

BOROUGH OF SOUTHMONT
148 Wonder Street
Johnstown, PA 15905

Minutes for November 19, 2007

The pledge of allegiance was conducted and the scheduled November 19, 2007, Council meeting was called to order by President Pile at 7:00 p.m.

Present:

President Pile, Borough Manager Loretta Spak, Solicitor Dan Lovette, Council Member Mr. Dick Rodgers, Council Member Mr. Herb Ewald, Council Member Mr. William Krupa, Council Member Mr. Thomas Strittmatter, Council Member Mr. Ed Danyluk, Mayor Gerry Sloat, West Hills Police Chief Andy Havas, Engineer Dave Duray, Deputy Chief Mike Leckey, Street Commissioner Jan Bosley, and Zoning Officer Jerry Hudson.

Absent: Council Member Mr. William Kory and Fire Chief Michael Butler.

Visitors: Mr. Matthew McGlynn, 2175 Woodcest Drive, observing.

Meeting Agenda:

President Pile asked for approval of the council meeting minutes of October 15, 2007, personnel meeting notes of October 30, 2007 and committee meeting notes of November 13, 2007. Mr. Strittmatter made a motion to approve the council meeting minutes of October 15, 2007 (after making one spelling amendment), personnel meeting notes of October 30, 2007 and committee meeting notes of November 13, 2007. Seconded by Mr. Krupa, all in favor motion carried.

Police Chief's Report

West Hills Police report for September shows revenue in the amount of \$236.69 (ordinance violations \$118.44 and vehicle violations \$118.55) and October shows revenue in the amount \$196.63 (ordinance violations \$89.09 and vehicle violations \$107.54). Police Chief Andy Havas updated council on grants: received grant monies (\$9,000) for radar trailer, in process of ordering equipment; a grant of \$25,000 was received for SUV which was purchased they will add approximately \$4,000 and vehicle will be ready for road; applied for a \$20,000 grant for equipment waiting to hear back on; and looking for a grant for police software.

Zoning Officers Report

Mr. Hudson's report was received and reviewed. Report shows activity as of 11/06/07 of thirty six (36) permits at a total construction cost of \$203,571.29. Mr. Hudson updated council on fence at 1046 Menoher Boulevard which is being replaced in 1/3 increments and will be completed in 2009, discussion followed. Council requests Mr. Hudson to look at 149 State Street, 321 Orchard Street (C.R. Antiques) and property at top of Thoburn Street and report findings at next council meeting.

Fire Company Report

Fire Chief Butler's written report records four (4) responses during the month of October. There were no calls between the hours of 10 p.m. to 7 a.m. Southmont had one (1) assist to Conemaugh Township. Deputy Chief Mike Leckey updated council on siren repair on Menoher Boulevard (one driver out of four was bad). The live burn was held on November 17th and went well, no complaints were received. Sixteen fire members passed; ten members were from Southmont. Mr. Rodgers questioned age of engine. The engine was purchased in

1983, the rescue truck chase refurbished 2006, rescue truck rear compartment 1987, and utility 2001. The fire company will start specking out for fire engine, does take a while, will purchase in approximately 2010. The Hilltop Ambulance Association report was received and is on file.

Engineer's Report

The written Engineer's report for November was received and reviewed. Mr. Bosley has finished dye testing Violet Street. Mr. Danyluk informed Mr. Duray of council's decision to remove Helen Street and Elim Street from 2008 paving. Mr. Danyluk made a motion to approve purchase of Gresh property (by the arch) at a cost of \$400 plus closing costs and 2007 school taxes and approaching Conservancy. Seconded by Mr. Rodgers, all in favor motion carried. Discussion followed concerning trees at 175 State Street by Cheney Run. Mr. Rodgers made a motion to rescind previous motion made September 17, 2007 approving cost of \$4,200 from Cheney Run Fund to remove trees and to talk with Ms. Orletsky requesting her insurance carrier and follow up with letter. Seconded by Mr. Danyluk, all in favor motion carried. Mr. Danyluk mentioned there are a lot of rain spouts that are connected into the sewer lines, 6 out of 40 houses on Violet Street are connected. Discussion followed, review of ordinance #209 prohibiting discharge of harmful substances into sewer will be added to next committee meeting agenda. Discussion followed concerning "re-sale ordinance" requiring reinspection of laterals to eliminate any illegal connections.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Street Commissioners Report:** Mr. Bosley's written report was received and reviewed. President Pile questioned Mr. Bosley on storm sewer maintenance inspection schedule; State Street by Mr. Graham will be inspected yearly and by Ms. Cruz every six months. Discussion followed concerning Violet Street dye testing, boiler inspection report, purchasing cat trap and placing cat trap on Dahlia Street. Council had a lengthy discussion on roaming cats looking for suggestions/ideas on how to control.
- B. Streets:** Mr. Danyluk had nothing new to report. Ms. Spak will forward an updated sidewalk repair list to council.
- C. Personnel:** Employees using time clock was discussed, going well. Mr. Danyluk made a motion effective in 2008 the health inspection/license fee will increase to fifty dollars (\$50) per establishment, if a follow up inspection is needed cost will be forwarded on to establishment. Seconded by Mr. Krupa, all in favor motion carried. Mr. Krupa requested an Executive Session be held at end of meeting.
- D. Police Committee:** Mayor Sloat had nothing new to report.
- E. Recycling Committee:** Mr. Kory absent, recycling will be placed on next committee meeting agenda.
- F. Insurance Committee:** Mr. Rodgers had nothing new to report.
- G. Budget Committee:** Mr. Strittmatter made a motion to advertise the tentative 2008 budget for final adoption at the December 10th meeting. Seconded by Mr. Danyluk, all in favor motion carried. Mr. Strittmatter made a motion to advertise and prepare an ordinance to establish real estate tax at thirteen (13) mills, to prepare an ordinance to establish a ten dollar (\$10) per capita tax and to prepare a resolution to increase charter communications franchise fee for cable television to five percent (5%) all for final approval at the December 10, 2007 meeting. Seconded by Mr. Danyluk, all in favor motion carried. Mr. Rodgers made a motion to advertise and prepare an ordinance to establish Centax to collect all of Southmont's Act 511 taxes (per capita tax and occupational privilege tax) for final approval at the December 10, 2007 meeting. Seconded by Mr. Strittmatter, all in favor motion carried. President Pile updated council on effort to receive earned income tax state list from Westmont school board. There is a budget meeting scheduled for tomorrow, Tuesday, November 20th.
- H. Shade Tree Report:** Mr. Krupa stated there are two trees up by Clarks that will probably not get done this year. The outside contractors are caught up with removing

stumps, etc. Mr. Bosley has done a good job on trimming and it is an on going process.

- I. **Recreation Committee:** Mr. Pile attended meeting some items discussed i.e. truck back in commission, no renter at Ridge they plan on remodeling, recreation center will help with soccer field and shed maintenance in summer, fence needs painted and signs are faded. Council will discuss buying paint and having the recreation center paint this summer.
- J. **Building and Grounds Report:** Mr. Kory absent, nothing to report.
- K. **COG Report:** Mr. Ewald has nothing to report.
- L. **Grandview Committee:** Mr. Kory absent, nothing to report.
- M. **Greater Johnstown Water Authority:** The October minutes were received. Mr. Pile presented a CD that is an eight minute presentation that was given to schools in the area. Mr. Pile mentioned the bond issue with no rate increases at this time (may talk rate increases in the spring) and there was a ribbon cutting ceremony for the Conemaugh Township connection. Mr. Danyluk mentioned there is no Southmont representative who chairs any meetings.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Sloat has nothing new to report.

Solicitor's Report

Solicitor Lovette updated council concerning Professional Family Care & Services tax exemption appeal. A non jury trial is scheduled for March 25, 2008, discussion followed.

Manager's Report

Ms. Spak's written report was submitted and reviewed. Mr. Krupa made a motion to accept Ms. Spak's recommendation for the allocation of 2007 excess interest award for PMRS. Seconded by Mr. Strittmatter, all in favor motion carried. Mr. Rodgers moved to accept the manager's report. Seconded by Mr. Krupa, all in favor motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Rodgers made a motion to approve October's Treasurer Report in the amount of \$248,066.71. Seconded by Mr. Strittmatter, all in favor, motion carried.

Tax Collectors Report

Mr. Rodgers noted we received the October Tax Collector's report with Real Estate revenues received at \$1,941.09. Seconded by Mr. Strittmatter, all in favor motion carried.

Payment of Bills

Mr. Strittmatter made a motion to approve payment of bills in the amount of \$65,932.05. Seconded by Mr. Krupa; roll call: Mr. Rodgers, Mr. Ewald, Mr. Danyluk, Mr. Strittmatter, Mr. Krupa, and Mr. Pile all in favor, opposed none. Mr. Rodgers is questioning formula that transit authority uses to figure bill amount, Ms. Spak will investigate.

Old Business

Mr. Krupa will try to contact Mr. Kriak concerning removal of brush/limbs from hillside. The top area is cleared off but area at Wonder Street has a lot of brush/limbs, council would like to see some progress.

New Business

Cell phone towers were discussed but no area in Southmont has the room/height needed. Mr. Danyluk mentioned DUI checkpoints which will be placed on December 10th agenda to discuss with Police Chief Andy Havas. President Pile reviewed the "Tickler List".

At 9:20 p.m. President Pile called for an Executive Session to discuss personnel issues.
At 10:05 p.m. Council reconvened. A personnel meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 4, 2007 at 5:00 p.m.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Rodgers for adjournment of the November 19, 2007 meeting at 10:08 P.M. Seconded by Mr. Krupa, all in favor motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Loretta Spak, Borough Manager
11/29/2007 11:40 AM