

Pleasant Hills approves electric generation agreement

by PATRICK CLOONAN

On Monday Pleasant Hills joined a growing list of area communities to approve an electric generation agreement with Green Roads Energy LLC and Texzon Utilities.

Borough council approved the move that locks in place for two years a rate of 6.89 cents per kilowatt-hour, and a rate of 6.79 cents for senior citizens.

Councilman Gregory P. Smith said that's down from the current Duquesne Light rate of 9.86 cents per kilowatt-hour. He said other companies offered a better immediate discount but not a lower fixed rate.

Duquesne Light will deliver the electricity through Green Roads Energy, a Mt. Lebanon-based firm working in partnership with Texzon, based in Red Oak, Texas.

"That will amount to several thousand dollars a year," Smith said of

the savings to his colleagues.

Pleasant Hills residents will be sending their sewage bill payments to a different collector, starting in November.

Councilman Joseph M. Esper said Legal Tax Service of West Mifflin will replace Pennsylvania American Water, though PAW will continue to provide the meter readings LTS will use to generate those bills.

Esper said Pennsylvania American Water notified the borough eight months ago, forcing Pleasant Hills to seek out a new collector. PAW's last bills will go out next month.

One difference with the new bills: Delinquent customers won't face liens on their property. Rather, Esper said, "Going forward, Legal Tax Service will be shutting water off."

Going forward into September, some items will be on council's agenda that first were aired Monday night.

Bids were opened for a 600-foot Sequoia Drive sewer lining project, then set aside for review by the borough's engineering consultant. Bob Firek of Lennon, Smith, Souleret Engineering Inc. was sitting in for his associate, borough engineer Ned Mitrovich.

Solicitor Fred C. Jug Jr. said four companies were contacted about submitting bids but only two did so: Jet Jack Inc. of Oakdale for \$48,557.50 and Insight Pipe Contracting LP of Harmony for \$53,481.50.

Proposals were aired for two zoning text amendments at a special council meeting prior to the regular session, but also were set aside pending review by the planning division of Allegheny County's Department of Economic Development.

One amendment would allow the non-denominational Freedom Life Church to be located at 810 Clairton Blvd. in a C-3 commercial district.

The other would allow the rezoning of 17 acres along Plaza Road for a four-story, 85-unit complex proposed by A.M. Rodriguez Associates of Akron, Ohio, and Pittsburgh.

The area had been rezoned from single-family to townhouses for a previous developer who walked away from the property.

Rodriguez and its Congregate Management Services management company wants to develop housing for seniors similar to properties they have in Munhall, White Oak, Duquesne and eight other locations.

Mayor Warren F. Bourgeois reported resolution of a problem with a local business that had a regular problem with false alarms.

The mayor said he talked to a vice president of LA Fitness in California after failing to get cooperation from a local LA Fitness gym.

"Everything is good and they are cooperating," Bourgeois said.

Council adopted a resolution honoring three borough public works employees and two Baldwin EMS personnel for their rescue of a 74-year-old woman from a car stranded in flash flooding on June 20.

"It was a good example of working together," Baldwin EMS Chief William E. Plunkett said of the effort by his paramedics Mike Dziki and Nick Halkias and public works employees Brandon Gawlas, David Capolupo and Sam Braun.

The woman was stranded in her car along Route 51 and Lewis Run Road. Councilman Daniel S. Soltesz said flooding also affected the basement of the Pleasant Hills Library, but that damage has been repaired.

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