

MINUTES
BOROUGH OF SOUTHMONT
January 17, 2000 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 17, 2000 meeting of Council convened.

PRESENT: President Pile, Mr. Rodgers, Mr. Krupa, Mr. Strittmatter, Mr. Danyluk, Mr. Kory, Mayor Lary Koval, Secretary: Judith Czynnik, Solicitor: Daniel R. Lovette, Engineer: Dave Duray, West Hills Police: Chief Andy Havas, Zoning Officer: Fred Pullen

ABSENT: Mr. Rovasek,(sick), Street Commissioner: Jan Bosley,(sick) Fire Chief: Michael Butler

VISITORS: Stephanie Milavec, Westmont Hilltop Recreation,
Tammie & Scott Pyshnik 1027 Luzerne Street

President Pile asked for approval of the December 13, 1999 minutes and the January 3, 2000 Re-Organization meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Krupa to accept the minutes as written. Seconded by Mr. Strittmatter. All in favor, motion carried.

At this time, President Pile called on visitor Mrs. Stephanie Milavec, Director of the Westmont Hilltop Recreation Commission. Mrs. Milavec asked to address Council to update the Council on the work done at the Southmont Recreation sites. Diamond Playground was the highest attended playground in the Commission in 1999. Diamond Playground was declared by News Center 6 as one of the safest playground in the area. New brochures have been prepared. The Commission has refurbished the Bird Sanctuary along Helen Street and it will be maintained by the Rec. Commission. New hoops and backboards are budgeted for the Southmont Basketball Courts. In the past year, twenty-five new programs have been initiated and improvements have been made to the Grove. The DCNR grant for the Ridge is 90% completed. Mrs. Milavec stated that this time of the year the Commission experiences a cash flow problem. The Municipalities contributions do not always come into the Recreation Commission at a scheduled time, therefore the cash is low during the early months of each year. The Recreation Commission is requesting that each Municipality approve a request to apply for a line of credit from one of their depositories for security measures for the beginning of each fiscal year. A motion was made by Mr. Rodgers to approve the Line of Credit in the amount of \$25,000.00. Seconded by Mr. Strittmatter. All in favor, motion carried. President Pile noted that it will be necessary for the Municipalities approve this request annually. Mrs. Milavec thanked the Chief of Police and the Borough for their support.

At this time, President Pile called upon visitors Scott & Tammie Pyshnik. Mr. & Mrs. Pyshnik had a sewer back up on December 14, 1999. The sewer has backed up in the past and they are requesting that the Borough resolve the problem. The lines are cleaned under a maintenance agreement with Roto Rooter three times a year.

After discussion, it was the consensus of Council that the sewer line must be televised. A motion was made by Mr. Danyluk to have the sanitary sewer line televised first, then smoke and dye tested, if necessary. Seconded by Mr. Rodgers. All in favor, motion carried. Mr. Duray requested that he be there when they televise the line. Mrs. Pyshnik asked what they should do in the event this happens when the Borough Employees are not working. Council will furnish her with phone numbers to temporarily call in the event of an emergency.

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief Havas's written report records the revenues for Southmont Borough fines for November at \$682.68 and December at \$770.33. Chief Havas reported that the Department experienced no Y2K problems. Chief Havas has been notified of a hearing set for January 24, 2000 for George Haidar for failure to comply. Chief Havas asked about the Animal Control Agreement. Council had approved the Agreement and signed the agreement, however it has been put on hold until we hear from the City with the location of their pound, to be determined.

No further report.

ZONING OFFICERS REPORT

Mr. Pullen's written report records 4 permits were issued this month, in the amount of \$21, 250.00. There is nothing new to report on the Snyder family for which a hearing rescheduled for February 14, 2000 in Cambria County Court. Mr. Pullen was concerned about the pipes freezing at the home at 521 Southmont Blvd. He addressed his concerns to Lynn Popovich of the Agency for the Aging in a letter December 20, 1999. Nothing new to report on the set back at the Cheney Oak Condo's.

FIRE COMPANY REPORT

In the absence of Chief Butler Council reviewed the written report recording 14 responses for the month of December. A volunteer 10 member crew stood by on December 31, 1999 in the event of any Y2K problems. They were on site from 8:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m.. There were no incidents in the area. Chief Butler's report included the annual yearly report. President Pile reviewed a letter from Westmont Borough Council President Susan Holmes. The letter states that Westmont Council, Westmont Fire Department and the Hilltop Ambulance is planning to hold a workshop session to discuss the emergency services provided in the hilltop area. Council feels that the Borough of Southmont should attend, as should someone from the Southmont Fire Department. A copy of the letter will be given to Chief Butler and President Pile will be in touch with him.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Council authorized Mr. Duray to attend the televising of the sanitary sewer line on Luzerne Street.

Mr. Bosley will set up the time to televise and contact Mr. Duray. Mr. Duray had authorized payment for landscaping and road shoulder work in PineBrooke. Mr. Duray submitted the drawings for Ray Alley, as requested by Council. After review, Mr. Danyluk stated the Street Committee will look at the drawings and report back to Council. A section of the railing is missing on the steps adjacent to 1 Harding Street. Burgo Contracting will begin the work on the Wonder Street Soccer/Ballfield storage shed this week. Mr. Duray will begin the annual corrective action plan report.

Mr. Duray asked if Council was still interested in the mapping on the sanitary sewer system in the Borough. Council had talked about it when the original aerial map was done. The cost would be approximately \$2,000.00 if Mr. Bosley has completed his drafting of the sewer manholes not located with the aerial pictures.

A motion was made by Mr. Danyluk to approve the update of the sanitary sewer map in the amount of up to \$2,000.00. Seconded by Mr. Kory. All in favor, motion carried. Mr. Danyluk will begin looking at the Street Paving program for 2000.

COMMITTEES

STREET COMMISSIONERS REPORT

In Mr. Bosley's absence his written report was reviewed. Leaf collection was completed for 1999. Routine maintenance on the vehicles was performed. The renovation to the garage area has been completed and a new door installed. Some finish work needs to be completed in the other remodeled areas. Roy Livingston has returned to work after being off for heel spurs. Jim Carbaugh is still off recuperating from a bleeding ulcer operation. Mr. Bosley reviewed his journals for past work on Luzerne Street sanitary sewer. He is suggesting that the line be re-televised and smoke and dye tested. Mrs. Czynnik reported on the accident in the Fire Departments new garage area. An outside contractor was working on the compressor and somehow got his fingers caught in the compressor. He severely injured two fingers. He was taken to Conemaugh Hospital by the Hilltop Ambulance. We were not aware someone was working in the building. Council recommends that any outside Contractor must notify the Borough Office when he is in the Building. He must also present a Liability Insurance certificate and all other necessary paperwork for our file, same as required for Building Permit contractors. The Fire Company will be notified. The annual inspection on Cheney Run and the Borough's Flood protection project has been completed. The project has earned an acceptable award rating for 1999.

STREET COMMITTEE

Mr. Danyluk had nothing further to report. Street crack sealing is scheduled for early Spring.

ADMINISTRATION & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Mr. Strittmatter reported that the AFSCME Contract has been signed by the union negotiator and is in effect retroactive to January 1, 2000. It has not been signed by Union members, as both are off work at this time. Mr. Livingston has returned to work. Mr. Carbaugh will be off for an extensive period of time. Council discussed setting policy for medical leave and for return to work exams after an extensive medical leave. This will be discussed at a Committee meeting. Mr. Strittmatter scheduled a Committee meeting on February 8, 2000 at 7:00 p.m. to review this and several other items, i.e., Ray Alley, tree limb heights, Luzerne Street sanitary sewer, etc. Mayor Koval questioned if employees must earn their sick days for each new year. This will be discussed at the Committee meeting.

POLICE COMMISSION

Mayor Koval reported that the Commission will meet on January 18, 2000 7:00 p.m. at the Westmont Municipal Building. Mr. Pile, Mr. Krupa and Mr. Strittmatter will attend. Some discussion was held on the Police Pension Legal findings from the Auditor General's office. Mrs. Czyrnik was notified by Tim Clark of the Auditor General's office that the State feels the monies should be returned to them, as they contend invested and interest gained was the result of the State Aid the Borough received. The Borough will have to prove any amount of monies we invested in the fund and interest gained. We are to receive written notifications of this finding. We will have 90 days to appeal. Our consultant Tom Zurilla has been notified.

RECYCLING COMMITTEE

No report.

INSURANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Kory reported that PIRMA will submit insurance rates for the Liability for the year 2000-2001. Policy expires April 1, 2000. New information has been submitted to Industrial Appraisal for updates.

BUDGET COMMITTEE

Mr. Rodgers referred to the current December Treasurer's Report. The report shows receipts received at 76.5% of the estimated budgeted receipts for 1999. Mr. Rodgers continued that expenditures budgeted show 69.5% was expended from the budgeted figures. The carry over is \$327,784.91, rather than the \$240,000.00 estimated for the year 2000 Budget. This figure will be adjusted to the wage increases and balance will be in line item #439.61 General Construction. Lower bids quotes for paving and construction costs contributed to the overage. Mr. Rodgers feels the budget results were very good, as they have been in the past several years. Mr. Rodgers made a motion to approve the Final Treasurers report to balance 1999 with the necessary transfers, as submitted. Seconded by Mr. Kory. Roll call: Mr. Rodgers, Mr. Danyluk, Mr. Strittmatter, Mr. Krupa, Mr. Kory and Mr. Pile. All in favor, motion carried. Mr. Rovanssek, absent.

SHADE TREE

Mr. Krupa reported that the Shade Tree budget was over the figures for 1999. He reported that Lichtenfels planted trees in the Borough Park to be used as a buffer near the Fire Company and Borough Storage sheds. The cost was \$1,890.00. Asplundh Tree Expert Co. is cutting and trimming for GPU Electric Company. They have acquired a permit. Another Tree Service is cutting some timber on private property for Dr. Burnheimer and he also has been issued a permit. Council suggested that Mr. Krupa remind the contractor that any damage to alleys will be the Contractors responsibility.

RECREATION/PLAYGROUND COMMITTEE

Mayor Koval had nothing further to report.

BUILDING /GROUNDS COMMITTEE

Mr. Kory will talk with Chief Butler about painting the Fireman's Shed.

C.O.G. COMMITTEE

In Mr. Rovansek's absence, Mr. Rodgers made a motion to approve membership renewal of the Council of Government, naming Ron Rovansek as our Representative and William Krupa and William Kory as Alternates for the year 2000. Seconded by Mr. Krupa. All in favor, motion carried.

CHAPIN ARCH

Mr. Kory spoke with PennDot representatives and was told the signs placed at the Chapin Arch are the required number and are correct under PennDot regulations. Mr. Kory spoke with Len Lickwar of the Conservancy group who will be taking over the Arch and he is satisfied with the signs. Mr. Kory also spoke with Grandview and they have no problem with the signs. Council discussed the signs and will send a letter to go on record expressing the number of signs necessary and feel they should be reduced for this small parklet. Fewer signs indicating going in and going out of this area would be more attractive. Council feels it takes away from the beauty of this parklet. Copies will be sent to Grandview and the Southwestern Conservancy. Solicitor Lovette is still waiting for PennDot to give him the descriptions of the property before he can prepare the transfer of deeds. Southmont owns the property but it is PennDots right of way.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Koval reported on a letter written by Mr. Pullen in reference to leaves still on a sidewalk along Olive Street. Mayor Koval reported the leaves have been removed. Mayor Koval reported that the oath of office was administered to John Khuri as Auditor as of this date.

SOLICITOR

Solicitor Lovette had nothing further to report. He will prepare the Holding Pond Ordinance/Resolution declaring that the pond is not a recreational or playground area and will be posted with "No Trespassing", as such.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Mr. Rodgers made a motion to accept the resignation of Chief Michael Butler as EMA coordinator for Southmont Borough, to name Mayor Lary Koval as coordinator and Chief Butler as assistant coordinator. Seconded by Mr. Krupa. All in favor, motion carried. A letter will be sent to Mr. Butler thanking him for his service. Mr. Rodgers made a motion to accept the Secretary's report as submitted. There were several problems with the new computer and there was an extreme power surge that corrupted the software. Some problems are still evident and will be resolved.

TREASURER'S REPORT

A motion was made by Mr. Rodgers to accept the December Treasurer's report as presented in the amount of \$327,784.91, noting the difference of approximately \$700.00 due to the software problems, that will be corrected. Seconded by Mr. Krupa. All in favor, motion carried. Mrs. Czyrnik will continue to look for the computer error, and give a full report to Council.

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT

A motion by Mr. Rodgers to indicate that we have received the Tax Collector's report with RE collections at \$972.59 and PC collections at \$66.00. Seconded by Mr. Kory. All in favor, motion carried.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

A motion was made by Mr. Krupa to approve payment of the bills in the amount of \$64,281.66. Seconded by Mr. Strittmatter. Roll call: Mr. Rodgers, Mr. Danyluk, Mr. Strittmatter, Mr. Krupa, Mr. Kory and Mr. Pile. All in favor, motion carried. Mr. Rovanssek, absent.

OLD BUSINESS

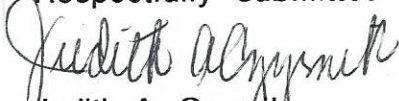
President Pile asked for review of items on the "Tickler List". Items were reviewed, removed or re-listed. Most items are currently in progress. Some new items will be added. Several outstanding items were removed. Council has not received any calls about the siren or problems with the firemen's pagers, to date.

NEW BUSINESS

After review and discussion on the workshops scheduled, Council approved the Street Commissioner to attend any sessions he chooses to attend this month. Motion made by Mr. Danyluk and Mr. Krupa. All in favor, motion carried.

At this time Council adjourned at 8:55p.m.

Respectfully submitted.


Judith A. Czyrnik,

