

MINUTES
BOROUGH OF SOUTHMONT
January 19, 1998 7:00 p.m.

The regularly scheduled January Council meeting was called to order by President Pile at 7:00 p.m. After the pledge to the flag, the January 19, 1998 meeting of Council convened.

PRESENT: President Pile, Mr. Rodgers, Mr. Rovansek, Mr. Leventry, Mr. Krupa, Mr. Kory, Mr. Davis, Mayor Lary Koval, Solicitor: Daniel R. Lovette, Engineer: Ron Walker, Zoning Officer-Fred Pullen (7:15 p.m.), West Hills Police: Chief Andy Havas, Fire Department: Michael Butler and Secretary: Judith Czynnik

ABSENT: Street Commissioner: Jan Bosley, (sick)

VISITORS: Sargent George Musulin, West Hills Regional Police

President Pile asked for approval of the December 15, 1997 minutes. Mr. Rodgers had some questions for correction. A motion was made by Mr. Rodgers to approve the minutes as corrected. Seconded by Mr. Leventry. All in favor, motion carried. President Pile asked for approval of the Re-Organization minutes of January 5, 1998. Question. Mr. Krupa recommended that the job title and names be added to the reporting of the salaries and wages. Mr. Rodgers made a motion to accept and approve the minutes as corrected. Seconded by Mr. Krupa. All in favor, motion carried.

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief Havas submitted his report to Council and added that the Officers have started their mandatory In-Service training. The training will continue thru February. The report records revenues for the month of December at \$336.43. Mayor Koval asked if the arrests in Southmont were residents or people passing thru the Borough. Chief Havas wasn't able to answer the question. Chief Havas reported that last summer the Department was involved in a drug investigation and some type of drug forfeiture monies will be awarded to West Hill Regional Police for their part in the investigation. Other Departments assisted in the investigation.

(Agenda change)

FIRE COMPANY REPORT

Chief Butler's submitted the monthly report and the Year End report. The monthly report records total emergency responses in the Borough and assists at 11 for the month. The fire department purchased six personnel alert life (PAL) saving devices. They will be installed on the six recently purchased Scott SCBA's.

Chief Butler reviewed the year end report with Council. The Fire Department responded to 166 emergency calls during the year of 1997. The fire loss for the year was the result of a vehicle fire in the amount of \$1,500 and a house fire with \$75,000 in damages. The fire company assisted in the clean-up of the rock slide on March 27, 1997 on Menoher Blvd.

Chief Butler reported that two members passed certification tests from the National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications. Lt. Frank Ozog attained Fire Fighter II and Fire Chief Michael Butler attained Instructor II.

The Fire Department started color coding the top portion of the fire hydrants. This identifies the water flow capacity of the hydrants. Red means under 500 gallons per minute, (this is not a productive fire hydrant) orange is 500/1000 gpm., green is 1000/1500 gpm., and purple means over 1500 gallons per minute. Chief Butler reported that the department is in the process of accepting bids for the building addition. This will be done February 5, 1998.

President Pile reminded Chief Butler that we need a list of the activities scheduled for 1998.

Council noted that the Hilltop Ambulance Association run summary was received.

ZONING OFFICER'S REPORT

Mr. Pullen's written report records 5 permits were issued since the last report, with an estimated construction cost of \$38,400.00. Mr. Pullen has re-inspected the 4 BOCA Code violation notices sent to area residents. All have begun cleaning up their properties. There still is work to be done on three of the properties. Mr. Pullen has written a second letter to Mr. Knapp explaining the Zoning BOCA Code issues and will set up another appointment to talk with him. Chief Havas will assist Mr. Pullen if necessary. There will be another BOCA Code violation sent to Mr. John Hearn of Langhorne Ave., where there are several unlicensed, uninspected vehicles stored.

The Zoning Hearing Board met on January 6, 1998 to hear the request of Mr. Frank Pasquerilla for a variance on the set back at his residence at 339 Gardner Street. The request was granted.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Ron Walker reported that there was no construction this month on Cheney Oak Drive in the PineBrooke Development. Mr. Ron Walker discussed the letter from C & D Associates in reference to the Storm Water Management Plan. Mr. Ron Walker received a call from the City of Johnstown with concerns about the Cheney Oak Storm Water Management. He explained the system to Mr. Randy Whittle. Hinks & Locher Engineers have not had time to review the letter. In another letter received from C & D Associates, Mr. Chiodo is requesting that we release funds from the construction escrow account for three items. Two are construction related and item number three is for \$5,000 to be sent to the Escrow account held for additional expense funds which have been paid by the Borough. Solicitor Lovette stated that this item is not related to the construction escrow account. He will speak with Mr. Chiodo's attorney.

Some discussion was held on the Southmont Blvd. retaining wall. There is a possibility of the Borough receiving a grant for this construction. Some design work needs to be done. Mr. Walker felt the cost could be \$800.00 to \$1,000.00 to fill out the grant request. A motion was made by Mr. Rodgers to approve Hinks & Locher Engineers to do the design work for the retaining wall and complete the grant paperwork. Seconded by Mr. Krupa. All in favor, motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

STREET COMMISSIONER

In Mr. Bosley's absence no written report was available. Mr. Bosley had earlier submitted the costs for a above ground diesel tank. Mr. Bosley had checked to see if it is necessary to have DEP inspections on the above ground diesel tank, per the Street Committees instruction. There is no inspection required. A fire marshall permit might be required. The Street Committee will discuss the information. A representative from Reitz and Sons will be in next week to talk with Mr. Bosley about location of an above ground diesel tank and removal of the underground tanks.

STREET COMMITTEE

Mr. Leventry feels that we need to advertise for a new truck. The 1993 truck repair costs have been significantly. A motion was made by Mr. Leventry to approve preparing the specifications for a new one and one half ton truck and advertising for truck bids. Motion seconded by Mr. Rodgers. All in favor, motion carried.

ADMINISTRATION & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Mr. Davis reported on the evaluation with Mrs. Czyrnik and the Committee still has to meet with Mr. Bosley. The Committee will review how they do the evaluations in the future. At a meeting held on January 13, 1998 with the auditing firms who submitted quotes, Council had time to review and ask questions of the firms represented. Dave Petersen represented Gentile, Weiner, Catanese and Vulcan and Rich Jones represented Kendall & Prebola of Bedford. Karen Vargo of Wessel & Co did not attend. After discussion, Mr. Davis made a motion to accept the firm of Gentile, Weiner, Catanese & Vulcan to do a special report audit for one year for a fee of up to \$4,800.00. Seconded by Mr. Rodgers. All in favor, motion carried. It was further discussed that we would continue to use our elected auditors to do the Borough audits and filing same with the State. At this time Mayor Koval recommended Mr. Richard Treece of Orchard Street to fill the vacant auditor position. Mr. Treece has CPA and accounting background. A motion was made by Mr. Kory to appoint Mr. Treece to the auditors position for 2 years, at which time he will have to run for the position. Seconded by Mr. Leventry. All in favor, motion carried. Mr. Davis discussed the payments that are to be made to the elected auditors. A letter will be sent to them explaining the Borough's guidelines as stated in the Pennsylvania Bororough Code.

Mr. Davis scheduled a Personnel Meeting for February 10, 1998 at 7:00 p.m.

POLICE COMMISSION

No report

RECYCLING COMMITTEE

No report.

INSURANCE COMMITTEE

No report. Mr. Kory scheduled a tentative Insurance Meeting for February 24, 1998 at 7:00 p.m. to discuss the Liability Insurance quotes we receive for the policy that expires 4-1-98. Several agencies will be submitting bids for the liability insurance package.

BUDGET COMMITTEE

Mr. Rodgers reviewed the year end budget report commending the Committees for spending within the budget. Account transfers have been submitted to balance the budgeted accounts. Mr. Rodgers made a motion to approve the transfers, as submitted. Seconded by Mr. Leventry. Roll call: Mr. Rodgers, Mr. Rovanseck, Mr. Davis, Mr. Krupa, Mr. Kory, Mr. Leventry and Mr. Pile, all in favor, opposed none. Motion carried.

Mr. Kory complimented Mr. Rodgers and the Budget Committee for the work done in preparing the budget.

Mr. Rodgers continued with the letter from CableComm and our reponse to them in reference to the franchise fee billing. Mr. Rodgers spoke with Don Gossard of the COG who reviewed this with Attorney Rick Ellrod who is the consultant who helped when the franchise was written. He recommends that we write Cablecomm and tell them no to any franchise changes and that they should interpret the contract as written. Mr. Rodgers made a motion to send CableComm a letter informing them to interpret the contact as it is written. Seconded by Mr. Leventry. All in favor, motion carried.

SHADE TREE

Mr. Krupa had nothing to report other than he would like a transfer of funds from Shade Tree Planing #455.30 to Shade Tree Contributions #455.31 to show the monies used from contributions. The Secretary will make the changes.

RECREATION/PLAYGROUND COMMITTEE

Mayor Koval reported that he will try to meet with representatives of Burley Rink Supply in reference to their proposal to provide, at no expense to the Borough, dasherboards for the roller blade courts. The Secretary will check with PIRMA to see if there is any problem with the insurance and if there would be any liability premium increase.

BUILDING /GROUNDS COMMITTEE

No report.

C.O.G. Report

No report.

CHAPIN ARCH

No report.

MAYOR'S REPORT

No further report.

SOLICITOR

Solicitor Lovette prepared and submitted to Council a proposed Ordinance 414, for the vacation of a portion of Leek Alley from Leon Street towards Lettuce Alley, as requested by Timothy and Lisa Walsh. A motion was made by Mr. Krupa and seconded by Mr. Leventry. All in favor, motion carried.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Mrs. Czyrnik's report records a check was written to the Principal Financial Group for the error they made in the Police Pension termination in the amount of \$9993.05. A check will be made from the General Fund to reimburse the Cheney Run fund, as per Council's approval. All letters have been sent to the appointments for Board, Commissions and Committees. Mrs. Czyrnik submitted quotes for a new copier. Mr. Davis will review the quotes.

TREASURER'S REPORT

A motion was made by Mr. Rodgers to approve the Treasurer's report for the month of December in the amount of \$323,946.93 in the General Fund balance. Motion seconded by Mr. Kory. All in favor, motion carried.

TAX COLLECTOR

Mr. Quinn's written report for December records \$ 3,810.86 in Real Estate collections and \$93.50 collected in Per Capita. Total collections \$3,904.35. A motion was made by Mr. Rodgers that we received the Tax Collector's report, seconded by Mr. Kory. All in favor, motion carried.

APPROVAL TO PAY THE BILLS

A motion was made by Mr. Davis and seconded by Mr. Leventry to approve the payment of the bills in the amount of \$56,436.40.

OLD BUSINESS

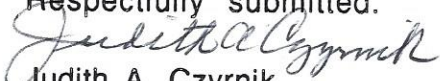
Items on the "Tickler List" were discussed. Items were reviewed, removed and relisted. Outdoor fires, Police Pension Audit, and Curb Cuts were removed. Insurance, Roller Hockey Court and the Southmont Blvd. retaining wall was added.

NEW BUSINESS

President Pile mentioned that the codification draft is being reprinted and we should have it mid January. Mr. Davis will head the dinner in honor of former Mayor Morgan and former Councilman Danyluk. Training sessions are available for any Councilman who wishes to attend. Received a thank you letter from Cambria County Library for our contribution. Also received a letter from Mr. & Mrs. James Bruce of 429 State St. thanking Council for the lower property tax rate.

Motion to adjourn at 9:00 p.m. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted.


Judith A. Czyrnik,
Borough Secretary