

MINUTES
BOROUGH OF SOUTHMONT
July 16, 2001 7:00 p.m.

The scheduled July Council meeting was called to order by President Pile at 7:00 p.m. After the pledge to the flag, the July 16, 2001 meeting of Council convened.

PRESENT: President Pile, Mr. Rodgers, Mr. Rovansek, Mr. Kory, Mr. Danyluk, Mr. Krupa, Mr. Strittmatter, Secretary/Treasurer: Judith Czyrnik, Solicitor: Daniel R. Lovette, Engineer: David Duray, Street Commissioner: Jan Bosley, Fire Dept.: Chet Borosky, West Hills Police: Chief Andy Havas, Zoning Officer: Dyke Orms

ABSENT: None

VISITORS: James Richey Michael Gore
Chris Kessler Robert MacDowell
Ron Chilcot Pat Buchnowski-Reporter
Barbara Hornick Herb Ewald
Helen Chilcot Ray Hartnett
John Deloni

President Pile asked for approval of the June 18, 2001 minutes and the June 26, 2001 Committee Notes. A motion was made by Mr. Krupa to accept the Minutes and Notes as presented. Seconded by Mr. Strittmatter. All in favor, motion carried.

Next on the agenda was to open the Bids for the Wren Street property . There were no bids received. At this time, President Pile called upon Visitors who were in attendance to discuss the Wren Street property sale. Since there were no bids President Pile called upon Mr. Michael Gore. Mr. Gore expressed concerns about trees being removed and concrete replacing the woodland area. Mr. Pile explained that Southmont Borough had no bids on the property and no plans for any development of the area. Mr. Rodgers explained to the residents that they will continue to find avenues to place this property back into residential use, as Council had done several years ago with other properties owned by the Borough. The area is Zoned residential. Mr. MacDowell stated that the residents did not need any further development in that area; they like the wooded area. Council reminded the residents that there is nothing on the books at this time. Since there were no bids there would not be any development at this time. Several other residents expressed concerns that the playground was removed. President Pile explained that the Recreation Commission had done a survey and the activity at the Wren Street playground was very low and it did not merit having a playground instructor during the summer activity program. The equipment was old and it did not meet safety requirements. As for the trees, no plans were made for any tree removal, however any successful bidder will have the right to build as long as it is within the Borough Zoning requirements. Mr. Gore had expected to see Mr. Hartnett in attendance, as he was the one who informed the residents of the development on this property. Solicitor Lovette informed the residents that any one can purchase the property and it is their choice on development as long as it is within Borough Zoning compliance.

Mr. Kessler asked if Council had any figures or increased revenue projected from the sale of this property. The property has been surveyed and drawings have been made for the property. Mr. Kory explained that since we have no plans or successful bidder we have no means to project any figures. Residents were told that Council had nothing further to report on Wren Street at this meeting, however they were welcome to stay. At this time all residents left except Mr. John Daloni and Tribune reporter Mr. Buchnowski. Council continued with the meeting.

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief Havas's written report records the revenues for the month of June at \$323.86. Chief Havas reported that he had checked on the complaint (Joe Gaydos) of a resident on Southmont Blvd. who does not clean up his property after his three or four dogs. Chief Havas inspected the property and found no dog debris on the property. It was very clean. Chief Havas reported that Det. Sgt. Musulin has solved a recent theft in Southmont. Charges have been filed. The Police Department is investigating reports of hood ornaments being stolen from automobiles in the Southmont Park Complex parking lot. Chief Havas reported that there will be a Police Commission meeting at Southmont on July 17, 2001. Mrs. Czyrnik reported that the certifications of percentage for the West Hills Regional Police Commission for the year 2000 Southmont Borough contribution rate at 21% was reported to the Auditor General's Office. This operating expense must be reported each year to the Auditor General for reimbursement of Foreign Fire Insurance.

ZONING OFFICERS REPORT

Mr. Orms, Zoning Administrator, reviewed the June report submitted to Council, records 2 Building Permits issued since the last report, in the amount of \$403,000.00. One Business Registration was approved for Francis and Judy Kelly, doing business as "Lest We Forget". The year to date construction total is \$576,682.00. Mr. Orms reported on the Uniformed Construction Codes certification for any new development. The Borough can either hire an outside inspector or if the COG group is offering this program Southmont could use their services. Mr. Duray, Borough Engineer, feels according to his understanding it will be the applicant or homeowner, not the Borough, who is responsible to have the property inspected by a certified inspector. The Borough would only have to adopt the Uniformed Construction Code. There is no final date for this to take place, as of this date.

FIRE COMPANY REPORT

Chief Borosky's written report records 17 activities for the month of June. Chief Borosky reported on the price list for the pagers. Mr. Borosky reported some of the brands are not efficient. The Fire Company has had pagers from 1984. The Fire Company found the Motorola pagers to be very efficient. To replace the pagers the cost would be \$10,650.00, approximately. After discussion, Mr. Strittmatter suggested that these prices be reviewed by the Committee and later reviewed with the Siren Committee members. The Hilltop Ambulance report was received and is on file.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Mr. David Duray of the Hinks and Locher Division of Paul G. Rizzo Associates

reported that he has completed the installation of a replacement probe and battery in one of the flow meters. He feels everything is up and operational, at this time. The Borough is waiting for the credit on the items that have been returned. The 2001 paving project completion has been done at the Helen St. intersection. Mr. Bosley feels the drain is correct but will wait for a natural rain storm. Mr. Duray reviewed with Council the situation at PineBrooke Development area. Mr. Duray spoke with the Cambria County Conservation District office and reported that they had asked the Department of Environmental Protection to assist at the inspection. Additional violations were added to Mr. Chiodo's previous litigation on the property. The entire area is in the hands of the DEP and the County Conservation Office. Mr. Duray had a chance to review the latest proposed Upper Yoder Sewer Agreement for sewer rental. Mr. Duray and Solicitor Lovette met with Upper Yoder's Engineer and Attorney Shahade representing the Upper Yoder Sewer Authority. Solicitor Lovette felt this was a good agreement. This proposed 5 year (7-17-01) agreement states that Upper Yoder Sewer Authority will pay Southmont sewer rental on 317 dwellings and Westmont will pay for 35 dwellings. Upper Yoder will invoice Westmont for the 35 units payable to Southmont. It also states that Upper Yoder Sewer Authority will receive 50% credit for payments made if the Department of Environmental Protection mandates construction project improvements to the Southmont sewer lines. The three municipalities will need to approve the agreement. This agreement will be further discussed at a Committee meeting scheduled for August 7, 2001 at 7:00 p.m.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

STREET COMMISSIONERS REPORT

Mr. Bosley's written report records that employees cleaned catch basins and picked up limbs after storms. Patched potholes on June 7. Trimmed trees on Diamond and Menoher Blvd. intersection, and trees on Thoburn Street. Spread mulch at the Diamond Playground. Smoke tested storm sewer on Peden Lane off Southmont Blvd. and sanitary sewer between Peden Lane and Weir Way to determine the source of "low spots" in Mr. Gaydos' property. No smoke detected above ground.

Weeded planted area on Menoher Blvd. and Barnett Street. The area was mulched. Mr. Bosley prepared a map for the proposed "Entering Southmont" signs.

Heavy rains caused storm manhole on Bluff Street to heave through the blacktop. Also heavy rains blocked storm sewer on Shady Lane causing water to get under blacktop. Roto-Rooter found it was blocked 40' from the manhole. The manhole and catch basin downstream had a lot of gravel in it. Employees replaced a section of pipe. Roto Rooter rechecked and found the last two sections of pipe were offset. Employees corrected this on July 10-11.

Penelec still did not install the last three alley lights. Jan has called them again. Mr. Danyluk and Mr. Bosley submitted to Penelec 4 new poles and lights to install at Thoburn St. and Diamond Blvd. at Carrot Alley, one installed midway on Tomato Alley between Queen and Harshberaer Street on Elim Street at the private lane and midway

STREET COMMISSIONERS REPORT cont'd

Mr. Danyluk suggested that we install an alley light on Leek Alley at Thoburn

Street. A motion was made by Mr. Danyluk to install the additional alley light at Leek Alley. Seconded by Mr. Rodgers. All in favor, motion carried.

Mr. Rodgers made a motion to send Mr. Bosley to the DEP Vegetation Management workshop in Derry on August 15, 2001. Motion seconded by Mr. Danyluk. All in favor, motion carried.

STREET COMMITTEE

There was nothing further to report.

ADMINISTRATION/PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Nothing at this time.

POLICE COMMISSION

Mayor Koval reported that a Police Commission meeting will be held July 17, 2001 at Southmont Borough.

RECYCLING COMMITTEE

Report submitted.

INSURANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Kory reported the Worker's Compensation policy will be renewed. There will be an increase of approximately \$1,300.00. The complete package is \$10,808.00 for the year 2001/2002. Several accidents both in the fire department and Borough have increased the premium. Southmont Borough has Worker's Comp. coverage with PIRMA. Mr. Rodgers suggested that we continue with our Safety meetings and provide material for the Fire Department, for safety purposes.

BUDGET COMMITTEE

Mr. Rodgers reviewed the Budget. The Liquid Fuels Audit for the two years ending December 31, 1999 were completed. Also, Mr. Rodgers reported that the County will allocate \$12,000.00 to Southmont Borough for liquid fuels money for 2001.

SHADE TREE

Mr. Krupa reported that a tree on Diamond Blvd. had to be removed. Mr. Krupa will check on two trees removed on Gardner Street, without permits. Mr. Krupa has approached several residents on trimming trees in the Borough right of way and pedestrian walkways. A letter will be drafted to remind residents who have low hanging limbs and branches that it is their responsibility to keep these trees trimmed.

RECREATION/PLAYGROUND COMMITTEE

President Pile reported on the letters received from the Westmont Hilltop School

District in reference to the School Districts request for the Recreation Commission to do an Audit of their operations. The Recreation Commission has voted to do a review for this year in the amount of \$450.00 and an Audit next year at an approximate cost of \$1000.00. A motion was made by Mr. Rodgers to support the decision of the Recreation Commission to do a review as outlined for this year. Seconded by Mr. Strittmatter. All in favor, motion carried. The School District's auditors will do the review.

A letter was also received from the School District requesting that the three municipalities review the current Recreation Commission agreement dated May 10, 1982. President Pile feels that this would be good, as there are many new members since the agreement was made. Mr. Rodgers made a motion to send a letter to the School District stating that we would be interested in participating in a review of the Recreation Commission Agreement. Seconded by Mr. Kory. All in favor, motion carried.

BUILDINGS and GROUNDS

Mr. Kory met with Mr. Bosley prior to the Council meeting tonight, to discuss the locations and number of signs needed to replace the Borough signs at the entrances to the Borough. Mr. Kory submitted samples to Council of the materials used for the new signs. Mr. Kory suggested that Mr. Bosley receive quotes to have the Borough Building painted. The pointing and repairs to the Building have been completed by Marisa's Masonry. The proposed cost was \$1,575.00 to replace brick and repaint left side of the building. To repaint the remainder of the building was \$1,750.00. Total of \$3,325.00.

C.O.G REPORT

Mr. Rovanssek reported that COG members discussed the cost for the use of flow meters. Southmont's share of the flow meters would be \$2800.00. Southmont has since purchased their own flow meters. Council reviewed the proposal to share cost of a crack sealer through COG. It was the consensus of Council that Southmont would be interested in shared expense for a crack sealer. Southmont would have space available to store the crack sealer if COG purchases the equipment. The Borough will offer the storage space for the crack sealer to COG.

Mr. Rovanssek reported that COG will hold the annual Picnic in Lorain Borough Park on August 7, 2001

COG feels the new Uniformed Construction Codes program (building codes regulations being enforced by PA. State) will not be in effect until Spring 2002.

CHAPIN ARCH

Solicitor Lovette reported earlier that the deed for the Chapin Arch from the Cemetery Association to Southmont has been recorded this month. The Borough is waiting for the deed from PennDot, before we convey the Arch to the Conservancy Group.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Koval had nothing further to report.

SOLICITOR 'S REPORT

Solicitor Lovette reported that he checked on the Past Due taxes owed on the holding pond property which Southmont Borough acquired from Pete Chiodo through the PineBrooke Development agreement. The outstanding taxes are due for 1999 before they were conveyed to the Borough. The taxes amount to \$1,045.58. A motion was made by Mr. Rodgers to pay the outstanding taxes, as stated and have Solicitor Lovette file lien for the tax payment. Seconded by Mr. Krupa. All in favor, motion carried. The taxes must be paid by July 25, 2001.

Solicitor Lovette will prepare the release for the Storage/Restroom facility on Wonder Street.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Secretary's report records sewer and garbage bills were sent out this month. All non functioning flow meters and additional parts were returned to Hack Company. The borough has received a credit for the items. Mrs. Czyrnik picked up a copy of the Wren Street property deed at the Cambria County Courthouse for our records. The Emergency Operations Plans have been mailed to the County EMA. A motion was made by Mr. Rodgers to approve the Secretary's Report, seconded by Mr. Krupa. All in favor, motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

A motion was made by Mr. Rodgers to accept the June Treasurer's Report, as presented, in the amount of \$388,487.21. Seconded by Mr. Krupa. All in favor, motion carried.

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Rodgers made a motion to note that Southmont received the June Tax Collector's Report, with Real Estate Collections at \$4,826.36. Seconded by Mr. Kory. All in favor, motion carried.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

A motion was made by Mr. Strittmatter to approve payment of the bills, with the addition on Marisa's Masonry in the amount of \$3,325.00, as per quote and Cambria County Tax Claim Bureau for \$1,045.58 for a total amount of \$ 62,008.34. Seconded by Mr. Krupa. Roll Call: Mr. Rodgers, Mr. Rovansek, Mr. Kory, Mr. Strittmatter, Mr. Krupa, Mr. Danyluk and Mr. Pile. All in favor, opposed none.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Bosley stated that the Dominion Gas Co. will hold a meeting for the new gas line construction on Milton, Orchard Streets and Diamond Blvd. Mr. Bosley will attend this meeting on Wednesday, July 18, 2001 at 2:00 p.m. The Gas Co. will be invoiced for each street opening, as per Borough Ordinance No. 373.

Mr. Danyluk made a motion to approve anyone who wishes to attend the COG picnic on August 7, 2001 at Lorain Borough Park. Seconded by Mr. Rodgers. All in favor, motion carried.

Mr. Danyluk questioned the proposed traffic light at Harshberger Street and Goucher Street. Mr. Strittmatter stated it is still on Penn Dot's agenda

At this time Mr. Hartnett came into the meeting. (8:53 p.m.)

There being no further business Mr. Rodgers made a motion to adjourn the July 16, 2001 meeting of Council. All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Judith A. Czyrnik,
Borough Secretary