Jones would like to see 12½ % cuts across the board.

Mr. Jones would like to contact the Governor's Center for Local Government to request technical support. A motion to move forward in requesting technical support was made by Charles Persch and seconded by Virginia Miller. All in favor.

Public & Council Comments:

- Ken Knickerbocker commented that it has been over three years since the Borough has had a tax increase. Mr. Knickerbocker commended the leadership of the finance committee;

- Charles Persch commended Mr. Jones for his foresight;
- Beverly Ely of West Street asked if the fire police can direct traffic;
- Gerry Treadway of Strasburg Avenue suggested the website be updated.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS

- Motion to authorize Chief Sheller to make a grant application for CHRP (Cops Hiring Recover Program) for the hiring of a full-time police officer was made by Charles Persch and seconded by Melinda Keen. All in favor.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- Gerry Treadway of Strasburg Avenue commented on the weed block in the mulch at Minch Park.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

None

ADJOURNMENT:

With there being no further business, a motion was made by Kenneth Knickerbocker and seconded by Charles Persch to adjourn the meeting 9:00 p.m. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy A. Keegan
Borough Secretary