

MINUTES
BOROUGH OF SOUTHMONT
February 15, 1999, 7:00 p.m.

The regularly scheduled February Council meeting was called to order by President Pile at 7:00 p.m. After the pledge to the flag, the February 15, 1999 meeting of Council convened.

PRESENT: President Pile, Mr. Rodgers (7:10 p.m.), Mr. Krupa, Mr. Kory, Mr. Rovansek, Mr. Strittmatter, Street Commissioner: Jan Bosley, Mayor Lary Koval, Engineer: Dave Duray, Solicitor: Daniel R. Lovette, Secretary: Judith Czyrnik, West Hills Police: Chief Andy Havas, Zoning Officer: Fred Pullen, and Fire Department: Chet Borosky

ABSENT: Vice-President Leventry, (vacation)

VISITORS: John Wilfong, Tribune

President Pile asked for approval of the January 18, 1999 and February 2, 1999 Committee meeting minutes . A motion was made by Mr. Krupa to accept the minutes as written. Seconded by Mr. Strittmatter. All in favor, motion carried.

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief Havas's written report records revenues for the month of January were \$997.75. In addition to his report Chief Havas noted that all officers are in the process of attending 1999 Mandatory Inservice Training classes. Officers should have completed the course by the middle of March 1999. CPR recertification courses will begin in March. The annual report will be completed as soon as all the 911 data is received. Chief Havas had no further report. There being no questions, Council accepted Chief Havas's report.

At this time a motion was made by Mr. Strittmatter to appoint William Kory as an alternate to the West Hills Regional Police Commission, during Mr. Leventry's absence. Motion seconded by Mr. Krupa. All in favor, motion carried.

ZONING OFFICER'S REPORT

Mr. Pullen's written report records only one (1) permit issued during the month. The estimated year to date construction cost is \$39,183.00. Council reviewed several questions from Mr. Pullen's December report. Mr. Duray, of Hinks & Locher Engineers will be sending a letter to Lino's Restaurant with reference to the storm water management plan in effect for the area where a new driveway was installed leading to a parking area for employees. Mr. Duray stated that 8 Commercial taps have been requested for 1999 and 6 residential taps have been requested from the Department of Environmental Protection

Council informed Mr. Pullen that the Water's property abutting Dr. Kastelic's property along Gardner Street will remain the same, under the conditions of the trust agreement. A motion was made by Mr. Krupa authorizing Hinks & Locher Engineers to survey Water's property adjacent to Kastelic's property, for future use. Survey to be done when weather permits. Seconded by Mr. Kory. All in favor, motion carried.

Solicitor Lovette will review the Solid Waste Ordinance #378 with reference to the dumping of debris on the Haidar property at 1070 Luzerne Street. Mr. Pullen reported that in the opinion of the Zoning Solicitor this is a violation to be enforced by the Borough, not through the Zoning Administration. Mr. Pullen stated that he has been notified that a permit for the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System has not been issued for the undeveloped area of PineBrooke Development. No further building permits can be issued for this area until a permit from NPDES has been obtained.

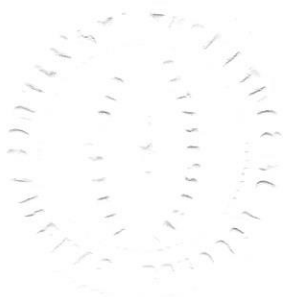
FIRE COMPANY REPORT

Chet Borosky reported on the written report submitted for January. There were 26 emergency run and/or assists during the month. Mr. Borosky reported that all fire fighters were tested on the Self Contained Breathing Apparatus in January. Several members did not complete the training and will not be eligible to wear the SCBA equipment at an emergency scene. The Fire Company Chief Officers can administer the test for those who did not complete.

A motion was made by Mr. Krupa to appoint Chet Borosky as Southmont Borough's representative to the Hilltop Ambulance Association, retroactive January 1, 1999 for a three year term. Seconded by Mr. Strittmatter. All in favor, motion carried. An alternate will be named at a later date. Council would like to meet with Fire Company representatives in reference to the use of the old two bay garage. A meeting will be set up with the Buildings & Grounds Committee.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Mr. Dave Duray of Hinks & Locher Engineers referred to a letter advising C & D Associates of what appears to be riprap delivered to the PineBrooke Development and stockpiled in the culdesac. Hinks & Locher will need to review the calculations for the stormwater management pond, before any riprap is placed. It appears that the back end of the pond is subsiding and causing damage to the fence. Mr. Duray will send a letter to C & D Associates to add the subsidence and fence damage to the punch list sent to C & D Associates on September 21, 1998. Mr. Duray has prepared a time frame for the construction completion of the PineBrooke Development area, as per Council's request at the January meeting. The time frame will begin May 17, 1999 thru September 30, 1999.



A motion was made by Mr. Strittmatter authorizing Mr. Duray to notify C & D Associates of the prepared time frame for completion of the PineBrooke Development. Seconded by Mr. Krupa. All in favor, motion carried. Mr. Duray will do so, and send a copy to Solicitor Lovette.

A motion was made by Mr. Rodgers to approve the increase for the 1999 Engineers fees. Motion seconded by Mr. Krupa. All in favor, motion carried. There being no more questions, Mr. Duray was excused from the meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

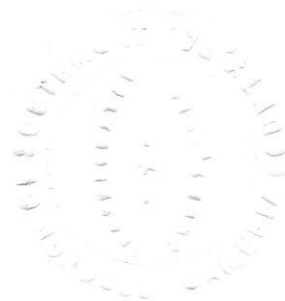
STREET COMMISSIONER

Mr. Bosley's written reports records basic cleaning on the Building. Streets and alleys were plowed and salted numerous times throughout the month. Used front end loader to scrape thick ice off a few streets. Performed routine maintenance on vehicles and equipment. Took recycling trailer to Boswell weekly. Picked up Christmas trees, many are frozen to the ground. Measured 2 old garages, new employee lunch room, Street Commissioner's office and tool room for possible conversion of part of this area back to a garage. Prepared drawing of proposed plan for Council approval. Installed air conditioner in the "Tax Collector's Office". A separate wire for power to AC. was installed. Had to have the 1998 plow frame repaired. Work was under warranty.

Mr. Bosley reported that Mr. Carbaugh was off work with a strained wrist. He has an appointment on February 17, 1999. On his last appointment he had a return to work with a restriction of 5 pounds and no labored wrist movement or strain. At this time he is not back to work until his next appointment. Council has decided that they will discuss "light duty work" on a restricted return to work order. Past practices have been no light duty work is available. Council will discuss. A letter was sent in response to a letter received from Mr. Pasquerilla of Gardner Street, reference to Borough dumping or plowing snow into the right of way on Gardner Street. Council responded by informing Mr. Pasquerilla that the right of way is for Borough use and was used for snow removal, clearing intersections and roadways. Council is in receipt of a letter received from a resident of 138 Palliser Street who wanted to inform Council about the impassable sidewalks to and from the Middle School. Council reviewed, no action.

STREET COMMITTEE

No other report.



ADMINISTRATION & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Mr. Strittmatter reviewed re-appointments of the member at large representatives to the Greater Johnstown Water Authority. Two members need to be appointed, Mr. Anthony Pinizzotto and Mr. Theodore Gaynor. Mr. Rodgers made a motion to reappoint Mr. Pinizzotto and Mr. Gaynor as at large representatives to the Greater Johnstown Water Authority. Seconded by Mr. Kory. All in favor, motion carried. Westmont and the City of Johnstown also reappointed both members.

POLICE COMMISSION

Mayor Koval reported there is a Police Commission meeting on February 16, 1999 at Westmont Municipal Building. Mr. Kory will attend as an alternate for Mr. Pile. The West Hills Police Commission will be notified.

RECYCLING COMMITTEE

Monthly recycling chart is on file.

INSURANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Kory reported that the 1999-2000 Liability Insurance renewal will be due 4-1-99. Mrs. Czynnik will request a cost estimate for including the traffic light at Luzerne Street and Menoher Blvd. and the older leaf machine. Currently they are not covered in the insurance.

BUDGET COMMITTEE

No report.

SHADE TREE

Mr. Krupa reported that Arbor Day will be held on April 24, 1999. Planting site and activity will be decided later. If any members of Council have any suggestion for planting on Arbor Day, please let him know.

RECREATION/PLAYGROUND COMMITTEE

Mayor Koval reported that the January 27, 1999 minutes are on file.

BUILDING /GROUNDS COMMITTEE

No report.

C.O.G. COMMITTEE

Mr. Rodgers made a motion to re-appoint Mr. Ron Rovanseck to the Cambria Somerset COG and Mr. William Krupa as an alternate. Mr. Kory seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

CHAPIN ARCH

Mr. Kory had nothing to report until Spring.

MAYOR'S REPORT

A motion was made by Mr. Strittmatter to approve Mayor Koval attending the First Quarter training session of the Department of Emergency Management on March 16, 1999. Motion seconded by Mr. Kory. All in favor, motion carried. The Department of Environmental Services is sponsoring a county weather exercise focusing on the ability to react to a weather related emergency, such as tornado threats. Mayor Koval reported that Stroke Screening will be done again at the Municipal Building. Residents expressed interest last year that the screening be held on a Saturday, rather than during the week. Council approved use of the Council Room for the Blood Screening, for whatever schedule is available.

SOLICITOR

Council approved Solicitor Lovette to attend any depositions of any Borough employee or former employees that may be necessary in the Hartnett case. All in favor, motion carried. Solicitor Lovette discussed the Homestead Property Exclusion Act 50. Solicitor Lovette explained Act 50 authorizes real estate taxing bodies to exempt part of the assessed value of the homesteads or "farmsteads".

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Mrs. Czynrik's report records that Ben Craig a student of the Westmont Hilltop School District has been working to help during Cindy's absence. Mrs. Czynrik reported that a Tax Appeal Board will need to be appointed under the new Taxpayer's Bill of Rights Resolution approved at the January meeting. The Committee will review appointments at their next meeting. Mrs. Czynrik reported that the electric rate quoted by PP & L at 4.4 cents was the lowest rate in the electric choice market. A motion was made by Mr. Strittmatter to approve the change to PP & L electric for the KWH's. Seconded by Mr. Rovansek. All in favor, motion carried. Codification will be discussed at the March 2, 1999 Committee meeting. Mr. Rodgers made a motion to approve Resolution 99-02 for the disposition of records. Motion seconded by Mr. Rovansek. All in favor, motion carried. Census 2000 data has been returned to the Department of the Census. Approximately 10-12 new houses built since 1990 were listed on the report. A motion was made by Mr. Strittmatter to purchase a new Zip drive back up for the computer and a paper shredder for the office. Mr. Krupa seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried. Mrs. Czynrik prepared Resolution 99-03, declaring February 20, 1999 as Mrs. Lydia Masters Reese Day in Southmont. Mrs. Reese will celebrate her 100th birthday on February 20, 1999. Mr. Rodgers moved for approval of Resolution 99-03, motion was seconded by Mr. Rovansek. All in favor, motion carried. Mayor Koval will present Mrs. Reese with a proclamation on her special day. Final past due sewer bills were mailed February 10, 1999.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Council approved the Treasurer's report for the month of January in the amount of \$241,173.81 in the General Fund balance. Mr. Rodgers moved the motion to approve, and Mr. Kory seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

TAX COLLECTOR

Mr. Quinn's written report for the January Report records \$918.88 in Real Estate collections and \$159.50 in collections for Per Capita. A motion was made by Mr. Rodgers that we received the Tax Collector's report, seconded by Mr. Kory. All in favor, motion carried.

APPROVAL TO PAY THE BILLS

After review, a motion was made by Mr. Krupa to approve the Payment of the Bills in the amount of \$23,241.39. Seconded by Mr. Strittmatter. Roll Call; Rodgers, Rovanssek, Strittmatter, Krupa, Kory, and Pile. All in favor, opposed none. Leventry absent, vacation.

OLD BUSINESS

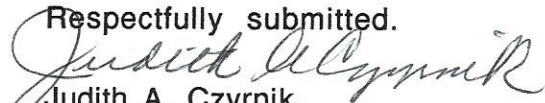
Items on the "Tickler List" were discussed. Items were reviewed, removed and re-listed. There was a discussion on the Charles Merlo hedge and the proposal that he would move the sidewalk out two feet, in order to not have to cut the hedge back as it overhangs the sidewalk and is in violation of Borough Ordinance's on sidewalk maintenance. Solicitor Lovette will speak with Mr. Merlo's attorney and inform him of Council's discussion.

NEW BUSINESS

The charging rate for labor and trucks will be further discussed at a Committee meeting on March 2, 1999, 7:00 p.m. Discussion was held on the letter received from Upper Yoder Township in response to our request to increase the annual contribution for sewer maintenance on the lines entering Southmont Borough from Upper Yoder Township. This request is the first since 1992. A letter will be written to the Upper Yoder Township Sewer Authority requesting a meeting early in April of 1999.

A motion was made by Mr. Rodgers to adjourn the February meeting, motion was seconded by Mr. Kory. Council adjourned 8: 35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted.


Judith A. Czynnik,
Borough Secretary

