

BOROUGH OF PORTLAND  
COUNCIL MEETING APRIL 27, 2015

The Borough Council Meeting of April 27, 2015 was called to order at 7:00 PM by Stephanie Steele, President of Borough Council.

Council Members Present:

\*Stephanie Steele \*Susan McKean \*Steve Knott \* Bridget Kenna \* Lisa Prator\* Brian Kardos  
\* Heather Fischer.

Others Present:

1. Mayor Lance Prator
2. Solicitor Michael Gaul
3. Borough Secretary Carol Hummel
4. Zoning Officer Rick Fisher
5. Mark Hartney, Northampton County CDBG
6. Members of the Public

Part-Time Summer Street Department Hire:

A motion was made by Susan McKean, 2nd by Lisa Prator approving the employment of Phil Karasiewicz as a part-time maintenance employee, at the hourly rate of \$10.00 per hour for ten (10) hours per week, from May 1, 2015 through September 30, 2015. Motion carried: 7-0-0

Porta-Potty Rental For Ball Field, Portland UMBT Softball:

President Steele reported that Allstate Septic has delivered a handicapped porta-potty to the ball field at the rate of \$135.00 monthly. Ms. Steele read a letter received from Upper Mount Bethel Township (UMB) informing council that they have switched suppliers to Hicks Septic at a cheaper rate of \$50.00 monthly. Councilwoman Prator directed the secretary to contact Hicks Septic for a quote for the Borough.

Citizens Agenda:

- Lance Walter: 113 Main Street

Mr. Walter addressed council about the Billie Golden property at 108 Division Street with regard to the junk surrounding the outside of the property. Mr. Walter stated that he has already voiced his concerns to the zoning officer, Mr. Fisher. Mr. Walter stated that in the past only recyclables have been collected but now the Golden's are collecting junk. Mr. Fisher stated that he has cited Mr. Golden. Solicitor Gaul stated that the Golden property will be discussed in Executive Session. Mr. Walter was directed to be in contact with Mr. Fisher for any updates.

- Fred Duckloe: Condemned Building at 425 Delaware Avenue, Young Son, Owner

Mr. Fisher stated that the downspouts have been replaced on the 425 Delaware Avenue property, as well as Mr. Duckloe's property at 427 Delaware Avenue. Mr. Duckloe stated that the downspouts at 425 and 427 Delaware Avenue respectively are pointing down to the ground instead of being directed out onto the sidewalk. The flow of the water is still going into the foundations of the buildings.

Councilman Kardos asked about the owner's proposal for the addition of (2) more apartments and a third floor. Mr. Fisher replied that the Building Code is different from the Zoning Code

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Solicitor Gaul stated that Mr. Son was to have the building's chimney, roof and stairway to the second floor replaced with (60) days.. That has not been done. Solicitor Gaul stated that council will discuss the building in Executive Session.

Mr. Fisher stated that the building is not safe because it cannot be secured. There is no access to the second floor. Whenever Mr. Fisher padlocks the building vandals break in by cutting the locks off.

Mark Hartney, Northampton County, stated that the Property Maintenance Code addresses these issues by imposing fines, which could be as high as \$1,000.00 per day, on the property owner when the issues are not addressed. Mr. Hartney stated that Northampton County still has the CDBG money for the building but now that the building has a viable owner the monies could be loaned to the Borough with the expectation that Mr. Young Son would do the repairs. Solicitor Gaul stated that there is no economic incentive to force Mr. Son to do the repairs unless his is fined and forced to make the repairs.

Councilwoman Prator stated that the Borough was at a stand still for a long time. Now the new owner has a plan for the building but is not making any effort to fix it and the Borough is getting "jerked around" again.

Executive Session:

A motion was made by Susan McKean, 2nd by Steve Knott to convene to executive session at 7:39 PM PM. Motion carried: 7-0-0

Discussion: To consult with the Solicitor on pending legal matters.

A motion was made by Lisa Prator, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Susan McKean to reconvene from executive session at 8:20 PM. Motion carried: 7-0-0

Action Taken:

A motion was made by Susan McKean, 2nd by Steve Knott that if the 425 Delaware Avenue property is not brought up to the required safety standards in (30) days, as determined by the codes officer, and in consultation with the Borough engineer, Solicitor Gaul is authorized to file a lawsuit to require Mr. Son to repair the property or demolish it.

Mark Hartney asked what is the realistic time frame to apply for and receive a zoning/building permit to make the necessary repairs. Mr. Fisher replied that the safety issues and the extension of the building are two separate issues. Mr. Fisher stated that the permits can be issued within (30) days.

Motion then carried: 7-0-0

Council would like Solicitor Gaul to work towards having the Golden property comply with Borough Ordinances. A motion was made by Steve Knott, 2nd by Heather Fischer authorizing Solicitor Gaul to withdraw the summary citation of 2014 and to file a civil complaint against Mr. Golden for zoning violations at 108 Division Street. Motion carried: 7-0-0

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Stop Signs:                    Delaware Avenue and First Street Intersection:  
Delaware Avenue and Ruth Street Intersection:

A motion was made by Steve Knott, 2nd by Brian Kardos directing Solicitor Gaul to prepare the ordinance for the stop signs. Motion carried: 7-0-0

Other Business:

1. Mr. Fisher updated council on the following properties:

a) 505 Northampton Street: Chickens running around loose (this is a rental property). As a result of resident complaints, Mr. Fisher believes that an enforcement action is necessary, and will consult with the Solicitor about moving forward.

b) 208 Northampton Street: Mike's Auto Body concerning a tow/impounding storage permit. Mr. Fisher will consult with the Solicitor in regards to this matter as well.

- Councilwoman Prator left the meeting at 8:41 PM and returned at 8:43 PM.

2. Mayor Prator thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

3. Cindy Fish announced that the Liberty Trail Extension from Jersey City NJ to Portland PA will now officially continue up Route 611 to Delaware Water Gap PA through the National Alliance 911 Organization.

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:47 PM was made by Lisa Prator, 2nd by Susan McKean Motion carried: 7-0-0

Respectfully Submitted By,

*Carol*

Carol A. Hummel, Secretary