

ABBOTTSTOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
MINUTES
August 16, 2006

CALL TO ORDER

Abbottstown Borough Council special meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m. by President Samiah Slusser. Other members present were Becky Fengfish, Debbie Shearer, Dale Reichert, and David Shuff. Others present were: Mayor Charles Stonesifer, Warren Moore, Borough Manager/Zoning Officer and Toni Fenker, Secretary Treasurer.

VISITORS

Present were; Perry Shearer, Patti Sutherland and Pat Markosian,

INTRODUCTION

Samiah Slusser explained the purpose for the meeting was a Mini Board Training and Strategic Planning Session and stated that there was a need for this due to having no management by objectives in the past resulting in Council being reactive vs. pro-active. She explained that she had requested a visitor attend to provide Board Effectiveness training and that they were not able to come but that council could discuss this for the future if they wished. She then asked a series of questions related to Board Effectiveness solely to provoke thought for future discussion.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Council then went on to review and discuss samples of mission and vision statements. They identified their responsibilities, who they were responsible to and why individually they were serving as Council members, which Sami recorded on a flip chart. The remaining discussion was related to identifying Council's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. They agreed to have Sami recap the items listed on the flip charts and to formulate some potential goals which she would email to the members to have in advance of a follow up special meeting to conclude the Strategic Planning and begin budget formulation. The next special meeting was scheduled for Wednesday August 30, 2006 at 7:00pm in the borough meeting room.

VISITOR COMMENTS/CONCERNS

Pat Markosian stated that having such a demographically diverse community was an underutilized asset and suggested that Council and the community think of ways to get people involved.

Perry Shearer asked Council about their thoughts on his organizing residents to help patrol the recreation park after dark to try to curb the incidents of vandalism. Council welcomed his volunteering to do so.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Dale moved for Adjournment at 9:15 PM. Second by Becky and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Toni Fenker
Secretary Treasurer

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Deleted: Steve Sauter

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Deleted: Samiah Slusser

Deleted: Mayor Charles Stonesifer.

Deleted: Sharon Myers, Borough Solicitor;

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Deleted: Patricia Sutherland, Pat Markosian,

Deleted: Craig and Faith Peterson and

Deleted: several other residents/interested parties unknown to the Secretary. Also present was Sean Hilliard, Evening Sun Reporter

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¶ APPROVAL OF MINUTES¶ Mrs. Shearer stated that the secretary had listed the wrong names in the minutes from the prior meeting of the citizens making statements about snow removal outside the Borough lines. She also stated that Steve did not open the floor for nominations for a replacement for Council Member Peter Hobbs who resigned during the prior meeting and insisted that the statement was inaccurate and should be removed from the minutes. The Secretary indicated that she disagreed, that the statement was accurate. Dale moved to approve the minutes of the previous regular meeting February 16, 2006 with the corrections regarding the visitor's names but with the statement regarding the nomination unchanged. Second by Becky. Four votes were made in the affirmative and Mrs. Shearer voted against the approval and the motion was carried by the ... [1]

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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APPROVAL OF DISBURSEMENTS 2/17/06 – 3/16/06

Becky moved to approve disbursements for the following amounts for the period: General Fund Checking \$22,136.80; General Fund Payroll \$13707.94; Liquid Fuels \$528.40; Water Authority \$10,360.05 Second by Sam. Mrs. Shearer indicated she had a question regarding the disbursements which was not entertained due to the motion and second already having taken place. Four votes were made in the affirmative, Mrs. Shearer voted against the approval and the motion was carried by the majority.

VISITORS AND/OR CITIZENS' REQUESTS

No visitors indicated any concerns.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:09 for the Water Authority meeting.

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MEETING RECONVIENED AT 7:27 PM

CORRESPONDENCE

Council reviewed the various pieces of correspondence listed in the agenda and noted that the Borough Auditors found no exceptions in the Year End Audit and

that they approved the use of the ball field at the Recreation Park by the Eastern Adams Little League scheduled to begin March 18, 2006.

POLICE COMMITTEE PRESENTATION

Sami reported on the various alternatives available for police coverage and presented Council with a chart detailing three (3) of the alternatives (attached and made part of these official minutes). Council discussed the possible offset of first year costs with Eastern Adams for equipment sales related to the dissolution, agreeing that was a separate issue and should not be a consideration in the decision. Council and residents weighed in on the comparative costs and coverage of the different options. Steve noted that the Hamilton Township proposal did not appear on the chart and Sami stated that it was an oversight on the Committee's part. Dale summarized the proposal. Becky indicated that her review of the Hamilton proposal revealed that the proposed contract was worse than the current contract terms and didn't bear consideration. Steve stated that it made no sense to jump back into that arena when the figures indicate that the cost was similar for less than 24/7 coverage. A resident asked if the officers were being guaranteed positions with Eastern Adams should the decision go that way and was informed that that was not the case and that Abbottstown had no say in the matter. Residents and Council agreed that the 24/7 local coverage by Eastern Adams was preferable.

Steve asked what the wishes of Council were, did they want to sit on it for another month before making a decision? Members agreed they had sufficient information to make a decision. Steve pointed out that Eastern Adams jurisdiction surrounds Abbottstown and their vehicles are seen in the Borough more often than our own. Steve invited a motion. Mrs. Shearer made a motion to send a letter to Eastern Adams indicating the Borough's desire to contract for services. Second by Becky and carried. Steve thanked the committee members for their hard work.

NEW BUSINESS

Steve invited a motion to appoint a new Borough Council Vice President. Mrs. Shearer nominated Sami. Second by Becky and carried.

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INFORMATION FROM PLANNING

Becky indicated that there was nothing to report due to no meeting being held this month.

Steve reported that the Secretary was still working on recommended planning and zoning fees, procedures revisions and new applications.

OLD BUSINESS

Steve informed everyone that the regulation of rental units has been tabled indefinitely due to other pressing issues at this time and reminded everyone of the schedule for clean up days. The Secretary informed everyone that one mattress and box-spring were permitted per household. Mr. Peterson questioned whether car batteries were permitted and was informed they were not.

BOROUGH MANAGER/ZONING OFFICER REPORT

Mr. Moore provided Council with a written report (attached and made part of these official minutes) which he reported upon verbally. He recommended a change in the Borough ordinance requiring permits from \$1000 to \$2500.00 to be in-line with the new requirement of Adams County. He indicated he wanted to do additional research prior to preparing a resolution since some under \$1000.00 improvements would require permits and inspection.

SOLICITORS REPORT

Sharon's report is attached and made part of these official minutes. She explained to Council that an ordinance would be required for the Borough to sell the Water Authority assets. Dale made a motion to have her advertise the ordinance. Second by Sami and carried.

POLICE REPORT

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4/24/2006 2:39:00 PM

The mayor passed out the police reports and gave a brief synopsis of the status of the open cases and evidence disposition following the department disbandment. He responded to a citizen's question that the police files had to be separated between the two jurisdictions.

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