

MINUTES
BOROUGH OF SOUTHMONT
February 19, 2007 7:00 p.m.

The scheduled February Council meeting was called to order by President Pile at 7:00 p.m. After the pledge to the flag the February 19, 2007 meeting of Council convened.

PRESENT: President Pile, Mr. Rodgers, Mr. Ewald, Mr. Danyluk, Mr. Strittmatter, Mr. Krupa, Mayor: Gerry Sloat, Solicitor: John Lovette, Engineer: Ryan Farabaugh, West Hills Police Chief: Andy Havas, Fire Chief: Michael Butler, Deputy Chief: Mike Leckey, Captain: Chet Borosky, Zoning Officer: Ryan Adams, Street Commissioner: Jan Bosley and Borough Manager: Loretta Spak.

ABSENT: Mr. Kory out sick

VISITORS: Mr. & Mrs. Forquer, 38 Shady Lane, Proclamation presentation by Mayor Sloat; Mr. John Kriak, 154 Daisy Street, one time burning permit; Mr. Chris Rosage, 312 Olive Street, plowing.

President Pile asked for approval of January 15, 2007 Council Minutes. A motion was made by Mr. Krupa to accept the Minutes as submitted. Seconded by Mr. Strittmatter, all in favor motion carried, Mr. Kory absent.

Mayor Sloat presented a proclamation recognizing the bravery of Mr. & Mrs. Forquer for their lifesaving actions on December 4, 2006. Be it proclaimed that the Borough Council and Mayor Sloat of Southmont hereby recognize, congratulate, applaud, and praise Mr. & Mrs. Forquer for their heroic lifesaving efforts. Previous Fire Chief, Chet Borosky, representing Southmont Volunteer Fire Company recognized Mr. & Mr. Forquer for their bravery. Their actions prevented further personal injuries or death and additional property damage as a result of a vehicle accident on Cheney Street.

President Pile called upon Mr. Kriak, 154 Daisy Street, to address council concerning his request for a one time burning permit. Mr. Kriak understands that burning in Southmont is prohibited. He has retained a logging contractor to remove almost all the trees from seven (7) lots located between Wonder Street and Leek Alley. Mr. Kriak is requesting a one time burning permit for the smaller branches from the trees being removed. Burning should be done all in one day and will burn under fire company and council guidelines. Mr. Kriak plans on retaining a nursery to come in and plant dogwood and eastern red bush. He wants to beautify his property. Discussion followed, Ms. Spak will contact DEP to see if Southmont is a no burn zone. If DEP approves then Solicitor Lovette will check if exemption can be made to our burning ordinance. Request will be placed on committee meeting agenda for March 6, 2007.

President Pile called upon Mr. Rosage, 312 Olive Street, to address council concerning his request for plowing. Mr. Rosage spoke with Mr. Bosley earlier and he understands that Okra Alley is a right-of-way (paper alley) not an accepted alley and right-of-ways do not get plowed. He is requesting Okra Alley be plowed for safety and security reasons. If the fire company, ambulance or police need to get to back of property during a heavy snow their vehicles would not have access. Council informed Mr. Rosage the procedure for accepting an alley. Fifty-one percent (51%) of adjacent property owners would need to agree, engineer specs would need to be met, Borough would need to approve, and residents on each side of alley would pay one-third (1/3) of cost along with the Borough. Discussion followed.

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT:

West Hills Police report for December shows revenue in the amount of \$224.51 (ordinance violations \$143.09 and vehicle violations \$81.42); the report for January shows revenue in the amount of \$136.56 (ordinance violations \$92.18 and vehicle violations \$44.38). Police Chief Havas informed council that four or five vehicles (unlocked) were entered on Diamond Blvd. and on Gardner Street, minimal items were taken. Watch for phone scams or prank calls regarding 9-1-1 center asking personal questions. 9-1-1 would send an officer to residence to ask questions not via the phone. Mr. Krupa asked police chief Havas to watch for street sign vandalism i.e. Leon. All officers have completed the 2007 annual mandatory in-service training. Chief Havas will inform Mr. Schrey to remove basketball pole/hoop from Lucetta Street by Friday, February 23rd, or he will be cited (Borough Code section 1202 (4) nuisance). This item was discussed last month with Mr. Schrey.

ZONING OFFICERS REPORT

Mr. Adams approved ZP2006-32 the final report for 2006 shows a total of thirty (30) permits issued at a total construction of \$729,859. No activity for 2007 as of yet.

FIRE COMPANY REPORT

Chief Butler's written report records nine (9) responses during the month of January. There were two calls between the hours of 10 PM to 7 AM. Southmont had five (5) assists in January; two (2) to Upper Yoder, one (1) to Westmont, one (1) to Lower Yoder, and one (1) to Dale. Southmont Fire Department did receive a "thank you" letter from Mr. Kwiatkowski, Cambria County Coroner for their assistance in extracting a lady from her home. Chief Butler mentioned low hanging branches are hitting fire truck on Palliser Street. Mr. Krupa made a motion for road crew to trim back limbs on Palliser Street. Seconded by Mr. Rodgers, all in favor motion carried, Mr. Kory absent. Mr. Danyluk questioned if the fire hydrant flags are adequate in height to be seen during heavy snow - yes, they are visible, not all are placed yet. An article reminding residents to shovel out fire hydrants will be placed in the winter newsletter. President Pile updated council concerning January 22nd meeting with Hilltop Ambulance regarding fund raisers. Discussion followed, will be placed on committee meeting agenda of March 6th.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

The written Engineer's report for February was received and reviewed. The 2007 paving bids will be opened at March council meeting. Mr. Rodgers made a motion to go forward with streets for base bid and alternate bids as proposed via e-mail by Paul C. Rizzo and Associates. Seconded by Mr. Danyluk, all in favor motion carried, Mr. Kory absent. President Pile forwarded to Mr. Farabaugh an article "Report on Sanitary Sewer Overflows Available" that appeared in the February issue of Borough News noting full report is available at <http://www.asce.org/pdf/ssofinal.pdf>.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

STREET COMMISSIONERS REPORT

Mr. Bosley's written report was received and reviewed. Pandya, Inc. will not be accepting plastic now until April. If our recycling trailer gets full the doors will be closed and a note posted until we can empty. Employees (Mr. Bosley, Mr. Livingston, and Mr. Gentile) started watching safety videos. A sign off sheet with date and video watched will be completed. President Pile mentioned "good job with snow plowing". Mr. Bosley informed council that Mr. Ted Magistro is helping with the plowing along with Mr. Matthew McGlynn. Mr. Strittmatter requested Mr. Bosley contact Upper Yoder to see how they plow Hersherberger Road (plow back). Mr. Rodgers made a motion to approve Ms. Spak to designate employees to attend free LTAP training if beneficial (March 7th Equipment & Worker Safety & March 15th New Signing & Work Zone Rules) to Borough. Seconded by Mr. Danyluk, all in favor motion carried, Mr. Kory absent.

STREET COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Strittmatter made a motion to approve PennDot application for the county aid (Liquid Fuel). Seconded by Mr. Rodgers, all in favor motion carried, Mr. Kory absent. Mr. Danyluk had nothing new to report.

SAFETY, ADMNS. & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Mr. Rodgers made a motion to approve Mr. Magistro for part-time snow plowing. Seconded by Mr. Krupa, all in favor motion carried, Mr. Kory absent. Mr. Rodgers requested Ms. Spak's and Mr. Bosley's goals be reviewed at the committee meeting of March 6th.

POLICE COMMITTEE

Mayor Sloat had nothing new to report, there is a reorganization meeting scheduled for Tuesday, February 20th.

RECYCLING COMMITTEE

Mr. Kory absent, nothing new to report.

INSURANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Rodgers requested Ms. Spak to check with EMC and PSAB to see if we fall under the exclusion of loss due to virus or bacteria endorsement. Ms. Spak will check with Mr. Lutz, H.A. Thomson representative, during audit of March 14th.

BUDGET COMMITTEE

Mr. Strittmatter made a motion to ratify six (6) month CD 5.35% yield (5.28% interest) with Portage National Bank effective February 1, 2007. Mr. Rodgers seconded, all in favor motion carried, Mr. Kory absent. Mr. Strittmatter made a motion to approve one signature needed for in house transfer slips (sewer/garbage & general fund accounts) with Portage National Bank. Seconded by Mr. Danyluk, all in favor motion carried, Mr. Kory absent. Mr. Strittmatter made a motion to approve transfer of thirty-thousand dollars (\$30,000) from PLGIT general fund to Portage National Bank money market. Seconded by Mr. Rodgers; roll call: Mr. Rodgers, Mr. Ewald, Mr. Strittmatter, Mr. Danyluk, Mr. Krupa and Mr. Pile all in favor, opposed none, Mr. Kory absent. Ms. Spak will compare 2006 and 2007 total monthly receipts from Centax and will have Kline Kimlin, Borough auditors, review Centax 2006 audit when received.

SHADE TREE REPORT

Mr. Krupa updated council regarding Ms. Alexander, 107 Lucetta Street, sidewalk issues. Arbor Day is April 28, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. Ms. Spak will advertise the Shade Tree Meeting scheduled for March 20, 2007. Mr. Krupa mentioned the spring newsletter will be going out at the beginning of April; please get your articles into Ms. Spak.

RECREATION COMMITTEE

Mr. Ewald updated council on plans to build another steel building/gym; will be looking at proposals. The spinning classes are going well.

BUILDING/GROUNDS REPORT

Mr. Kory absent, nothing new to report.

COG REPORT

Mr. Ewald had nothing new to report.

GRANDVIEW COMMITTEE

Mr. Pile and Mr. Rodgers spoke with building and grounds committee members of Grandview in regards to the fence (ZP2005-21), different options were discussed.

GREATER JOHNSTOWN WATER AUTHORITY

The January minutes were received. Mr. Pile updated council i.e. windmills, Southwest Water Authority is staying with Highland Sewer and Water, will be selling water to Conemaugh Township, and a larger pump station for around hospital is being discussed. Southmont Water Authority representatives will be scheduled to attend an April committee meeting when date is established. Discussion followed concerning Cambria County subsidizing Cambria/Somerset County authority.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Sloat stated he does not need the PSMA membership.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Solicitor Dan Lovette is on vacation, Solicitor John Lovette is filling in. Solicitor John Lovette will be having a conference call with Solicitor Dan Lovette updating on issues discussed.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Ms. Spak's written report was submitted and reviewed. Mr. Ewald made a motion to have Solicitor Lovette draft an ordinance restricting a sex offender's residency. Seconded by Mr. Danyluk, all in favor motion carried, Mr. Kory absent. Mr. Campigotto, 121½ Wonder Street, request was discussed as of now the garbage/sewage bill will stay as is. Ms. Spak will contact Mr. Campigotto. He would need to have the water meter removed and the address changed with 9-1-1 before council would consider request. Also the house numbers need repaired (each location is missing one number). Mr. Krupa moved to accept the Manager's report. Seconded by Mr. Strittmatter, all in favor motion carried, Mr. Kory absent.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Strittmatter made a motion to approve January's Treasurer Report in the amount of \$211,353.18. Seconded by Mr. Krupa, all in favor motion carried, Mr. Kory absent.

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT

The tax bills will be going out in March.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Mr. Strittmatter made a motion to approve payment of bills in the amount of \$66,493.00; cancelled check #8788 in the amount of fifty dollars (\$50). Seconded by Mr. Krupa; roll call: Mr. Rodgers, Mr. Ewald, Mr. Strittmatter, Mr. Danyluk, Mr. Krupa and Mr. Pile all in favor, opposed none, Mr. Kory absent.

OLD BUSINESS

President Pile discussed the "Tickler List" nothing to add or remove. Fire Company fund raising will be added to committee meeting of March 6th. Legal questions should be addressed at council meetings instead of telephone to cut down on cost (minimum of 15 minutes charged). Ms. Spak will contact Mr. Joe Fether, Johnstown Zoning Officer, for update concerning moving of billboard on Barnett Street. Mr. Danyluk made a motion to approve cost of \$3,030 for material and installation of guard rail on Cheney Street. Seconded by Mr. Ewald, all in favor motion carried, Mr. Kory absent.

NEW BUSINESS

Southmont Borough openings on boards, commissions and Authorities along with open records policy and request form (Ms. Spak will get samples from PSAB) to be placed on March 6th committee meeting agenda.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Rodgers for adjournment of the February 19, 2007 meeting at 9:35 P.M., seconded by Mr. Ewald.

Respectfully submitted,
Loretta Spak, Borough Manager
2/23/2007 8:40 AM

