

February 3, 2010

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

The February 3, 2010 Committee of the Whole meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Toroney in the Council Meeting Room, Pottstown Borough Hall, 100 East High Street, Pottstown, PA.

ATTENDANCE

Councilors present were Mark Gibson, Jeff Chomnuk, Stephen Toroney, Dan Weand, Jody Rhoads and Joseph Kirkland. Also present were Mayor Bonnie Heath, Solicitor Charles Garner, Borough Manager Jason Bobst and Borough Secretary Virginia Takach. Councilor Allen was absent.

INVOCATION

The invocation was provided by Pastor Burlington Latshaw.

PRESENTATION – POTTSTOWN AREA INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT – MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Major General (Ret.) Doug O'Dell and David Leinbach, PAID President, were present to announce the concept of the partnership formed among the Pottstown Area Industrial Development, the TriCounty Area Chamber of Commerce, the Pottstown School District, Pottstown Borough and the Montgomery County Redevelopment Authority.

General O'Dell advised that in addition to the partners, other entities include The Hill School, Pottstown Memorial Medical Center and the Pottstown Area Health and Wellness Foundation, which were instrumental in bringing the Urban Land Institute study group to Pottstown last fall. He also referred to the draft Memorandum of Understanding prepared as a result of the ULI study and noted that the economic development entity will be known as the Pottstown Partnership. Mr. O'Dell also emphasized the importance of unanimity and the return of the rail system to ensure revitalization of the Borough.

Mr. Leinbach also explained the position of PAID and the use of the \$400,000 of seed money to get the process in order and rewrite the by-laws of PAID by the Partners. He added that no aspect would supersede the rules and regulations of the Borough.

Councilor Rhoads moved to endorse the concept of the Memorandum of Understanding and authorize Staff to work with the parties in the finalization of the Memorandum of Understanding. Councilor Gibson seconded the motion.

President Toroney opened a public hearing at 7:45 p.m. and invited comments.

Don Read, 810 Spruce Street – questioned the transparency of the Partnership Board.

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Mr. Leinbach responded that the organization would be required to perform an audit and that would be public information. He added that any minutes would be provided to Borough Council.

Terry Fetterman, 62 North Hanover Street – requested the possibility of funding from the County for pending projects such as the former Fecera’s building and the Gorski project on Hanover Street.

Mr. Leinbach noted that PAID would become the clearinghouse for projects seeking funding from the County.

President Toroney closed the public hearing at 8:05 p.m. and requested a roll-call vote.

Chomnuk	yes	Rhoads	yes
Gibson	yes	Weand	yes
Kirkland	yes	Toroney	yes

Motion carried: 6 ayes.

PRESENTATION – PORTNOFF LAW ASSOCIATES

Attorney Michelle Portnoff and Attorney Jason Leininger of Portnoff Law Associates were present to review the collection of the Borough and Borough Authority accounts. Attorney Portnoff provided an overview of the firm’s collection process and history of collections with the Borough since 1997.

PRESENTATION – ACCOUNTS RECOVERY BUREAU

Jason Benepe, Director of Operations and Sue Ruotolo, Client Account Services Manager, of Accounts Recovery Bureau, provided an outline of its system and streamlined process of turning over accounts.

President Toroney requested that the Borough Manager and Staff make a recommendation to Council.

Mr. Bobst advised that the recommendation would be presented to the Finance Committee at the March 1st meeting.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Finance & Administration – Councilor Weand reported that he was named Chairman at the initial Finance & Administration meeting. He advised that several items were discussed to enhance and expedite the collection of accounts and how to correct weaknesses with the process.

b. Infrastructure – Councilor Rhoads, Chairman, provided an update of recently discovered conditions of a rental property, advising that the District Attorney’s office has been notified. He also reported that Mr. Bobst is in the process of completing the job description for the Project Coordinator. There was also discussion of enforcement of the blue recycle bins and a contracted service for a street sweeper.

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c. Public Safety – Councilor Gibson, Chairman, advised that the meetings will be held the last Tuesday of the month at 2:00 p.m. He also explained the request of the YWCA to continue its parking agreement and is listed on the agenda for discussion.

d. Transportation – Manager Bobst provided the report for the Airport along with the status of projects. He added that the Canopy project should be ready for bid in March.

e. Ricketts Community Center – President Toroney referred to the written report. Councilor Gibson also noted that he and Councilor Kirkland have visited the Center and will provide a report in the near future.

f. Pottstown Borough Authority – There was no report.

FIRE ORDINANCE

Solicitor Garner reviewed the draft amendment to the Fire Ordinance and requested authorization to advertise for the March meeting.

AD HOC FIRE COMMITTEE

President Toroney announced the members of the Ad hoc Fire Committee to include himself along with Jason Bobst, Chief Lengel, Mayor Heath, Jody Rhoads, Mike Campeggio in order to address the Fire Study by ESECG.

650 JEFFERSON AVENUE

Solicitor Garner explained the request of Pressly Day for a two-year extension of his agreement to development the property at 650 Jefferson Avenue.

APPOINTMENTS

President Toroney noted that the appointments for the Planning Commission, PDIDA and the Construction Code Board of Appeals would be addressed at the regular meeting.

YWCA PARKING

President Toroney referred to the request of the YWCA to continue its parking agreement with the Borough for the calendar year 2010 and will be listed on the regular agenda.

H.R. 3007 –LOCAL FISCAL ASSISTANCE ACT

Mr. Bobst requested Council's consideration in adopting a resolution in support of House Resolution 3007, the Local Fiscal Assistance Act, to reinstate federal funding for municipalities targeted for safety and emergency matters.

HARB

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Mr. Bobst explained the recommendation of HARB for approval of Certificates of Appropriateness for the following properties:

- a. 69 North Charlotte Street
- b. 259 East High Street
- c. 312 King Street
- d. 377 East High Street

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The meeting adjourned to executive session at 9:35 p.m. for one litigation matter and one pending litigation.

No further action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

Attested,

Jason M. Bobst
Borough Manager