

**AGENDA FOR THE MEETING OF THE
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, WORKS & SERVICES
TUESDAY, AUGUST 2, 2016**

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MOVE to accept the minutes from June's Meeting without reading.

REPORTS

- Report of the Chief of Police
- Report of the Fire Services Administrator
- Report of Fire Company
- Community Ambulance Association of Ambler
- Report of Second Alarmer's Rescue Squad
- Report of Public Works, Fleets & Facilities Director
- Report of Code Enforcement Administrator
- Review of Applications to Zoning Hearing Board

DISCUSS

1. Parking Ordinance – Summit Avenue and Montgomery Avenue
2. Water Quality Update

ADJOURN

NEXT MEETING: October 4, 2016

A meeting of the Public Safety, Works and Services Committee (PSWS) of Upper Dublin Township (UDT) was held on Tuesday, August 2, 2016, in the Township Building; Ronald Feldman presiding.

In attendance were Commissioners Ronald Feldman, Sharon Damsker, and Robert McGuckin. Commissioner Tackel participated as part of the audience. Also present were Paul Leonard, Township Manager; Lieutenant Darren Nyce represented the Chief of Police; Kevin McCann, Fire Services Administrator; Captain Andrew Kremmel, representing the Fire Chief; Joe Fielder, Code Enforcement Department Director; Dan Supplee, Public Works Operations Director; and the Assistant Chief representing the Community Ambulance Association of Ambler.

MOTION TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES FROM THE JUNE 2016 MEETING WITHOUT READING:

Ms. Damsker motioned, with Mr. McGuckin seconding, to approve the Minutes of the PSWS Meeting for the month of June 2016 without reading.

VOTE ON MOTION

ALL YES

MOTION CARRIED

REPORTS:

Report of the Chief of Police:

Lieutenant Darren Nyce gave the following report:

- Statistics:
 - The Police Department has responded to 12,500 calls YTD.
 - Two students completed internships with the Police Department.
- The Upper Dublin Junior Police Academy will be held on August 15 and 16.
- A Youth Field Day is scheduled at Mondauk Commons Park on August 17.
- The Police Department is now in its third year of its three year accreditation cycle.
- Lieutenant Nyce along with members of other area police departments attended an open forum at the Zion Baptist Church with about 75 other participants this past Saturday. They participated in a panel discussion regarding concerns of minority communities and how police officers deal with minorities. Lieutenant Nyce particularly was appreciative of the efforts of Melvin Rice, Chairman of Men's Ministry at the church, for setting up this endeavor. It is hoped that another such session will take place in the near future.
- Training:
 - A newer officer who was a Use of Force Instructor was appointed to the Swat Team and was sent to Police Response to Active Shooter Instructor School.
 - One of the younger supervisors was recently sent to a Leadership Skills for Challenging Times Course.
 - Many of the officers have been dealing with people who might have mental health issues. Three officers were sent to the Horsham Clinic to attend a program dealing with "Question, Persuade and Observe" to learn how to deal with those interested in suicide.
 - One officer was sent to a Basic Police Cycling Course.

Report of the Fire Services Administrator:

Kevin McCann, Fire Services Administrator, reported as follows:

- Statistics:
- Fire Marshal conducted 143 commercial building inspections, and issued 31 fire permits.
 - 117 apartments had fire safety inspections done.
 - Last night was the completion milestone for the Burn Brae Fire House. The project came in under budget. Specific figures will be presented in October.
 - The Fire Marshall has been working with the developers at the St. Mary's Villa property along with the Police Department. Fire alarms are now in service in all but three buildings. Those buildings have been boarded up on the ground floor to deter access. Gates have been installed at both entrances to minimize intruders.
 - Mr. Leonard informed of concern about safety hazards in conjunction with the many vacant buildings on the property. Township staff has been trying to convince the developers to demolish any of those buildings for which they do not have a use.
 - A recent fire on Fitzwatertown Road was caused by an unusual event that creates a learning point for residents. The home owner cleaned his grill with vegetable oil soaked rags, then bundled them up into a ball and disposed of them in a trash can on an extremely warm day. The oil oxidized and ignited and the fire spread throughout the dwelling. Residents are cautioned not to dispose of oil soaked rags, but rather spread them out to dry on a driveway or other non-combustible surface before disposal.

Report of the Fort Washington Fire Company (FWFC):

In the absence of Chief Clausson, Captain Andrew Kremmel informed as follows:

- Statistics:
- 320 calls for service YTD. The call volume is down this year.
 - Two incidents of note: the recent house fire on Fitzwatertown Road, and a call for assistance for water supply by the Lansdale Fire Company.
 - 20,000 feet of hose was tested during the month.
 - Working on preliminary operating budget for 2017.
 - The Burn Brae building project is wrapping up.

Report of Community Ambulance Association of Ambler (CAAA):

The Assistant Chief of the CAAA presented the report as of the end of June 2016 as follows:

- Statistics:
- 220 dispatches YTD.
 - 69 dispatches to UDT in June.
 - Abington Hospital is their main destination.
 - Busiest time of day – 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
 - Most calls responded to are traffic accidents and assisting those with chest/cardiac symptoms.

Report of Second Alarmers Ambulance Squad:

The Assistant Chief of the Second Alarmers presented the report as of the end of June 2016:

- Statistics:
- 249 dispatches YTD in UDT. Transported 148.
 - 39 dispatches to UDT in June. Transported 23.

Report of the Public Works Operations Director:

Dan Supplee informed of the following:

Highway Department Projects:

- Virginia Drive Bridge Project:
- Project moving along.
 - Electric, AT&T and Level 3 have their utilities clear of both bridges.
 - Verizon is clear from bridge No. 1. Expected to be finished with bridge No. 2 by August 26th.
 - PECO is relocating the gas main on bridge No. 1 with a completion date of August 12th.
 - North Wales Water is boring a line under both bridges. Bridge No. 1 is expected to be completed by August 5th. The line under bridge No. 2 should be completed by August 26th.

Mill and Overlay Program: Work scheduled to start on August 8th.

Mill and Chip Program: • Kimble Avenue and Hagues Mill Road are the two streets where this process will be used beginning August 8th.

Ralumac: • Still looking at late August/early September to begin this project.

North Hills Avenue Project: • Waiting for PECO Gas to hook their services up.
• Paving of the roadway will be a project between UDT and Abington Township. UDT's portion will be paid for by Aqua Water.

Concrete Work: • Work nearing completion.
• Working right now on Twining Road.
• Completed pipe work on Winslow Way.

Sanitation:

Mr. Supplee suggested that trash be picked up on one side of a street only which would cut fuel costs and mileage in half thus saving UDT a nice sum of money. Several pilot areas have been used as a test case to determine the efficiency and cost savings involved.

Fleet:

New Equipment: • New automated trash truck is in service.
• The new low boy tractor has been delivered and is currently in service.
• UDT has an agreement with Abington Township to purchase the old piece of equipment for \$15,800.

- Leaf machines are being readied for the upcoming leaf collection season.
- Three pieces of equipment are being readied for the auction block.

Report of the Code Enforcement Director:

Joe Fielder presented the following report on behalf of the Code Enforcement Director for the period June to July 2016:

195	Building and Zoning Permits
68	Electrical Permits
59	Plumbing Permits
36	Mechanical Permits
11	Sewer Inspections
20	Certificates of Occupancy
468	Applications
94	Property Transfer Applications

Monthly reports were filed with the U.S. Census Bureau and Montgomery County Board of Assessments regarding non-residential and residential permit types.

A quarterly report was filed with PA Department of Labor & Industry regarding permits issued and fees collected.

Staff completed 349 construction plan reviews & 549 construction site inspections.

Staff completed 90 residential point-of-sale inspections.

There are currently 58 vacant homes in UDT which are constantly monitored.

Zoning Hearing Board Cases for the Month of August 2016:

#2164: *AREP Ft. Washington, LLC, c/o Artemis Real Estate Partners, LLC, 888 7th Avenue, New York, New York, 10106* requests an extension of zoning relief granted on October 26, 2015 to construct a series of signs in connection with an office development at 600-602 Office Center Drive, Fort Washington. Variances were granted to allow a total of 17 signs, including 4 monument signs on the 40-acre property, zoned EC – Employment Center. The Applicant requests that the relief be extended to October 26, 2017.

The applicant's attorney reports there has been a delay with installing the approved signs for a number of reasons, including that the tenants have not yet been secured.

#2197: *Upper Dublin Outdoor, LLC, P.O. Box 1421, Malvern, PA 19335* requests a variance from Zoning Code Section 255-165.C.1 in order to modify the design of a previously-approved structure in the Floodplain Conservation District. It is proposed to construct a 35 foot tall by approximately 48 foot long greenscreen on a vacant property located on Virginia Drive adjacent to Camp Hill Road and the Pennsylvania Turnpike. The greenscreen will be constructed in tandem with an approved digital billboard on the same property, zoned EC – Employment Center.

This application was also approved on October 26, 2015. The greenscreen is a structure to be installed adjacent to the digital billboard to help screen the billboard from view of nearby properties. The original design was a wire mesh panel with plant materials growing through it. The applicant believes it has a more effective design, consisting of a row of columns with vegetation, linked together by a row of 38 foot tall evergreen trees.

#2198: Robert and Ann Conti, 1413 Reiner Road, Norristown, PA 19403, request a variance from the required minimum front yard setbacks in order to construct a single home on a vacant lot located at the southwest corner of Logan Avenue and Chestnut Street. The 5,500 sq. lot is zoned NH – North Hills Residential. The proposed setbacks from both streets are 17 ½ feet vs. 21 feet (Zoning Code Sections 255-17.B and 255-45.1.B).

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Parking Ordinance – Summit and Montgomery Avenues:

The title of a draft ordinance regarding a parking ordinance for Summit and Montgomery Avenues is as follows:

An Ordinance to amend the Code of the Township of Upper Dublin, Chapter 233, Vehicles and Traffic., Article VII, "Schedules," Section 233-54, Schedule VIII: Parking Prohibited At All Times, by deleting the prohibitions on both sides of Summit Avenue near Montgomery Avenue on the west side of Summit Avenue near Montgomery Avenue Section 233-54, Schedule XIII: Parking Prohibited At All Times, by amending the prohibitions on the east side of Summit Avenue from Pennsylvania Avenue to 100 feet north of Pennsylvania Avenue and on the west side of Summit Avenue from Pennsylvania Avenue to Montgomery Avenue; and, Section 233-56, Schedule: Time Limit Parking, by establishing a parking restriction on both sides of Montgomery Avenue from Fort Washington Avenue to Madison Avenue and on the west side of Summit Avenue from a point 30 feet north of Montgomery Avenue to a point 277 feet north of Montgomery Avenue.

In a memorandum top the BOC, Mr. Leonard set forth the following:

Recommendation:

Township staff and the Police Department recommend that the Commissioners not implement permit parking. It is believed that continued discussions and the use of traditional parking regulations can address the SEPTA parking problems and other issues in Fort Washington while making the vast majority of Fort Washington residents relatively happy with the on-street parking situation. This will require effort, but it will be far less than the cost and time needed to deal with areas throughout the Township that will undoubtedly seek exclusive rights through a permit program.

Background:

The representation from one or two residents that permit parking would make everyone happy is received with skepticism. Attached please find a research packet prepared by Jerry Smith of Public Works detailing nine permit parking regulation programs enacted by Pennsylvania municipalities. If the Committee chooses to move ahead with permit parking, we would ask that each of these items be carefully considered for their administrative expense, complication and impact on new residents, visitors and others who currently use permit parking within the Fort Washington area. Further, and importantly, we believe that permit parking solutions will be sought by residents in the following

areas: Renfrew Avenue and Church Street, Bannockburn in areas with no parking on one side, the 100 block of Ambler Road, Stuart Lane, Ellerslie and the entire length of Argyle.

If the Committee has specific suggestions about which direction we would head in developing permit parking, contrary to this recommendation, please know that we will pursue them thoroughly, but will seek perhaps technology innovations such as the following:

<http://www.pittsburghparking.com/rppp#purchase>

<https://parkingboss.com/>

Jerry Smith, Public Works Administrator, drew up the following list:

Parking Permits:

Philadelphia — Residential Parking Permits

1. Eligibility
 - a. Must have PA license plate
 - b. Registered to home address
 - c. Insured to home address
 - d. Resident- provide proof of driver's license, lease or recent utility bill in resident's name.
2. Terms and Fees
 - a. Annual fee of \$35 for first vehicle
 - b. \$50 for second
 - c. \$75 for third
 - d. \$100 for 4 or more seek perhaps technology innovations such as the following:
 - e. If you have three or more unpaid parking tickets, must be paid.
3. Permit holders are exempt only from posted time limit on Residential Parking Permit blocks. They are still required to comply with all other regulations such as "No Parking," "No Stopping," etc.
4. They use a sticker with month and year of expiration. Have three years on the sticker so it can be used for a 3 year order.
5. Created a RPP application form.
6. Company car - can get approval with proof car is used by resident for business purposes.
7. Guests - park according to existing hours on the sign.
8. Penalty clause.
9. Temporary Parking Permit available.
10. Serviced by the Philadelphia Parking Authority.

West Chester - Residential Parking Permits

1. Purchase yearly permit.
2. Annual cost of \$8.00.
3. All parking tickets must be paid.
4. Permit Application.
5. Proof of residency.
6. Valid PA vehicle registration with resident's name.
7. Two current proofs of residency with the resident's name and the address.
8. Rental - need signed rental lease
9. For company vehicles you must present a letter on a company letterhead stating that you are an employee of the company whom is required to use the vehicle on a regular basis. (Additional proof may be requested.)

10. Managed by Parking Services Department.
11. Penalty clause.

Radnor - Parking Permits

1. Need driver's license, vehicle registration and insurance card.
2. Copy of Lease if necessary.
3. Resident - \$25.00; over 65 - \$10.00.
4. Public Works erects signs.
5. Police Department issues permits. Completes application form. Can get up to 2 permits if prove his off street parking is inadequate. If has driveway, only gets one permit for a second vehicle.
6. Lease vehicles and Company cars are permitted with proof
7. Annual permit.
8. Visitor's parking permit cost of \$5.00 good for 90 days. Limit of two per household.
9. Penalty clause.

Jenkintown - Residential Permit Parking

1. Police Department issues permits.
2. Cost is \$10, not to exceed \$30, per vehicle.
3. Application Form completed.
4. Vehicle registration and current proof of residency. Only issued to PA registrations.
5. Leased vehicles and Company cars are handled.
6. Placed on front dashboard.
7. Visitors who want to park must contact Police.
8. Pick up permits at the Borough Hall. Need driver's license, car registration showing home address, and \$10 per car, not to exceed \$30.
9. Annual fee. Expiration is always December 31st.
10. Penalty clause.

Abington - Residential Permit Parking

1. Apply for permit from Department of Zoning and Code Enforcement.
2. Complete application form.
3. Initial application fee for permit is \$3.00. Renewal fee is \$2.00.
4. PA driver's license required. Valid PA motor vehicle registration and proof of insurance.
5. No more than 5 permits per household.
6. Valid until the last day of the month two years from date of issuance.
7. Sticker used. Base sticker with date and permit area added to that base sticker. Placed at center of rear bumper.
8. Department of Public Works shall erect signs when area has been approved.
9. Penalty clause.

Norristown - Residential Zone Parking Permits

1. Show proof of ownership. Vehicle registration or utility bill.
2. Valid OLN and registration for vehicle.
3. Company cars are OK if provide proof.
4. Limit of 2 permits per household.
5. Renters - notarized letter signed by the landlord and a copy of the lease. Limit one permit per living unit in building.
6. Temporary permits only issued to permit-holding residents.
7. Police Department handles permits.
8. Penalty clause.

West Norriton Township - Residential Permit Parking

1. Application to Chief of Police or his designate.
2. Only from owner of the vehicle who can show no use of off street parking.
3. Separate application for each vehicle.
4. Present driver's license and vehicle registration card.
5. Visitors - can issue temporary permit for up to 7 days.
6. No charge to residents.
7. Permit hangs from rear view mirror.
8. Penalty clause.

Narberth - Resident Parking Permit

1. Administered by Borough Secretary.
2. Current OLN and motor vehicle registration card.
3. Use stickers.
4. New car needs to get new permit
5. Fee of only \$1.00 per year.
6. Penalty clause.

City of Bethlehem — Residential Permit Parking

1. Administered by Parking Authority. Will also erect signage.
2. Application completed and fee paid.
3. Issued to owner of car registered to house in permit area. Prove residency.
4. All outstanding parking tickets must be paid.
5. Leased or Company own vehicle OK with proof.
6. Visitors temp. permit up to 14 days. No more than two at one time.
7. Display permit inside the vehicle on the lower left corner of the rear window (driver's side).
Visitors use hang type from rear view mirror.
8. Permit issued for one year from date of issuance. Can be prorated if issued after normal renewal period.
9. Cost is \$20.00 for initial fee and then a renewal fee of \$10.00.
10. Penalty clause.

Ms. Damsker disagreed with staff's recommendation as outlined above. She was not in favor of a two hour parking ban during the morning rush hour. In her opinion, it is not fair that residents must also move their cars on a daily basis if this recommendation were to go through. Instead, she was in favor of the issuance of permits to affected residents as a method to get around the practice of having to move their vehicles.

Mr. Feldman asked if the residents are aware that a fee would most likely be instituted to obtain a parking permit. How many permits per household can be issued? What will the cost of a parking permit be? He is concerned about the Police and the enforcement of all of this. He would like to see staff investigate the issue further and asked Mr. Leonard to spearhead the effort.

Mr. Leonard said "the devil is in the details." There are many options. The nuances of enforcement as well as other concerns could cause problems.

Ms. Damsker was in favor of having a town meeting to discuss all of the issues surrounding permit parking with concerned residents.

A gentleman in the audience lead a discussion about parking pads to the rear of the homes, and the consensus was that to do so would be extremely pricy.

The following was decided upon on a temporary basis until this matter can be advertised and brought before the BOC in September at the Stated Meeting.

- Will post No Parking signs along first block of Summit on West side of street and on the East side from PA Avenue to Walnut Lane.
- Will leave open parking on East side of Summit from Walnut Lane to Montgomery Avenue.
- Will leave current 2 hour parking signs on both sides of Montgomery Avenue.
- Will leave the 200 block of Summit Avenue, East and West Sides, alone for now. Address later.
- Will draft ordinance to address the first block of Summit and Montgomery Avenue from Fort Washington Avenue to Madison Avenue.

Water Quality Update:

Mr. Leonard informed of the following:

- All of the information received from the water utilities that service UDT has been entered on the UDT website.
- UDT's water is safe.
- Mr. Leonard and Commissioner Ferry attended seven meetings with Aqua Water.
- Staff has been in contact with state representatives regarding this matter.
- Mr. Leonard is convinced that the contamination in the Aqua water emanates from the now defunct Willow Grove Air Station and the Johnsville Naval Air Station.

Because of the water contamination concerns with Aqua Water, it was Mr. Feldman's suggestion to provide water filters to affected residences and have UDT bear the expense of both the filters and their installation.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to discuss, Ms. Damsker motioned, with Mr. McGuckin seconding, to adjourn the meeting.

VOTE ON MOTION

ALL YES

MOTION CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,



Louise S. Birett, Recording Secretary

Attest:



Ronald Feldman, Chairperson

