

MINUTES
BOROUGH OF SOUTHMONT
May 20, 1996 7:30 p.m.

The regularly scheduled May Council meeting was called to order by President Pile at 7:30 p.m.. After the pledge to the flag, the May 20, 1996 meeting of Council convened.

PRESENT: President Pile, Mr. Rodgers, Mr. Leventry, Mr. Kory, Mr. Krupa, Mayor Robert Morgan, Solicitor: Daniel R. Lovette, Engineer: Ron Walker, Zoning Officer: Fred Pullen, Street Commissioner: Jan Bosley, Secretary: Judith Czyrnik, West Hills Police: Chief Andy Havas, and Mike Butler, Fire Department

ABSENT: Edward Danyluk, Curtis Davis

VISITORS: Brian Moore Westmont Hilltop School District/Internet

At this time President Pile asked for approval of the April 15, 1996 regular Council meeting minutes. Mr. Krupa made a motion to accept the minutes as written, seconded by Mr. Kory. All in favor, motion carried. Council expressed sympathy to Solicitor Lovette and his family on the loss of his father, Dr. John B. Lovette.

President Pile began the May meeting with a motion by Mr. Rodgers to open the 1996 Street Paving bids. Motion seconded by Mr. Krupa. All in favor, motion carried.

Quaker Sales was the only bid received for Contract No. 1 and Contract No. 2.

Contract No 1	Hannah Alley	\$ 26, 424.25
Contract No 2	Various Street Paving	<u>\$ 40, 605.20</u>
	Total	\$67,029.45

The paving costs under Contract No 2. are for Leon Street from Goucher to State St. Intersection of Menoher and Orchard St., Intersection of Gardner St. with Menoher Blvd. and Dell Street intersection with State St. Dahlia St from Queen to King and Dahlia from King to Lettuce alley. Wonder St. from Thoburn to Dell Street, Otis Street from Edward to Bluff Street. Contract No 1 provides for the construction of Hannah Alley from Diamond Blvd. to Orchard Street.

A motion was made by Mr. Leventry to accept the bid for Contract No. 1 and Contract No 2. from Quaker Sales in the amount of \$67,029.45 subject to review and approval of Solicitor and Engineers. Seconded by Mr. Rodgers. Roll Call: Mr. Rodgers, Mr. Krupa, Mr. Kory, Mr. Leventry and Mr. Pile, all in favor. Opposed none. Absent Mr. Danyluk, Mr. Davis. Motion carried.

Visitor, Brian Moore associated with the Westmont Hilltop School District demonstrated to Council the materials supplied to him by Mrs. Czyrnik for the World Wide Internet on the Westy Jr. server.

Mr. Moore spoke about the advantages of being on the Internet. Municipal governments can share information with other governments, potential new property owners, and businesses who might be interested in moving to your area.

We would be on line with Westmont Borough, West Hills Regional Police, The Recreation Commission, and Upper Yoder Twp. A motion was made by Mr. Rodgers to approve the on line Internet access with the Westmont High School. Motion seconded by Mr. Kory. All in favor. Mr. Kory was concerned and is recommending that only information that has been reviewed by Council President and the Borough Secretary be permitted to be put on line. Only borough related advertisements should be allowed on the Borough's Home Page. There is no charge for this service. Council will look at the possibility of installing the Internet on our system, for direct access. Mr. Rodgers recommended that a letter be sent to Westmont High School to thank them and commend Mr. Moore and his students for their work.

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief Havas submitted the 1995 annual report with breakdowns. April's report was also submitted and shows revenues of \$418.54. Officers Lose and Mulkey participated in a bicycle safety workshop sponsored by the Westmont Recreation Commission on May 20, 1996. A second workshop is planned for June 22, 1996 at the Stutzman Playground.

Chief Havas discussed the receipt of a letter from Mr. Jon Darling. Chief Havas recommended that we discuss the possibilities of changing the signing of the lights at Menoher and Gardner Street. Council and Chief Havas feel the intersection is more confusing than before the left turn green arrow was installed. Mr. Darling is suggesting that proper signing to read "Left Turn on Green Arrow Only", would lessen the confusion at this intersection. It was recommended by Council that Chief Havas, Mayor Morgan and PennDot look at this intersection for a less confusing solution.

ZONING OFFICER'S REPORT

Mr. Pullen's written report records 21 permits have been issued for the year and 7 issued for this month, in the amount of \$26,800.00. Mr. Pullen has inspected the Hearn property for unlicensed vehicles on their property, also a BOCA Code violation was sent to Andrew Bokros of 301 Southmont Blvd., citing 3 unlicensed vehicles and other accumulated trash. Clean-up has already been started at the Bokros property.

Mr. Pullen has sent a letter to Harry Adams in reference to a vehicle being stored behind his property with no wheels and unlicensed. Mr. Pullen has given Mr. Adams until June 1, 1996 to comply or WHRP will remove the vehicle at Mr. Adams expense.

Mr. Pullen received a letter from a resident on Stillray Street in reference to trash being stored outside of the storage sheds on Stillray. After inspection, no trash was found and the grass has been cut recently, Mr. Pullen will answer the resident's letter. A copy will be given to Chief Havas as Mr. Pullen is asking for officers to patrol this area.

Copies of other municipalities ordinances on Junked Vehicles have been distributed to all Council and Mr. Pullen. Mr. Danyluk and Committee will review them and report to Council with their recommendations.

FIRE COMPANY REPORT

Chief Butler's written report records there were 11 total responses for the month. Ten members attended 44 session of fire school training. Jim Crowder has resigned as Deputy Chief as he has moved out of the area. Mr. Rick Reed has been appointed to fill the Deputy Chief's position.

Chief Butler asked for permission to use the Borough trucks for set up and take down after the Jubilee. A motion by Mr. Rodgers, seconded by Mr. Leventry approving the Fire Company using the vehicles with limited drivers. All in favor. Mr. Danyluk and Mr. Davis absent.

Chief Butler also requested to hire additional police for the Jubilee. A motion by Mr. Rodgers to approve the hiring of 1 additional police officer for the Jubilee. Seconded by Mr. Leventry. All in favor, motion carried. Mr. Danyluk and Mr. Davis absent. This is the same request as approved in the past.

There is a meeting June 5th. open to Local Government, Fire Department and EMA Coordinators. They will present a new interactive training program. Chief Butler has signed up to go and is suggesting that some official of the Borough also attend. Chief Butler is the EMA Coordinator of the Borough and would like to have someone appointed as an assistant coordinator in the event he would have to be used on other duties during a disaster. After discussion, Mayor Morgan agreed to the appointment as Assistant EMA Coordinator, by President Pile. Mr. Butler is requesting that we review the Emergency Management Operation plan. Insurance coverage papers will be given to Council for the rides and fireworks during the Jubilee.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Mr. Walker will review the paving contracts and if everything is in order he will award the contract to Quaker Sales and set up the schedule for paving.

Mr. Leventry brought up the subject of sidewalk and curbing that was removed at Clark's Corner Store by the Borough for furniture deliveries in the alley at that time. Mr. Leventry made a motion that the Borough replace the sidewalk and curbing deducting that cost from the residents share of the Quaker Sales bid construction costs. Seconded by Mr. Rodgers. All in favor, motion carried. Mr. Danyluk and Mr. Davis absent. The Borough will pay for the replacement of this curbing and sidewalk. A rough estimate for the Clark's sidewalk and curbing would be about \$800.00. Mr. Walker will develop the actual cost of the curb and sidewalk replacement.

Mr. Rodgers touched on the scheduling of Millcreek Road and Hales Road paving work to be done in June by Westmont Borough. Council has agreed to supply labor and equipment for Hales Road. On Millcreek Road we have agreed to labor, equipment and a shared cost of approximately \$21,000. for the paving. Both items have been previously approved. Mr. Walker reported that 5 EDU taps have been issued to Southmont for 1996.

President Pile moved the Chapin Arch report up for the Engineer's input on the revised construction costs. Mr. Kory reported that a meeting was held May 8th, with Grandview Cemetery, PennDot, Southern Alleghenies Conservancy, Johnstown Heritage Association and Borough Council for information and discussion of the Chapin Arch roadside pull off, with parking spaces. Mr. Kory summarized the outcome. Request #1., for Grandview to contribute \$2500.00 to repair the wall while the Arch itself is being done. and do maintenance near the arch. Request #2., for PennDot to check on the monies available for parking, curbing and etc. There is \$26,000.00 available. However, PennDot must bid the project. Request #3., the highway access permit has been filed and expires 8-23-96. Request #4., the Cemetery Board has agreed Request#1 and Marisa has been notified to include this with the Arch repair they are doing for Southmont, under separate invoice. Request #5., Grandview is concerned about future maintenance. Mr. Walker has submitted a Engineering revised cost estimate for the construction of this project in the amount of \$22,000.00. Mr. Kory has submitted this estimate to PennDot.

Once the project is bid and accepted Southmont would be the recipient of the grant money, and owner of the properties until the project is completed. Our Solicitor will prepare the proper temporary ownership papers. Ownership and maintenance would be transferred to Southern Alleghenies Conservancy when the project is completed. Council's concern is that if the projects should fail in some way, Southmont does not want ownership to ever come back to us. Solicitor Lovette will prepare a document similar to a real estate sales agreement. The Solicitor will check on any regulation of ownership after grant money is accepted. Mr. Rodgers suggested that the Solicitor carefully review any regulation or stipulation that might adversely affect the Borough's responsibilities during this project.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

STREET COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Mr. Bosley's written report records catch basin inlets and streets were cleaned after storms. Leaves and anti-skid material was picked up. Crack sealed area streets for two weeks. Cut grass at Borough properties. Dug holes for trees- Arbor Day. Cut and installed window opening in Secretary's office. Replaced sink in garage area. Cold patched several pot holes until paving is done.

STREET COMMITTEE

Mr. Leventry has reviewed the Borough Ordinances that pertain to the installation of curbs and sidewalks. While installation of same by the property owner is specified, maintenance of the curbs and sidewalks, by the property owner is not part of the Ordinances. A motion by Mr. Leventry authorizing the Solicitor to prepare an update or re-write affected ordinances to include maintenance of sidewalks and curbs. Seconded by Mr. Rodgers. Motion approved. Mr. Danyluk and Mr. Davis absent.

ADMINISTRATION & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Mr. Rodgers reported on a meeting that he and President Pile attended in Ebsenburg in reference to an appeal for a lower assessment of property on Palliser Street. Mr. Rodgers reported on a newly appointed committee that handles the tax appeals. The Committee is handling the appeals in a very businesslike manner. Taxpayers must prove that the assessment is incorrect or inconsistent. The ratio for assessed values is to be 5 to 1 of the resale value. The outcome will not be know until we receive a letter from them. Mr. Rodgers feels that we should attend these appeals for the benefit of the Borough. Mr. Rodgers commended the Commissioners on their recent decision not to increase taxes for property owners who install vinyl siding on their properties.

Mr. Rodgers continued with the Job Descriptions and Evaluations that have been previously approved. After review with the Street Commissioner and Secretary/Treasurer on their evaluations and review of the other employees evaluations the Personnel Committee met and determined the 1996 wage increases. On the Committee recommendations, Mr. Rodgers made a motion to give \$650.00 yearly raise to the Street Commissioner and the Secretary/Treasurer retroactive to January 1, 1996. Dave Weir is to receive \$.50 per hour and Anna Kush \$.25 per hour, also retroactive to January 1, 1996. Mr. Rodgers apologized to the employees for the delay. Motion seconded by Mr. Kory. All in favor, motion carried. Mr. Danyluk and Mr. Davis absent.

RECYCLING COMMITTEE

No report. Another newspaper recycling program will be held May 25, 1996 8 a.m. to Noon.

INSURANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Kory reported to Council that a refund has been received from FWF Insurance for the Public Officials cancellation policy. The refund was in the amount of \$876.00. Public Officials Insurance is now being carried through PIRMA.

BUDGET COMMITTEE

No report. The 1995 Audit has been received and Mr. Rodgers will report next month after review.

SHADE TREE

Mr. Krupa reported that Arbor Day celebration was held on Palliser Street and Edward Street. Southmont received the 1996 Tree City USA award. A new owner of a property on Leila Street will replace two trees that were removed last year. The Newsletter is almost complete, it should be mailed within the next week or two. A new plaque will be purchased for the Sponsor a Tree program.

RECREATION/PLAYGROUND COMMITTEE

Mr. Pile reported that the Recreation Commission has elected Mr. Douglas Oakley as Commission Chairman, Mr. Ray Peterson, Vice-Chairman, Mr. Kevin Pile, Secretary/Treasurer and Commission Solicitor, Daniel R. Lovette. Free cable tv has been installed at the Ridge. Mr. Pile reported that the 30th anniversary celebration went well. Mr. Leventry questioned the use of the Wren Street playground since the new playground has been in service. Mr. Leventry suggested the possibility of adding a second roller blade court. Mr. Pile will look into this suggestion.

CABLE TV COMMITTEE

Mayor Morgan reported that documents, franchise and the new Ordinance is back from the Consultant of the Coalition Committee. A meeting has been set up for May 30, 1996 @7:00 p.m. at the UPJ Living Learning Center where the recommended Cable Regulatory Ordinance and Franchise Ordinance will be presented and discussed. Solicitors and Council members are invited to attend. The Coalition Committee will review with municipal officials and solicitors, before any formal action is taken.

C.O.G. Report

No report.

MAYOR'S REPORT

No report. One comment on the recent ruling of the Commissioners to not assess property owners for placing vinyl siding on their homes. Mayor Morgan and Mr. Rodgers feel a letter should be sent to the Commissioners commending them for this new ruling. All in favor.

SOLICITOR

Solicitor Lovette reported only that he had received amended complaint from Mr. Karl Kenney ref., alley between Kenney and Peregoy, naming Southmont in the complaint. Solicitor Lovette filed the second set of preliminary objections as it is in violation of the court order. (time limit) The Conemaugh Hospital parking lot agreement for payment in lieu of taxes has been presented to all parties and signed and approved. Copies should soon be coming to Solicitor Lovette and payment should follow soon.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Secretary's report records a 902 Recycling Grant application has been submitted on April 17, 1996. Request have been made for a leaf machine and a wood chipper in the amount of \$54,985.00. The secretaries thanked the Council for taking them to lunch on Secretary's Day. Council approved the request to use the Borough Building for Victim's Service Night Out, if they find someone to coordinate the activities. Mr. Rodgers made a motion to appoint Mr. Krupa as the voting delegate at the PSAB Convention, and Mr. Davis as the alternate delegate. Seconded by Mr. Kory. All in favor. A motion approving the Secretary to proceed with filing a Hazardous Mitigation Grant application was made by Mr. Rodgers and seconded by Mr. Leventry. All in favor. Mr. Rodgers approved the resolution naming the Secretary as the designated agent for Southmont Borough, motion seconded by Mr. Leventry. All in favor. Approval was given to WH Recreation Commission to use the Council room, May 22, 1996 for their monthly meeting on a motion by Mr. Rodgers and seconded Mr. Kory. All in favor.

TREASURER'S REPORT Mr. Rodgers made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report with a balance of \$156,712.82 in the General Fund for April 1996. Mr. Kory seconded.

TAX COLLECTOR

Mr. Quinn's written report records \$38,645.16 collected in Real Estate taxes and \$2,190.30 in Per Capita collections for the month of April. Total amount of \$40,835.46 A motion by Mr. Rodgers approving the Tax Collector's report, was seconded by Mr. Kory. All in favor, motion carried.

APPROVAL TO PAY THE BILLS

After review and discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Rodgers to pay the bills in the amount of \$37,177.17. Seconded by Mr. Krupa. Roll Call vote: Mr. Rodgers, Mr. Krupa, Mr. Kory, Mr. Leventry and Mr. Pile. All in favor, opposed none. Motion carried. Mr. Danyluk, & Mr. Davis absent

OLD BUSINESS

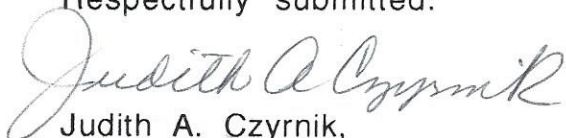
No report.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Pile suggested that Council re-look at the possibility of obtaining a surplus 3/4 ton pickup truck. Mr. Pile would like to look at the possibility of getting Internet for the Borough. This subject will come up at the Cable meeting, May 20, 1996. A letter dated April 26, 1996 was received from Congressman Murtha in reference to the Menoher Blvd. rock slides on March 13 and March 17, 1996. PennDot responded to our letter on May 10, 1996 explaining that there are no monies available to correct the problem at this time. Mr. Pile will respond to PennDot's letter.

Council adjourned 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted.



Judith A. Czynnik,
Borough Secretary