

MINUTES
BOROUGH OF SOUTHMONT
November 21, 2005 7:00 p.m.

The scheduled November Council meeting was called to order by President Pile at 7:00 p.m. After the pledge to the flag the November 21, 2005 meeting of Council convened.

PRESENT: President Pile, Mr. Rodgers, Mr. Graham, Mr. Kory, Mr. Strittmatter, Mr. Danyluk, Mr. Krupa, Mayor: Gerry Sloat, West Hills Police Chief: Andy Havas, Zoning Officer: Dyke Orms, Engineer: Dave Duray, Borough Manager: Loretta Spak, and Street Commissioner: Jan Bosley.

ABSENT: Solicitor: Daniel R. Lovette out of town and Fire Chief: Chet Borosky out of town

VISITORS: Mrs. Jill Magistro, 804 Goucher Street, tax collecting 2006; Mr. Bill Trevorror, 455 Orchard Street, parking and leaves; Mr. Herb Ewald, 335 Southmont Blvd., newly elected councilman.

President Pile asked for approval of the October 17, 2005 Council Minutes and the Committee Notes of November 1, 2005. A motion was made by Mr. Krupa to accept the Minutes and Notes as submitted. Seconded by Mr. Strittmatter. All in favor, motion carried.

President Pile called upon Mrs. Magistro, newly elected tax collector. Mrs. Magistro spoke about changes she will be making effective January 1, 2006 due to the two-thirds (2/3) pay cut from the Borough. Some of the changes will be no deputy, cutting hours and possibly no longer sending bills to mortgage companies; all bills will go to home owners. Mrs. Magistro will outline her concerns and will present to council prior to the next committee meeting. The tax office will be cleaned and straightened up, not to be used as a storage room.

President Pile called upon Mr. Bill Trevorror, 455 Orchard Street. Mr. Trevorror wishes Council to look into collecting leaves off of Menoher Blvd. not just off of Orchard Street. Past policy has been for leaves to be raked to the Orchard side for pick up. President Pile is concerned about the safety issue of picking up leaves on Menoher Blvd. road is too narrow in areas for leaf machine and traffic will be held up. Mr. Rodgers suggested to Mr. Trevorror to bag the leaves on Menoher side and call the Borough for pickup, Mr. Trevorror agreed to bag the leaves. Mr. Trevorror discussed his concern for parking at Orchard Street near intersection with Menoher Blvd. he feels this creates a visibility problem for children walking to school or to the corner store. Mayor Sloat and Police Chief Havas will look into parking and report back to Council at December 12th meeting.

President Pile introduced Mr. Herb Ewald, newly elected Councilman to Council. Mr. Ewald will be sworn in at the January 3rd reorganization meeting; weekly packages will start being sent to Mr. Ewald. No minutes will be sent because they are not approved. Mr. Ewald hopes he will be a help to council and is looking forward to working with council.

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT:

West Hills Police Chief Andy Havas's report records revenue for October in the amount of \$234.73. Trick or treat night went well there was very little vandalism, none in Southmont. West Hills Police was approved for a fifteen thousand dollar (\$15,000) grant some items they are looking into purchasing are a vehicle/small trailer for hauling equipment, video equipment and equipment for making identification cards.

ZONING OFFICERS REPORT

Mr. Orms report was received. Report records activity of twenty two (22) permits at a total construction of \$209,822 as of 11/16/05. Mr. Orms received a verbal response from the residents at 149 State Street (Boca letter sent Oct 4th) they are in the process of cleaning up their property. Mr. Orms feels Mr. Knapp is trying to comply with the Boca letter sent Oct. 19th; Mayor Sloat and Mr. Orms will revisit Mr. Joseph Knapp, 14 Shady Lane, to check on progress. Mr. Orms updated council with his findings on "abandoned" vehicles. Discussion followed concerning gate placed by Southmont Medical Bldg. Associates, 350 Southmont Blvd.; Ms. Spak will contact Solicitor Lovette for his written legal opinion on fire safety and prior use of property. Mr. Orms tendered his letter of resignation at the end of his appointed term of December 31, 2005. Mr. Danyluk made a motion to thank Mr. Orms for his services. Seconded by Mr. Rodgers. All in favor, motion carried. A round of applause for Mr. Orms. Mr. Rodgers made a motion to accept Mr. Orms formal resignation and to advertise for appointed position. Seconded by Mr. Graham. All in favor, motion carried. Mr. Danyluk made a motion to appoint Mr. Orms as temporary zoning officer until areplacement is found. Seconded by Mr. Graham. All in favor, motion carried. Mr. Graham made a motion to accept Mr. Kiniry's letter of resignation from the zoning hearing board effective December 30, 2005 with a thank you. Seconded by Mr. Strittmatter. All in favor, motion carried. Mr. Strittmatter addressed his concerns on the high grass at 570/568 Harshberger Road; Ms. Spak will take pictures and send a letter.

FIRE COMPANY REPORT

Chief Borosky, absent, he spoke with Ms. Spak on two concerns he wanted to update Council. One was addressed under the Zoning Officers report (gate at 350 Southmont Blvd.) the other was concerning the Jubilee; council will volunteer their time/help at the Jubilee to work booths, kitchen, etc. Chief Borosky's written report records eight (8) responses during the month of October. There were two (2) calls between the hours of 10 PM to 7 AM. The Hilltop Ambulance report was received and is on file.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Mr. Duray's written Engineer's report for November was received and discussed. Mr. Duray handed out a revised 2006 paving cost estimate adding the street rating numbers of 1 (significant cracking) and 2 (cracked but still able to seal). Council to review and at

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December meeting let Mr. Duray know which streets will be alternates for bids. Mr. Duray handed out a draft response letter to Johnstown Redevelopment Authority summarizing activity over the years concerning the infiltration of sewer lines alternately effecting Johnstown; discussion followed. Council to review and get comments or changes back to Ms. Spak within next week, she will inform Mr. Duray so letter can be sent. Mr. Duray will be working on budget of estimated project costs for 2006. Mr. Bosley and Mr. Duray inspected 211/213 Dell Street (Theresa Hippler letter dated 10/25/05); Mr. Bosley will build up the driveway (small area at beginning of driveway) with cold patch for over the winter and will repair when 2006 paving is being done.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

STREET COMMISSIONERS REPORT

Received Mr. Bosley's written report. The new leaf machine is not working and has been at Grimaldi's but they cannot find problem; Mr. Bosley will contact John Deere to see if they can repair. Mr. Bosley will contact Patton Borough to pickup the speed humps. Patton Borough put off picking up the speed humps due to leaf collection on their end. Mr. Graham made a motion to ratify the radar speed amount to \$2,100 approved \$2,000 cost in October. Seconded by Mr. Krupa. All in favor, motion carried.

STREET COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Danyluk has nothing new to report.

ADMNS. & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Mr. Rodgers made a motion to approve hiring part time employee Stephen Baxter. Seconded by Mr. Danyluk. All in favor, motion carried.

POLICE COMMITTEE

Mayor Sloat reported that the police department is under budget mainly due to the decrease in health insurance.

RECYCLING COMMITTEE

Mr. Kory asked how the recycling of plastic is going; Mr. Bosley has checked the trailer and it is filling up and seems to be mostly plastic. Ms. Spak will contact West Hills Police to remind them about opening recycling trailer shed on weekends and holidays.

INSURANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Rodgers has nothing new to report.

BUDGET COMMITTEE

Mr. Strittmatter made a motion to advertise the 2006 tentative budget. Seconded by Mr. Danyluk. All in favor, motion carried.

SHADE TREE REPORT

Mr. Krupa mentioned Southmont will be hosting the Spring PSAB dinner meeting, due to the cancellation of the fall dinner meeting because of snow. Did have the shade tree committee meeting on November 7th, went well, potential of two new members; new ideas and inventory were discussed. Mr. Krupa has not heard anything about the grant that was applied for. There are three (3) to four (4) more trees that need planted before year end. Mr. Krupa discussed Mrs. Rosenbaum's, 324 Langhorne Ave., request for help with removing tree; limb fell on fence at Cheney Run. Mr. Krupa recommends sharing cost of tree removal; tree is in Wren Street right of way. Mr. Rodgers made a motion to remove the tree with a cost of up to \$1,600 then bill one-half (1/2) cost back to Mrs. Rosenbaum. Seconded by Mr. Graham. All in favor, motion carried. Mr. Bosley is questioning who is responsible for fence repair, past practice has been to bill the owner of property; the Borough only has easement right on property. Council is acting on tree removal at this time will discuss the fence cost later.

RECREATION COMMITTEE

The September and October minutes have been received; Mr. Pile mentioned Joe Sernell is working on the webpage for the Rec. Center. Discussion followed concerning the three (3) keys given out for the restroom, utility and storage room at the soccer field. We received two (2) of the keys still waiting for one (1). Mr. Bosley will padlock all three (3) doors then winterize the restrooms.

BUILDING/GROUNDS REPORT

Mr. Kory drove around Borough the buildings look fine, some of the fences will need changed in the spring.

COG REPORT

Mr. Pile mentioned the December COG/Code meeting and Christmas party is scheduled for December 6th at Anthony's Restaurant. If interested in attending please make your reservations by November 30th. Mr. Pile has received the past minutes from the COG meetings.

GRANDVIEW COMMITTEE

Mr. Kory has nothing new to report. President Pile and Mr. Rodgers discussed the Memorandum of Understanding between the Borough of Southmont and Citizens Cemetery Association; beginning with year 2005 the voluntarily contribution will be six thousand five hundred dollars (\$6,500). Mr. Rodgers made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding. Seconded by Mr. Danyluk. All in favor, motion carried. Mr. Strittmatter mentioned that trucks are dumping at Grandview, no permit has been requested; President Pile will look into this concern.

GREATER JOHNSTOWN WATER AUTHORITY

The minutes from the November 4, 2005 meeting were received. Mr. Graham discussed contracts that Greater Johnstown Water Authority has

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received under their new management. They are in line with supplying Ebensburg with water; the scope is going above and beyond what was expected. Mr. Graham went on a tour of the old Penelec building which was their command center; it is now being used as an emergency response center. They have all the GIS and are inputting all the waterlines, fire hydrants, house numbers and tax assessment numbers; Ms. Spak will contact Mr. Sernell to see if we can share any information.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Sloat noted that Westmont Hilltop School Board of Directors approved utilizing Price Field at the Middle School as a landing site for a helicopter to be used for evacuation purposes in the event of an emergency. Mayor Sloat has received the video camera from the Borough, it is an old model, and batteries are dead. Mayor Sloat will look into prices for new video camera. Mr. Rodgers made a motion to adopt the handicap parking form as a policy to carry out ordinance #456, effective immediately. Seconded by Mr. Krupa. All in favor, motion carried. Ms. Spak will forward the handicap parking form for the yearly (January) handicap renewals.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Draft ordinance #460 on animal control laws and prohibiting the harboring of an animal nuisance was discussed. Ms. Spak will make changes to the proposed ordinance (no barking between 9:00 P.M. and 7:00 A.M. and no continuous barking for ten minutes or more at any time). Mr. Danyluk approved advertising ordinance #460. Seconded by Mr. Strittmatter. All in favor, motion carried. Mr. Rodgers made a motion to advertise and prepare ordinance for the 2006 real estate tax of eleven (11) mills. Seconded by Mr. Strittmatter. All in favor, motion carried. Mr. Krupa made a motion to advertise for the January 3, 2006 reorganization meeting. Seconded by Mr. Rodgers. All in favor, motion carried.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Ms. Spak's written report was submitted. Mr. Rodgers made a motion that any elected official who wishes to attend the 2006 Borough Official Training be approved to attend. Seconded by Mr. Graham. All in favor, motion carried. Mr. Graham made a motion for Mayor Sloat, Ms. Spak and fireman representative to attend the Cambria County national incident management system (NIMS) training. Seconded by Mr. Rodgers. All in favor, motion carried. Mr. Rodgers made a motion 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 the October Treasurer Report which shows the balance of \$330,584.10. Seconded by Mr. Strittmatter. All in favor, motion carried.

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Rodgers made a motion to note the October tax collector's report was received. Seconded by Mr. Strittmatter. All in favor, motion carried.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Mr. Kory made a motion to approve payment of bills in the amount of \$49,439.53 as presented. Seconded by Mr. Danyluk. Roll Call: Mr. Rodgers, Mr. Graham, Mr. Kory, Mr. Strittmatter, Mr. Danyluk, Mr. Krupa and Mr. Pile all in favor, opposed none. Ms. Spak will compare long distance telephone cost between Verizon and MCI.

OLD BUSINESS

President Pile discussed the "Tickler List". The fire company heavy equipment cost will be removed from the "Tickler List". Mr. Graham discussed different types of raffle tickets that may be used by the fire company to raise money. Mr. Pile will check the street light on Bliss Street and Arlington Street and Mr. Krupa will check the street light on Orchard Street.

NEW BUSINESS

President Pile reminded all about the free local government official's event hosted by Wessel & Company must RSVP by November 30th. President Pile requests that Council review the "To Do List" and get items completed so they can be cleared off.

At 9:35 p.m. an Executive Session was called to review Personnel issues. At 10:15 p.m. Council reconvened.

Mr. Krupa made a motion, based on Ms. Spak's recommendation, to award Mr. Bosley a two hundred dollar (\$200) bonus in December for reaching some of his 2005 goals and evaluation. Seconded by Mr. Strittmatter. All in favor, motion carried. Mr. Krupa made a motion for 2006 Mr. Bosley will have two (2) incentives one due April 1, 2006 adding five hundred dollars (\$500) to base salary if goals are met (all or nothing), based on Ms. Spak's recommendation and council approval. The second is a five hundred dollar (\$500) bonus effective September 1, 2006 same guidelines as first 2006 incentive, based on Ms. Spak's recommendation and council approval. Seconded by Mr. Graham. All in favor, motion carried. Mr. Krupa made a motion to approve the following salary and pay rates for 2006 as presented:

a.) Borough Manager \$1,000 added to base salary effective January 1, 2006; \$500 bonus effective Sept. 1, 2006 if goals/evaluations are reached. b.) Hourly rate for part time Secretary/Clerk of \$7.25 effective January 1, 2006. c.) Street Commissioner rates as mentioned above. d.) Hourly Union Rate/Street Department follow union contract; Mr. Livingston \$11.62 per hour and Mr. Gentile \$8.72 per hour. e.) Hourly Rate/Seasonal Street Department, Temporary Part-Time \$6.50 snow removal \$8.00. f.) Solicitor \$3,600 retainer. g.) Engineers on file, same as 2005.

Seconded by Mr. Rodgers. All in favor, motion carried.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Graham for adjournment of the November 21, 2005 meeting at 10:30 P.M. Seconded by Mr. Kory. All in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Loretta Spak, Borough Manager

12/6/2005 1:24 PM