

MINUTES
BOROUGH OF SOUTHMONT
September 15, 2003 7:00 p.m.

The scheduled September Council meeting was called to order by President Pile at 7:00 p.m. After the pledge to the flag, the September 15, 2003 meeting of Council convened.

PRESENT: President Pile, Mr. Rodgers, Mr. Kory, Mr. Strittmatter, Mr. Krupa, Solicitor: Daniel R. Lovette, Mayor: Gerry Sloat, Engineer: Dave Duray, Secretary/Treasurer: Judith Czyrnik, Street Commissioner: Jan Bosley, Zoning Officer: Dyke Orms, West Hills Police: Chief Andy Havas.

ABSENT: Mr. Graham, Mr. Danyluk-out of town, Fire Chief-Chet Borosky.

VISITORS: Shirley Chaney 127 Arlington Street
Phil and Judie Staib 159 Arlington Street
D. Reighard 153 Arlington Street

President Pile asked for approval of the August 18, 2003 minutes and Committee Meeting Notes of September 9, 2003. A motion was made by Mr. Strittmatter to accept the Minutes and Committee Meeting Notes, as submitted. Seconded by Mr. Krupa. All in favor, motion carried. Mr. Graham and Mr. Danyluk absent.

President Pile called upon visitor Mr. Reighard. Residents were asking Council for some relief from vehicles using their driveway as a turn around on Arlington Street. Arlington is a dead end and vehicles have no other area to turn around. Mr. Staib presented pictures showing the deterioration of his driveway and lawn area. Mr. Reighard has the same problem. Council has suggested that Mr. Duray, the Street Committee and Mr. Bosley look into the possibility of providing a "cul-de-sac" for turning purposes. Mrs. Chaney was concerned about the trees being removed from the property of Mr. Ronald Witkosky of 114 Peden Lane who is removing the logs through Squash Alley.

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief Havas's report records revenues at \$334.91. Chief Havas reported on an Open House at the Westmont Fire Department on September 20, 2003. Various police equipment will be on display and Officers have volunteered to be available to talk with visitors. Det. Sgt. Musulin will attend the Allegheny County Police Academy in Pittsburgh regarding a course on Advance Hostage Negotiations. Officer Fisher will attend a class sponsored by the PA State Police/Computer Crime Task Force. Officer Fisher has been designated as the West Hills representative in the intergovernmental agreement with the State Police Task Force. President Pile reviewed with Council and Chief Havas a letter received today from Upper Yoder Twp., in response to Southmont's request to eliminate the 'Except right turn' at the Stop sign on Keppler Drive. Our letter also requested that the words STOP be painted on the street. Upper Yoder acknowledged the letter and is investigating the request.

Chief Havas also reported on a letter from Mr. Nathan Penvose of King Street who had a complaint about dogs barking excessively early in the morning. Chief Havas visited the address and left a message for Mr. Penvose to contact him.

ZONING OFFICERS REPORT

Mr. Orms report records that there were 4 permits issued this month. Construction total year to date is \$497,049.00. Mr. Orms was asked to look at the sign along Mencher for M&M Asphalt Paving. The sign should be removed. Mr. Orms reported that the unregistered car at the Bokros property will be removed. No other report. Mr. Rodgers suggested that the Mayor and Street Committee look at the cars parked at the intersection near Floyd Street. Usually several vehicles are parked there causing a problem when vehicles turn from State Street.

FIRE COMPANY REPORT

Chief Borosky's written report records that there were 13 assists during the month. There were 2 calls during the hours of 10 p.m. to 7 a.m. The Fire Company assisted at the scene of an accident at Gardner and Floyd Streets. A vehicle knocked down a utility pole and the electric lines were down. Firemen assisted with traffic and crowd control. On August 26, 2003 Southmont VFC was activated to assist Westmont Fire Department during severe thunder storms. Also assisted a resident of Southmont for a flooded basement. Routine maintenance was done on the equipment. The Hilltop Ambulance monthly report is on file.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Mr. Dave Duray of P.C. Rizzo & Associates reported on the follow up on the storm line repair on Mabel Street. Mr. Bosley has had the line televised and found a pipe that was not documented on his maps, that had collapsed. The repairs have been made and paving of the driveway will be done Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2003. Mr. Rizzo and Mr. Bosley attended the pre-construction meeting for the Celeste Drive paving. The Contractors are aware of the concern for proper drainage during the paving. Mr. Duray reported that the rain gage was returned as it was not correctly recording and could not be downloaded. The Engineers are still waiting for the GIS information from Mr. Bosley. Mr. Bosley hopes to work on this in the winter. Mr. Duray suggested that the Street Committee review the possibility of vacating a portion of Celeste Drive that is being used for Dr.'s office parking.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

STREET COMMISSIONERS REPORT

Mr. Bosley's report records that employees cleaned the Borough building, recycled weekly, and monitored designated sanitary sewer lines and continued to do maintenance on vehicles and equipment. Picked up branches after storms in the area. Painted STOP and SLOW on various streets in the Borough.

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Completed the Otis and Bluff Street where a new storm sewer was installed. Rebuilt a collapsed catch basin on Luzerne Street. Had Roto-Rooter televise 12" and 24" storm sewers to determine what caused the sunken area beside the driveway at 227 Mabel Street. A 24" sewer shifted and sunk causing water to wash out fill around the pipe. Mr. Bosley will make further corrections next spring. He wants to increase the line from 12" to 18" about 200' towards Helen Street Blacktopped at holes and wash-out in paved alleys. Rebuilt a collapsed catch basin at Logan and Stillray Street. Cleared a large tree on Millcreek that fell on August 26. Submitted weekly hours worked for the month. Dye testing will be done next week.

STREET COMMITTEE REPORT

At this time Mr. Rodgers made a motion to install a light on the handicapped walk way. Seconded by Mr. Krupa. All in favor, motion carried. Mr. Danyluk and Mr. Graham absent. Mr. Bosley should get quotes from Electricians. Nothing further to report.

ADMNS. & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Nothing to report now. The Committee will go into Executive Session at the end of the Regular meeting. Nothing new to report.

POLICE COMMITTEE

There will be a meeting September 16, 2003, at 7:00 p.m. at the Westmont Borough building. No other report.

RECYCLING COMMITTEE

Report on file.

INSURANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Kory reported that there would be a meeting on September 25, 2003 at 10:00 a.m. with a Benefits Network in reference to hospitalization. Any Council member is invited to attend. Nothing further to report.

BUDGET COMMITTEE

Mr. Rodgers stated that the 2003 Budget is in good order and the 2004 Budget preparation will begin in October. Next month a 3rd qtr report will be made. All Committees are asked to prepare their requests.

SHADE TREE REPORT

Mr. Krupa reported that several are being planted and replaced on Diamond, Leila and Edward Street. Lichtenfels is beginning to get to the planting but it is slow. All Newsletter items ASAP.

RECREATION COMMITTEE

Mr. Pile reported that Mr. Vickroy met with the Committee on September 9, 2003. He submitted income and expense data for the Ridge. The Committee was pleased with his report.

BUILDING/GROUNDS REPORT

Mr. Bosley submitted a quote for the addition to the Borough Shed on Diamond. The cost is \$14,500. Mr. Bosley will continue to get other quotes for Budget requests.

COG REPORT

No report.

GRANDVIEW COMMITTEE

Mr. Kory had nothing to report. Mr. Pile reported that he received a phone call that the Cemetery Association had received our request, however it does not look favorable for any contribution from them towards the Millcreek paving. We should hear from the Association after their meeting later this week.

Gr. JOHNSTOWN WATER AUTHORITY

The Greater Johnstown Water Authority minutes have been submitted. No further report.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Sloat reported on a complaint from a resident Susan Sherrier of Cheney Oak Drive. Mrs. Sherrier asked the Mayor to look into how dangerous it is to pull from Cheney Oak Drive on to Susan. Tree limbs hang low and make visibility very dangerous. Both direction of Susan Drive need trimmed. Mayor Sloat and Mr. Bosley will look at this Tuesday morning. A letter will be sent to the property owners to trim the tree for liability and safety concerns.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Solicitor Lovette reported on a letter Southmont received from the Department of State Legal Office in reference to a letter to an Auctioneer regarding the Borough's permit fee for holding an auction with in the Borough. According to the State Act 63, P.S., § 734.14, no political subdivision has the power to collect a fee to hold an auction in the Borough. After discussion; a motion was made by Mr. Rodgers to rescind this section of Ordinance No. 3 and to refund the monies to the two Auctioneers who did business in Southmont. Seconded by Mr. Kory. All in favor, motion carried. Mr. Danyluk and Mr. Graham absent. Solicitor Lovette will draft a response to the States Legal Office.

Solicitor Lovette reviewed the Intergovernmental Resolution proposed to adopt a statement of purpose and support between municipalities for services and equipment. It appears to be in order and harmless. A motion was made by Mr. Rodgers to approve Resolution No 2003-06 with a letter to encourage other Municipalities to join the COG. All in favor, motion carried. Mr. Danyluk and Mr. Graham absent.

Council reviewed the proposed Ordinance 440 prohibiting parking and storage of Recreational vehicles, tractor Trailers, and etc. Council will review the proposed ordinance and make any other recommendations at the next Committee meeting.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Mrs. Czyrnik's written report records letters were written to several residents in response to complaints of high grass and weeds overhanging onto streets. A motion was made by Mr. Rodgers to hire Mrs. Isabelle Hurrell as a temporary clerk at \$5.15 per hour for 12-15 hours a week. Seconded by Mr. Strittmatter. All in favor, motion carried. Mr. Danyluk and Mr. Graham absent. Mr. Rodgers made a motion to advertise for a (1) year or (3) year Garbage Contract and Spring Clean-up for bid opening October 20, 2003. Seconded by Mr. Kory. All in favor, motion carried. Mr. Danyluk and Mr. Graham absent. Mr. Krupa made a motion to accept the Municipal Obligation for the Pension Plan, as submitted. Seconded by Mr. Rodgers. All in favor, motion carried. Mr. Danyluk and Mr. Graham absent.

Mr. Krupa reported on the Picking-Treece-Bennett Mortuary tax appeal. Mr. Krupa felt the appeal went well. The School District was represented and felt the tax should remain the same. We have not received the final results of the appeal. Mr. Strittmatter asked that Mr. Orms remove the sign at the lower end of the funeral home parking lot. Notice has been received that the employee UC tax will increase from .002 to .009 beginning January 1, 2004.

We have received notice that the City of Johnstown has officially terminated our Animal Control Agreement. They are preparing a new agreement which will be forwarded when final. Currently Southmont uses The Humane Society at \$45.00 per animal.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Rodgers made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report in the amount of \$400,790.95. Seconded by Mr. Kory. All in favor, motion carried. Mr. Danyluk and Mr. Graham absent.

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Rodgers noted that we received the July Tax Collector's report with Real Estate revenues at \$6,786.56 and the August report with No Collections for the month. Seconded by Mr. Krupa. All in favor, motion carried. Mr. Danyluk and Mr. Graham absent.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

After questions and discussion, Mr. Krupa made a motion to approve payment of the bills in the amount of \$55,502.32. Motion seconded by Mr. Strittmatter. Roll Call: Mr. Rodgers, Mr. Kory, Mr. Strittmatter, Mr. Krupa and Mr. Pile all in favor, opposed none. All in favor, motion carried. Mr. Danyluk and Mr. Graham absent.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Pile asked for review of the items on the "Tickler List". Items were reviewed and removed or re-listed.

NEW BUSINESS

PSAB Fall Leadership Conference will be held in Mars, PA on October 24-26, 2003. A motion was made by Mr. Kory to approve any member of Council who wishes to attend. Seconded by Mr. Rodgers. All in favor, motion carried. Mr. Danyluk and Mr. Graham absent.

A motion was made by Mr. Rodgers to appoint Mrs. Terri Meehan and Mrs. Rose Kniss as auditors to fill the unexpired terms of Mr. Dick Treece and Ms. Susan Berkstresser. Seconded by Mr. Krupa. All in favor, motion carried. Mr. Danyluk and Mr. Graham absent.

Letters will be sent to the newly appointed auditors and the County. Mr. Rodgers made a motion recommending that we send a letter to Cambria Somerset COG with reference to reactivating the Cable TV Committee with reference to the sale of Charter Communications and the price increases projected. Seconded by Mr. Strittmatter. All in favor, motion carried. Mr. Danyluk and Mr. Graham absent.

At this time, President Pile called for an Executive Session at 8:40 p.m. to discuss Personnel issues. The regular meeting reconvened at 9:05 p.m. A motion was made by Mr. Rodgers (1.) to not accept any provision in the Union Contract where the Union must approve any outside contracting work done by the Borough, (2.) to not negotiate any manning levels and (3.) to not bring any future Union questions to Council, the Negotiating Committee is to handle all negotiations and questions. Seconded by Mr. Krupa. All in favor, motion carried. Mr. Danyluk and Mr. Graham absent.

President Pile set September 30, 2003 for a Committee meeting.

There being no further business, Mr. Pile adjourned the September 17, 2003 meeting at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith A. Czyrnik

Judith A. Czyrnik,
Borough Secretary