

MINUTES
BOROUGH OF SOUTHMONT
August 21, 2000 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 21, 2000 meeting of Council convened.

PRESENT: President Pile, Mr. Rodgers, Mr. Danyluk, Mr. Krupa, Mr. Kory, Mayor Lary Koval, Secretary/Treasurer: Judith Czyrnik, Solicitor: Daniel R. Lovette, Engineer: Tom Gray, Street Commissioner: Jan Bosley, West Hills Police: Chief Andy Havas, Fire Dept.: Michael Butler, Zoning Officer: Fred Pullen

ABSENT: Mr. Rovansek: Undetermined , Mr. Strittmatter: Out of Town

VISITORS: Bruce Graham 163 State St. Philip Saylor 411 Orchard Street

President Pile asked for approval of the July 17, 2000 minutes. A motion was made by Mr. Krupa to accept the minutes as presented. Seconded by Mr. Rodgers. All in favor, motion carried. Mr. Rovansek and Mr. Strittmatter absent.

At this time President Pile called on the visitors, Mr. Bruce Graham 163 State Street. Mr. Graham was interested in the findings of the Mayor and Police on the petition from the residents on the lower half of State Street to possibly find a way to slow the traffic down. Chief Havas reported that West Hills Police did monitor the section of State Street that is in concern. The monitoring was done at different times during the morning and evening hours. Chief Havas reported that vascar was used to check the speed. Most cases the average high speed was 30.5 miles per hour. After further discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Rodgers to authorize Chief Havas and Mayor Koval to find a practical solution for the speeding on lower State Street. Motion seconded by Mr. Danyluk. All in favor, motion carried. Mr. Rovansek and Mr. Strittmatter absent. Council suggested that speed signs be placed on both sides of State Street and "Slow Watch Children" signs should be installed.

Mr. Philip Saylor was in to request "No Parking " signs be installed in the Kale Alley. Mr. Saylor stated the alley is very narrow, approximately 15 feet. Most of the houses off Gardner Street are built toward the back of the property. Garages, stone walls and carriage houses were built very close to the alley. Recently new tenants have moved into an apartment in the alley and while they have been instructed not to park in the alley, they still do. There are no signs for the Police to enforce. Mr. Saylor is requesting that the signs be installed. Mr. Danyluk stated that it is serious and a safety hazard especially for Fire Company vehicles. Fire Chief Butler reported that Kale Alley is essential for access to the properties on Gardner as well as Orchard Street, in an emergency.

A motion was made by Mr. Rodgers to place "No Parking Any Time" signs in Kale Alley, after Mayor Koval and Chief Havas have reviewed the problem. Seconded by Mr. Krupa. All in favor, motion carried. Mr. Rovansek and Mr. Strittmatter absent. Mr. Danyluk abstained from voting, since his property abuts this alley. Chief Havas recommended that the paved section definitely needs the "No Parking Any Time" signs.

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief Havas's written report records revenue for the month of July at \$265.89. Council received a request to block off a section of Helen Street from Leila to Gardner St. and a 200 hundred foot section of Mabel Street for a block party on August 26, 2000. Chief Havas and Fire Chief Butler didn't see any problem as long as they did not place anything stationary in the street. Mayor Koval felt Helen Street was a through way in the Borough and should not be blocked off. After discussion, Mr. Danyluk made a motion that Mabel Street to Thoburn Street be used for the block party and the person making the request notify the residents of Mabel Street. Mr. Krupa seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried. Mr. Rovansek and Mr. Strittmatter absent.

ZONING OFFICERS REPORT

Mr. Pullen's report records 11 new permits were issued for this month with a construction cost of \$95,940.00. We have been informed by Attorney Kiniry that Brigitte Morse is moving her Day Care business out of the Borough by the end of the month.

As reported at last month's meeting, the fence at 22 Shady Lane has been corrected. Residents at 21 Shady Lane have been issued a BOCA Code warning in reference to stucco peeling, downspouts separated from the house, roof and chimney repaired needed. Another complaint was received from a resident who refused to give her name, in reference to Mr. Knapp at 14 Shady Lane. Both Chief Havas and Mr. Pullen inspected the area. There is no change on the property. Council discussed the continuous problems at 14 Shady Lane and the amount of time since Mrs. Morse was first notified about the citation at her Day Care center. Mr. Rodgers feels that she has had almost 3 months since she received the first notice. A motion was made by Mr. Rodgers to file a violation against Mrs. Morse who was notified on May 26, 2000 that she had 15 days to comply with Southmont Borough Zoning Ordinance 359. Motion was seconded by Mr. Pile. All in favor, motion carried. Mr. Rovansek and Mr. Strittmatter absent. A motion was made by Mr. Rodgers to file a citations against Mr. Knapp at 14 Shady Lane for the debris on his property in accordance with Ordinance 359 and 409. Motion seconded by Mr. Danyluk. All in favor, motion carried. Mr. Rovansek and Mr. Strittmatter absent.

Mr. Pullen reported that the Greater Johnstown Water Authority will enact on a request from Southmont that municipal governments be notified when water service is shut off on a property for non payment, and continues to be off for several weeks. Mr. Pullen further reported that the Cheney Oak Condominiums property line problems have been resolved. Mr. Danyluk made a motion to give Mr. Pullen permission to attend the Act 45 - Code Enforcement and Creation in Greensburg. Seconded by Mr. Kory. All in favor, motion carried. Mr. Rovansek and Mr. Strittmatter absent.

FIRE COMPANY REPORT

Chief Butler's written report records 16 responses for the month of July. There was one fire call overnight for the month. The Imaging Camera was used 3 times this month. The Fire Department lost all radio communication from the lightning strike on August 6-7. Phone service, the fire band radio system, three base radio units, an encoder unit and personnel pager system. Both sirens are out of service.

The Department is evaluating the damages. The insurance company has been notified. Chief Butler reported that the McCullough House has a new director and they have agreed to meet with Chief Butler to review evacuation plans and access into and out of the building. Chief Butler has reinspected Lino's Restaurant. Several of the discrepancies have been corrected, however there are still many that need to be finished. Mr. Bertiotti is making corrections as funds are available. Chief Butler is still going to have the State Fire Marshall inspect the establishment.

Mr. Bosley will do a smoke and dye test on the soccer/ballfield to determine if there are any problems on the field storm drain. In reference to the Hilltop Ambulance Association, President Pile wants to further discuss this at a Committee meeting to be scheduled later.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Mr. Tom Gray, of Hinks and Locher Engineers reported that they received two quotes for the landscaping at the Sprague property. One quote was for immediate removal of plants at \$2,900.00 and the second one was \$1,900.00 for a delayed removal of the plants. The plants and shrubs need removed before construction of the sanitary sewer begins. The low bidder, L & M Contractor has agreed to extend the cost of the project thru October, 2000. A motion was made by Mr. Danyluk to authorize the landscaping contractor to proceed with the L & M Contractor in late September or early October, with the low landscape cost of \$1,900.00. Seconded by Mr. Rodgers. All in favor, motion carried. Mr. Rovansek and Mr. Strittmatter absent.

The invoice for the 2000 Paving project has been approved by the Engineers. Mr. Gray reported that the Storage Shed has been approved and inspected by the Department of Conservation & Natural Resources and is ready for occupancy. Keys will be given to the AYSO Soccer Club, Westmont Hilltop Recreation Commission and the West Hills Police. At the inspection it was recommended that a vapor light be installed. A motion was made by Mr. Danyluk to install the vapor light, seconded by Mr. Rodgers. All in favor, motion carried. Mr. Kory opposed. Mr. Rovansek and Mr. Strittmatter absent.

Hinks and Locher sent a letter, in response to a letter received by the Borough from residents of Leila Street, who were not satisfied with the paving and how it effected their driveway.

Council requested a survey and drawing of the Diamond Playground property after a serious incident occurred involving Mrs. Chaney of 127 Arlington St. and several local residents of the Borough whose children were picking the berries. Mr. Gray submitted a drawing of the Diamond Playground and the property lines indicating that the garden and berry bushes are planted in the Borough park.

Mr. Gray reported on the recent purchase of Hinks & Locher Engineers by Paul Rizzo & Associates of Monroeville. No name change will be made. The acquisition will provide expanded services from the local firm.

STREET COMMISSIONERS REPORT

Mr. Bosley's written report records that employees cleaned catch basins, picked up branches after the storms, cut grass at Borough properties and recycled every Thursday. Began the handicapped ramp at the Storage Shed's restrooms. The ramp was finished in time for the DCNR inspection on August 15, 2000. Everything at the restrooms was approved by DCNR. A final invoice will be sent to DCNR for reimbursement.

Prepared the concrete pad for the soda machine and ran downspouts underground at the restrooms. Keys will be given to the AYSO Soccer Group, Westmont Recreation Commission and the West Hills Regional Police for the new restrooms.

Finished the smoke and dye testing for infiltration of the sanitary sewer in various areas of the Borough. Will meet with Tom Gray on August 22, 2000 to make the quarterly report to Department of Environmental Protection. Two new sanitary sewer tap-in inspections were done on the new townhouses on Cheney Oak Drive. They were approved.

Mr. Bosley called again and left a message at PennDot, Ebensburg office about the Agility program. A Committee Meeting will be scheduled to review applicants for a temporary part time employee, if needed.

STREETS

Mr. Danyluk reported that two residents have not completed the sidewalk corrections. Both residents have been in touch with the Borough and contractors. Mr. Danyluk asked for a ruling on the tree limb and branches overhanging the streets and sidewalks and who will enforce this, either the Mayor or Shade Tree Commissioner. Discussion was held. (ref. to Shade Tree Commission Report)

ADMINISTRATION/PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

The codification books have been received and Council needs more time to review the data. Mr. Rodgers mentioned that the alley and some street names were not updated. Council will continue to review the book and it will be brought before Council again in September. Payment will be held until Council has had time to review.

POLICE COMMISSION

Mayor Koval reported that West Hills Police Commission will meet with Lower Yoder Township for a question and answer meeting on the proposed agreement submitted to them. They will meet on August 22, 2000 at Lower Yoder Township.

RECYCLING COMMITTEE

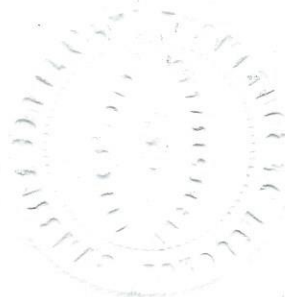
Report submitted. No further report.

INSURANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Kory made a motion to renew the H. A. Thomson Agency EMC worker's Compensation for the year 2000-2001 in the amount of \$9,281.00. Seconded by Mr. Rodgers. All in favor, motion carried. Mr. Rovanseck and Mr. Strittmatter absent.

BUDGET COMMITTEE

No report.



SHADE TREE

Mr. Krupa reviewed with Council the tree trimming requested by the Fire Company will cost approximately \$800.00 to \$1,000.00. Council agreed that the trimming needs to be done to prevent the limbs and branches from damaging the Fire Equipment. Mayor Koval and Mr. Krupa discussed the new Ordinance on low hanging branches and limbs onto streets and sidewalks. It was the consensus of Council that the Shade Tree Commissioner should enforce the law, as per Ordinance No. 420.

RECREATION/PLAYGROUND COMMITTEE

President Pile reported that Representative Wojnaroski presented two Dept. of Community & Economic Development grants in the amount of \$5,000.00 each to the Westmont Recreation Commission. The Recreation Commission is holding their annual Picnic at the Ridge on August 23, 2000 at 6:30 p.m. Council and spouses are invited. The phone system has been changed to Fair Point Communications and cell phones will be purchased. The Recreation Commission has received the form for final payment application for the Ridge grant project.

It was agreed that the Borough's soccer/ballfield should be reviewed to determine if the baseball field at the bottom of Wonder Street is going to be used for softball/baseball or solely for soccer.

BUILDING /GROUNDS COMMITTEE

Mr. Kory reported that equipment stored around the Diamond Blvd. Borough shed has been stored in the shed. Children playing in the area have been moving the materials around. A surge protector for the building was discussed. Council instructed Mr. Bosley to get us a quote from Tercek Electric for a building surge protector.

COG REPORT

In Mr. Rovansek's absence, no report.

CHAPIN ARCH

Nothing new to report. The Borough is still awaiting action from PennDot on the final word on the deeds that will be transferred to Southwestern Conservancy. The paper work is in the hands of PennDot, Harrisburg.

MAYOR'S REPORT

The Borough received a a complaint from a resident of Diamond Blvd. who is complaining about the amount of debris thrown around when the children walk from Clark's Corner Store. He is requesting a "No Littering" sign be installed. Mayor Koval is questioning if the fines have been increased for littering. It was the consensus of Council that no sign be installed. Mayor Koval reported that he has been in touch with the representative of the Coke-Cola soda machine. The concrete pad has been installed for the machine to set on.

SOLICITOR

Solicitor Lovette had nothing to report.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

A motion was made to accept the Secretary's report. All in favor, motion carried. Mr. Rovanseck and Mr. Strittmatter absent.

TREASURER'S REPORT

A motion was made by Mr. Rodgers to approve the July Treasurer's report as presented in the amount of \$379,309.29. Seconded by Mr. Danyluk. All in favor, motion carried. Mr. Rovanseck and Mr. Strittmatter absent.

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT

A motion was made by Mr. Rodgers noting that the Borough has received the July Tax Collector's report with RE collections of \$20,254.08 and PC collections of \$950.00. Seconded by Mr. Krupa. All in favor, motion carried. Mr. Rovanseck and Mr. Strittmatter absent.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

A motion was made by Mr. Rodgers to approve payment of the bills, withholding Attorney Kiniry (\$100.00 since action has not been completed on the Morse Day Care Center) and Fry Communications (\$3,399.02, since Borough ordinance codification has not been completed) for a total amount of \$69,703.44. Seconded by Mr. Krupa. Roll Call: Mr. Rodgers, Mr. Danyluk, Mr. Kory, Mr. Krupa, Mr. Pile. All in favor, opposed none. Absent, Mr. Rovanseck and Mr. Strittmatter

OLD BUSINESS

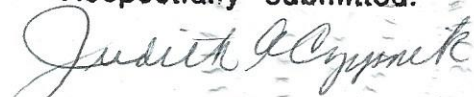
President Pile asked for review of items on the "Tickler List". Items were reviewed, removed or relisted. Some new items will be added. Completed items were removed.

NEW BUSINESS

A meeting was set for September 12, 2000 at 7:00 p.m. Any member of Council that wants to attend the Economic League meeting on August 29, 2000 should do so. It was suggested that Mr. Krupa and Mr. Rovanseck attend. The PSAB Fall Conference will be in Erie, PA October 27-29.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted.



Judith A. Czynnik,
Borough Secretary