

BOROUGH OF SOUTHMONT
148 Wonder Street
Johnstown, PA 15905

Minutes for September 17, 2007

The pledge of allegiance was conducted and the scheduled September 17, 2007, Council meeting was called to order by Vice President Rodgers at 7:00 p.m.

Present:

President Pile arrived at 7:45 p.m., Borough Manager Loretta Spak, Attorney Dan Lovette, Council Member Mr. Dick Rodgers, Council Member Mr. Herb Ewald, Council Member Mr. William Kory, Council Member Mr. Thomas Strittmatter, Council Member Mr. William Krupa, Mayor Gerry Sloat, Engineer Dave Duray, and Street Commissioner Jan Bosley.

Absent: Council Member Mr. Ed Danyluk out of town and Fire Chief Michael Butler.

Visitors: Tim Van Sichel, White Hat Construction, quote on steps in Ray Alley; Mr. Truscello, 298 Langhorne Avenue, observing.

Meeting Agenda:

Vice President Rodgers asked for the approval of the council meeting minutes of August 20, 2007 and committee meeting notes of August 28, 2007 and September 4, 2007. Mr. Krupa made a motion to approve the council meeting minutes of August 20, 2007 (after typo changes made) and committee meeting notes of August 28, 2007 and September 4, 2007. Seconded by Mr. Strittmatter, all in favor motion carried, Mr. Danyluk out of town. Mr. Rodgers commended Ms. Spak on correcting the minutes that were turned in by Principle Court Reporting.

Vice President Rodgers turned floor over to Mr. Tim Van Sichel. Mr. Van Sichel owns White Hat Construction which is a small business and has been in operation for eight years. He reviewed his submitted proposal for repair of concrete steps at Ray Alley, discussion followed. Mr. Truscello stated he is getting tree removed, roots are up heaving steps. Mr. Van Sichel stated he would be repairing over half the steps and/or pads; he would do a good job and would be able to start in April or May, the project would take approximately three weeks to complete. After Mr. Van Sichel departed, discussion followed. Solicitor Lovette recommends getting three proposals covering same specs (comparing apples to apples) and have contractors make presentation at committee meeting.

Police Chief's Report

West Hills Police Chief Andy Havas received a request for more speed limit signs on Arlington Street. There is one sign in front of 106 Arlington Street, street is long. Mr. Ewald made a motion for Mayor Sloat and Police Chief Havas to look over situation and place speed sign where needed if necessary. Seconded by Mr. Krupa, all in favor motion carried, Mr. Danyluk out of town. Police Chief Havas mentioned they received a twenty-five thousand dollar (\$25,000) grant which they used to purchase a new vehicle; vehicle should be received by end of month.

Zoning Officers Report

Report shows activity as of 8/24/07 of twenty-five (25) permits at a total construction cost of \$151,971.29.

Fire Company Report

Fire Chief Butler absent. His written report records thirty three (33) responses during the month of August. There were four calls between the hours of 10 p.m. to 7 a.m. Southmont had ten (10) assists in August; seven (7) to Upper Yoder, one (1) to Lower Yoder, one (1) to Westmont, and one (1) to Conemaugh Township. Vice President Rodgers mentioned burn agreement between Mr. James Moskal and Borough of Southmont, discussion followed. Ms. Spak will make changes and will resubmit to council. The Hilltop Ambulance Association report was received and is on file.

Engineer's Report

The written Engineer's report for September was received and reviewed. Mr. Duray is not happy with Quaker Sales patch/drainage work on Shady Lane, recommends holding final payment until repaired correctly. Mr. Kory made a motion to approve removing of trees behind 175 State Street which are on Southmont Borough easement pushing against Cheney Run fence at a cost of no more than \$4,200 from Cheney Run reserve fund, which will be replaced in account for 2008 budget. Seconded by Mr. Ewald, all in favor motion carried, Mr. Danyluk out of town. Mr. Strittmatter mentioned his concerns about manhole on 400 block of State Street a lot of overflow of water/sewage running during heavy rains. Discussion followed, Mr. Bosley and Mr. Duray will look at (i.e. bypass problem, slope or bend, infiltration from Upper Yoder, etc.). Ms. Spak will pull long range sewer project, Mr. Duray previously recommended, for council review during 2008 budget workshop.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Street Commissioners Report

Mr. Bosley's written report was received and reviewed. Mr. Bosley mentioned the large water consumption at ball field from 5/23 thru 8/22; checked on Sept. 12th water is not running. President Pile will get with water authority for use of sounding device to see if there is a leak. Mr. Rodgers mentioned if no leak is found actual reading before and after Jubilee should be taken. Mr. Rodgers stated Mr. Danyluk and Mr. Bosley should be commended for great job they performed in driving/repairs on pickup truck purchased from Federal Surplus. Mr. Bosley received the following prices: Eight foot Fisher plow U.S. Municipal \$4,750 cost includes installation, new twelve inch chipper \$30,000, twelve volt pump (truck system) Harvard Freight \$40 to \$50, Tractor Supply 210 gallon tank \$214 and gas pump 4 horse power \$190. Mr. Bosley recommends gas power pumps they would last longer. Mr. Ewald made a motion to purchase tank and pump needed for dye testing at a cost of no more than five hundred dollars (\$500). Seconded by Mr. Strittmatter, all in favor motion carried, Mr. Danyluk out of town. Discussion followed concerning purchase of snow plow. Mr. Bosley will contact Co-Star for price and see if plows can be made interchangeable for different trucks. Mr. Krupa mentioned he appreciates the work Mr. Bosley and road crew are doing on trimming shade trees. Ms.

Spak and Mr. Bosley will write a letter to 135/137 Daisy Street concerning gravel running onto street, property owner needs to build a curb.

- B. Streets:** Mr. Danyluk out of town. Mr. Rodgers mentioned Mr. Danyluk, Mr. Ewald, and Mr. Bosley did a real good job on sidewalk inspections. Mr. Rodgers believes the sidewalk letter seemed harsh, we are receiving many responses, and letter will be addressed at committee meeting.
- C. Personnel:** Mr. Krupa mentioned he has personnel issues he would like to address in an Executive Session at end of meeting.
- D. Police Committee:** Mayor Sloat mentioned they may settle the Leventry court case for two thousand dollars (\$2,000).
- E. Recycling Committee:** Mr. Kory would like to accompany recycling trailer when it next goes to Haresh Pandya.
- F. Insurance Committee:** Mr. Rodgers has nothing new to report. Policies are up for renewal in April; will go out for proposals at year end.
- G. Budget Committee:** Mr. Strittmatter has nothing new to report, budget is in line. 2008 budget meeting is scheduled for October 23, 2007.
- H. Shade Tree Report:** Mr. Krupa reminded council to get articles to Ms. Spak by September 25th for fall/winter newsletter (mention over hanging tree ordinance). Mr. Rodgers requested placing Waste Management calendar, service weeks when routes are one day behind, in newsletter. Mr. Krupa and Mayor Sloat walked Mr. Kriak's property (hill was cleared of trees) still has a lot of brush; Mr. Krupa trying to contact Mr. Kriak. President Pile forwarded letter from Lichtenfels Nursery dated September 17, 2007 referencing arborvitae hedge on Court Alley to Ms. Spak. Ms. Spak will send a letter to Mr. Goldblatt stating trimming is in compliance enclosing Lichtenfels letter. Mr. Rodgers made a motion to approve Mr. Krupa and any other council or employee who would like to attend the Urban Tree Planting workshop on October 12, 2007 at Penn State University (individual fee \$125, team (3 or more) \$100). Seconded by Mr. Ewald, all in favor motion carried, Mr. Danyluk out of town.
- I. Recreation Committee:** Mr. Kory will follow up with recreation center to perform maintenance on outside of soccer field restrooms. Mr. Ewald updated council on swing set at Diamond Playground; the pipes were cut and will repair early spring. The appreciation picnic held in August was very nice.
- J. Building and Grounds Report:** Mr. Kory stated two trees overhanging Squash Alley need cut immediately, very dangerous, and wire fence in front of shed needs moved or dumped; Mr. Bosley will take care of before next meeting.
- K. COG Report:** Mr. Ewald has nothing to report.
- L. Grandview Committee:** Mr. Kory has nothing to report.
- M. Greater Johnstown Water Authority:** The August minutes were received. Mr. Pile mentioned there was a heated discussion at a refinancing committee meeting concerning bond issue of twenty-three million. The committee will investigate other financing options i.e. rate increase, additional charge on maintenance fee, other proposals for bond, etc. Mr. Pile has delivered letter to water authority concerning moving of water line at soccer field, he will follow up.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Sloat has nothing new to report, he has inspected two grass cutting requests this month.

Solicitor's Report

Solicitor Lovette updated council concerning Professional Family Care & Services tax exemption appeal. He will investigate if the new owners at #16 Harding Street will pay the municipal lien. Mr. Rodgers made a motion to purchase parcel 055-030034 from Mr. Gresh for a cost of no more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000) (purchase price of \$400, closing costs, unpaid taxes, and 1% transfer cost). Seconded by Mr. Ewald, all in favor motion carried, Mr. Danyluk out of town. Solicitor Lovette will work on sales agreement. President Pile and Mr. Krupa will be attending tax appeal for two Southmont Park Condos scheduled for Wednesday, September 26th.

Manager's Report

Ms. Spak's written report was submitted and reviewed. Mr. Rodgers made a motion to approve the Minimum Municipal Obligation worksheet (MMO) for year 2008. Seconded by Mr. Krupa, all in favor motion carried, Mr. Danyluk out of town. Mr. Rodgers made a motion to approve Ms. Spak's recommendation of option #2 for LUCA (2010 Census), Mr. Kory to chair LUCA committee, and Ms. Spak and Mr. Kory to attend LUCA training on Oct. 3rd in Ebensburg. Seconded by Mr. Krupa, all in favor motion carried, Mr. Danyluk out of town. Mr. Kory made a motion to approve purchase of Quick Books Pro 2007 accounting software and Learning Quick Books manual for the cost of \$240. Seconded by Mr. Strittmatter, all in favor motion carried, Mr. Danyluk out of town. Ms. Spak updated council on Centax audit and review by Mrs. Cramer. Mr. Rodgers mentioned street light listing; reviewed and assigned council members to check if lights are working. Mr. Kory moved to accept the Manager's report. Seconded by Mr. Krupa, all in favor motion carried, Mr. Danyluk out of town.

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Strittmatter made a motion to approve August's Treasurer Report in the amount of \$313,349.04. Seconded by Mr. Rodgers, all in favor motion carried, Mr. Danyluk out of town.

Tax Collectors Report

Mr. Rodgers noted we received the August Tax Collector's report with Real Estate revenues at \$1,028.87. Seconded by Mr. Strittmatter, all in favor motion carried, Mr. Danyluk out of town.

Payment of Bills

Mr. Krupa made a motion to approve payment of bills in the amount of \$40,299.13 voiding Quaker Sales check #9162. Seconded by Mr. Strittmatter; roll call: Mr. Rodgers, Mr. Ewald, Mr. Kory, Mr. Strittmatter, Mr. Krupa and Mr. Pile all in favor, opposed none, Mr. Danyluk out of town.

Old Business

President Pile reviewed the "Tickler List" removing the garbage/sewage transfer and accounting software. Ms. Spak will have a purchase order draft to council by next meeting. Mr. Ewald is not happy with Menoher Boulevard fence, looks bad. Discussion followed, council understands he has a two year plan to replace but would like to see fence removed; will have zoning officer look at.

New Business

Mr. Krupa questioned some of the messages on phone logs, Ms. Spak updated council. Mr. Rodgers made a motion for any councilmen or Borough Manager who would like to attend the PSAB Fall Leadership Conference in State College on October 19-21, 2007 be approved. Seconded by Mr. Kory, all in favor motion carried, Mr. Danyluk out of town. President Pile mentioned office has received a CD of watersheds that serve 17 municipalities from Greater Johnstown Water Authority if anyone wants to look at.

At 9:00 p.m. President Pile called for an Executive Session to discuss personnel issues. At 9:14 p.m. Council reconvened. Mr. Krupa made a motion to hire Ms. Nancy Barrett to perform 2007 health inspections and to purchase infrared thermometer for inspection use. Seconded by Mr. Kory, all in favor motion carried, Mr. Danyluk out of town. Mr. Krupa made a motion to obtain, as soon as possible, a time clock (Mr. Ewald has) and have it installed for a six month trial basis. Seconded by Mr. Rodgers, all in favor motion carried, Mr. Danyluk out of town. Mr. Krupa made a motion to approve Ms. Spak for \$500 bonus effective September 1st and a \$500 bonus for Mr. Bosley effective October 1st. Seconded by Mr. Kory; roll call: Mr. Rodgers, Mr. Ewald, Mr. Kory, Mr. Strittmatter, Mr. Krupa and Mr. Pile all in favor, opposed none, Mr. Danyluk out of town. Mr. Krupa made a motion to call to vote for candidates Mr. Wallace or Mr. Hudson for Zoning Officer. Seconded by Rodgers, vote tied three for Mr. Wallace and three for Mr. Hudson (Mr. Danyluk out of town), Mayor Sloat broke tie and placed vote for Mr. Hudson.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Rodgers for adjournment of the September 17, 2007 meeting at 9:20 P.M. Seconded by Mr. Ewald, all in favor motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Loretta Spak, Borough Manager
10/17/2007 1:45 PM

