Adamstown Borough Council **September 1, 2015**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00PM at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 80 E. Main Street, Adamstown, PA by Council President Randy Good.

Council Present: Randy Good, Dave Matz, Cindy Schweitzer, Mark Bansner, David Gundrum, Joe Dietrich, Jessica Kelly

Visitors Present: George Beever, Donna Wetherhold, Mike Wetherhold, Glenda Poole, Carol Johnson, Val Lacis, Alex McManimen, Steven Roth, Sandy Roth, Bob Stork, Helen Shaak, Jim Bretz, Michele Walter Fry, Jillian Gentile, Joe Hawley, Mark Wallace

Others Present: Dean Johnson, Mike Palm, Sam Toffy

MINUTES: Minutes from the August 4, 2015 meeting were approved with a motion from D. Matz, seconded by M. Bansner and unanimously carried. Minutes from the August 26, 2015 special meeting were approved with a motion from D. Matz, seconded by M. Bansner and unanimously carried.

BILL LIST: Motioned by M. Bansner, seconded by J. Dietrich and unanimously carried to approve all bills and receipts presented.

POLICE and/or FIRE REPORT:

The August Police Report was read by Chief Beever.
The August Fire Report was read by Chief Roth.

VISITORS BUSINESS:

Bob Stork, Adamstown resident – Mr. Stork has a concern with the traffic light at the intersection of Rt. 272 and Willow Street. He explained that if traffic does not stop close enough to the intersection on the east side of Willow Street, the light will not trip. He is requesting that a 'stop here' sign be installed as well as a white line painted in the location where cars must stop in order to trip the traffic light. M. Palm will look into this.

SPECIAL TOPICS: None.

PUBLIC WORKS:

Stump at Intersection of W. Main & Willow Streets – The tree stump located at the corner of W. Main & Willow Streets was removed and the curb/sidewalk is scheduled to be replaced next week.

Extendable Pole Pruner Quote – Due to the expense and frequency of renting an extendable pole pruner, M. Palm presented a quote from Eagle Rental for the purchase of two different models of extendable pole pruners. He is recommending purchasing the HT131 model which has a larger engine, at a cost of $593.96.

Motioned by C. Schweitzer, seconded by D. Matz and unanimously carried to approve the quote from Eagle Rental for the purchase of the HT131 model extendable pole pruner at a cost of $593.96.

Spare Grinder Pump Quote – M. Palm presented a quote from Mid Atlantic Pump & Equipment Company for the purchase of a spare grinder pump at a cost of $1,920 plus freight. There are currently two properties in the Borough who are in the process of connecting to the public sewer system and are using the same type of pump. The spare pump would be used to replace a pump already in use in the event that pump should fail. The property owner would then repair the failed pump which would be held as the spare.

Motioned by M. Bansner, seconded by D. Matz and unanimously carried to approve the quote from Mid Atlantic Pump & Equipment Company for the purchase of a spare WGL20-21 pump at a cost of $1,920 plus freight.

FINANCE:

L. Crouse is requesting that Council allow Beth King to continue working for two more months to take care of billing as Lisa transitions back to work. There were no objections.

2016 MMO – C. Schweitzer presented to Council the 2016 Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) for the Adamstown Borough Pension Plan.

Motioned by D. Matz, seconded by M. Bansner and unanimously carried to approve the 2016 Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) in the amount of $11,082.

There will be a budget meeting at the end of the month.

WATER & SEWER:

151 Old School Lane, Apt. A – The previous tenant did not pay his last water bill, leaving an outstanding balance on the account. The current tenant who then moved in failed to pay his water bill for the 3 quarters he's lived there, stating that he never received the bills. There was a total outstanding balance of $524.65 on the account which, when the current tenant was notified of the balance, paid the entire amount. Of that amount, $352.82 is actual usage for the current tenant, $63.21 is late/interest fees accrued and $108.62 is from the former tenant. Council determined that since it is a rental property, the property owner is ultimately responsible to see that the bills are paid. S. Toffy will contact the tenant and property manager to explain the breakdown of charges and let them know it is up to them to work it out.

COMMUNITY:

Sidewalk Construction Standards – The Committee met and reviewed all of the feedback received from the past few meetings and as a result, they presented to Council a more simplified draft ordinance. R. Good asked what happens if a property owner cannot complete repairs within the required 30 days. J. Dietrich explained that within that time period they can at least make an effort to contact a contractor to get a proposal then come to Council to request an extension. One item of concern from previous drafts that has been removed was the responsibility of abutting property owners to repair their sidewalk. It was also proposed to add a section outlining the three criteria when a sidewalk needs to be inspected. C. Schweitzer expressed her concern with the amount of time potentially needed from Borough staff. R. Good suggested hiring an inspector who would do the paperwork as well as the inspections. J. Dietrich requested that the solicitor draft an ordinance to be presented at the next Council meeting for review.

Motioned by J. Dietrich, seconded by M. Bansner and unanimously carried to authorize the solicitor to draft a new ordinance for sidewalks, to be presented at the next Council meeting for review.

ROADS AND BRIDGES:

M. Bansner has been in contact with Gary Russel and Lana Schlegel, members of Emmanuel Church, regarding parking at the church. At their request he will be meeting with them September 2nd to discuss options to allow for dropping off and picking up church patrons on Sunday mornings.

PERSONNEL: None.

RECREATION:

Pool Closure & Winterization – Due to issues in the past with winterizing the pool, J. Kelly recommended relieving the Rec Board of that duty going forward and having the Public Works Department handle winterizing the pool.

Motioned by J. Dietrich, seconded by Dave Matz and unanimously carried to have the Public Works Department winterize the pool at the end of the season and open it in the spring.

Pool Complaints – Several complaints were received regarding the condition of the restrooms as well as other areas of the pool, reiterating the need for a change. The Rec Committee will be meeting at the end of the month to discuss what direction they would like to go regarding management of the pool facilities. R. Good commented that Denver Borough has used Ephrata Rec to manage their pool for the past nine seasons. They hire the manager(s) and guards as well as certifying the guards. R. Good spoke with Jim Summers of Ephrata Rec and said that Mr. Summers is interested in meeting with J. Kelly and M. Palm to further discuss.

Regarding the snack bar, R. Good noted that a contract should go out for next year specifying the menu and hours of operation. He recommended that the Rec Committee check with other municipalities to see how they run their snack bars.

Celebration Park Grant – J. Kelly commented that they expect to hear back by next Tuesday or Wednesday if the grant was approved.

FIRE/SAFETY:

Crosswalk at Rt. 272 Near Rose Hill – A Borough resident contacted Senator Aument's office with a concern about the crosswalk at Rt. 272 near the Rose Hill Development. The Fire & Safety Committee will review this issue and will report back at the October Council meeting.

Noise/Nuisance Ordinance – The Committee is still working on this issue and will report back at the November Council meeting.

Police Discussion – D. Johnson commented that Ralph Vedder, appointed member of the Fire & Safety Committee, shared an excellent presentation at the August 26th special Council meeting and it is now in Council's hands to make the final decision for police protection.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Stoudtburg Village – C. Schweitzer, D. Matz and M. Bansner met with the Stoudtburg Village POA Board to discuss the impending tax sale of the common ground in the Village. Several requests were made to Council by the POA Board to reduce the tax burden as they pursue ownership of the common ground. There are still too many unknowns at this point in time that must be determined before any action can be taken by Council.

Mill Race Issue – S. Toffy will contact Mr. Stauffer to get an update on the Mill Race issue and will report back to Council at the October meeting.

Community Pool, Phase 1 Punchlist Items – M. Palm met with Hanover Engineering to discuss outstanding items. The remainder of the pool will be painted after the Labor Day weekend. Hanover will be discussing the issue with the ventilation system which is not working properly. The Borough is asking for a credit towards the defective floor and is waiting to hear back from Hanover.

NEW BUSINESS:

Donation to St. Paul's Lutheran Church – The Borough has utilized the church for several meetings recently and R. Good polled Council to see if they felt a donation should be given to the church. It was noted that the church is not charged for water or sewer usage. D. Johnson said he felt that they have been accommodating to both Council and the Fire & Safety Committee and he therefore feels that a donation would be appropriate.

Motioned by D. Matz, seconded by J. Dietrich and carried by a vote of 6-1-0 to authorize a donation in the amount of $300 to St. Paul's Lutheran Church for the use of their facility (C. Schweitzer voted no).

326 Willow Street – An enforcement notice was sent to the property owners of 326 Willow Street by zoning officer Barry Wagner regarding unlicensed/unregistered vehicles and boats as well as assorted trash, debris and junk on the property. They did not comply by the deadline. Mr. Wagner is looking for Council's authorization to move forward with taking this to the District Magistrate.

Motioned by C. Schweitzer, seconded by D. Gundrum and carried by a vote of 5-0-2 to authorize B. Wagner to move forward with taking this case before the District Magistrate (J. Dietrich and M. Bansner abstained).

Stoudt's Cross Cyclocross Bicycle Race – A request was received by David Borden to use the Borough's roads during the annual Stoudt's Cross Cyclocross Bicycle Race to be held on November 1, 2015.

Motioned by J. Dietrich, seconded by D. Gundrum and unanimously carried to allow the bike race on November 1, 2014 contingent on a Certificate of Insurance being submitted prior to the race and that any property that may be damaged is restored.

Adjournment:

Motioned by D. Matz, seconded by J. Dietrich and unanimously carried to adjourn.

The meeting ended at 8:12PM.

Attested: _____
Sam Toffy, Adamstown Borough Administrative Secretary