

MINUTES
BOROUGH OF SOUTHMONT
December 6, 2004 7:00 p.m.

The scheduled December Council meeting was called to order by President Pile at 7:00 p.m. After the pledge to the flag, the December 6, 2004 meeting of Council convened.

PRESENT: President Pile, Mr. Rodgers, Mr. Kory, Mr. Strittmatter, Mr. Krupa, Mayor: Gerry Sloat, Engineer: Tom Gray, West Hills Police: Detective George Musulin, Solicitor: Daniel R. Lovette, Fire Chief: Chet Borosky, Street Commissioner: Jan Bosley, Borough Manager: Loretta Spak and Zoning Officer: Dyke Orms.

ABSENT: Mr. Graham, Mr. Danyluk and West Hills Police Chief Andy Havas

VISITORS:

President Pile asked for approval of the November 15, 2004 Council Minutes and the Committee Meeting Notes of November 30, 2004. A motion was made by Mr. Krupa to accept the Minutes with the addition of visitor, Mr. Santichen, and to accept the Notes as submitted. Seconded by Mr. Strittmatter. All in favor, motion carried. Mr. Graham and Mr. Danyluk absent.

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT:

West Hills Police report for October shows revenue in the amount of \$259.64. Detective Musulin stated the November report is still being processed. Mayor Sloat and Police Chief Havas looked into the handicap parking space for Mr. Kenney at 146 State Street. Their recommendation is to move the handicap parking space down by one car length closer to the steps and away from Ms. Jasper's, 149 State Street, driveway; will show Mr. Bosley location. Mr. Strittmatter made a motion to accept the Mayor's and the Police Chief's recommendation. Seconded by President Pile. Four (4) yeas and one (1) nay, motion carried. Mr. Graham and Mr. Danyluk absent. Detective Musulin mentioned we have been light on break-ins but during the holiday season is when houses are broken into. Remember to leave lights, radio/stereo or television on when not at home.

ZONING OFFICERS REPORT

Mr. Orm's report records no new activity; as of 11/10/04 fifty-two (52) permits and a total construction of \$185,105. Mr. Orm's had one comment on Mr. Harnett's Subdivision request; the front yard setback would need to be extended when property is added.

FIRE COMPANY REPORT

Chief Borosky's written report records ten (10) responses during the month of November. There were three (3) calls between the hours of 10 PM to 7 AM. The Holiday Cash Raffle was drawn Friday, December 3rd; this is the third year of raffle. Every year the responses have gone down, this year down by four thousand dollars (\$4,000). President Pile reminded all that Council will be looking at the Fire Company income statement and will brainstorm for fund raising ideas at Committee Meeting in January. The Hilltop Ambulance report was received and is on file.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Mr. Gray is still trying to contact American Sigma service department, has spoken to their Tech support, to get answers on the corrective action letter (dated Nov. 3rd) sent concerning Southmont's flow meters and probes they are inspecting/repairing; also trying to contact the sales representative who sold us the flow meters. President Pile requested that Mr. Gray forward to him the names and numbers of American Sigma and the sales rep. so he can try contacting. The flow meters will be used to isolate the areas where there is excess water then a televising schedule will be completed to identify problem. Mr. Gray contacted Robert Fedore, Executive Director of Cambria-Somerset Council of Governments (COG), on a combined NPDES Storm Water public awareness program. Mr. Fedore seemed interested. This will be discussed at COG's meeting of December 7th. The Water Shed Association can also get the word out by presentation at different seminars. Both avenues are being pursued. The NPDES Storm Water public awareness program is a five (5) year program with year ends of March. March of 2005 is the second year of program, which is when public awareness by advertising, posters, etc. must be completed. An article will be added to the Southmont Kindred Spirit that will go out late April; as long as article is prepared and waiting to go to press this should meet with NPDES requirements. Mr. Gray stated the NPDES requirements are vague and he will keep Council informed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

STREET COMMISSIONERS REPORT

Received Mr. Bosley's written report; majority of time was spent picking up leaves. The fall work is done, waiting for the snow. Mr. Burkert, 309 Palliser Street, did receive one quote to repair sewer lateral still waiting for others. Mr. Bosley will contact Mr. Burkert to inform him that Council is concerned with this issue; it is a health hazard if sewer line backs up and leaks. Council is looking for a date when repair to lateral will be completed. Mr. Bosley reported back to Council that the traffic counter placed on Southmont Blvd. was placed by an outside contractor for PennDot; they will share their findings with the Borough. We had the traffic counter placed on State Street and then on Southmont Blvd. The counts will be forwarded to Council for a committee meeting. Mr. Bosley is working on getting proposals for snow plowing; Council is looking at different options in case problems arise. Mr. Strittmatter mentioned there is a strip from around the catch basin at 104 Daisy Street that is loose but caught on one side of catch basin; Mr. Bosley to remove; also there is a sign on Hershberger slanted at an angle, needs straightened, Mr. Bosley will check to see who's sign and repair if it is a Borough sign. Ms. Spak will notify PennDot that, if they are done for the winter at Goucher and Hershberger, the utility contractors didn't clean up area (signs, etc.). Mr. Rodgers made a motion to approve spending up to five hundred dollars (\$500) for purchase of spotlights for Borough trucks/equipment. Seconded by Mr. Kory. All in favor, motion carried. Mr. Graham and Mr. Danyluk, absent.

STREET COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Strittmatter made a motion to approve Ordinance 452 on the removal of the "except right turn" from the stop sign on Orchard Street at Olive Street. Seconded by Mr. Krupa. All in favor, motion carried. Mr. Graham and Mr. Danyluk absent.

ADMNS. & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Mr. Krupa made a motion to accept the salary and hourly increases for 2005, as follows: Borough Manager-\$23,525, Part time Office Clerk-\$7.00/hour, Advisory Clerk-\$10.00/hour, Street Commissioner-\$31,500 with an additional \$200 bonus June 15, 2005 and an additional \$200 bonus December 15, 2005 if goals are reached, Union wages-\$11.37/hour, Temporary Part Time-\$6.50/hour, Snow Removal-\$8.00/hour and Solicitor-\$3,600 retainer. Seconded by Mr. Strittmatter. All in favor, motion carried. Mr. Graham and Mr. Danyluk absent. Mr. Krupa mentioned the employee meeting scheduled to discuss the policy and procedure manual, procedure updates and safety will be rescheduled from December to January.

POLICE COMMITTEE

Mayor Sloat noted the committee meets December 21st; they are gathering information on health insurance reimbursement, savings, deductible, etc. This looks like one possible way to have some savings; the police officers are listening as long as changes are reasonable.

RECYCLING COMMITTEE

Mr. Kory noted that the 2004 Recycling recap was received. The graph will be submitted at year end.

INSURANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Rodgers made a motion to advertise Ordinance #453 which elects to upgrade employee benefits with Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement System (PMRS). Seconded by Mr. Strittmatter. All in favor, motion carried. Mr. Graham and Mr. Danyluk absent. Mr. Rodgers made a motion to approve the agreement with PMRS. Seconded by Mr. Strittmatter. All in favor, motion carried. Mr. Graham and Mr. Danyluk absent.

BUDGET COMMITTEE

Mr. Strittmatter made a motion to approve advertising Ordinance #454 to accept Real Estate Taxes at 11 mills. Seconded by Mr. Rodgers. All in favor, motion carried. Mr. Graham and Mr. Danyluk absent. Mr. Strittmatter made a motion to approve the 2005 General Fund Budget as modified, in the amount of \$725,400. Seconded by Mr. Rodgers. All in favor, motion carried. Mr. Graham and Mr. Danyluk absent. Mr. Strittmatter moved to keep the same depositories for 2005; General Funds-Portage National Bank and PLIGIT, Cheney Run-PLIGIT, Motor License Fund-PLIGIT, Garbage and Sewer Fund-Portage National Bank and Capital Improvement-Portage National Bank. Seconded by Mr. Rodgers. All in favor, motion carried. Mr. Graham and Mr. Danyluk absent.

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Mr. Strittmatter moved to approve the Cheney Run Fund in the amount of \$10,000 and the Liquid Fuels Highway Aid Fund in the amount of \$4,422.19 (plus December's interest). Seconded by Mr. Rodgers. All in favor, motion carried. Mr. Graham and Mr. Danyluk absent. Mr. Strittmatter made a motion to instruct Ms. Spak to do the appropriate 2004 account transfers at year end. Seconded by Mr. Rodgers. All in favor, motion carried. Mr. Graham and Mr. Danyluk absent. Mr. Rodgers made a motion to approve advertising of the 2005 meeting schedule as presented; Council meetings on the third Monday of the month except for December which is the second Monday at 7:00 p.m. and Committee Meetings Tuesday of each week, when needed at 7:00 p.m. and/or the third Monday at 6:30 p.m. if needed. Seconded by Mr. Kory. All in favor, motion carried. Mr. Graham and Mr. Danyluk absent.

SHADE TREE REPORT

Mr. Krupa noted a tree in the triangle near the cemetery was knocked over by a car. The tree was twelve plus years old; the gentlemen called and has paid for the tree (cost of \$1,500), a replacement tree will be put in with a one year guarantee. Penelec is using Treessmith's Utility to trim trees for power line clearance; they will be working throughout the Borough. Mr. Krupa has meet with Tree Smith's and they are aware of our requirements, jobs they have completed at Riverside and Upper Yoder look good. Mr. Krupa will look at tree that came down during December 1st storm at top of Susan Drive, Penelec cut down tree; who is responsible for cutting back/trimming (resident or Borough)? Penelec has utilized the poles and put up the two streetlights on Violet Street, some residents have mentioned they like the lights, area is lighter.

RECREATION COMMITTEE

President Pile reported that the Westmont Hilltop Recreation has been operating in the black for the past couple years. The minutes for the October meeting were received.

BUILDING/GROUNDS REPORT

Mr. Kory stated the streets look good, great job on leaf collection. Mr. Kory mentioned he would like to have the fence on Gardner Street taken down or repaired as soon as possible.

COG REPORT

President Pile mentioned the COG Christmas Party/meeting is Tuesday, December 7th at Anthony's Restaurant; he will not be able to attend.

GRANDVIEW COMMITTEE

Mr. Kory discussed the reply from Grandview on the taxes for the portion of building housing Grandview Monument Sales, Inc. Solicitor Lovette will speak with the Catanese Group, Grandview's certified public accountants.

GREATER JOHNSTOWN WATER AUTHORITY

The minutes from the December 3, 2004 meeting were received. The new building grand opening is scheduled for February, moving along smoothly.

Lower State Street Committee

Traffic counts will be placed on agenda for committee meeting. Committee in progress not much we can do over winter months.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Sloat had nothing new to report. Mayor Sloat did update Council on Judy Czynnik's surgery; she should be released from hospital soon.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Solicitor Lovette updated Council on the ten taxpayers not included on reports to the school or in the return to County reports for 2003 (four no response, three paid in Nov. 2004 and three paid in 2003); leaving potential cash shortage of \$780.58. Mr. Rodgers made a motion for Solicitor Lovette to contact the bonding company and put them on notice of a potential claim. Seconded by Mr. Kory. All in favor, motion carried. Mr. Graham and Mr. Danyluk absent. Solicitor Lovette will be extending the Grandview cemetery/parking lot agreement whereas the three tax entities will receive 30% of the tax liability for 2001 through present, until Conemaugh Hospital abandons lot. Mr. Rodgers so moved for Solicitor Lovette to extend the agreement. Seconded by Mr. Kory. All in favor, motion carried. Mr. Graham and Mr. Danyluk absent. Mr. Rodgers made a motion for Solicitor Lovette to do an Ordinance for blanket parking fines in the amount of fifteen dollars (\$15) per violation; also an Ordinance for handicap parking (see draft resolution). Seconded by Mr. Strittmatter. All in favor, motion carried. Mr. Graham and Mr. Danyluk absent.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Rodgers made a motion to accept the Manager's Report. Seconded by Mr. Kory. All in favor, motion carried. Mr. Graham and Mr. Danyluk absent. Mr. Krupa mentioned the base radio and the radios in the Borough trucks should be left on at all times when crews are working.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Rodgers made a motion to approve the November's Treasurer Report in the amount of \$289,028.06. Seconded by Mr. Kory. All in favor, motion carried. Mr. Graham and Mr. Danyluk absent.

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Rodgers noted we received the November Tax Collector's report with Real Estate revenues at \$617.39. Seconded by Mr. Kory. All in favor, motion carried. Mr. Graham and Mr. Danyluk absent. Mr. Rodgers made a motion to advertise the Borough Tax Collector compensation of two

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dollars (\$2.00) per bill collected effective January 1, 2006; Solicitor Lovette to do Ordinance. Seconded by Mr. Strittmatter. All in favor, motion carried. Mr. Graham and Mr. Danyluk absent. Mr. Rodgers made a motion for a committee to approach Westmont Hilltop School and Cambria County on their Tax Collection compensation; any changes to compensation must be done prior to February 15, 2005. Seconded by Mr. Strittmatter. All in favor, motion carried. Mr. Graham and Mr. Danyluk absent. Mr. Strittmatter made a motion to accept the subdivision proposal of Harnett & Harnett for the property directly behind the Southmont Medical Building Associates office, 350 Southmont Blvd., and the lot created will be merged with the "Medical Building" property. Seconded by Mr. Rodgers. All in favor, motion carried. Mr. Graham and Mr. Danyluk absent.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Mr. Strittmatter made a motion to approve payment of bills in the amount of \$26,519.90 as presented. Seconded by Mr. Rodgers. Roll Call: Mr. Rodgers, Mr. Kory, Mr. Strittmatter, Mr. Krupa and Mr. Pile all in favor, opposed none. Mr. Graham and Mr. Danyluk absent. Mr. Strittmatter made a motion to approve the purchase of Kyocera KM-2050 copier and maintenance agreement. Seconded by Mr. Krupa. All in favor, motion carried. Mr. Graham and Mr. Danyluk absent.

OLD BUSINESS

President Pile asked to remove the retirement proposal, Neil Quinn and William Carstensen luncheon and tax collector rate from the long term "tickler list"; also remove the lights on Violet Street and add sewer lateral Palliser and Helen street to street committee "tickler". Mr. Krupa is to check the street light at 200 Mabel Street to see if working properly.

NEW BUSINESS

The next committee meeting will have traffic counts and Fire Co. fundraisers on the agenda. We have received a thank you letter from the Cambria Library Association for Southmont's donation.

At 8:45 p.m. an executive session was called to discuss personnel issues. At 9:05 p.m. Council reconvened.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Strittmatter for adjournment of the December 6, 2004 meeting at 9:10 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Krupa. All in favor, motion carried. President Pile wished all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Respectfully submitted,

Loretta Spak, Borough Manager

12/10/2004 8:41 AM