

MINUTES  
BOROUGH OF SOUTHMONT  
August 16, 2004 7:00 p.m.

The scheduled August Council meeting was called to order by President Pile at 7:00 p.m. After the pledge to the flag, the August 16, 2004 meeting of Council convened.

**PRESENT:** President Pile, Mr. Rodgers, Mr. Kory, Mr. Strittmatter, Mr. Danyluk, Mr. Krupa, Mayor: Gerry Sloat, Engineer: Tom Gray, West Hills Police: Chief Andy Havas, Solicitor: Daniel R. Lovette, Street Commissioner: Jan Bosley, Borough Manager: Loretta Spak and Zoning Officer: Dyke Orms,

**ABSENT:** Mr. Graham, prior work commitment and Fire Chief: Chet Borosky.

**VISITORS:** Mrs. Diane Grasser and daughter Elyse Grasser, 148 State Street, traffic speed on State in favor of Speed Humps.  
Mr. Joe Sernell, GIS/Website/Technology.

President Pile asked for approval of the July 19, 2004 Council Minutes, Reconvened Council Minutes of the July 27, 2004 and Committee Meeting Minutes of August 10, 2004. A motion was made by Mr. Strittmatter to accept the Minutes as submitted. Seconded by Mr. Krupa. All in favor, motion carried. Mr. Graham, absent.

President Pile introduced Mrs. Diane Grasser of 148 State Street; Mrs. Grasser discussed concerns she and other residents have with speeding on State. Mrs. Grasser highly encourages the use of speed humps on State Street. Vehicles seem to use their section of State as a short cut, which is very dangerous to children and adults on the street. President Pile informed Mrs. Grasser that Council is working on the speed issue. At the August 10, 2004 committee meeting Council discussed the draft of traffic variations done by Paul C. Rizzo Associates; Mr. Graham surveyed residents on the traffic variations, opinions were not favorable. Mr. Rodgers made a motion to approve the purchase of two (2) speed humps; motion was removed by Mr. Rodgers. Mr. Rodgers made a motion for Ms. Spak to investigate further into speed humps and to set up a meeting with LTAP (The Pennsylvania Local Roads Program) representative, Mr. Mark Hood. Seconded by Mr. Danyluk. All in favor, motion carried. Mr. Graham, absent. Council assured Mrs. Grasser that they are looking into this matter and Mr. Graham will keep her informed of progress.

Joe Sernell discussed his accomplishments for the Borough during his time employed by Southmont Borough. Website is up and running, training for website maintenance is completed, GIS training was completed, created labor time database, automated phone message system, etc. He is very happy with how far along Southmont Borough is with technology. Mr. Rodgers made a motion to keep Mr. Sernell on payroll on an as needed basis. Seconded by Mr. Kory. All in favor, motion carried. Mr. Graham, absent. Mr. Rodgers made a motion to approve Mr. Bosley and whoever else that would need to attend the GIS conference scheduled for October 27<sup>th</sup> thru the 29<sup>th</sup> at State College registration fee of one hundred seventy-five dollars (\$175). Seconded by Mr. Danyluk.

Cont'd

All in favor, motion carried. Mr. Graham, absent. Mr. Rodgers made a motion to spend up to three hundred dollars (\$300) on two antennas and one base radio for a mobile radio system for the trucks and main office. Seconded by Mr. Danyluk. All in favor, motion carried. Mr. Graham, absent. Mr. Kory expressed his appreciation to Joe Sernell for his excellent representation of the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown and also the Geographic Information System Department.

**POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT:**

In response to Mr. Kupchella's letter dated July 19, 2004 referencing stop sign on Palliser Street, Police Chief Andy Havas monitored Street, there is not a lot of traffic; spoke with residents in neighborhood and consensus seems to be from time to time a vehicle will be seen speeding. Police Chief Havas would advise no action at this time, no justification for stop sign. Mayor Sloat agrees. Ms. Spak will write a letter to Mr. Kupchella at 302 Palliser Street informing him that no action will be taken. Police Chief Andy Havas updated Council on meeting with All Traffic Solutions. West Hills Police would like to budget for next year the purchase of a speed and vehicle counter sign. Consensus of Council would be in favor of purchase next year. Mr. Bosley will paint more stop bars and "stop" on upper State Street, Leon Street and other areas in Borough; seems to help.

**ZONING OFFICERS REPORT**

Mr. Orm's report records activity as of 8/4/04; forty-seven (47) permits and a total construction of \$111,033. Mr. Orms reported his findings on the building at the corner of Diamond Blvd. and Luzerne Street, sinks have been disconnected and serious roof leaks. Mr. Orms called Lucy Wagner of Bowles Property Management, waiting to hear back. President Pile stated this is more a tenant landlord problem than the Borough's. Mr. Orms updated Council on Mr. Michael Jedrcejek, 93 Thoburn Street on his application for a zoning permit; needs to make some changes on the site grading plan dated August 8, 2004. Mr. Rodgers made a motion to approve amended Zoning Ordinance #445, fencing ratio. Seconded by Mr. Kory. All in favor, motion carried. Mr. Graham, absent. Mr. Rodgers made a motion to approve Fee Resolution 2004-08. Seconded by Mr. Strittmatter. All in favor, motion carried. Mr. Graham, absent. Mr. Orms has been investigating the issues concerning the Pet Zone that residents brought to Council Meeting of June 21<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Orms has been walking past at least once a day, no barking and no defecation in area. Mr. Orms feels the Pet Zone is doing a good job.

**FIRE COMPANY REPORT**

Chief Borosky absent; report records that there were 19 responses during the month of July. There was one call between the hours of 10 PM to 7 AM. Chief Borosky's report shows the Insurance Service Office (ISO) has upgraded Southmont Volunteer Fire Company to a class 4. The fire company is now rated in the top 10% of fire departments country wide. The Hilltop Ambulance report was received and on file.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Mr. Gray reported that the 2004 paving was reviewed; Quaker Sales needs to correct the driveway at 106 Helen Street, Mrs. Custer. Mr. Gray is working on the NPDES Storm Water mapping and monitoring, no mass mailing is due this year; looking into the advertising that is required and what information will need to be kept on hand in office. On the corrective action plan we are still having problems with the flow meters; not getting readings on the censors. Mr. Gray recommends sending flow meters (both) back to be inspected, calibrated and repaired if needed. There are problems on all flow meters that are on the market, our meter type has the least manufacturing problems. DEP has accepted the fact that Upper Yoder is dumping excess inflow into Southmont, but not all. Mr. Bosley is moving the meter around and doing additional dye testing. This is not Upper Yoder's priority, they have three items from DEP that need completed. Mr. Strittmatter made a motion to have the flow meters inspected, calibrated and repaired if necessary. Seconded by Mr. Krupa. All in favor, motion carried. Mr. Graham, absent. Solicitor Lovette reminded Mr. Gray and Mr. Bosley that the Luzerne Street sanitary sewer hearing is scheduled for August 18<sup>th</sup> in the Council room at 148 Wonder Street and he will need both to testify. Mr. Strittmatter mentioned that the rain from a couple of weeks ago made debris run down Harshberger from PennDot construction onto Dahlia and Harshberger. Mr. Bosley will visit the site trailer and tell PennDot the area that needs cleaned up, it is a NPDES violation. PennDot may be turning over the care of Harshberger Road to the municipalities, will update when information is received.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

STREET COMMISSIONERS REPORT

Received Mr. Bosley's written report. Cheney Run is complete and ready for annual inspection. Rebuilt catch basin at Leek Alley Mr. Joe Riley, 141 Wonder Street, is monitoring and it is working fine. Road crew built a manhole at Court Alley for easier access for maintenance and repair. Mrs. Spada, 505 Diamond Blvd., is having sewer problems in Court Alley; the tap in line was done incorrectly and it is out of line, cracked and repaired with cement. Mr. Bosley recommended Roto Rooter to repair and to send Southmont Borough the invoice. Mr. Bosley spoke with Mr. Bailey concerning Millcreek Road (paved last year). He will be sealing shortly. Also the last two (2) curves on Millcreek Road before city will be milled and repaved with special black top. Southmont will pay half of the expense, Westmont will take care of maintenance, estimated cost of five thousand dollars (\$5,000). Mr. Rodgers made a motion to raise the hourly snow plowing rate to eight dollars (\$8.00) per hour. Seconded by Mr. Danyluk. All in favor, motion carried. Mr. Graham, absent. Mr. Bosley will be lining up individuals for snow plowing and will follow through with new hire guidelines. The street light poles at Violet, Dahlia, Queen and bottom of Orchard Street need the debris cleaned up from around the pole and also what is the purpose of the pole at 509 Diamond? Ms. Spak will call Penelec to find out who is responsible.

**STREET COMMITTEE REPORT**

Mr. Danyluk had nothing new to report. He is looking for feed back on the sidewalk letters; the letters will be going out this week. The outside contracting of grass cutting appears to be working, will keep monitoring the 2003 versus 2004.

**ADMNS. & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

Ms. Spak updated Council on Tax Collecting; waiting for bonding, all monies collected have been deposited and recorded. Kline and Kimlin are still auditing, there is one discrepancy in 2003 they need to research. Job Descriptions will be addressed at next Committee Meeting. Mr. Rodgers made a motion to have Solicitor Lovette to draft an ordinance to eliminate the elected auditor position. Seconded by Mr. Strittmatter. All in favor, motion carried. Mr. Graham, absent.

**POLICE COMMITTEE**

Mayor Sloat has nothing new to report. Mayor Sloat will bring up at August 17<sup>th</sup> meeting that Southmont Borough is in favor of purchase of a speed and vehicle counter.

**RECYCLING COMMITTEE**

Mr. Kory noted that the monthly recap chart was received, and is in line with last year.

**INSURANCE COMMITTEE**

Mr. Rodgers has nothing new to report.

**BUDGET COMMITTEE**

Mr. Strittmatter has nothing new to report.

**SHADE TREE REPORT**

Mr. Krupa is contacting four (4) residents who owe the Borough trees, two (2) will be replaced by this fall and two (2) having a hard time contacting. Mr. Krupa met with Keystone Tree Service and Mr. Speicher on the trees that were cut at Southmont Park Condominium Association; they clearly now understand the Borough's stand on "Topping". A perfect example would be the trees in front of 215 Leila Street - why not to top a tree. We had to remove eight (8) or nine (9) trees this year. Most comments are very favorable; had two negative. One negative didn't agree with Mr. Krupa and had an Arborist look at the tree and the Arborist agreed with Mr. Krupa, the tree was dead and needed removed. If anyone has any items for an informational newsletter, please get them to Ms. Spak, the newsletter should be out by late September.

**RECREATION COMMITTEE**

The minutes for the June and July meeting were received. President Pile stated that parts were ordered for repairs to Diamond playground equipment. The fibar for Diamond playground was received and it will need to be distributed/raked throughout play area.

**BUILDING/GROUNDS REPORT**

Mr. Kory stated that Mr. Bosley did a great job on removing benches that were in bad shape from the Bird Sanctuary, it looks very nice. Mr. Bosley is to check the picnic table that Mr. Keafer would like to donate; make sure it is maintenance free. Mr. Bosley is to look at fence on Gardner Street, please repair or replace.

**COG REPORT**

President Pile has not been notified of any meetings; nothing to report.

**GRANDVIEW COMMITTEE**

Mr. Kory walked through the cemetery and it looks terrific.

**GREATER JOHNSTOWN WATER AUTHORITY**

The minutes from the August 6, 2004 meeting were received. Mr. Graham was absent spoke with Mr. Rodgers to convey his comments to Council. Some of Westmont's fire hydrants are set too low to the ground (dirt accumulated, curbs, etc.), couldn't hook up their fire hoses to hydrants. Ms. Spak will get with Fire Chief Chet Borosky to see if Southmont has any such hydrants; will forward information to Mr. Graham who will inform the Water Authority. Laurel Management should maintain these hydrants the Borough pays for service through the Water Authority. Council needs to look into potential candidates in case Mr. Ted Gainer retires membership from the Johnstown Water Authority. Mr. Dunklesberger has not been sworn in as of yet to the Water Authority. Should be sworn in during the month of August and will be able to attend the September 9<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Lower State Street Committee**

Already discussed, looking into speed humps.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Sloat stated that Mr. Bosley did a good job on the grass cutting and the chopping of tree that fell at 105 Pedan Lane. We had to take care of due to no response from letter sent to Kolbar Vending. Southmont will be billing Kolbar Vending for the Borough labor time to complete. Mr. Gaydos, 414 Southmont Blvd., called and thanked Borough for taking care of. Mr. Rodgers made a motion to adopt resolution 2004-07 the Cambria County Hazard Mitigation Plan; with the understanding the Borough has no responsibilities. Seconded by Mr. Kory. All in favor, motion carried. Mr. Graham, absent.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Rodgers made a motion to advertise Ordinance #447 Excessive Noise and Ordinance #448 Animal Nuisance with some wording changes. Seconded by Mr. Danyluk. All in favor, motion carried. Mr. Graham, absent. The draft Ordinance on use of Skateboard will go back to Committee Meeting. Solicitor Lovette updated Council on the merits of the Sprague property, 1044 Menoher Blvd., hearing scheduled for August 18, 2004.

**MANAGER'S REPORT**

Ms. Spak's written report was submitted. All items were previously covered.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Mr. Rodgers made a motion to approve the July's Treasurer Report in the amount of \$366,859.44, with the year to date changes being made. Seconded by Mr. Strittmatter. All in favor, motion carried. Mr. Graham, absent.

**TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Rodgers noted that we did not receive the July Tax Collector's report, all monies are deposited and accounted for, waiting for bonding approval and swear in before checks and reports are forwarded. Seconded by Mr. Strittmatter. All in favor, motion carried. Mr. Graham, absent.

**PAYMENT OF BILLS**

Mr. Strittmatter made a motion to approve payment of bills in the amount of \$37,380.49 holding check 7122 in the amount \$2,727.45 payable to Quaker Sales until repair at 106 Helen Street is completed. Seconded by Mr. Kory. Roll Call: Mr. Rodgers, Mr. Kory, Mr. Danyluk, Mr. Strittmatter, Mr. Krupa and Mr. Pile all in favor, opposed none. Mr. Graham, absent.

**OLD BUSINESS**

President Pile asked to remove Lower State Street sketch from "Tickler List". Internal versus outside auditor and job descriptions will be added to committee meeting agenda.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Rodgers asked to add luncheon for Mr. Neil Quinn and Tax Collector pay rate to the "Tickler List". Mr. Rodgers made a motion for Mr. Krupa to attend, if he can, a seminar on September 2<sup>nd</sup> on Identifying Insects and Diagnosing of Diseases in Trees registration fee of forty-five dollars (\$45). Seconded by Mr. Danyluk. All in favor, motion carried. Mr. Graham, absent.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Rodgers for adjournment of the August 16, 2004 meeting at 8:55 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Strittmatter.

Respectfully submitted,

*Loretta Spak*, Borough Manager

9/13/2004 9:31 AM