

PLYMOUTH TOWNSHIP

REGULAR MEETING

December 9, 2019

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
Lenore Bruno
Karen Bramblett
David Gannon

Staff: Karen Weiss ----- Manager
Michael Clarke ----- Solicitor
John Myrsiades ----- Chief of Police
Lonnie Manai ----- Woodrow & Associates
Timothy Creelman ----- Finance Director

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

6:30 p.m. - Hearing- Plymouth 2040 Comprehensive Plan

PUBLIC COMMENT- Mr. Higgins asked if there was any public comment pertaining to any of the items advertised on the agenda:

Mr. Tom Speers -3004 Jolly Road- wanted to say thank you and farewell to Ms. Bruno for doing a great job while serving on Council. Mr. Speers also spoke upon changing the Civil Service Commission from 3 to 5 members which he believes is fatally defective in three ways. Mr. Speers stated it is defective according to the Home Rule Charter Act, the ordinance as written is improper because it does not provide for staggered terms, and the effective date is less than 31 days. Mr. Clarke stated he believes the ordinance is appropriate and Council is capable of adopting it tonight.

ANNOUNCEMENT- Executive Session held November 18, 2019

Executive Session held December 2, 2019

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

- a. Workshop Meeting ----- November 6, 2019
- b. Regular Meeting ----- November 11, 2019
- c. Budget Meeting ----- November 18, 2019

Ms. Bruno made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Manero and passed 5-0 with Ms. Bruno, Mr. Gannon, Mr. Higgins, Ms. Bramblett, and Mr. Manero in favor.

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

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

ADMINISTRATION

a. 2020 Budget Ordinance- First and Final Consideration- ACTION- Mr. Clarke stated that this is an ordinance pursuant to Section 702.D of the Home Rule Charter adopting the operating and capital budgets, expenditures and expenses for the fiscal year 2020 and levying a Real Estate Tax on all property within the Township for fiscal year 2020 at the rate of 1.6 mils on each dollar of assessed valuation, or the sum of sixteen (16)cents on each one hundred dollars of assessed valuation and levying a separate assessment dedicated to the Plymouth Township Fire Services on all property within the Township for fiscal year 2020 at the rate of .72 mils on each dollar of assessed valuation, or the sum of seven.two (7.2) cents on each one hundred dollars of assessed valuation. Mr. Manero made a motion to approve the ordinance for first and final consideration. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gannon.

Mr. Manero discussed that the biggest task for Council is coming up with a budget every year. We are ending 2019 with over a one million dollar surplus, which will be transferred to the Capital Fund for future expenses. Mr. Manero stated the 2020 budget keeps real estate taxes the same, with no increase in our current 1.60 millage rate. The budget does include an increase in our fire services fee, which will amount to approximately \$30 per year per household. This is used solely to cover budget increases for our fire protection, including increased funding for 2020 to allow Harmonville Fire Company to hire an additional full-time firefighter. Also, Mr. Manero stated one major concern is the significant improvements needed on the Township building and sewer system, which Council will make an official statement about next.

Mr. Higgins added that over the last year or more the sale of the sewer system has been a topic of discussion. Sewer rates would increase drastically due to the fact that it would be sold to a third party company. Therefore, Mr. Higgins is not in favor of selling the sewer system.

Ms. Bruno stated she initially thought it would be a good idea to sell the sewer system. However, like Mr. Higgins, she is not in favor of selling the sewer system either.

Ms. Bramblett stated Council was looking at neighboring municipalities who have sold their sewer systems and saw how much their sewer bills increased.

Mr. Shelly Simpson- 722 Clover Lane- asked how much the average household will pay for the Fire Service Fee. Mr. Creelman stated approximately \$129.00. Mr. Higgins stated it will go from \$99.00 to \$129.00. Mr. Simpson also asked how much revenue will be generated by the Fire Service Fee. Mr. Creelman stated \$1.2 million. Mr. Higgins stated the purpose of the Fire Service Fee is not to make money, but to break even. Mr. Higgins also stated that someday it will come to a paid fire department instead of volunteer department. Mr. Bramblett stated last year's increase was to fund the stipend program for volunteers.

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. Reorganization Meeting Announcement- Monday, January 6, 2020- 7:30 p.m.- Ms. Bramblett announced that Council will hold a Reorganization Meeting on Monday, January 6th, 2020, commencing at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium. The swearing in of two Council members and the election of Chair and Vice-Chair will take place.

c. Civil Service Commission Ordinance- First and Final Consideration- ACTION- Mr. Clarke read the ordinance for the first and final consideration. Mr. Manero made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Ms. Bramblett. Ms. Bruno stated in light of what Mr. Speers brought up, she feels this requires more research. Therefore, Ms. Bruno stated she opposes this ordinance.

Mr. Tom Speers- 3004 Jolly Road- stated in the past the Personnel Review Board had 5 members but the solicitor at the time recommended that the Civil Service Commission be reduced to 3 members. Mr. Speers also indicated that its quorum is 100% of the board members.

Mr. Shelly Simpson- 722 Clover Lane- asked what is the purpose of increasing the number of members on the Civil Service Commission. Mr. Manero stated it gives the board a better chance of diversity and also previous members had difficulty meeting regularly. Therefore, increasing it to five members would increase the chances of meeting on a regular basis. Mr. Simpson stated he does not feel there is a need for a five person board nor meeting as frequently. Mr. Higgins stated he agrees with Mr. Manero in that it's important to have diversity on the Township boards. He also stated there are two candidates set to be approved in January.

A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed 4-1 with Ms. Bramblett, Mr. Gannon, Mr. Higgins, and Mr. Manero in favor. Ms. Bruno was opposed.

d. Plymouth 2040 Comprehensive Plan Resolution- ACTION- Mr. Manero read the resolution for the Plymouth 2040 Comprehensive plan. Mr. Manero made a motion to approve the adoption of the 2040 Comprehensive Plan, and was seconded by Mr. Gannon.

Mr. Manero stated this process was great to be a part of and thanked everyone who played a part in it. Ms. Bramblett stated if anyone would like to read this, it is located on the Plymouth Township's website. Ms. Weiss stated there's a printed copy in the Township lobby and one at the Community Center.

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. Interfund Transfer Request- ACTION- Ms. Bruno stated that with the fiscal year ending December 31, 2019, it is anticipated that the Township will realize a General Fund surplus in the amount of \$1 million. Ms. Bruno advised that Council is in receipt of correspondence from Tim Creelman recommending an interfund transfer of \$1 million from the General Fund to the Capital Reserve Fund. This is an operating surplus for the Township which will be used for future capital projects. Ms. Bruno made a motion to approve to transfer of \$1 million from the General Fund into the Capital Fund and was seconded by Ms. Bramblett. Mr. Higgins thanked Tim Creelman for his diligence and hard work during the budget process.

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

PUBLIC/WORKS/SEWER

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

ENGINEERING

SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT

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

1)Extension requested to April 20, 2020- **ACTION-** Mr. Gannon made a motion to approve this extension 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.

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 requested to April 30, 2020- **ACTION-** Mr. Higgins made a motion to approve this extension 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.

e.S.D. 19-2 3116 Jolly Road

1)Expiration June 1, 2020

f.L.D. 19-2 Jon Williams/100 Lee Drive

1)Expiration date January 10, 2020- **ACTION-** Mr. Clarke read the resolution approving the land development plan 19-2, SAFStor, to build a 3 story, climate controlled, self-serving storage facility located at 100 Lee Drive and subject to the conditions read. 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.

g.Extension Requests- ACTION

1) **Lilvin Enterprise to February 28, 2020-** Mr. Gannon made a motion to approve the time extension request. The motion was seconded by Mr. Manero and passed 5-0 with Ms. Bramblett, Ms. Bruno, Mr. Gannon, Mr. Higgins and Mr. Manero in favor.

2) **Plymouth Meeting Mall Out Parcel to March 12, 2020-** Mr. Higgins made a motion to approve the time extension request. The motion was seconded by Mr. Manero and passed 5-0 with Ms. Bramblett, Ms. Bruno, Mr. Gannon, Mr. Higgins and Mr. Manero in favor.

3) **Alba Family LLC/Tammaro to February 7, 2020-** Mr. Gannon made a motion to approve the time extension request. The motion was seconded by Ms. Bramblett and passed 5-0 with Ms. Bramblett, Ms. Bruno, Mr. Gannon, Mr. Higgins and Mr. Manero in favor.

4) **Metroplex Corporate Center Phase 3 to December 31, 2020-** Ms. Bruno made a motion to approve the time extension request. The motion was seconded by Mr. Manero and passed 5-0 with Ms. Bramblett, Ms. Bruno, Mr. Gannon, Mr. Higgins and Mr. Manero in favor.

5) **2928 Walton Road to December 31, 2020-** Mr. Higgins made a motion to approve the time extension request. The motion was seconded by Ms. Bruno and passed 5-0 with Ms. Bramblett, Ms. Bruno, Mr. Gannon, Mr. Higgins and Mr. Manero in favor.

h. Escrow Release Requests- ACTION

1) **Arbour Square-** Mr. Higgins stated this communication is from Woodrow & Associates, stating sufficient work has been completed to release \$583,599.40.

Mr. Higgins made a motion to approve 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.

i. Lilvin Enterprise Revised Resolution- ACTION- Mr. Clarke read the revised resolution for Lilvin Enterprises LLC. The applicant is proposing to consolidate the two parcels located at 800 & 820 Brook Road and create a 2.56 acre site in which to keep the existing structure and construct a .99 acre gravel storage area. Ms. Bruno made a motion to approve the revised 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.

CODE ENFORCEMENT/HEALTH

ZONING

a. Zoning Hearing- Ms. Bruno announced that the Zoning Hearing Board of Plymouth Township will hold a public hearing on Monday, December 16, 2019, commencing at 7:00 p.m., at the Plymouth Township Building on the following application: 1) Vincent Joyce-725 Conshohocken 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. Parks Comprehensive Plan Resolution- ACTION- Ms. Bramblett read the resolution regarding the Parks Comprehensive Plan and made a motion to adopt this 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.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

MISCELLANEOUS/OLD BUSINESS

a. Citizen Board Vacancies- Mr. Gannon stated the following citizen board positions are open: three spots on the Building Code Appeals Board, two on the Property Maintenance Code Appeals Board, and one each on the Environmental Advisory Board & Historical Architectural Review Board.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Mr. Agam Sheth- 404 Rolling Hill Drive- asked Council to address a nuisance impacting public health. He stated he has been a resident for 13 years and has 3 children. His neighbor smokes outside frequently. Mr. Sheth cannot go outside on his balcony or use his garage because of the smoke. Also, the smoke has been infiltrating inside his house to where his children and he are coughing. Mr. Sheth is asking Council to pass an ordinance for condos and townhomes regarding second hand smoke. Mr. Manero asked if he is trying to work with his HOA. Mr. Sheth stated he has had no luck with the HOA.

Mr. Rich Schickling- 111 Boulder Road- wanted to know if there has been feedback on opening Butler Pike. Mr. Higgins stated no, but they did send it to County. Also, Mr. Schickling stated there is terrible traffic on Ridge Pike and wants Council to oppose removing the jug handle on Alan Wood Road. Mr. Higgins stated Plymouth is paying to eliminate the jug handle. Ms. Weiss stated there will be a double left hand turn and the timing of the light will be adjusted to move traffic through the intersection. Ms. Weiss stated it is too late to oppose the removal of the jug handle since they are far along in the design process.

Ms. Jessica Ram- Conshohocken Resident- stated she has another handout regarding Covanta and would like to press the issue. Ms. Ram would like Council to pass a clean air ordinance. Mr. Higgins stated Council put together a subcommittee. Mr. Gannon stated they met three weeks ago, and the Township cannot pass a clean air ordinance. Mr. Gannon stated the environmental engineer and attorney will sort through the data on the dates where there was a malfunction. Mr. Gannon asked Council if they can ask Covanta to test more than what they already do. Mr. Clarke stated we can ask them, but they are not required to do so, it would have to come from DEP.

Mr. Higgins announced this is Ms. Bruno's last Council meeting. He thanked her for all she has done for the Township. Mr. Higgins highlighted Ms. Bruno's achievements. Mr. Manero also thanked Ms. Bruno for the opportunity to work with her. Mr. Gannon thanked Ms. Bruno for her guidance. Ms. Bramblett thanked Ms. Bruno for being a mentor and for her guidance. Ms. Weiss thanked Ms. Bruno for her support over the years.

Ms. Kathy Bandish- stated she has big shoes to fill and thanked Ms. Bruno.

Mr. Shelly Simpson- thanked Ms. Bruno for her years of service, not only to the Township, but to the School District as well.

Mr. Dean Eisenberger- thanked Council and Ms. Bruno for her 14 years of service to the Township.

Mr. Jim Behr- thanked Ms. Bruno for her diligence and how friendly she has been over the years.

Mr. John Hoffman- thanked Ms. Bruno on behalf of Harmonville Fire Company.

Ms. Bruno said a few words and thanked everyone for their kind words.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Regular Meeting was adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Annalisa Primus
Recording Secretary