Public Administration & Public Safety Committees

Committee Meeting in the Municipal Building

March 9, 2021, 6:00 p.m.

Present: Don Brothers, Ron Becker, Wes Hill, Police Chief Frank Mercier, Code Enforcement Officer Peggy Griffith, Manager John Barrett

The meeting was called to order.

Manager Barrett stated that this was a joint meeting of the Public Administration Committee and the Public Safety Committee to continue review and discussion of the various fees the Borough charges and the proposed ordinances for regulating false fire alarms and the recovery of costs and to draft recommendations for the Council identifying any proposed changes.

There was discussion and consensus to eliminate the final plan review fee for lot subdivisions and consolidations thereby having only one fee, as previously established, for preliminary plan reviews, the specific miscellaneous and swimming pool fees which would be covered under a zoning permit fee if applicable, and all the plumbing, mechanical and electrical fees which would be covered under the Middle Department Inspection Agency (MDIA) fee schedule. There was discussion and consensus to change the following fees: Signs – consolidate all signs, excluding billboard signs, in the Mixed, Commercial, and Special Use Districts and charge a flat fee of $100; consolidate building permits for construction or alterations of all buildings and charge a flat fee of $150; and charge a fee of 10% of all applicable MDIA fees on all building permit applications. The 10% charge on MDIA fees was to replace the building permit fee of $500 plus 1% of the estimated costs over $5,000 which was eliminated. This concluded the review of the Borough’s fees and the Manager will provide the recommendations to Council at their March 15th regular meeting.

The Committees reviewed and discussed the proposed ordinances for regulating false fire alarms and authorizing the Fire Department to recover costs for its services through claims submitted only to individual owners’ insurance carriers. There was discussion and consensus to change the charges for false fire alarms to: no charge for the first two false fire alarms, $50 for the third, $100 for the fourth and fifth, and $500 for all alarms after the fifth. It was also noted to be sure that this ordinance only covered false fire alarms. There were no proposed changes for the recovery of costs ordinance. This concluded the review of the two proposed fire related ordinances. The Manager will provide the recommendations to Council at their March 15th regular meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Submitted by,

John M. Barrett

Borough Manager