

PLYMOUTH TOWNSHIP

REGULAR MEETING

January 14, 2019

Plymouth Township Council held its Regular Meeting on January 14, 2019 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
Mike Clarke ----- Solicitor
Joe Lawrence ----- 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.

January 14th - 6:00 p.m. - Public Hearing and Public Meeting - Sage Text Amendment - A Public Hearing and Public Meeting was held at 6:00 p.m. pertaining to the Sage Text Amendment. The purpose of the text amendment is to add elderly housing/assisted living use to the "Shopping Center" Zoning District.

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.

Swearing in of Police Officer - Benjamin A. Brunner - Chief Lawrence stated that Officer Brunner has completed all of the Civil Service requirements in order to be hired as a Police Officer for Plymouth Township. Chief Lawrence is asking for Council's permission to have Judge Francis Bernhardt swear him in as a Police Officer. Chief Lawrence read a list of Officer Brunner's accomplishments. Mr. Manero made a motion to approve the appointment 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.

The Honorable Judge Francis Bernhardt presided over the swearing in of Police Officer Benjamin A. Brunner.

Promotion to Sergeant - Anthony Costello - Chief Lawrence stated that after completing all of the requirements set forth by the Civil Service Commission he is recommending that Anthony Costello be promoted to Sergeant. Chief Lawrence read a list of Officer Costello's accomplishments. Ms. Bruno made a motion to approve the appointment 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.

30 Years of Service Resolution - Karen Mabry - ACTION - Ms. Bramblett read the resolution recognizing Karen Mabry for her generous and outstanding service and contributions rendered while serving in the Police Department beginning on February 20, 1989, thereby completing 30 years of service. Council extends its appreciation to Karen Mabry who served with commitment and dedication. Plymouth Township Council desires to recognize the diligent and valuable services rendered by Karen Mabry. Ms. Manero made a motion to approve the resolution 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.

30 Years of Service Resolution - John Myrsiades - ACTION - Mr. Gannon read the resolution recognizing John Myrsiades for his generous and outstanding service and contributions rendered while serving in the Police Department beginning on January 17, 1989, thereby completing 30 years of service. Council extends its appreciation to John Myrsiades who served with commitment and dedication. Plymouth Township Council desires to recognize the diligent and valuable services rendered by John Myrsiades. Mr. Gannon made a motion to approve the resolution 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.

20 Years of Service Resolution - Michael Capperella - ACTION - Ms. Bruno read the resolution recognizing Michael Capperella for his generous and outstanding service and contributions rendered while serving in the Police Department beginning on January 5, 1999, thereby completing 20 years of service. Council extends its appreciation to Michael Capperella who served with commitment and dedication. Plymouth Township Council desires to recognize the diligent and valuable services rendered by Michael Capperella. Ms. Bruno made a motion to approve the resolution 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.

20 Years of Service Resolution - Joseph Epright - ACTION - Mr. Manero read the resolution recognizing Joseph Epright for his generous and outstanding service and contributions rendered while serving in the Police Department beginning on January 5, 1999, thereby completing 20 years of service. Council extends its appreciation to Joseph Epright who served with commitment and dedication. Plymouth Township Council desires to recognize the diligent and valuable services rendered by

Joseph Epright. Mr. Manero made a motion to approve the resolution 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.

Ms. Bruno thanked all of those mentioned above for their accomplishments and stated that they are to be commended. She thanked them for protecting the community.

Mr. Higgins stated that the Police officers above help to make Council's job so much easier. He thanked them for their dedicated service to the community.

Council went out of the regular order of the agenda in order to discuss the following.

Covanta

Mr. Higgins stated that an incident occurred in late December at the Covanta Trash to Steam Plant. Representatives are present this evening to explain what occurred at the plant.

John Scott, Community Outreach Manager, Joe Walsh, Regional and Environmental Manager, Herman Love, Facility Manager and Kimberly Bradford, Environmental Manager for Covanta were present this evening.

Mr. Love explained what the plant does and what it processes. Covanta takes household trash which is then put into a bunker when it is brought to the facility. From there it is placed into two combustor units and burned into energy. Steam turns the turbine for the generator. Covanta makes enough power for 20,000 homes in the area. The combusted material is about a 90% reduction from the original source volume. Ferris metals are then recovered and recycled. This is similar to any power plant. What is different is the source of the fuel. At about 2:00 p.m. on December 30th, a small power supply failed on the computer unit. The tank level was not indicating properly and the computer initiated a shutdown. The steam had nowhere to go, so the safety valves lifted and the loud noise occurred. This was a controlled shutdown. The power supplies will be replaced proactively. The pressure needs to vent off. There was no damage to the boiler. The unit was re-started at 11:30 p.m. that evening with no problems associated with it. The system did what it was supposed to do with a failure of the power supply. The steam that was vented was pure water. The Department of Environmental Protection was notified to let them know what occurred. Mr. Love said there should be no odor with the steam release. He does not believe any odors came from the plant that day.

Andy Mount, the Township Fire Marshal responded to the call which came in as a structure fire at the waste facility. Mr. Mount did not smell anything out of the ordinary other than the normal emissions from the plant. He did not see anything amiss.

Mr. Higgins asked if a release of steam has happened before at the plant. Mr. Love stated that this has not happened since he has been there. Mr. Walsh said to his knowledge it is the first time in at least eleven years.

Mr. Manero asked how Covanta works with the Department of Environmental Protection and what inspections are required. Ms. Bradford advised that every quarter the plant submits information on hourly emissions data in order to demonstrate compliance. The DEP reviews this on an annual basis and completes an accuracy test. Various testing is submitted to the DEP on emissions quarterly and annually. The DEP is more stringent on air quality control than the Environmental Protection Agency.

Ms. Bruno asked if there was normally an odor when trash is being burned at the Plant. She was advised that there should not be an odor because a fan provides negative pressure at the tipping floor. Ms. Bruno asked if there was an odor when the combustion unit failed in December. She was advised that there was not, because the fan continued to work throughout the event and all evening.

Mr. Manero stated that between 2015 and 2018 there were penalties assessed at the plant by the DEP and asked for an explanation. Mr. Walsh said penalties are related to two things: excess emissions (an automatic penalty) and continuous monitors to be available. The plant is in compliance over 99% of the time. The events that do happen are short in duration and fairly isolated.

Mr. Higgins asked if there were comments from the audience. They were as follows:

Sarah Derr Sterious - 1421 Sandwood Road stated that she heard noise from the plant on December 30th. She mentioned that fines were assessed to Covanta from 2012 until 2018. The plant failed to meet emission requirements and were in violation of the Clean Air Act. Ms. Sterious believes the plant to be in non-compliance. She is concerned about health issues and the value of her property. Ms. Sterious stated that there was definitely a smell emitted in the air on December 30th and it was the smell of plastic. The plant is almost thirty years old and was built in 1991. It is an aging plant and it is coming upon the thirty year life cycle of the plant.

Mr. Love stated that he does not believe that the smell came from Covanta. Plant employees did not detect an odor.

Ms. Bruno asked if there were any plans to update the equipment at the plant. She was advised that equipment is continuously updated.

Mr. Gannon mentioned we heard about emissions coming from the roof and an odor in the air. Where else could it possibly have come from? Mr. Love stated that it is not in the smell log. Mr. Love said the only thing that can come out of the roof comes from the boiler safety valves. Mr. Love wants to get to the bottom of this. A plant employee who lives in the area smelled a petro-chemical smell.

Ms. Bramblett asked and was told that no one at the plant, including the Fire Marshal smelled the odor.

Steve Geiger - 513 Overhill Road stated he smelled burnt plastic during the event and he is concerned about the air quality he is breathing.

Tony Lisi - 651 Fulton Street asked a question regarding the air monitoring. He was advised that no odor was emitted with pure steam.

Ms. Bradford said the DEP has monitors throughout the region. There is no way to know the source of pollutants in ambient air.

Jacqueline Larkin asked where the Township will go from here. She asked what the Township can do and if there are procedures in place in the event that it happens again.

Mr. Higgins stated that Council is taking this seriously. They would like to give Covanta an opportunity to review the documents received tonight and to respond. He recommended that Covanta meet with two representatives of Council to determine what the Township will do in the future.

Rick Schickling - 111 Boulder Road asked if perhaps the Township and Covanta could add an air quality monitor at the Plymouth Fire Company. Mr. Higgins stated that all ideas can be considered.

Moira Magee - 506 Beacon Hill Circle stated that Council needs to look at the bigger picture, not just Covanta. She believes that there are other companies in the Township that are in violation. She is concerned as a resident.

Mr. Scott stated that he would invite the public as well as Council for a tour of Covanta. Mr. Higgins believes that this is a good first step.

Steve Geiger - 513 Overhill Road asked if the Plymouth Township Code Enforcement Department inspects these facilities. Mr. Geiger was advised that they do. The Fire Marshal has a prioritized inspection program in the Township.

Larissa Fallon from Daylin Leach's office asked if she could be notified of any findings pertaining to Covanta. She will be following up with EPA/DEP.

Council then returned to the regular order of the agenda.

ANNOUNCEMENT - Executive Session held January 7, 2019

Mr. Higgins announced that an Executive Session was held on January 7, 2019 in order to discuss litigation and personnel matters.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Chairman Higgins called for the approval of the minutes.

- a. Workshop Meeting ----- December 3, 2018
- b. Regular Meeting ----- December 10, 2018

Mr. Manero made a motion to approve the minutes without the necessity of reading. The motion 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.

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 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.

ADMINISTRATION

a.Solicitation Ordinance - Final Consideration - ACTION - Mr. Clarke read the ordinance amending and restating Chapter 16. Peddlers, Hawkers, Solicitors and Itinerant Merchants. Mr. Clarke stated that this will bring the Township's ordinance into current compliance with state law. Mr. Manero made a motion to approve the ordinance for final consideration. 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.

b.Commitment of Funds Resolution - ACTION - Mr. Manero read the resolution for the commitment of Township funds toward an agricultural conservation easement for the Maple Acres Farm located in Plymouth Township. Ms. Bruno made a motion to approve the resolution 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.

Mr. Manero stated that he believes that this is a great opportunity for all parties involved. Mr. McKeown, who owns Maple Acres Farm, wants to keep his property as undeveloped farm land. The farm is approximately thirty acres and provides many benefits for the community.

Mr. Higgins stated that the Farm Board will make the final approval pertaining to the easement. Whoever purchases the farm will not be able to develop it. It will be deed restricted.

Ms. Bramblett believes that it is very important to preserve the last remaining farm in the Township. The farm provides a host of community events and is an agricultural gem.

POLICE/PUBLIC SAFETY

a.Fire Company Pay Per Call Resolution - ACTION - Ms. Bruno made a motion to approve the resolution to establish a pay-per-call retention program for Harmonville and Plymouth Fire Companies. 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.

PUBLIC/WORKS/SEWER

a.Snow Announcement - Mr. Manero reminded residents that the Township Snow Policy is in effect and then read the official policy.

b.Liquid Fuels Resolution - ACTION - Ms. Bramblett read the resolution whereas every year Plymouth Township receives an allocation from the PA Department of Transportation which is to be used for the maintenance and repair of Township roads as specified. Ms. Bramblett 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.

Mr. Lisi asked if the liquid fuels funding can be used on sidewalks or public land. He was advised that it can't.

ENGINEERING

SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT

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

1)Expiration date April 20, 2019

b.L.D. 18-3 Paone Assoc./2418 Butler Pike

1)Time Limit Waived

c.S.D. 18-1 Paone Assoc./2424 Butler Pike

1)Time Limit Waived

d.L.D. 18-4 SMG Hotels/201 Plymouth Road

1)Extension granted to June 3, 2019 - **ACTION** - Mr. Gannon made a motion to approve the extension 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.

e.S.D. 18-3 Travis & Nicole Lick/1929 Johnson Road

1)Expiration date February 18, 2019

f.S.D. 18-4 Thomas Andrew Homes/1927 Hallowell Road

1.Expiration date February 28, 2019

g.L.D. 18-6 Colonial Middle School/Colonial School District

1.Expiration date March 7, 2019

h.S.D. 18-5 Glasgow, Inc./1100 & 1200 Conshohocken Road

1) Expiration date March 18, 2019

i.S.D. 19-1 Alba Family, LLC/Fairfield Road

1) Expiration date March 18, 2019

j.Extension Requests - ACTION

1)Exeter 527 Plymouth Road to August 11, 2019 - Mr. Higgins made a motion to approve the extension request 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.

2)PHI Belvoir Road to April 10, 2019 - 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)Plymouth Hospitality to February 28, 2019 - 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.

4)Lilvin Enterprises to February 28, 2019 - 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.

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

1)Arbour Square - Mr. Higgins made a motion to approve the escrow release for Arbour Square in the amount of \$88,425. 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.

2)601 W. Germantown Pike - Final - Mr. Higgins made a motion to approve the final escrow release for 601 W. Germantown Pike in the amount of \$79,396.64. The motion 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.

CODE ENFORCEMENT/HEALTH/ZONING

ZONING

a.Zoning Hearings - Ms. Bramblett announced that the Zoning Hearing Board of Plymouth Township will hold a public hearing on Monday, January 21, 2019, commencing at 7:00 p.m., in the Plymouth Township Building, 700 Belvoir Road, Plymouth Meeting, PA on the following application: 1)COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT - 716

BELVOIR ROAD. Any citizen of Plymouth Township or interested party may attend the public hearing and have an opportunity to be heard.

PARKS AND RECREATION

a. SDM Bricks and Pavers - Mr. Manero announced that there are currently bricks and pavers available for purchase for those who want to honor a loved one who has served in the armed forces or emergency services. In addition, the Parks and Recreation Department is still seeking monetary donations from businesses.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

MISCELLANEOUS/OLD BUSINESS

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Regular Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Beth Jamison
Mary Beth Jamison
Recording Secretary