

2019-1
STRASBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL
JANUARY 8, 2019
MINUTES

Members Present: Ray Garraffa Jim Rice
 Dave Dunn Will Hutchinson
 Dale Spaulding

Others Present:

Bruce Ryder, Mayor	Richard Wolfe
Lisa M. Boyd, Borough Manager	Frank Pellicore
F. Steven Echternach, Chief of Police	Fred Shupp
Lynn Commero, LNP	Dave Felpel
Beth Gunnion	Sally Reinhart
Denise Waller	Richard Waller
Marilyn Weaver	Kimberly Brotzman
LaJune Ranck	Mark Francis

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE TO THE FLAG: Council Vice President Ray Garraffa called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m., followed by the salute to the flag. Vice President Garraffa announced that the meeting is being audiotaped and maintained until the minutes are approved. The Borough Manager took the roll call.

REQUESTS TO BE HEARD: Kim Brotzman, 47 East Main Street, was in attendance and stated that she was opposed to the Rutter's video gambling application because it will create problems and noted that it is not going to benefit our tax base or help to build a better Strasburg.

Mayor Ryder stated that Borough Council is also opposed to the video gambling but a few years ago the state legislature passed a special law authorizing video gaming terminals in convenience stores that met certain requirements and did not give the municipalities any ability to object. He noted that there is an item on tonight's agenda for Borough Council to take action against the video gaming terminals because our Zoning Ordinance has certain language that we believe gives us some control. Members reminded Ms. Brotzman that at their December meeting, Borough Council voted and took a position opposing Rutter's Zoning Hearing Board application and sent a letter to Rutter's expressing the Borough's discontent with their application. Residents were encouraged to contact their state legislators with their concerns or to attend the January 21, 2019 Zoning Hearing Board. Mayor Ryder stated that testimony was closed at the December Zoning Hearing and no new comments will be accepted at the January hearing. At the December Zoning Hearing, Mayor Ryder did request and was granted approval for our Solicitor to write a legal brief regarding the application which is due on January 14, 2019. The ability to submit a legal brief was also granted to Rutter's Solicitor.

MINUTES OF DECEMBER 11, 2018: A motion was made by Dave Dunn, seconded by Jim Rice to approve the minutes of the December 11, 2018 meeting as printed. Motion carried with Members Garraffa, Rice, Dunn and Hutchinson casting assenting votes. Member Spaulding abstained from voting because he was not in attendance for the meeting.

2019-2

REPORTS:

MAYOR – Mayor Ryder stated that 8-10 East Main Street was accepted into the Redevelopment Authority’s Vacant Property Reinvestment Program and an inspection is scheduled and they will follow-up with the property owner.

PRESIDENT – President Chiodo was not in attendance for the meeting.

MANAGER – The Borough Manager’s written report for December 2018 was received and accepted. She added that Synergy Auto applied to the Zoning Hearing Board for a Special Exception and Variance to expand the parking lot to the rear of their property and reminded the members that they can take a position regarding the application. Mayor Ryder stated that he believes it is a good idea because it solves some of the parking problems in that area and parking off of the street is a good thing. He added that they are applying for a pervious parking lot which allows rain to soak into the ground. Dave Dunn stated that he likes that they are also proposing to install a sidewalk in front of the property with a chain barrier to improve safety.

A motion was made by Dave Dunn, seconded by Dale Spaulding and passed unanimously to authorize the Borough Manager to send a letter to the Zoning Hearing Board supporting Synergy Auto’s application to expand their parking lot.

POLICE – The Police Department’s report for December 2018 was received and accepted.

PUBLIC WORKS – The Public Works report for December 2018 was received and accepted.

ZONING OFFICER – The Zoning Officer’s report for December 2018 was received and accepted.

CONSENT AGENDA: A motion was made by Dale Spaulding, seconded by Will Hutchinson and passed unanimously to approve the following items on the Consent Agenda:

PAYMENT OF BILLS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$97,559.03

HISTORICAL ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD CERTIFICATE OF

APPROPRIATENESS – 131 E MAIN ST

REAPPOINTMENT/APPOINTMENT OF BOARD MEMBERS

HARB	Tom Lainhoff	5 years until December 31, 2023
Planning Commission	Mary Dresser	4 years until December 31, 2022
Planning Commission	Dave Felpel	4 years until December 31, 2022
Borough Authority	Harold Wiker	5 years until December 31, 2023
Tree Committee	Gil Pratt	3 years until December 31, 2021
Tree Committee	Mary Dresser	3 years until December 31, 2021
Tree Committee	Brad Botchlet	3 years until December 31, 2021
Zoning Hearing Board	Beth Gunnion	5 years until December 31, 2023

It was noted that since Beth Gunnion went from the alternate member to a primary member on the Zoning Hearing Board, the staff will search for a new alternate member.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

AUTHORIZATION FOR THE BOROUGH SOLICITOR TO TAKE SUCH ACTION AS MAY BE NECESSARY OR APPROPRIATE TO OPPOSE THE APPLICATION OF RUTTER'S WHICH IS PENDING BEFORE THE ZONING HEARING BOARD: A

motion was made by Will Hutchinson, seconded by Dave Dunn and passed unanimously to authorize the Borough Solicitor to take such action necessary or appropriate to oppose the application of Rutter's which is pending before the Zoning Hearing Board.

OTHER BUSINESS: None.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS: Kimberly Brotzman stated that she is concerned with the condition of the property at 49 East Main Street and asked that it be inspected.

Denise Waller asked for an update regarding the appeal of the AirBnB application. The Borough Manager reported that the Borough Solicitor went to court on December 27, 2018 but the judge has not yet issued her ruling.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Dale Spaulding, seconded by Will Hutchinson and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa M. Boyd
Borough Manager