

PLYMOUTH TOWNSHIP

Regular MEETING

April 9, 2018

Plymouth Township Council held its Regular Meeting at the Plymouth Township Building. The following officials were in attendance:

Council: Marty Higgins ----- Chairman
Chris Manero ----- Vice-Chairman
Karen Bramblett
Lenore Bruno
David Gannon

Staff: Karen Weiss ----- Manager
Michael Clarke ----- Solicitor
Joe Lawrence ----- Chief of Police
John Myrsiades ----- Deputy Chief of Police
Lonnie Manai ----- Woodrow & Associates

Pledge of Allegiance - The Regular Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. and Mr. Higgins led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT- Mr. Higgins asked if there was any public comment pertaining to any of the items advertised on the agenda and there was none.

20 Years of Service Resolution - Todd Jordan - ACTION - Ms. Bruno read the resolution recognizing Todd Jordan for his generous and outstanding service and contributions rendered while serving in the Plymouth Township Police Department beginning on May 3, 1998, thereby completing 20 years of service. Council extends its appreciation to Todd Jordan who served with commitment and dedication. Ms. Bruno made a motion to approve the resolution and was seconded by Mr. Manero. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed 5-0 with Ms. Bramblett, Ms. Bruno, Mr. Gannon, Mr. Higgins, and Mr. Manero in favor.

ANNOUNCEMENT - Executive Session held April 2, 2018

Chairman Higgins announced that an Executive Session was held on April 2, 2018 in order to discuss litigation and personnel issues.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Chairman Higgins called for the approval of

the minutes.

- a. Workshop Meeting -----March 5, 2018
- b. Regular Meeting -----March 12, 2018

Mr. Manero made a motion to approve the minutes without the necessity of reading. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gannon; a roll call vote was taken and the motion passed 5-0 with Ms. Bramblett, Ms. Bruno, Mr. Gannon, Mr. Higgins and Mr. Manero in favor.

APPROVAL OF DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS AND BILLS: Chairman Higgins called for the approval of the departmental reports and bills.

Ms. Bruno made a motion to approve the departmental reports and bills and was seconded by Ms. Bramblett. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed 5-0 with Ms. Bramblett, Ms. Bruno, Mr. Gannon, Mr. Higgins and Mr. Manero in favor.

ADMINISTRATION

a. Anti-Discrimination - Ordinance - Final Consideration - ACTION -

Mr. Clarke read the ordinance to amend the Plymouth Township Code of Ordinances, to provide for the creation of the Plymouth Township Human Relations Commission, and to prohibit discrimination in housing, commercial property, employment and public accommodations on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, religious creed, ancestry, sex, national origin, handicap or disability, use of guide or support animals because of blindness, deafness or physical handicap of the user or because the user is a handler or trainer of support or guide animals, or because of an individual's sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression; providing definitions; and providing penalties.

Ms. Bramblett made a motion to approve the ordinance for final consideration. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gannon.

Mr. Higgins asked if there were any comments from Council pertaining to the Anti-Discrimination Ordinance.

Ms. Bruno stated that she is not opposed to any legislation that protects an individual's rights. She does however believe that the legislation pertaining to the ordinance would be better handled at the County level. Ms. Bruno suggested that perhaps a consortium could be formed that would reach out to the County Commissioners to pass an ordinance that would cover the County. She also recommended that the Township reach out to other municipalities to see if they would be interested in forming a joint Human Relations Commission that would help to spread the risk throughout.

Ms. Bramblett stated that she is pleased to see the ordinance coming to Plymouth Township and that it does protect the residents and sends a message to neighboring communities. Ms. Bramblett

stated that Plymouth Township welcomes people from all backgrounds to live and work here. She believes that the passage of the ordinance will be good for businesses as well.

Mr. Higgins stated that both the Federal and State governments have failed to offer protection to our LGBT friends. The ordinance will give people a reason to want to make Plymouth Township their home.

Senator Leach was present this evening and spoke about the Anti-Discrimination Ordinance. Senator Leach stated that he does not typically speak at Township meetings regarding local decisions and people often say this would be best handled at the State level. But because the way the State Constitution is written, at times it is hard to accomplish things at that level and so it has to happen within the local community. Senator Leach is advocating that Council pass the ordinance this evening.

Mr. Higgins asked if there were any comments from the audience pertaining to the Anti-Discrimination Ordinance.

Vivian Lotz - 7 Timberfare Circle thanked Council for considering the passage of the ordinance this evening. She believes the ordinance will be making history in Pennsylvania. The journey on this issue in the Township began approximately fifteen months ago. Ms. Lotz spoke to Mr. Higgins about the ordinance and he was in favor of it and understood why it is important to the residents of the Township. Ms. Lotz stated that she is grateful to Council for understanding the importance of the ordinance to residents.

Don Benn - East Norriton Township resident stated that he has had the opportunity to interact with Plymouth Township on numerous occasions. Mr. Benn is the Chairman of the East Norriton Human Relations Commission. He believes that the County should be doing more and that there should be a coalition of Townships merging together and doing more. The Commission consists of volunteers. Mr. Benn mentioned that there are various Commissions that will work with Plymouth Township at no cost.

Renee Bess - 7 Timberfare Circle thanked Council for re-visiting this legislation that was tabled last year.

Richard Schickling - 111 Boulder Road stated that he has experienced discrimination in his lifetime, and thanked Council for initiating the Anti-Discrimination Ordinance.

Mr. Higgins said that while working for a local union in 1973 he was working on contract negotiations. In one of his proposals that he wrote for review he added the words sexual orientation to the non-discrimination clause. At that time he was told to not use this language in any of his proposals ever again.

Ms. Bruno thanked those who spoke this evening. She asked the Solicitor if Council could band together to move this forward to the County. She believes that there is strength in numbers. Mr.

Clarke replied that it would essentially be up to Council if they want to do something on a regional basis. Council will discuss this at their Workshop Meeting in May.

A roll call vote was taken on the proposed ordinance and the motion passed 5-0 with Ms. Bramblett, Ms. Bruno, Mr. Gannon, Mr. Higgins and Mr. Manero in favor.

b. Tax Settlement - Mr. Clarke stated that this item pertains to a tax settlement between Exeter Peter Lane and the Township. The property is located at 1 IMS Drive. A settlement has been reached and it results in an underpayment of taxes to the Township in the amount of \$10,370.39 for the years 2015, 2016, and 2017. Mr. Manero made a motion to approve the tax settlement and was seconded by Ms. Bruno. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed 5-0 with Ms. Bramblett, Ms. Bruno, Mr. Gannon, Mr. Higgins and Mr. Manero in favor.

POLICE/PUBLIC SAFETY

a. PTPA Shredding Event Announcement - April 28th - 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. in the parking lot. Mr. Manero announced that the Plymouth Township Police Association will be holding a shredding event in the Township parking lot on Saturday, April 28th from 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. This event is free for all Township residents.

PUBLIC/WORKS/SEWER

ENGINEERING

SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT

a.L.D. 17-2 Conicelli Auto Group/906 Ridge Pike

1) Expiration date May 22, 2018

b.L.D. 17-4 Commerce Pursuit Capital, LP/2261 Corsons Lane

1) Expiration date May 14, 2018 - ACTION - Mr. Clarke read the resolution approving the final land development plan 17-4 prepared for Commerce Pursuit Capital, LP. located at 2261 Corsons Lane under and subject to the conditions read. The land development is called Arbour Square and includes the construction of a new 210 unit assisted and independent living facility. Ms. Bruno made a motion to approve the resolution and was seconded by Mr. Manero. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed 5-0 with Ms. Bramblett, Ms. Bruno, Mr. Gannon, Mr. Higgins and Mr. Manero in favor.

c.L.D. 18-1 1113 Ridge Associates, LLC

1) Expiration date July 3, 2018

c.Extension Requests - ACTION

1)**Plymouth Hospitality to May 31, 2018** - Ms. Bruno made a motion to approve the extension request and was seconded by Mr. Manero. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed 5-0 with Ms. Bramblett, Ms. Bruno, Mr. Gannon, Mr. Higgins and Mr. Manero in favor.

2)**Driscoll Tract to September 30, 2018** - Mr. Gannon made a motion to approve the extension request and was seconded by Mr. Manero. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed 5-0 with Ms. Bramblett, Ms. Bruno, Mr. Gannon, Mr. Higgins, and Mr. Manero in favor.

3)**Woodspring Suites to June 30, 2018** - Ms. Bruno made a motion to approve the extension request and was seconded by Mr. Gannon. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed 5-0 with Ms. Bramblett, Ms. Bruno, Mr. Gannon, Mr. Higgins, and Mr. Manero in favor.

d.Escrow Releases - ACTION - The Township is in receipt of correspondence from Woodrow and Associates recommending the following escrow releases.

1)**Conicelli - 1010 Ridge Pike** - Mr. Gannon made a motion to approve the escrow release in the amount of \$926,742.55 for Conicelli, located at 1010 Ridge Pike. The motion was seconded by Ms. Bramblett; a roll call vote was taken and the motion passed 5-0 with Ms. Bramblett, Ms. Bruno, Mr. Gannon, Mr. Higgins and Mr. Manero in favor.

2)**Conicelli - 1100 Ridge Pike** - Mr. Gannon made a motion to approve the escrow release in the amount of \$236,931.74 for Conicelli, located at 1100 Ridge Pike. The motion was seconded by Mr. Manero; a roll call vote was taken and the motion passed 5-0 with Ms. Bramblett, Ms. Bruno, Mr. Gannon, Mr. Higgins and Mr. Manero in favor.

3)**627 Old Elm Street** - Mr. Gannon made a motion to approve the escrow release in the amount of \$5,680 for 627 Old Elm Street. The motion was seconded by Mr. Manero; a roll call vote was taken and the motion passed 5-0 with Ms. Bramblett, Ms. Bruno, Mr. Gannon, Mr. Higgins and Mr. Manero in favor.

CODE ENFORCEMENT/HEALTH

ZONING

a.Zoning Hearings - Mr. Manero stated that the Zoning Hearing Board of Plymouth Township will hold a public hearing on Monday, April 16, 2018, commencing at 7:00 p.m., in the Plymouth Township Building, 700 Belvoir Road, Plymouth Meeting, PA on the following application: 1) KEITH AND CAITTLIN GELLES C/O MICHAEL F. FUREY, ESQUIRE - 303 JULIAN COURT. Any citizen of Plymouth Township or interested party may attend the public hearing and have an opportunity to be heard.

PARKS AND RECREATION

a. Plymouth Township Day - Saturday, June 2, 2018 - 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. - EPV PARK - Ms. Bramblett announced that Plymouth Township Day will be held on Saturday, June 2, 2018 from 11:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. at East Plymouth Valley Park. There will be amusements, food, vendors, games, community booth, and more. All are welcome to attend.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

MISCELLANEOUS/OLD BUSINESS

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Regular Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Beth Jamison
Recording Secretary