



Penns Grove council given update on Riverwalk project

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By TRISH GRABER
Staff Writer

PENNS GROVE -- The developer of the Riverwalk project attended this week's Penns Grove Borough Council meeting to answer borough residents' concerns.

George Kearns, managing developer, spoke to residents to clarify information regarding project financing. Mayor John Washington asked Kearns to explain the process of bonds, since he has requested \$39.1 million in bonds for the project.

Kearns explained that bonds are similar to a mortgage but are broken up, and bought by large corporations.

"In the end, it's still a mortgage to us," Kearns said.

Many residents initially believed that Kearns was seeking \$39.1 million in addition to the over \$20 million needed for the project. Kearns said he was approved for a higher amount in the event it was needed it for the project.

Kearns said they could break ground before the spring. The project has been in the works for at least five years.

Other business discussed:

Parking on S. Smith Avenue between Penns Grove Middle School and the Paul W. Carleton School has been changed. Parents may pick up or drop off students after 2:30 p.m. The no parking hours were adjusted from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. This was in response to parents being ticketed when picking up their children from school. A Penns Grove Police officer, school officials and a borough council representative met on Dec. 14 to rectify the problem.

A deputy clerk was hired to replace the position left vacant when Sharon Williams became borough clerk. Theresa Huckoby will take the position of deputy clerk Jan. 10.

Roger Hill was hired to the Penns Grove Police Department.

Kimberly Figueroa was approved as a member of the Penns Grove Ambulance Squad.

William Parsons III was approved as a member of the Penns Grove Liberty Fire Co.

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