

MINUTES
BOROUGH OF SOUTHMONT
September 16, 1996 7:30 p.m.

The regularly scheduled September Council meeting was called to order by President Pile at 7:30 p.m.. After the pledge to the flag, the September 16,1996 meeting of Council convened.

PRESENT: President Pile, Mr. Rodgers, Mr. Danyluk, Mr. Leventry, Mr. Krupa, Mr. Kory, Mr. Davis, Mayor Robert Morgan, Engineer: Ron Walker, Solicitor: Daniel R. Lovette, West Hills Police: Chief Andy Havas, Secretary: Judith Czynnik, and Mike Butler, Fire Department

ABSENT: Zoning Officer: Fred Pullen, Street Commissioner: Jan Bosley

VISITORS: Mr. & Mrs. Karl Kenney 146 State Street
Mr. & Mrs. William Langham 489 Southmont Blvd.
Mr. & Mrs. Martin Harnish 505 Southmont Blvd.
Mr. & Mrs. John Middleton 483 Southmont Blvd.
William Leckey 30 Harding Street (just observing)

At this time President Pile asked for approval of the August 19,1996 regular Council meeting minutes. There being no question or correction, Mr. Leventry made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Seconded by Mr. Krupa. All in favor.

President Pile called on Mr. Kenney who is questioning the ownership of Parsley Alley (Pear Alley). Solicitor Lovette informed Mr. Kenney that the Borough has never accepted the alley. Solicitor Lovette, while he cannot advise Mr. Kenney, stated that the alley is dedicated on the plan and was never accepted by the Borough so the 21 year dedication lapses and the property belongs one half each to the property owners bordering the alley, subject to our easement. There is a utility line through the alley. Mr. Kenney stated that children with bicycles and sleds rip up his grass. He also stated that people come thru his property all hours of the night tearing up his property. He stated it is a nuisance. Chief Havas asked Mr. Kenney to remove signs in the alleyway. Signs can only be posted on the section belonging to that particular property owner. Mr. Kenney's concerns are with a driveway placed across his share of the upper portion of this alleyway. Solicitor Lovette stated the Mr. Kenney signed a general release on this alleyway and suggested that he should see his Attorney as this is a civil issue.

Mr. Langham of 489 Southmont Blvd. was the spokesperson for the residents of Southmont Blvd. (private lane area) who asked to be placed on the alley plowing schedule during the snow storms.

Mrs. Harnish asked Council if the yellow markings at Otis Street could be repainted to keep cars from parking so close to the intersection on Southmont Blvd. as it is hazardous trying to turn onto Southmont Blvd. Mayor Morgan will look at the possibility of installing a "No Parking" sign near the intersection.

President Pile told the residents that both items will be discussed by the Street Committee and will get back to the residents by the next Council meeting. The Committee will drive through the alley and make recommendations.

Mr. Rodgers made a motion to accept the written reports, for this meeting only, of Agenda items 5, 6, 7, 9a, and 9k. Seconded by Mr. Kory. All in favor.

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief Havas's written report records revenues for the month of July in the amount of \$632.34. During August the WHRP Department received the Governor's Silver Buckle Safety Award. Chief Havas, Det. Sgt. Muslin and Officer Lose have each received certificates of appreciation from the FBI for their assistance in the Jamaican drug investigation.

ZONING OFFICER'S REPORT

Mr. Pullen's report records 3 new permits were issued this month in the amount of \$8,150.00. The year to date estimated construction cost is \$427,575.

FIRE COMPANY REPORT

Chief Butler's report submitted to Council records the Department answered 17 calls this month. There was a fire loss of \$2,000. this month for a vehicle fire on Goucher Street. Chief Butler reported that the bids and specification for the proposed fire company addition is \$11,000. Solicitor Lovette reviewed with Council that because the Architect has provided a service the costs do not need to be advertised. Mr. Pile stated that Council will bring this up at a future Committee meeting.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Mr. Walker reported that a semi-final inspection was made with the Committee on Hannah Alley, Leon Street and the other 1996 Street paving project. Mr. Walker met with Mr. Leventry for the final costs of the project. The final cost was 6.7% overrun. Hannah Alley actually cost less, however, additional costs were for Diamond Blvd. paving where the new sewer tied in and because of all the new catch basins on Leon Street this year.

This extra work was not on the original contract. Mr. Walker will prepare the breakdown costs for Upper Yoder's share of Leon Street.

Mr. Leventry wants to meet with Mr. Walker to review any sewer or runoff problems in Southmont, before we meet with Upper Yoder Twp. on the infiltration flooding at several locations within Southmont Borough. Mr. Leventry recommended televising if necessary. Mr. Davis will look into the possibilities of renting the new camera that the City is purchasing.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

STREET COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Mr. Bosley's report recorded routine maintenance work was done on equipment, grass cutting, inlet cleaning and picked up debris after storms. Replaced manhole on Southmont Blvd. Seeded new curb line on Leon Street. Painted white stop bars at various intersections. Patched several rough areas on various streets. Built up Wren Street/Overbrook Church section to prevent water running across street. Lowered manhole, replaced catch basin frame and paved depressed curb on State Street and Parsley (Pear) Alley. Installed "Hidden Driveway" sign on Harshberger Street. Mr. Bosley attended the sewer camera demonstration held by the City. A street sign inspection has been completed. Mr. Bosley estimated that the cost to replace each street sign and post would be approximately \$77.00.

The storm sewer line in Squash Alley from the catch basin draining the spring in Diamond Park to the manhole in Parsley Alley is not draining properly. The catch basin does not connect directly with the manhole. This was discovered when Roto-Rooter was called to clean the line. Mr. Bosley is monitoring the catch basin for over flow after the past storms and since the last clean out of this line.

ADMINISTRATION & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Mr. Rodgers turned the report over to Mr. Leventry. Mr. Leventry reported that the negotiation committee for the AFSCME union members will meet Thursday, September 19, 1996 at 7:00 p.m., for review of the list of demands received. The Committee, Mr. Lou Leventry, Mr. Curt Davis and Mr. Danyluk. Mr. Leventry asked that Mr. Rodgers attend the meeting if possible, for his input. Then a meeting will be scheduled with Mr. Tim Miller, Representative of AFSCME, Council #13.

Mr. Rodgers commented on the workshop that he and Mr. Davis attended for Labor Relations. Record keeping and hiring were some of the items the workshop reviewed. It was very helpful.

At the Special Committee meeting Borough owned properties were discussed. It is Mr. Rodger's recommendation that we find out where these properties are located and if they are of any value to the Borough. Mr. Rodgers is suggesting that the Street Committee review which properties should be appraised and have Monarch Realty do the appraisals at \$50.00 each. If they are of no value to the Borough they should be offered for sale to the neighboring property owners. Mr. Danyluk made the motion to have the Street Committee review the properties, select the properties to be appraised, using Monarch Realty at \$50.00 each and offer them for sale. Mr. Davis seconded the motion. All in favor, Mr. Rodgers abstained. Motion carried.

Mr. Rodgers continued with the recommendation for Council to prepare a priority list of projects, concerns and interests and to meet October 2, 1996 at 7:00 p.m. to review the suggested list. If anyone has any suggestion please notify the Secretary to prepare the list before the meeting. A second meeting is scheduled for October 16, 1996 to prioritize the list.

RECYCLING COMMITTEE

Mr. Danyluk reported there will be one more newspaper collection this year on October 12, 1996. No other report.

INSURANCE COMMITTEE

No report.

BUDGET COMMITTEE

Mr. Rodgers quickly reviewed the revenues at about 84% of total expected receipts. Several large items are expected within the next few weeks. The expenses are at about 51% of the budget. At two thirds of the year our percentages should be 67%. We are doing very well and in line with the 1996 budget.

The schedule for Budget Committee preparations will be early November for tentative 1997 budget, final adoption is December.

SHADE TREE

Mr. Krupa reviewed with Council a letter sent to a resident to cut a tree on private property that is potentially a hazard. The letter was sent to the resident and to date nothing has been done. A certified letter will be sent as final notice that we will hire a contractor to cut the tree. The tree is on private property so it will not need to be advertised.

RECREATION/PLAYGROUND COMMITTEE

Mr. Pile requested approval to sign contracts for the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Keystone Small Community and Parks grant in the amount of \$20,000.00 and to solicit private funds for the balance of the project. A motion by Mr. Davis to approve the request was seconded by Mr. Krupa. All in favor, motion carried. This work can be done over the next three years. The cost to complete this project is approximately \$34,000. Borough share would be in kind services.

CABLE TV COMMITTEE

No new report. It was approved to remove the Cable Committee from the agenda. It will be replaced by the Building Committee.

C.O.G. Report

Mr. Davis reported on a new company, Seneca Mineral Company from Erie, who is providing a synthetic liquid calcium chloride at \$ 0.25 a gallon in any quantity. The mixture we use is 32% and this mixture is 26%. Johnstown and Penn DOT used this last year. PA Economy League has computers for sale and COG is anticipating the purchase of a computer. Fall bidding will begin and a survey of quantities needed for 1997 will be mailed out this week.

CHAPIN ARCH

No report

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Morgan reported on the sign inventory he has completed, along with Mr. Bosley's inventory there appears to be about 45 to 50 signs that need replaced. Mr. Bosley has worked out the cost of sign and pole at about \$77.00 each. These are 10' posts. The cost would be about \$4,000.00 for the replacement of all the signs. Council suggested to order now and install in the Spring. A motion by Mr. Davis to approve up to \$4,000.00 to replace the signs. Motion seconded by Mr. Kory. All in favor.

SOLICITOR

Solicitor Lovette reviewed the letter from Southern Alleghenies Conservancy who has agreed to take possession of the property for perpetual preservation of the area. Solicitor Lovette recommended it be approved and sign the contract with PennDot for the construction of the Chapin Arch project. A motion by Mr. Rodgers approving the Penn Dot contract, was seconded by Mr. Kory. All in favor, motion carried.

Solicitor Lovette prepared Ordinance No 404 regulating the numbers on houses and buildings in the municipality. A motion by Mr. Danyluk to approve Ordinance No 404, was seconded by Mr. Krupa. All in favor roll call: Mr. Rodgers, Mr. Danyluk, Mr. Davis, Mr. Krupa, Mr. Kory, Mr. Leventry and Mr. Pile, all aye. Opposed none. Motion carried.

After discussion about renovations and repairs to the Building, Mr. Danyluk, Mr. Krupa and Mr. Kory have volunteered to serve on the newly established Building Committee. Mr. Danyluk has asked the Secretary to talk with Mr. Butler to find out if the plans and specs are to be part of the Fire Company's grant application.

Solicitor Lovette referred to Borough Code on two questions asked tonight, one in reference to the plans and specs for the proposed fire company addition. Section 1401, D5., dealing with the procedures for bidding over \$10,000. If it is for professional services, it is not subject to Borough Code. Also, concerning the new Hales Road in Westmont for the School District, Section 1775., deals with streets outside Borough limits, monies may be expended to improve connecting streets.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Mrs. Czynnik's report records that the underground storage tanks have been inspected by Robert Kimball Engineers. Reports have been sent to DEP for final results. Fall brush clean-up has been scheduled for September 30, 1996 thru October 4, 1996. It has been advertised. The second phase of the sidewalk inspections have been sent out. All of the first phase inspections have been completed. Letters will be sent to residents about the need to correct their current house numbering. Mr. Danyluk has inspected all of the houses and buildings. Letters will identify each residents particular correction. Several tax appeal notices have been received. Mr. Rodgers will attend the September 18, 1996 appeal. A motion by Mr. Rodgers approving the attendance of the Secretary at the Keystone Grant workshop September 27, 1996 in Altoona. Seconded by Mr. Leventry. All in favor.

A motion by Mr. Rodgers approving the request from the Water Authority to use the Council room September 23, 1996 was seconded by Mr. Danyluk.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Rodgers made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report with a balance of \$306,456.92 in the General Fund for August 1996. Mr. Davis seconded. All in favor, opposed none. Motion carried.

TAX COLLECTOR

Mr. Quinn's written report records \$2,918.66 collected in Real Estate taxes and \$71.50 in Per Capita collections for the month of August. Total amount of \$2,990.16. A motion by Mr. Rodgers approving the Tax Collector's report, seconded by Mr. Kory. All in favor, motion carried.

APPROVAL TO PAY THE BILLS

After questions and review, a motion was made by Mr. Danyluk to pay the bills in the amount of \$47,268.80. Seconded by Mr. Kory. Roll Call: Mr. Rodgers, Mr. Danyluk, Mr. Davis, Mr. Krupa, Mr. Kory, Mr. Leventry and Mr. Pile all in favor, opposed none. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

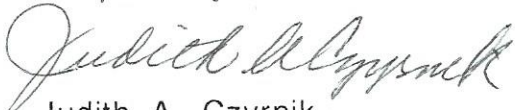
Received a thank you letter from Mrs. Fark of Arlington Street, reference to the milled material to fill in the holes.

NEW BUSINESS

A letter will be sent to Penn Dot in reference to many trees that are overhanging onto Menoher Blvd. Mayor Morgan feels this is a hazardous condition and they should be notified to remove the dead and fallen trees. No Council members expressed interest in attending the PSAB Fall Convention.

Council adjourned 9:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted.



Judith A. Czyrnik,
Borough Secretary