

MINUTES  
BOROUGH OF SOUTHMONT  
January 15, 2007 7:00 p.m.

The scheduled January Council meeting was called to order by President Pile at 7:00 p.m. After the pledge to the flag the January 15, 2007 meeting of Council convened.

**PRESENT:** President Pile, Mr. Rodgers, Mr. Ewald, Mr. Kory, Mr. Danyluk, Mr. Strittmatter, Mr. Krupa, Mayor: Gerry Sloat, Solicitor: Daniel R. Lovette, Engineer: Dave Duray, West Hills Police Chief: Andy Havas, Assistant Fire Chief: Chet Borosky, Zoning Officer: Ryan Adams, Street Commissioner: Jan Bosley and Borough Manager: Loretta Spak.

**ABSENT:**

**VISITORS:** Attorney John Lovette, 305 Leon Street, is observing; Mr. Schrey, 109 Lucetta Street, invoice for trimming bushes in Lennox Alley.

President Pile asked for approval of December 11, 2006 Council Minutes. A motion was made by Mr. Ewald to accept the Minutes as submitted. Seconded by Mr. Strittmatter all in favor, motion carried.

President Pile called upon Mr. Schrey to address council. Mr. Schrey stated he has trimmed back bushes along Lennox Alley and does not agree that the Borough needed to trim and invoice him. Discussion followed, the limbs are top heavy and when it snows the tops of the bushes overhang the alley making it hard for the snow plow to go through. Mr. Danyluk made a motion to adjust the administration fee to twenty-five dollars (\$25) and to disregard the ninety-six dollars (\$96) for truck use. New total of \$276.64 is approved as long as payment is made by the end of February. Seconded by Mr. Rodgers all in favor, motion carried. After two personal contacts plus two letters repair of Mr. Schrey's sidewalk was discussed and will be completed by April 15, 2007. Council stressed to Mr. Schrey he should contact the Borough office, in a timely matter, with intentions regarding any letters concerning property so Borough does not have to do the needed work and bill the resident. Mr. Krupa made it clear to Mr. Schrey that the basketball pole and hoop needs to be taken off the sidewalk and/or street (vehicle code violation). Mr. Krupa also expressed a concern for the timely completion of the sidewalk repair at Clark's store, which has not been totally completed despite letters from the Borough over the past few years.

**POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT:**

West Hills Police report for November shows revenue in the amount of \$312.27 (ordinance violations \$177.41 and vehicle violations \$134.86). Police Chief Havas has spoken with Westmont Hilltop School District and they will thin out (trim) the wooded area near the soccer field restrooms in the spring. Mr. Danyluk made a motion to approve the spring trimming of wooded area. Seconded by Mr. Ewald all in favor, motion carried. Upon Chief Havas recommendation Mr. Rodgers made a

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motion to place a no parking sign (apartment side) on corner of Thoburn and Leila Street. Seconded by Mr. Krupa all in favor, motion carried. Discussion followed concerning unlocked vehicles being broken into; please lock your vehicle doors. Chief Havas will enforce the vehicle code violation for Mr. Schrey's basketball pole and hoop, if it is not removed by the end of January.

ZONING OFFICERS REPORT

Mr. Adams report shows activity as of 12/31/06 thirty (30) permits and a total construction of \$729,859. Mr. Adams updated council concerning phone call asking about tearing down a home and placing a modular home on foundation; waiting for zoning permit to be filled out. Council should review zoning ordinance #359 in regards to modular vs. trailers and a question arose concerning cell phone towers. President Pile discussed moving of Lamar billboard on Barnett Street. The City of Johnstown, as of now, is not giving Lamar a permit until they know where the billboards (stakes) are going.

FIRE COMPANY REPORT

Chief Butler's written report records eleven (11) responses during the month of December. There were two calls between the hours of 10 PM to 7 AM. Southmont had four (4) assists in December; three (3) to Upper Yoder and one (1) to Westmont. The yearly 2006 report was received showing a total of one hundred forty-two (142) responses; sixty-seven (67) calls in Southmont Borough and seventy-five (75) assists. Assistant Fire Chief Borosky mentioned the vehicle accident of December 14, 2006 on Cheney Street. A vehicle jumped curve, went through woods, caught leaves on fire under vehicle, and vehicle filled with smoke. Southmont Borough resident, Mr. & Mrs. Forquer, put out the smoldering leaves and pulled occupant out of vehicle by breaking a window. The fire company will be issuing a certificate of appreciation to Mr. & Mrs. Forquer for their actions. Ms. Spak and Mayor Sloat will work on a mayor recommendation award for the Forquer's; the Forquer's actions will also be mentioned in the next newsletter. Mr. Bosley is working on quote for guardrail; he also recommends warning signs be placed prior to sharp curve. Mr. Danyluk made a motion to approve placing sharp turn sign and/or arrow signs at curve. Seconded by Mr. Rodgers all in favor, motion carried. The Westmont ambulance solicitation of funds in Southmont will be discussed at a meeting on Monday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 PM at the Westmont council chambers. All Southmont Borough councilmen are invited to attend. Mr. Rodgers made a motion to ratify the advertising of ordinance #467 general obligation note in the amount of \$35,000. Seconded by Mr. Danyluk all in favor, motion carried. Mr. Danyluk made a motion to approve ordinance #467 general obligation note in the amount of \$35,000. Seconded by Mr. Ewald; roll call: Mr. Rodgers, Mr. Ewald, Mr. Kory, Mr. Strittmatter, Mr. Danyluk, Mr. Krupa and Mr. Pile all in favor, opposed none. The Hilltop Ambulance report was received and is on file.



**ENGINEER'S REPORT**

The written Engineer's report for January was received and reviewed. Mr. Danyluk made a motion to approve sending the meters to the manufacturer for annual calibration. Seconded by Mr. Krupa all in favor, motion carried. Mr. Rodgers made a motion to approve advertising for the 2007 paving at the budget figure (\$57,600) with alternates. Seconded by Mr. Danyluk all in favor, motion carried. Discussion followed concerning Upper Yoder tap-ins to Southmont sewer system. Ms. Spak will request an updated tap-in list from Upper Yoder in October.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**STREET COMMISSIONERS REPORT**

Mr. Bosley's written report was received and reviewed. The street light was removed from Utility Court. To place it in a new location cost would be around \$2,460, we will not replace at this time. Mr. Rodgers made a motion to approve combining the twenty-five (25) miles per hour sign with driveway sign on Susan Drive. Seconded by Mr. Kory all in favor, motion carried. The maximum amount to repair the flooring at back entrance, stairway, and hallway in building is approximately eight thousand dollars (\$8,000).

**STREET COMMITTEE REPORT**

Mr. Danyluk had nothing new to report.

**SAFETY, ADMNS. & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

Ms. Spak will have health inspector do a written inspection of the Sorella-Sorella Espresso Café in building at 828 Diamond Boulevard. Quarterly safety meetings will be scheduled, in process of purchasing a TV for video watching.

**POLICE COMMITTEE**

Mayor Sloat had nothing new to report, no new activity.

**RECYCLING COMMITTEE**

The plastic recycling trailer was taken to Pandya on January 4<sup>th</sup>; Pandya will be closed for maintenance cleaning of equipment from January 6<sup>th</sup> through March 1, 2007. If the trailer is full before March 1<sup>st</sup>, the door to the recycling trailer will be closed.

**INSURANCE COMMITTEE**

Mr. Rodgers had nothing new to report.

**BUDGET COMMITTEE**

Mr. Strittmatter made a motion to approve the 2006 account transfers in the amount of \$65,832. Seconded by Mr. Rodgers; roll call: Mr. Rodgers, Mr. Ewald, Mr. Kory, Mr. Strittmatter, Mr. Danyluk, Mr. Krupa and Mr. Pile all in favor, opposed none. Mr. Danyluk made a motion to approve monthly versus quarterly payments to the West Hills Police. Seconded by Mr. Strittmatter, all in favor motion carried.

**SHADE TREE REPORT**

Mr. Krupa mentioned letter which was sent by Ms. Alexander (107 Lucetta Street) dated December 26, 2006. She is not happy with amount of the lien for her sidewalk repair and claims no final inspection was completed. Mr. Krupa will be meeting with M & T Concrete Construction and will inspect sidewalk and place note in file. Tree City USA application is completed. Mr. Krupa is still working on 2007 tree removals and plantings schedule.

**RECREATION COMMITTEE**

Mr. Ewald updated council on new software that the recreation committee is looking into. The software is written for recreation centers and is written per their needs/specifications. Mr. Ewald mentioned that he feels Mr. Dave Roman is doing an excellent job. The recreation committee is discussing constructing another building/gym, they are getting quotes for steel building.

**BUILDING/GROUNDS REPORT**

Mr. Kory had nothing new to report.

**COG REPORT**

Mr. Ewald had nothing new to report.

**GRANDVIEW COMMITTEE**

Ms. Spak mentioned we have not received the 2006 Citizen's Cemetery donation. We have not heard anymore concerning fence that is to be completed by May 31, 2007. President Pile and Mr. Rodgers will approach some board members concerning these issues.

**GREATER JOHNSTOWN WATER AUTHORITY**

The December minutes were received. Mr. Pile updated council i.e. yearly reorganization meeting was held, Southwest Water Authority is staying with Highland Sewer and Water; a ten (10) year contract was signed, not buying Salt Lick property, expenditures are down by about a half a million dollars, looking into water sales to Conemaugh Township, and still looking in to windmills. Mr. Rodgers mentioned their minutes are a lot better, easier to read.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Sloat had nothing new to report.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

Solicitor Lovette has a pre trial conference meeting on Tuesday, January 16<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. concerning Professional Family Cares tax exemption. An expert will be brought in to look over Professional Family Care's accounting records. The cost will be prorated based on previous percentage of tax money received by the school, county, and borough. Solicitor Lovette filed the tax appeal so he will be the lead council. There are five (5) guidelines they need to prove before they can be non-profit, discussion followed (mercantile tax).



**MANAGER'S REPORT**

Ms. Spak's written report was submitted and reviewed. Mr. Rodgers moved to accept the Manager's report. Seconded by Mr. Kory, all in favor motion carried.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Mr. Strittmatter made a motion to approve December's Treasurer Report in the amount of \$202,034.62. Seconded by Mr. Krupa, all in favor motion carried.

**TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Rodgers noted we received the December Tax Collector's report with Real Estate revenues at \$5,803.16 for the month; with an uncollectible balance of \$11,906.58 for 2006. Seconded by Mr. Kory, all in favor motion carried.

**PAYMENT OF BILLS**

Mr. Rodgers made a motion to approve payment of bills in the amount of \$30,621.99. Seconded by Mr. Kory; roll call: Mr. Rodgers, Mr. Ewald, Mr. Kory, Mr. Strittmatter, Mr. Danyluk, Mr. Krupa and Mr. Pile all in favor, opposed none.

**OLD BUSINESS**

President Pile discussed the "Tickler List" nothing to add or remove.

**NEW BUSINESS**

President Pile mentioned we did receive a "thank you" letter from Cambria County Library System for Southmont Borough's donation. President Pile sadly acknowledged that our resident, who served on the recreation committee, John Khuri passed away on Wednesday, December 27, 2006. A sympathy card will be mailed to his family along with a note that a tree will be planted in his memory. Mr. Danyluk made a motion to approve anyone who wants to attend the spring conference or any PSAB training. Seconded by Mr. Kory, all in favor motion carried. Discussion followed concerning billing of garbage and maintenance to vacant homes, it is a service and should be billed.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Ewald for adjournment of the January 15, 2007 meeting at 9:00 P.M. Seconded by Mr. Kory.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Loretta Spak*, Borough Manager  
1/19/2007 8:53 AM