

BOROUGH OF SOUTHMONT
148 Wonder Street
Johnstown, PA 15905

Minutes for November 16, 2009

The pledge of allegiance was conducted and the scheduled November 16, 2009 Council meeting was called to order by President Rodgers at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Solicitor Dan Lovette, Manager Richard Wargo, Sec. /Tres. Judith A. Czyrnik, Clerk-Amanda Claycomb, President Richard Rodgers, Council Members; Mr. Ed Danyluk, Mr. Herb Ewald, Mr. William Kory, Mr. Kevin Pile, Mr. Tom Strittmatter and Mr. William Krupa, Mayor Gerry Sloat, West Hills Police Chief Andy Havas, Fire Chief Mike Leckey

Absent: Engineer Dave Duray, excused

Visitors: Ms. Kathleen Shaffer, Hollsopple, observing; Mr. Bob Morgan, 345 Diamond Blvd., observing; Mr. Greg Paolini, 7 Gardner St., observing

Meeting Agenda

A motion was made by Mr. Strittmatter to approve the Council Meeting Minutes of October 19, 2009. Motion seconded by Mr. Pile. All in favor, motion carried.

Police Chief's Report

Chief Havas reported an extra officer was scheduled for Halloween and no major problems occurred. Chief Havas stated an article has been placed in the Tribune Democrat warning residents of recent thefts from unlocked vehicles. A brief discussion was held regarding potentially accepting an animal control contract. Chief Havas will gather further information for the next meeting.

Fire Company Report

Chief Leckey reported the fire company is looking into fixing the current fire engine for approximately \$27,000.00 instead of purchasing a new fire engine noting a lack of funds to purchase said engine. Chief Leckey stated current air packs will expire in September 2010 noting three new air packs have been purchased and more are needed. The Hilltop Ambulance Report was received and is on file.

Zoning Officers Report

Mr. Wargo reported three zoning permits issued and one negative sewer compliance test. Mr. Wargo noted an issue with property located at 537 Bluff Street. Mr. Wargo stated a contractor performed faulty work at the address without a zoning permit and the issue is being handled by the Attorney General.

Engineer's Report

Mr. Duray excused from meeting. Mr. Wargo reported dye testing is on-going as well as roof drain inspection noting letters have been mailed out to residents with roof drains connecting to the sanitary sewer system. Mr. Wargo stated the residents have until spring 2010 to complete the repairs.

1) COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Streets: Mr. Ewald reported leaf pick-up is on-going and will be completed soon.

B. Personnel: Mr. Danyluk requested an executive session at the end of the meeting. Nothing to report.

C. Police Committee: Nothing to report.

D. Insurance Committee: Nothing to report.

E. Budget Committee: Mr. Pile reviewed a few line items. A motion was made by Mr. Pile to approve the proposed 2010 budget retaining the tax at 13 mills and any potential changes to be made in January 2010. Motion seconded by Mr. Danyluk. Role call: Mr. Rodgers, Mr. Danyluk, Mr. Ewald, Mr. Kory, Mr. Pile, Mr. Strittmatter and Mr. Krupa in favor. Motion carried (7-0).

F. Shade Tree Report: Mr. Krupa reported 2009 is the Boroughs twentieth year as a Tree City USA community. Mr. Krupa reported an issue regarding a tree trimmer topping, stubbing and improperly pruning trees at two locations in the Borough. The work is being completed without a permit violating Ordinances No. 69 and 420. Mr. Rodgers suggested the Administrative Committee and the Shade Tree Committee hold a meeting to discuss any further legal action and fines. The meeting will be held Tuesday, November 24, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. in the Borough Office. All councilmen are invited. Mr. Krupa stated \$4,200.00 has been received from the TreeVitalize grant. Mr. Krupa stated more trees will be planted in spring 2010 for the grant. Mr. Krupa stated the Shade Tree Commission is looking into pruning trees and cleaning up the area at the park located on Helen Street and Gardner Street in the spring.

G. Recreation Committee: Mr. Kory noted the next meeting would be held November 19, 2009.

H. Properties Committee: Nothing to report.

I. COG Report: Mr. Krupa stated the next meeting will be December 7, 2009.

J. Greater Johnstown Water Authority: Mr. Pile reported a pipe broke in the West End and the Water Authority is working on plans for the interconnection with Ligonier.

November 16, 2009 Minutes – Page 3

K. Open Records: No open records requests received.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Sloat reported he attended a Pennsylvania Association of Boroughs meeting on October 27, 2009.

Solicitor's Report

A motion was made by Mr. Pile to approve Ordinance Number 480 which provides for the increase of the annual sewer maintenance fee from \$48.00 to \$96.00 per year beginning 2010. Motion seconded by Mr. Krupa. Role call: Mr. Rodgers, Mr. Danyluk, Mr. Ewald, Mr. Kory, Mr. Pile, Mr. Strittmatter and Mr. Krupa in favor. Motion carried (7-0). Solicitor Lovette stated Central Tax Bureau requested an additional forty-five (45) days to complete research regarding recent legal issues. A motion was made by Mr. Danyluk to accept the extension request of forty-five days. Motion seconded by Mr. Krupa. Mr. Pile opposed. Motion carried (6-1). Solicitor Lovette stated Act 135, The Abandoned and Blighted Property Conservatorship, will allow the Borough to repair property located on 12 Harding Street and prepare to sell it. Council will review and discuss at a later meeting.

Manager's Report

Mr. Wargo reported the Laurel Highlands Department of Corrections program completed the following tasks between October 14, 2009 and November 9, 2009: painted inside of Borough building, painted fencing at State Street tennis courts and soccer field, painted soccer field restrooms, painted rear of Borough building and painted the side of the salt bin. Mr. Wargo stated grants are on hold at the state level at the moment noting the energy grant is still on-going.

Treasurer's Report

Ms. Czyrnik reported the Department of Agriculture will now be performing business inspections in the Borough and will be in charge of issuing the licenses and charging fees. Ms. Czyrnik stated letters have been sent to all newly elected and re-elected members of the Borough Council, Attorney Patrick Kiniry and Attorney Linda Fleming. Ms. Czyrnik reported the monies received from the Central Tax Bureau for previous amounts owed have been invested into seven-month CD's at First Commonwealth Bank. A motion was made by Mr. Ewald to approve the October 2009 treasurer's report. Motion seconded by Mr. Kory. All in favor, motion carried.

Tax Collector's Report

A motion was made by Mr. Kory to note the receipt of the October tax collector's report in the amount of \$143.00. Motion seconded by Mr. Pile. All in favor, motion carried.

November 16, 2009 Minutes – Page 4

Payment of Bills

A motion was made by Mr. Pile to approve the bills for October 20, 2009 through November 16, 2009 in the amount of \$48,460.62. Motion seconded by Mr. Krupa. Role call: Mr. Rodgers, Mr. Danyluk, Mr. Ewald, Mr. Kory, Mr. Pile, Mr. Strittmatter and Mr. Krupa in favor. Motion carried (7-0).

New Business

Mr. Rodgers called for an executive session regarding miscellaneous items at 8:18 p.m. Executive session ended and Council resumed its meeting at 8:30 p.m. Mr. Rodgers stated a letter was received from the Cambria County Library System thanking the Borough for its contribution. A motion was made by Mr. Danyluk to allow newly elected Council member, Mr. Morgan and newly elected Mayor, Mr. Paolini, to attend a newly elected officials meeting. Motion seconded by Mr. Kory. All in favor, motion carried.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Kory for adjournment of the November 16, 2009 meeting at 8:40 P.M. Motion seconded by Mr. Pile. All in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Amanda D. Claycomb
Borough Clerk