

Brentwood Council nixes two options for borough building; parking lot eyed

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BY STEPHANIE HACKE | Wednesday, July 27, 2016, 10:45 a.m.

The parking lot next to the Brentwood Borough building could be the future home of municipal operations.

After rejecting two options to possibly house administrative and police offices Monday night, Brentwood Council members looked right next door to the parking lot on Brownsville Road adjacent to the nearly century-old municipal building as the next site to explore for a possible new borough building.

"This might be our last option," council Vice President Rich Schubert said.

Council members Monday voted 6-0 to have architectural firm HHSDR prepare, at a cost not to exceed \$14,900, an analysis and cost estimate associated with building a new, 12,000- to 13,000-square-foot borough building in the parking lot at 3624 Brownsville Road.

Borough leaders long have mulled the idea of moving from their current facility or renovating the large limestone-faced building on Brownsville Road, which has holes in the walls and likely has asbestos.

A report from the 1990s showed the building was "on its last breath."

Borough leaders were pursuing an option to move the police department into the Brentwood Volunteer Fire Company, paying for renovations of its Brownsville Road station, and moving administrative operations to the Civic Center in Brentwood Park at a cost of about \$2.3 million. The Brentwood VFC's membership, however, voted to disapprove of pursuing talks with the borough regarding a lease agreement, according to a letter from the fire company dated July 12.

"As borough residents and members of the Brentwood Volunteer Fire Company, we hope that your borough building committee and borough council are successful with your alternative option designs and negotiations to best house our Brentwood Borough Police Department," board chairman Walter Bugielski said.

"We tried to do it the best way. We'll work with you in all other respects," Bugielski told council members at their July 18 meeting.

Schubert, a member of council's borough building committee, said he thought utilizing the fire station to house the police department had been the best option.

The borough would have funded renovations to the fire station, paid for utilities and janitorial work for the entire station and paid the fire company between \$26,000 and \$36,000 in annual rent payments, per a letter of intent submitted to the fire company.

That would not have affected the \$96,000 in annual contributions, and about \$5,000 in vehicle fuel, the borough already pays to the Brentwood VFC, borough manager George Zboyovsky said.

"To me it was win, win," Schubert said.

Council members Monday also voted to turn down a proposal from Schneider Downs for the company to build a borough building at the former Snee Dairy site on Brownsville Road and lease the facility to the borough for 25 years before having the option to buy it back.

"We'd be paying twice for the building," Councilman Bob Pasquantonio said.

The borough was given an Aug. 1 deadline to respond to Schneider Downs.

Council members also voted to decline an offer from Oxford Reality Services for leasing space at Brentwood Towne Square. The cost there became much greater than initially anticipated, Schubert said.

Borough leaders are hopeful a new building in the parking lot could cost about \$4 million, Schubert said.

It would house borough administration, the police department and "most likely the EMS," he said.

"It still could not work," Zboyovsky said.

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