
MINUTES

Call to Order:

Mr. Belmonte

Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Heller

Roll Call:

Ms. Liscio	Yes	Mr. Belmonte	Yes
Mr. Meshanko	Absent	Mayor Heller	Yes
Mr. Mrazik	Absent	Janet Sullivan, Tax Collector	Absent
Mr. O'Malley	Yes	Blaine Lucas, Solicitor	Yes
Mr. Porco	Absent	Paul Gaus, Engineer	Yes
Mr. Tomasic	Yes	Steven Morus, Manager	Yes

President's Report

Mr. Belmonte

Mr. Belmonte noted that a letter from Sen. Jay Costa was received in response to council's concern of the solvency of the pension funds. Sen. Costa has introduced legislation that may assist the borough with this.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Heller

Mayor Heller noted Celeste Liscio covered for him during National Night Out which he missed due to illness. Sumner Ave. won the Mayor's cup for the 3rd year in a row.

He also announced that he & Mr. Belmonte attended Braddock's community day parade.

The Mayor met with Bill Flannigan who works with the Allegheny Conference on Community Development. They discussed a statewide bike race that will happen next summer following the old Forbes Trail which means it may come through Forest Hills.

Tax Collector's Report

Ms. Sullivan

No report.

Police Chief's Report

Chief Fabrizi

Chief Fabrizi presented his monthly report for July. He noted that many of the officers are undergoing training presently. He noted that the Turtle Creek Valley COG is working on the battery for the speed trailer.

The Mayor commented on the power outages that many residents experienced because of the recent storms. He is looking into this with Duquesne Light.

Volunteer Fire Department Report

Chief Heller

No report.

Woodland Hills EMS Report

Adam Knight

No report.

Solicitor's Report

Blaine Lucas

Mr. Lucas noted the following:

Action Housing – council previously approved the lot consolidation plan but due to the other issues surrounding the approvals, the plan was not recorded. State law requires one to be recorded within 90 days. Council needs to either re-approve the plan or grant an extension.

Motion: Move that the lot consolidation plan be approved.

Moved: Ms. Liscio
Second: Mr. Tomasic

Mr. Tomasic asks if there is any reason not to approve this plan.

Mr. Lucas explains that council is not re-approving the plan all this is doing is extending the original approval date so they can record it.

Roll Call Vote:

Ms. Liscio	Yes
Mr. O'Malley	No
Mr. Tomasic	Yes
Mr. Belmonte	Yes

Rental Property Ordinance – Mr. Lucas has recommendations to make after reviewing the letter from Laurel Properties' attorney and will have them for the next committee

meeting.

Will discuss the trash contract bid under the committee later.

Wilkesburg Penn Joint Water Authority Report

Vivian Broz

Ms. Broz had no report.

Public Comment

A. C. Schmieler, 1645 Ardmore Blvd. – President of Laurel Properties, owner of Laurel Gardens, with his attorney, Cathy Troiani.

Attorney Troiani: In her opinion, as drafted, the Rental Property Ordinance is unconstitutional. States that there are ways to make it constitutional giving both the tenants and landlords due process rights. Addresses the penalties assessed against landlords under this ordinance.

Mr. Schmieler comments that after further review of the ordinance it appeared to be and attempt on part of the borough's council to forestall what may be perceived to be a developing problem with the type of tenant that may be attempting to move into the borough, from a behavior standpoint. Requests council hold off on passing the ordinance for a couple of months. Suggests inviting the landlords in this borough to a seminar. A seminar is a change of ideas and at that seminar we would attempt to share with these landlords how we have been successful in attracting quality tenants in Forest Hills. There are many useful tools available to landlords to allow you to screen tenants and make an objective decision on what type of person will make a quality tenant. Mr. Schmieler comments that he is willing to make himself available for up to one year to provide consulting services at no charge to the borough or landlords in hopes of trying to implement policies and procedures on there part that will allow them to be better landlords.

Jack Shepherd, 110 Woodside Road – on the road improvement program. Applauded council on the road improvement program and raising taxes to pay for it. Believes that the computer program alone should not be used to prioritize streets for the road program but also the comments of those who use the streets all the time. He is concerned about the policy support of council to back up the work of the crew.

Alan Katchmar, Korhnak Lane – comments that he thinks Mr. Schmieler's suggestion about a seminar is a very good idea and hopefully all landlords will attend.

Committee Reports

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Mr. O'Malley

Motion: Move to approve an agreement with Wilkesburg Penn Joint Water Authority for termination of water service due to sewage bill delinquency.

Moved: Mr. O'Malley
Second: Mr. Tomasic

Roll Call Vote:

Ms. Liscio	Yes
Mr. O'Malley	Yes
Mr. Tomasic	Yes
Mr. Belmonte	Yes

Motion: Move to approve resolution no. 1064 authorizing the council president to sign a new three year agreement with PennDOT continuing the street sweeping agreement for designated state maintained roads in the borough for a maximum fee each year of \$6,510.96 paid to the borough by PennDOT.

Moved: Mr. O'Malley
Second: Mr. Tomasic

Roll Call Vote:

Ms. Liscio	Yes
Mr. O'Malley	Yes
Mr. Tomasic	Yes
Mr. Belmonte	Yes

Motion: Move to authorize the borough engineer to prepare and advertise bid specifications for the lining of selected sewers with bids to be opened at the September business meeting.

Moved: Mr. O'Malley
Second: Mr. Tomasic

Voice Vote – all in favor

Motion: Move to authorize the borough engineer to prepare and advertise bid specifications for a new point repair contract as part of the sanitary sewer consent decree work with bid opening set no later than the public works committee meeting on November 8.

Moved: Mr. O'Malley

Second: Ms. Liscio

Voice Vote – all in favor

Motion: Move to approve the purchase of a used brush hog machine from North Strabane Township for \$20,000 with funds to come from a grant received from Sen. Jay Costa.

Moved: Mr. O'Malley
Second: Ms. Liscio

Roll Call Vote:

Ms. Liscio	Yes
Mr. O'Malley	Yes
Mr. Tomasic	Yes
Mr. Belmonte	Yes

Motion: Move to approve a change order with Folino Construction in the amount of \$21,000 for the paving of the remainder of Burlington Road.

Moved: Mr. O'Malley
Second: Mr. Tomasic

Mayor Heller – comments that Burlington Road in its current condition is not a safe situation. It needs to be fixed, unfortunately it was not budgeted for this year.

Ms. Liscio – Comments that an additional \$21,000 out of the taxpayer's money, that was not allocated for this year, will pave all of Burlington Road from end to end. If the contractor had not made the mistake it would've cost \$32,000 to pave the entire road had it been scheduled for this year. Understanding that this is an \$11,000 savings the point still stands that if the contractor had done his job right we would not be spending this money. Not satisfied with the contractor's actions during the meeting. There are a number of mistakes that were made and they need to be brought up at committee before we start another paving.

Mr. Belmonte comments that the 900 feet that was milled in error will be paved at no charge, but coming back to get the other side of Burlington Road done is costing the \$21,000. Originally we were hoping to pay \$16,000.

Mayor Heller comments that based on the unit price the borough is still paying approximately \$5,000 towards the mistake that they made.

Mr. Gaus, Engineer – comments that Mr. Folino is coming in fresh and there are mobilization costs plus the full string of equipment to be brought in so there are certain costs associated with them coming back to do the paving.

Mr. Tomasic comments that the money in the budget line is approved for taking care of roads. It may not be the road we wanted it allocated for but nonetheless it is there. The man made a mistake and rectified the mistake.

The contractor made a mistake, he was told to correct the mistake, and he did so. We investigated through our solicitor as to whether or not we could sue this person and the solicitor told us we would probably lose in court. Money was available and is available in the budget to pay for this particular paving, the other side, so there is no increase in taxes to get this done. It is not what we wanted but we do end up with a net savings in having that entire road paved of around \$10,000. There was a request for a comparison of what the unit price would cost us and the unit price was \$60.00 more per ton and even when added in it still gives us a net savings of around \$10,000.

Roll Call Vote:

Ms. Liscio	Yes
Mr. O'Malley	Yes
Mr. Tomasic	Yes
Mr. Belmonte	Yes

General Report:

1. The committee is reviewing a draft paving program policy and all members of council and the mayor were provided with a copy of the draft. It will be considered again during the September committee meeting.
2. Members anticipate that repairs to Woodside Road between Cherry Valley and Forest Hills road will be made by the borough crew over the next few weeks. This likely will include the installation of a storm sewer. Money for this work will come from the general fund budget where \$12.500 is budget and this will be voted on by council
3. The committee asked the foreman and engineer to review the sewer line serving 606 Filmore Road to determine the cause of sewer backups.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Tomasic

Motion: Move to approve disbursements for the month of June in the following amounts:

\$282,496.38 General Fund
\$ 1,504.77 Capital Improvements Plan/Capital 1
\$ 34,095.44 Corrective Action/Capital 2
\$ 13,072.50 Bond Issue
\$ 3,494.10 Road Improvement Fund

Moved: Mr. Tomasic

Second: Ms. Liscio

Detail of non-general fund items:

Capital 1: Swimming pool maintenance
Capital 2: Sanitary sewer consent order work including televising, dye testing, and repairs
Bond Issue: Pool heater, public works garage addition
Road: Curb work and engineering expense

Roll Call Vote:

Ms. Liscio	Yes
Mr. O'Malley	Yes
Mr. Tomasic	Yes
Mr. Belmonte	Yes

Motion: Move to authorize the Volunteer Fire Department to apply for a low interest loan from the state in the amount of \$150,000 to pay for a portion of the new fire truck.

Moved: Mr. Tomasic
Second: Ms. Liscio

Voice Vote – all in favor

General Report:

1. Preparation of the 2008 budget begins this month with staff reviewing needs for each department. A first draft of the budget will be ready in time for the October 4 finance committee meeting. The committee is considering holding separate public meetings to focus on budget preparation and will consider additional dates at the September committee meeting. All meetings are open to the public.
2. The committee asked the borough actuary to review a draft investment policy created by the manager and will ask the solicitor and auditor to review also.

BOROUGH PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Mr. Tomasic

Motion: Move to approve the continuation of the cleaning contract with Coverall for 2008 at a cost of \$21,420, which represents no increase in cost.

Moved: Mr. Tomasic
Second: Ms. Liscio

Roll Call Vote:

Ms. Liscio	Yes
Mr. O'Malley	Yes
Mr. Tomasic	Yes
Mr. Belmonte	Yes

Motion: Move to authorize the manager to send a letter to Blazosky Associates accepting their proposal to apply for a grant on behalf of the borough and undertake planning and design work for improvements to the stream at Bright Park subject to the revisions recommended by the Borough Solicitor in his memorandum dated August 14, 2007.

Moved: Mr. Tomasic
Second: Ms. Liscio

Roll Call Vote:

Ms. Liscio	Yes
Mr. O'Malley	Yes
Mr. Tomasic	Yes
Mr. Belmonte	Yes

General Report:

1. The committee is awaiting an estimate from a leak detection company who would be hired to determine where leaks continue to occur at the swimming pool.
2. Awnings for the main entrance and police entrance to the borough building have been ordered from G & S Metals at a cost not to exceed \$2,000. The awnings should protect both entrances from weather problems that have occurred due to rain and the accumulation of ice and snow. Some lighting work may be required and movement of two security cameras as well once the awnings are installed.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Ms. Liscio

Motion: Move to advertise an ordinance establishing speed limits on Sylvan Way eastbound at 15 MPH.

Moved: Ms. Liscio
Second: Mr. Tomasic

Mr. Lucas will discuss this with Trans Associates to provide a brief traffic study here.

Voice Vote – all in favor

Motion: Move to authorize the civil service commission to conduct tests among interested and eligible department members for the vacant sergeant's position.

Moved: Ms. Liscio
Second: Mr. Tomasic

Voice Vote – all in favor

General Report:

1. The committee is considering developing a policy for the installation of traffic calming devices like speed humps after several residents complained of speeding on Sherwood Road.
2. Members continue to review options for changing the timing of the traffic light at Ardmore and Braddock to allow for better traffic flow on Braddock Road.
3. The chair will review the need for department cell phones with Chief Fabrizi. Ms. Liscio noted that she appreciated Mr. Tomasic raising the issue.
4. Members discussed the ability of council to obtain incident reports so that elected officials can better respond to constituent questions and concerns.
5. The borough is investigating technical problems with the speed trailer in use in the borough but owned by the Turtle Creek Valley Council of Governments.
6. Ms. Liscio discussed the events of National Night Out and noted that she was impressed with what she saw. She also noted that people discussed the rental property ordinance and want to see the ordinance approved.

OPERATIONS & POLICY COMMITTEE Ms. Liscio

Motion: Move to approve the minutes of council for the July 18, 2007 meeting.

Moved: Ms. Liscio
Second: Mr. O'Malley

Voice Vote – all in favor

Motion: Move to authorize the solicitor to prepare and advertise bids for trash and recycling collection using the guidelines established by Michelle Nestor in her report on the borough's trash/recycling collection system based upon the collaborative efforts with our solicitor's office.

Moved: Ms. Liscio
Second: Mr. O'Malley

Mr. Tomasic comments that he didn't think changes were going to be made in the collection process at this time. It was his understanding that this was a way of getting a longer fixed term contract at a better rate. I thought then that we would be forming a committee next year to try and make some changes in the current policy of are trash collection and then deal or negotiate from that point forward.

Mr. Lucas responds there were a whole variety of options recommended by Ms. Nestor. We have not received any directive as to how much of all these things that Ms. Nestor's is recommending that you do want in or don't want in and we really cannot complete the contract documents unless someone tells us that.

Mr. Morus noted that the committee directed that he place such a motion on this agenda and referred all to his note from the meeting.

Motion was withdrawn subsequently by both Ms. Liscio and Mr. O'Malley.

General Report:

1. The borough website is functioning and up to date. More and more features are being added to it weekly by Steve Morus. At this time, items like the borough's zoning ordinance and 2007 budget can be accessed online. Everyone is encouraged to go to www.foresthillspa.org to view the site. The committee will review the changes made to the website at its September meeting.
2. The International City/County Manager's Association's (ICMA) annual conference is coming to Pittsburgh for the first time bringing close to 4,000 managers from across the country and from many parts of the world to the area in October. The borough is certified as an ICMA community which means that it believes in professional, apolitical and nonpartisan management. Manager Steve Morus is a member of ICMA. The conference host committee is seeking volunteers to assist with staffing the conference and greeting visitors. Anyone interested in helping should contact Steve at the borough office as soon as possible.

PLANNING & ZONING COMMITTEE

Mr. O'Malley

General Report:

1. The committee continues to review the draft rental property ordinance.
2. The code enforcement program will be a topic at the September committee meeting as members discuss options with Building Inspection Underwriters and consider other internal methods for enforcing borough codes.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Mr. Belmonte noted that a subcommittee meeting re: the Verizon negotiations will be held tomorrow night and he will attend. The general group will meet following that.

Jack Shepherd – first Saturday after Labor Day is the Bryn Mawr annual corn roast. It will be the 90th corn roast.

A note of congratulations should be sent from council.

Adjourn

Motion to Adjourn by acclamation without objection

- **Next Council Committee meetings scheduled for Tuesday, September 4, 2007 (*Borough Property, Planning & Zoning, Public Works*) and Thursday, September 6, 2007 (*Finance, Operations & Policy, Public Safety*) at 7:00 PM.**
- **Next Council business meeting scheduled for Wednesday, September 19, 2007 at 7:00 PM.**