

MINUTES
BOROUGH OF SOUTHMONT
November 17, 1997 7:00 p.m.

The regularly scheduled November Council meeting was called to order by President Pile at 7:00 p.m. After the pledge to the flag, the November 17, 1997 meeting of Council convened.

PRESENT: President Pile, Mr. Rodgers (7:35 p.m.), Mr. Leventry, Mr. Krupa, Mr. Kory, Mr. Davis, Mayor Robert Morgan, Engineer: Ron Walker, Zoning Officer-Fred Pullen, West Hills Police: Andy Havas, Street Commissioner: Jan Bosley, Fire Department: Michael Butler and Secretary: Judith Czyrnik

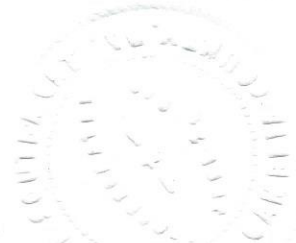
ABSENT: Mr. Danyluk, Solicitor: Daniel R. Lovette

<u>VISITORS:</u> Lary Koval, WHRP	Julie Salem 488 Southmont Blvd.
Nick Patton 486 Smt. Blvd.	Larry Tomkowski 482 Smt. Blvd.
Dave Clark 466 Smt. Blvd.	Ron Rovanseck 92 Thoburn Street
Matt Harnish 505 Smt. Blvd.	Andrew Schuster 490 Smt. Blvd.

President Pile asked for approval of the October 20, 1997 minutes. A motion was made by Mr. Krupa to approve the minutes as submitted. Seconded by Mr. Kory. All in favor, motion carried. President Pile called upon Nick Patton, acting as the spokesperson for the group attending the meeting with reference to the proposed Traffic Ordinance No. 410. The residents were interested in the results of the survey done by Mr. Robert Moore an IUP intern working for the Borough. Mr. Leventry reported of those surveyed, the results are 62 voted no to changing the speed limit and 16 voted that they wanted an increase in speed from 25 mph. to 30 mph. Mr. Leventry stated that this was a 4-1 rejection of the proposed increase. Based on the survey, Mr. Leventry made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 410, and to make a revision leaving the speed on Southmont Blvd. at 25 mph, instead of the proposed 30 mph. Motion seconded by Mr. Kory. Roll Call: Mr. Davis, Mr. Krupa, Mr. Kory, Mr. Leventry and Mr. Pile. All in favor. Opposed none. Mr. Rodgers and Mr. Danyluk absent. Residents of Southmont Blvd. thanked Council for their decision.

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief Havas reported that he had a traffic survey done at the intersection of Edward and Thoburn Streets, as requested by Council, after a letter received from a resident asked for stop signs in this area. The survey was done both in the AM and PM hours. The highest speed was clocked at 28.5 mph. No accidents or no other speeding reports have been reported at this location. Mayor Morgan and Chief Havas suggested that "Watch Children" signs be placed in both directions at this corner.



Chief Havas reported that the revenues for the month of October was \$743.62. "Trick or Treat" night went smooth, no incidents were reported. The Department has applied for a \$10,000.00 grant for the replacement of bullet proof vests. The cost per vest is about \$500.00 each. The grant for the computer has been received.

ZONING OFFICER'S REPORT

Mr. Pullen's written report records two new permits for the month. The year to date total is 57, total construction is \$1,483,061.00. The total construction for the month is \$155,000.00. Mr. Pullen is initiating the enforcement of the new BOCA Code Ordinance No. 409 with letters and photos to four residents within the next week. Copies of the penalties will be included in their letters. The residents will be given 30 days to clean up their property, after which time they will be turned over to the Magistrate. Mr. Pullen will also send a letter to Mr. Charles Snyder for a retaining wall in the back yard of 405 Southmont Blvd., that is collapsing. Some discussion was held on the enforcement of these BOCA Code violations. Mr. Pullen will handle them according to the Ordinance. Mr. Leventry discussed a property next to him, where a landscaping business is being run from the A-frame that has recently been constructed. The owner of the business does not live on the property, but stores lawn mowers and equipment for his business in the A-frame. Mr. Leventry has asked the Zoning Officer to follow up on this since the area is zoned residential.

FIRE COMPANY REPORT

Chief Butler's written report submitted by the Fire Company records total emergency responses at 6 for the month. Engine 26-1 had the radiator replaced with a rebuilt unit. Chief Butler stated that the entrance area of the ballfield work was scheduled for last week but with the rain and now the snow he is not sure when it will be done. The Engineers have marked off the area where the trench is to be dug. Chief Butler reported that the Building project is at a stand still. They are waiting for Mr. Chiodo to submit building costs of the project for bidding specifications.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Ron Walker reported that he has completed legal descriptions for the Fire Company's addition for Solicitor Lovette to prepare the land lease agreement. Hinks & Locher Engineer's prepared a preliminary construction cost estimate for replacement of sanitary sewer on Wonder Street from Helen Street to the Dead end. Cost estimates amount to \$20,000.00 Council will review video tapes and decide if this project should be done by Borough employees or an outside contractor.

Mr. Ron Walker reported that no invoice has been submitted from Berti Construction for the Cheney Oak Drive project this month. He will submit a copy to the Borough when he receives the invoice. He reported that approximately 80' of the sanitary sewer is left to complete and so far testing has been approved. The water line is scheduled for this week. Mr. Walker will check on how the line will be inspected.

Mr. Tim Walsh has been in touch with Hinks & Locher and Mr. Walsh has talked with the abutting property owners and they agreed to let Mr. Walsh assume ownership of the proposed vacated Leek Alley that Mr. Walsh has requested.

Mr. Walker discussed the Chapin Arch bid for the Chapin Arch project that Penn Dot is doing in the Spring. A letter from Dave Sherman records that the low bid for the project was submitted by "Upon this Rock" in the amount of \$52,780.00. The bid is 61.8% over the approved estimated cost of \$32,611.00. After discussion of the project, a motion was made by Mr. Rodgers to reject the low bid of \$52,780.00 and for PennDot to re-bid with their Spring project bids. Seconded by Mr. Davis. All in favor, motion carried. Danyluk, absent. A letter will be sent to Mr. Sherman rejecting the bid. Mr. Davis suggested that Mr. Kory talk with the Southwest Conservancy about public funding.

STREET COMMISSIONER

Mr. Bosley's written report records that the Borough employees crack sealed various streets during the month. A 100' French drain was installed along Southmont Blvd., on the downhill side midway between Otis and Eli Streets to solve the icy condition during the winter. Converted the "old" leaf machine to a 12 volt electrical system. Cleaned the building and cut grass on Borough property. Scraped and painted the salt spreaders, checked plows for cracks. Began picking up leaves, the new machine is working well. Leaves are being dumped at the area along Menoher Blvd. at Grandview Cemetery. This has been approved by DEP. Some potholes were patched and a curb on Shady Lane was re-built.

Mr. Bosley asked for approval to place the "Watch Children" signs on Dell, Daisy and Edward Streets. Mayor Morgan agreed with the request from the resident. Council approved the request.

STREET COMMITTEE

Mr. Leventry had no other report.

ADMINISTRATION & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Mr. Davis made a motion to approve opening the bids for the Request for

Proposals for the Borough Audit for the years 1997, 1998, and 1999. Seconded by Mr. Rodgers. All in favor, motion carried. Discussion, request was for a complete audit for the first year and then to negotiate for an agreed upon procedures for the two remaining years. Three bids were received.

- #1 Kendall & Prebola CPA
33 Main Street \$ 3,500.00 each year 1997, 1998, 1999
Bedford, PA 15522-0259
- #2 Wessel & Co.
215 Main Street \$4,000.00 each year 1997, 1998, 1999
Johnstown, PA 15901
- #3 Gentile, Wiener, Catanese & Vulcan
307 State Street 1997 1998 1999
Johnstown, PA 15905 \$13,200.00 \$12,700.00 \$12,700.00
DCA reports are \$800.00 each year

Mr. Davis will look at the proposals and invite the bidders in to a meeting on November 25, 1997 at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Davis reported to Council on the meetings held with the School District, Westmont Borough and Upper Yoder Township, in reference to the Earned Income Tax collector. Bids were received from Centax at 2.25% collection rate and PAMS at 2.25%. Mr. Davis reported that the Administration Committee recommends that we go with Central Tax Bureau of PA for the EIT collection. Mr. Davis made a motion to appoint the Central Tax Bureau of PA as the collector of the Earned Income Tax, Mercantile and Business Privilege. Seconded by Mr. Rodgers. All in favor, motion carried. Danyluk, absent. Council discussed the transition from the one collector to the new collector. Other municipalities have chosen another collector for the taxes. Residents and employers will be notified by Centax.

Mr. Davis reported that the the Personnel Committee will ask Mrs. Czynnik and Mr. Bosley to do a self-evaluation job analysis prior to meeting with the Personnel Committee before Thanksgiving.



POLICE COMMISSION

Mr. Pile reported that the WHRPC will meet at Brownstown at 7:00 p.m.,

November 18, 1997. The Council discussed the Police service in our Municipality and the percentage rate of monetary participation among the municipalities. Currently there are 3 municipalities in the Commission under contract until the year 2000. A one year notice must be given, for any proposed changes.

Mr. Pile updated Council on the Police Pension termination progress. After review with Council, a motion was made by Mr. Rodgers to set November 30, 1997 as a final distribution date, to purchase annuities for Anthony Wilt and Herbert Howell and return contributions to Philip Staib, to pay expenses to Principal Financial Group and to make final payment of any state allocations received from prior years. Seconded by Mr. Krupa. All in favor, motion carried. Danyluk, absent

RECYCLING COMMITTEE

No report.

INSURANCE COMMITTEE

No report

BUDGET COMMITTEE

Mr. Rodgers reported that the Committee met and prepared the tentative budget for 1998. Mr. Rodgers made a motion to set the garbage fees at \$68.00 for the term of the contract and have the Solicitor prepare the ordinance to advertise. Seconded by Mr. Krupa. All in favor, motion carried. Mr. Danyluk absent.

Mr. Rodgers asked if any members of Council had any question on the tentative budget as submitted. Being no questions, Mr. Rodgers made a motion to advertise the tentative budget for 1998, for public inspection and final adoption on December 15, 1997. Seconded by Mr. Davis All in favor, motion carried. Mr. Danyluk absent.

With approval of the tentative 1998 budget, Mr. Rodgers made a motion to decrease the 1998 property tax one and one-half mills, (1 1/2) from 23.5 to 22 mills. Motion was seconded by Mr. Davis. All in favor, motion carried. Mr. Danyluk absent.

Mr. Rodgers asked that the secretary prepare a statement for the Tribune. the decreases in tax millage and the garbage collection fee.

SHADE TREE

Mr. Krupa reported that he is awaiting Solicitor Lovette's review of the cost estimates on the removal of the hazardous trees at two locations. The Newsletter is ready for printing, this should be done within the next week. Mr. Krupa is preparing the application for Tree City USA, for 1997.

RECREATION/PLAYGROUND COMMITTEE

President Pile reported that they are working on the playground at the High School. Selective tree cutting will be done at the Ridge. President Pile reported on the Committee meeting with Ms. Sythe and Lary Koval to answer Southmont Council's questions concerning the Ridge. Council feels the questions have been answered adequately and are now prepared to sign the extended 25-year lease. A motion was made by Mr. Rodgers to approve signing the lease. Seconded by Mr. Davis. All in favor, motion carried. A motion was made by Mr. Rodgers to approve the 1/4 mill increase for recreation purposes, (3/4 mills for recreation, plus 1/4 mill for capital improvements) for a five year period beginning January 1998. Seconded by Mr. Davis. All in favor, motion carried. Mr. Danyluk absent.

BUILDING /GROUNDS COMMITTEE

No report.

C.O.G. Report

No report. No Council member can make the annual COG Christmas party.

CHAPIN ARCH

No report. Mr. Kory will report next month after he talks with Dave Sherman of PennDot.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Morgan reported a request was received from the National Multiple Sclerosis Society to walk in the Southmont area on their annual MS WALK. A motion was made by Mr. Krupa to approve the WALK, with cooperation from the WHRP. Seconded by Mr. Davis. All in favor, motion carried. Mr. Danyluk absent.

SOLICITOR

No report. Solicitor Lovette will be notified to prepare the ordinances to set the tax rate at 22 mills and set the garbage fee at \$68.00 for 1998.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Mrs. Czzyrnik's report records that a quote was received from Johnstown Pest Control. The quote exceeds the amount submitted by Ehrlich. Mr. Rodgers made a motion to approve Ehrlich & Co. for a one year agreement. Seconded by Mr. Leventry. All in favor, motion carried. Copies of Pornography Ordinance No. 408 and BOCA Code Ordinance 409 have been submitted to the WHRP, for enforcement. The traffic Ordinance No.410 will also be submitted. The secretary asked that Council members think about re-appointment or replacement of members of the Board and Commissions whose terms expire this year.

TREASURER'S REPORT

A motion was made by Mr. Davis to accept the Treasurer's report for the month of October in the amount of \$338,275.11 in the General Fund balance. Motion seconded by Mr. Kory. All in favor, motion carried.

TAX COLLECTOR

Mr. Quinn's written report for September records \$ 2165.50 in Real Estate collections and \$77.00 collected in Per Capita. 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 by Mr. Kory and seconded by Mr. Leventry to approve the payment of the bills in the amount of \$27,560.15. Roll Call: Mr. Rodgers, Mr. Davis, Mr. Krupa, Mr. Kory, Mr. Leventry and Mr. Pile, all in favor, motion carried. Mr. Danyluk, absent. Approval was given for Mayor Elect Koval to attend the Police and Policy Procedures in Monroeville.

OLD BUSINESS

Items on the "Tickler List" were discussed. Items were reviewed, removed and relisted. Mr. Davis suggested that we set up an afternoon meeting with Centax to discuss the transition. A motion was made by Mr. Leventry to approve the re-location and increase wattage of another street light on Arlington Street, adjacent to Mrs. Lynam's residence. Seconded by Mr. Kory. All in favor.

NEW BUSINESS

None

Motion to adjourn at 9:10 p.m. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted.

Judith A. Czzyrnik
Judith A. Czzyrnik,
Borough Secretary

