

MINUTES  
BOROUGH OF SOUTHMONT  
January 16, 2006 7:00 p.m.

The scheduled January Council meeting was called to order by President Pile at 7:00 p.m. After the pledge to the flag the January 16, 2006 meeting of Council convened.

**PRESENT:** President Pile, Mr. Rodgers, Mr. Ewald, Mr. Kory, Mr. Strittmatter, Mr. Danyluk, Mr. Krupa, Mayor: Gerry Sloat, Fire Chief: Chet Borosky, West Hills Police Chief: Andy Havas, West Hills Police: Detective George Musulin, Zoning Officer: Dyke Orms, Engineer: Dave Duray, Borough Manager: Loretta Spak, and Street Commissioner: Jan Bosley.

**ABSENT:** Solicitor: Daniel R. Lovette

**VISITORS:** Mrs. Judy Kelly, 102 Violet Street, Garden Club - Barnett Street; Mr. Archie Leonard, 784 Goucher Street, pigeons; Ms. Katie Mishler, 152 Violet Street, handicap parking space.

President Pile asked for approval of the December 12, 2005 Council Minutes and the January 3, 2006 Reorganization Minutes. A motion was made by Mr. Krupa to accept the Minutes as submitted. Seconded by Mr. Strittmatter. All in favor, motion carried.

Mayor Sloat administered the Loyalty Oath to Mr. Kory.

President Pile called upon Mrs. Kelly. Mrs. Kelly represents the Johnstown Garden Club and she wanted to update Council on plans, past and present, to beautify Barnett Street. The garden club would like to place a "Welcome to Southmont Borough planting by Johnstown Garden Club" sign on Barnett Street and asked if Southmont Borough employees/equipment will help but not maintain the Barnett Street garden. Mr. Bosley mentioned that the Barnett Street garden area is in the PennDot right-of-way; they would need to get their approval. Mrs. Kelly will submit the Garden Club's plans (what they will provide and what they request from Southmont Borough Council) and will contact Ms. Spak, Mr. Bosley, Mr. Orms and Mr. Ewald for suggestions. President Pile stated Council will be willing to help and work with the Garden Club to beautify the Barnett Street area.

President Pile called upon Mr. Leonard. Mr. Leonard is having problems with pigeons; a neighbor behind his home feeds them via bird feeders and by throwing feed on ground. This is ruining his roof and gutters. Mr. Danyluk made a motion for Solicitor Lovette to advise if we can send a letter referencing Ordinance #460 Section IIA requesting not throwing feed on ground. Seconded by Mr. Ewald. All in favor, motion carried.

President Pile called upon Ms. Mishler. Ms. Mishler is requesting a handicap parking space at 152 Violet Street. Ms. Mishler was given an application for handicap parking space; she will fill out and return to the Borough office and her request will be placed on the next committee meeting agenda. Ms. Mishler explained her parking problem on Violet

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Street. She is aware the handicap parking space could be used by anyone with a handicap placard. Mr. Rodgers urges Council to ride thru and look at the parking situation prior to committee meeting.

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT:

West Hills Police report for November shows revenue in the amount of \$62.57 and December shows revenue in the amount of \$108.96. Chief Andy Havas informed Council that no suspects could be identified for vehicles vandalized on Southmont Blvd., Diamond Blvd. and Thoburn Street which had side windows broken (shot) out in December; no further incidents have occurred.

ZONING OFFICERS REPORT

Mr. Orms report was received. Report records activity of one (1) permit at a total construction of \$4,900 as of 1/4/06. Applications are being received for the zoning officer position and zoning solicitor; review of the applications will be placed on the January 24, 2006 committee meeting agenda and Mr. Orms is invited to attend. Solicitor Lovette sent a letter to Mr. Ayres referencing Grandview zoning permit 2005-21, enclosing letter by Mr. Duray, a five foot high lockable fence must be placed around basin.

FIRE COMPANY REPORT

Chief Borosky's written report records six (6) responses during the month of December. Yearly report records one hundred eighteen (118) responses during 2005; runs for 2005 were down, slow year, which is good. There was one (1) call between the hours of 10 PM to 7 AM during December. Chief Borosky will be meeting with Upper Yoder, Ferndale and Riverside concerning merging of fire companies; only in planning stages and will keep Council informed. Mr. Danyluk, Mr. Ewald and Mr. Bosley will look into ways to mark the fire hydrants for easy access during the winter months. Mr. Rodgers forwarded grant information that was received from Department of Emergency Services to Chief Borosky. Chief Borosky did not bill Upper Yoder homeowner for the eight and a half (8 1/2) hours of pumping, he feels fuel cost fall under mutual aid agreement and should not be billed. The Hilltop Ambulance report was received and is on file.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Mr. Duray's written Engineer's report for January was received and discussed. The base bid for 2006 paving is \$85,506 adding the alternates will bring the total to \$115,206 (alternates: #5 Gardner Street, #9 Harding Street, #10 Harding Street and #4 Helen Street). Mr. Danyluk made a motion for Mr. Duray to advertise for street paving bids (bid opening February meeting). Seconded by Mr. Strittmatter. All in favor, motion carried. Mr. Duray updated Council referencing letter that was sent to Conservation District on dumping by Conemaugh Health System at Grandview Cemetery, discussion followed. Mr. Strittmatter made a motion to have Mr. Duray follow up on the Grandview stream dumping. Seconded by Mr. Rodgers. All in favor, motion carried. Mr. Duray received a summary of current status of PineBrooke Subdivision by Mr. Chiodo. Ms. Spak will speak with Solicitor Lovette about who is responsible for engineering fees concerning developer's agreement/ordinance.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

STREET COMMISSIONERS REPORT

Received Mr. Bosley's written report, discussion followed. The sewer up on Orchard backed up again, we will need to replace the six (6) inch line this year.

STREET COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Danyluk has nothing new to report.

ADMNS. & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Mr. Krupa has nothing new to report.

POLICE COMMITTEE

Mayor Sloat has nothing new to report, no forum last month. Mr. Ewald mentioned lack of visibility of West Hills Police in Southmont. President Pile stated the police work in zones; Mayor Sloat will mention concern at next meeting.

RECYCLING COMMITTEE

Mr. Kory and Mr. Bosley will get together when recycling trailer is full and ready for delivery to Mr. Pandya, full trailer weight is .25 ton.

INSURANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Rodgers has nothing new to report.

BUDGET COMMITTEE

Mr. Strittmatter mentioned the 2005 budget summary which shows revenue is up by an estimate of eighty-four thousand dollars (\$84,000) expenses are also up by an estimate of sixty-nine thousand dollars (\$69,000). Mr. Strittmatter made a motion to approve the 2005 account transfers in the amount of \$31,479. Seconded by Mr. Rodgers. All in favor, motion carried. Mr. Strittmatter made a motion to approve the December's Treasurer Report in the amount of \$298,204.01. Seconded by Mr. Rodgers. All in favor, motion carried.

SHADE TREE REPORT

Mr. Krupa mentioned they are in process of removing the tree on Langhorne Avenue, taking longer than expected. Mr. Krupa asked Council to forward any of their thoughts on tree planting locations for Arbor Day.

RECREATION COMMITTEE

Mr. Kory has nothing new to report. The minutes for the November meeting were received.

BUILDING/GROUNDS REPORT

Mr. Kory has nothing new to report.

**COG REPORT**

President Pile will contact Mr. Bob Morgan to see if he would be interested in being a committee member on COG TV franchise negotiation committee. Mr. Ewald will review the COG services and will attend the every other month meetings.

**GRANDVIEW COMMITTEE**

Mr. Kory has nothing new to report.

**GREATER JOHNSTOWN WATER AUTHORITY**

The December and the January Reorganization minutes were received. Mr. Pile attended the January 5<sup>th</sup> reorganization meeting and updated Council; getting inquiries to purchase water, North Fork Dam reconstruction to begin around 2008, water line going to Ebensburg, Mr. Follansbee's application is tabled and the annual dinner meeting is tentatively scheduled for March 24<sup>th</sup> or March 25<sup>th</sup>. RDM is doing a good job. They are professionals.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Sloat updated Council concerning 149 State Street, porch roof fell off, should show progress by next week. Ms. Spak will send a letter to Ms. Jasper concerning leaving the garbage cans out continuously.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

Solicitor Lovette absent. Mr. Rodgers requested abandoned properties be added to the January 24<sup>th</sup> committee meeting agenda. Ms. Spak will forward copy of Mount Wolf, PA sample ordinance to Council to review before committee meeting.

**MANAGER'S REPORT**

Ms. Spak's written report was submitted. Mr. Danyluk made a motion to purchase a digital camera with the assistance of Mr. Sernell. Seconded by Mr. Rodgers. All in favor, motion carried. Ms. Spak will contact PSAB to get their opinion of Act 40 amendments to Realty Transfer Tax, we have until March 15<sup>th</sup> to "opt in" or "opt out". We will not be rejoining the Greater Johnstown/Cambria County Convention & Visitors Bureau for 2006. Mr. Rodgers made a motion to accept the Manager's Report. Seconded by Mr. Kory. All in favor, motion carried.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

See above - Budget Committee.

**TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Rodgers made a motion to note the December tax collector's report was received. Seconded by Mr. Kory. All in favor, motion carried.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Mr. Rodgers made a motion to approve payment of bills with the exception of check #8068 for \$25 changing total to the amount of \$67,542.36. Seconded by Mr. Kory. Roll Call: Mr. Rodgers, Mr. Graham, Mr. Kory, Mr. Strittmatter, Mr. Danyluk, and Mr. Krupa all in favor, opposed none, Mr. Pile abstained from vote for check #8064.

OLD BUSINESS

President Pile discussed the "Tickler List". We will add fence at 1046 Menoher Blvd. should be completed Spring/Summer of 2006 to "Tickler List". Mr. Kenney's handicapped renewal application will be placed on the January 24<sup>th</sup> committee meeting agenda. The "To-Do Lists" was reviewed and updated.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Rodgers will be attending the March 10<sup>th</sup> 2006 Borough Officials training in Greensburg, Mr. Ewald will be attending March 10<sup>th</sup> and March 11<sup>th</sup>.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Krupa for adjournment of the January 16, 2006 meeting at 9:15 P.M. Seconded by Mr. Kory. All in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

*Loretta Spak*, Borough Manager

1/20/2006 9:24 AM