

PLYMOUTH TOWNSHIP

REGULAR MEETING

November 11, 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
David Gannon

Staff: Karen Weiss ----- Manager
Michael Clarke ----- Solicitor
John Myrsiades ----- 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.

Swearing in Harmonville Fire Police- Donna Chen- Mr. Higgins swore in Donna Chen, to the position of Harmonville Fire Police.

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.

ANNOUNCEMENT- Executive Session held October 21, 2019
Executive Session held November 6, 2019

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

- a. Workshop Meeting ----- October 9, 2019
- b. Regular Meeting ----- October 14, 2019
- c. Budget Meeting ----- October 21, 2019
- d. Budget Meeting ----- October 28, 2019

Mr. Manero made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Ms. Bruno and passed 4-0 with Ms. Bruno, Mr. Gannon, Mr. Higgins and Mr. Manero in favor. Ms. Bramblett was absent.

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 Mr. Gannon and passed 4-0 with Ms. Bruno, Mr. Gannon, Mr. Higgins and Mr. Manero in favor. Ms. Bramblett was absent.

ADMINISTRATION

a. 2020 Budget Meeting Announcement November 18th- 6:00 p.m. - Mr. Manero announced that there will be a Budget Meeting held on Monday, November 18th commencing at 6:00 p.m.

b. Reorganization Meeting Announcement- Monday, January 6th, 2020- 7:30 p.m. - Mr. Manero announced that Council will hold a Reorganization Meeting on Monday, January 6th, 2020, commencing at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium.

c. Environmental Engineer- Mr. Gannon made a motion for the hiring of an Environmental Engineer, Louis M. Militana, QEP. The motion was seconded by Mr. Manero and passed 4-0 with Ms. Bruno, Mr. Gannon, Mr. Higgins, and Mr. Manero in favor. Ms. Bramblett was absent.

d. Covanta Contract Extension- Mr. Clarke announced the Covanta contract will be expiring this year. The Township has the option to renew for another 5 year term. The Township is not interested in the 5 year term, and requested that Covanta grant a 2 year term. This will give Covanta the chance to respond to and rectify the ongoing problems within the past year. The 2020 cost will be \$58.50 per ton and in 2021 \$59.96 per ton. Mr. Higgins made a motion to approve this extension and was seconded by Mr. Gannon.

Mr. Manero thanked the residents of Plymouth Township for voicing their feelings over the past year regarding Covanta, especially Ms. Sarah Sterious, as a leading voice among the residents. Mr. Manero expressed that this is one of the most difficult decisions he has had to make on Council. He explained the options and feels the 2 year extension is the best way to use our resources to find the best possible solution. The hiring of experts is no small investment. The short term goal is to make sure Covanta is operating in accordance with State and Federal guidelines, and that they are being truthful to the community. Longer term, the goal is to find a way to go to zero waste. Mr. Manero stated that the health and safety of the residents are the Township's first priority.

Ms. Bruno stated she cannot support this contract with Covanta.

Mr. David Sharp representing Covanta, stated Montgomery County made a conscious decision to stray away from landfills and the problems that are associated with them. The result of prioritizing renewable energy was the Covanta facility. Covanta has carried out numerous projects at the facility intended to improve the environmental performance.

Mr. Sharp stated Covanta wants to be a good neighbor by being transparent. Ways to accomplish this transparency include: being in contact with the Township prior to any start up and shut down of the boilers, improving the website to provide the community with better access, establishing a community hotline, and submitting online continuous emissions data so the public can view them. Mr. Sharp stated Covanta replaced the electrical breaker that caused the shut down in October. Also, they did extensive work to improve reliability at the facility. Mr. Sharp stressed the fact that Covanta is a worldwide leader in solid waste and is committed to doing the right thing.

Ms. Maura McGee- 506 Beacon Hill Circle- expressed her concerns regarding Covanta and what she and her children are breathing in.

Mr. Steve Sterious- 1421 Sandwood Road- expressed his concerns about his son becoming sick due to the Covanta facility. Mr. Sterious stated from 2016 to 2019 Covanta has had 33 violations. He also mentioned that 10 out of the last 12 quarters Covanta has been in non-compliance with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). Mr. Sterious also stated the current compliance status is a high priority violation for air quality. Mr. Sterious suggested adopting a clean air law. Mr. Sterious thanked Ms. Bruno for not supporting this contract.

Mr. Steven Geiger- 513 Overhill Road- expressed his concerns regarding Covanta, especially in October when Covanta was supposed to notify the DEP within two hours. However, it took them five hours. Mr. Geiger also stated that his son is on a nebulizer. Mr. Geiger stated he would like to see our trash go to a landfill instead.

Ms. Jessica Ram- resident from the Borough of Conshohocken- she stated she is an air quality consultant and has noticed that her car has been coated in ash from the plant four times following high wind events. Ms. Ram stated Covanta is burning diesel oil, so that they can burn trash, which gets emitted into the air. These tiny particles are dispersing way more easily and are falling on the soil, water, and air. Ms. Ram stated Covanta is only checking one time per year for the most harmful pollutants.

Mr. Mike Makoid- resident from the Borough of Conshohocken- expressed his concerns regarding Covanta. Mr. Makoid asked if Council has looked into other trash haulers.

Ms. Michelle Dempsey- 101 Scarlet Drive- expressed her concerns regarding Covanta and the safety of her children.

Mr. Mike Delucca- 1417 Sandwood Road- expressed his concerns regarding Covanta. He stated he would gladly pay more for trash disposal to breathe clean air.

Mr. Stephen Glowacki- 2 Plymwood Drive- wanted to know why it took Covanta five hours to respond to DEP when they had their malfunction in October.

Mr. Joe Walsh- Regional Environmental Manager for Covanta- Mr. Walsh answered the question as to why it took Covanta five hours to respond to DEP. Mr. Walsh stated the permit requires notice within 2 hours if there is an imminent danger to the community. Mr. Walsh stated Covanta did not think it was an imminent danger. He also stated operators were sent to extinguish the flames to secure the unit in a safe and orderly manner.

Mr. Rick Schickling- 111 Boulder Road- asked Council if they have any authority to pull Covanta's plug. Mr. Clarke stated no, they are regulated by Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) and United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Mr. Schickling asked what it would take to pull the plug in the next two years. Mr. Higgins stated the answer will not change since they will still be regulated by PADEP and EPA.

Mr. Steve Sterious- 1421 Sandwood Road- thanked Ms. Bruno for voting against the motion and asked for a clean air law.

Ms. Jaclyn Larkin- 1435 Sandwood Road- asked Council at what point would they consider a clean air act. Mr. Manero stated he does not know what the legal ability is, however it is something to look into. Ms. Larkin also stated her child has documented health impacts which she says are from Covanta. Ms. Larkin stated she's very concerned about this continuing issue.

Ms. Julie Simon- 51 Cricket Drive- stated she and her son had symptoms from the malfunction. Ms. Simon mentioned the several companies that could be looked into for landfilling the trash.

Ms. Carolyn Nickels- 3110 Jolly Road- stated she worked in the trash and recycling industry for quite some time and has heard from several people and their concerns. Ms. Nickels stated composting is an alternative, since driving to landfills is something that contributes to air pollution as well.

Mr. Benjamin Gibbons- 3018 Sheffield Drive- asked what the difference in cost is, if we did not go to Covanta. Mr. Gibbons stated maybe 2 years is not the answer, and asked if we could do a year or go month to month. Mr. Gibbons stated he is disheartened that focus is given to topics such as the contractor registration ordinance, and not where the trash is taken for disposal.

Mr. Higgins called for the vote after everyone in the audience had a chance to comment. Mr. Gannon, Mr. Manero, and Mr. Higgins were in favor and the motion passed 3-1. Ms. Bruno was opposed.

POLICE/PUBLIC SAFETY

PUBLIC/WORKS/SEWER

ENGINEERING

SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT

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

1) Expiration date December 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) Expiration date December 31, 2019

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

1) Extension requested to June 1, 2020- **ACTION-** Mr. Higgins made a motion to approve this extension and was seconded by Mr. Manero. The extension passed 4-0 with Ms. Bruno, Mr. Gannon, Mr. Higgins and Mr. Manero in favor. Ms. Bramblett was absent.

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

1) Expiration date January 10, 2020

g.Extension Requests- ACTION

1) **Lilvin Enterprise to December 31, 2019-** Mr. Gannon made a motion to approve the time extension request for 800 & 820 Brook Road. The motion was seconded by Mr. Manero and passed 4-0 with Ms. Bruno, Mr. Gannon, Mr. Higgins, and Mr. Manero in favor. Ms. Bramblett was absent.

2) **101 North Lane to November 15, 2020-** Ms. Bruno made a motion to approve the time extension request. The motion was seconded by Mr. Manero and passed 4-0 with Ms. Bruno, Mr. Gannon, Mr. Higgins, and Mr. Manero in favor. Ms. Bramblett was absent.

3) **1103 & 1113 Ridge Pike to February 28, 2020-** Mr. Gannon made a motion to approve the time extension request for 1103 & 1113 Ridge Pike. The motion was seconded by Ms. Bruno and passed 4-0 with Ms. Bruno, Mr. Gannon, Mr. Higgins, and Mr. Manero in favor. Ms. Bramblett was absent.

4) **356 Fairfield Road Lot 2 to March 4, 2020-** Mr. Gannon made a motion to approve the time extension request for 356 Fairfield Road. The motion was seconded by Mr. Manero and passed 4-0 with Ms. Bruno, Mr. Gannon, Mr. Higgins, and Mr. Manero in favor. Ms. Bramblett was absent.

h. Escrow Release Requests- ACTION

1) **Driscoll Tract Phase 1A-** Mr. Higgins stated this communication is from Woodrow & Associates, stating sufficient work has been completed to release \$1,228,689.06. Mr. Higgins made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mr. Manero. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed 4-0 with Ms. Bruno, Mr. Gannon, Mr. Higgins, and Mr. Manero in favor. Ms. Bramblett was absent.

2) **Driscoll Tract Phase II-** Mr. Higgins stated this communication is from Woodrow & Associates, stating sufficient work has been completed to release \$78,974.43. Mr. Higgins made a motion to approve and was seconded by Ms. Bruno. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed 4-0 with Ms. Bruno, Mr. Gannon, Mr. Higgins, and Mr. Manero in favor. Ms. Bramblett was absent.

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, November 18th, 2019, commencing at 7:00 p.m., at the Plymouth Township Building on the following application:

1) Jeff Powley- 15 Terrace Road. Any citizen of Plymouth Township or interested party may attend the public hearing and have an opportunity to be heard.

b. Certificate of Appropriateness- Mr. Gannon read a Certificate of Appropriateness to the Metroplex Corporate Center for a temporary parking plan. This constitutes authority to the Building and Zoning Officer to issue permits for the work covered. Mr. Gannon made a motion to approve this certificate and was seconded by Mr. Manero. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed 4-0 with Ms. Bruno, Mr. Gannon, Mr. Higgins and Mr. Manero in favor. Ms. Bramblett was absent.

PARKS AND RECREATION

a. SDM Bricks and Pavers- Ms. Bruno 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.

b. Veterans Recognition Ceremony Announcement- Wednesday, November 13th- 2:00 p.m. - Mr. Manero announced that a Veterans' Recognition Ceremony will be held on Wednesday, November 13th beginning at 2:00 p.m.

c. Holiday Tree Lighting Announcement- Wednesday, December 4th- 6:00 p.m. - Mr. Manero announced that the annual Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony will take place on Wednesday, December 4th at 6:00 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

MISCELLANEOUS/OLD BUSINESS

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Mr. Rich Schickling- 111 Boulder Road- Mr. Schickling sent an email regarding the water run off at the Butler Pike closure and wanted to know Council's thoughts. Mr. Higgins stated we did send it to the County. Also, Mr. Schickling stated at a previous meeting he suggested an air quality monitoring station be placed on Colwell Lane.

Ms. Carol Betham- 519 Old Elm Street- Ms. Betham asked what Plymouth's revenue is for 2020. Mr. Higgins stated is \$26,275,950. She also stated certain areas have their own trash haulers and snow removal. Mr. Higgins stated they are private. Ms. Betham stated no one is removing her leaves.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Regular Meeting was adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Annalisa Primus
Recording Secretary