
MINUTES

Call to Order: Mr. Belmonte

Pledge of Allegiance Mayor Heller

Roll Call: no Janet, Frank or Mike M.

Ms. Liscio	Yes	Mr. Belmonte	Yes
Mr. Meshanko	Yes	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

Public Hearing – Zoning Ordinance

A court reporter is present and detailed information can be obtained from his transcript. The hearing involves the newly drafted zoning ordinance which has been duly advertised. The ordinance has been developed and reviewed by the planning commission. Mr. Lucas provided a PowerPoint presentation summarizing the key features and asked the public to comment.

Motion: Move to close the public hearing.

Moved: Mr. Tomasic
Second: Mr. Meshanko

Voice vote – all in favor

At the end of the hearing council may make a motion to close the hearing or to continue it to a future meeting and, if the hearing is closed, may consider approval of the zoning ordinance under the planning & zoning committee tonight.

President's Report Mr. Belmonte

Mr. Belmonte thanked the planning commission for their help in getting the borough through the zoning ordinance process.

Mr. Belmonte also noted that Forest Hills and other Woodland Hills communities

gathered for several meetings in the past few weeks. They intend to meet every month. He discussed several issues raised at these meetings and problems that have been identified as well as the fragmentation in various levels of government. Next meeting will be on March 28 at the recreation center.

He referred to an article written by Bob Durrant. RE: the crisis in municipal management and the lack of quality managers, particularly new managers entering the field.

Mr. Belmonte comments that the borough is fortunate to have a top notch borough manager like Steve Morus.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Heller

Mayor Heller recognized the neighborhood crime committee who made a presentation to the borough for funds for the new dog.

The Mayor also noted that the week of January 22 was Catholic schools week. He presented a proclamation to St. Maurice recognizing their achievements and value to the borough.

Tax Collector's Report

Ms. Sullivan

No report.

Police Chief's Report

Chief Fabrizi

Chief Fabrizi presented a monthly report of activities. He noted that the survey for the study on police regionalization was submitted to the state. Work is continuing on the new laptops for the cars. We are able to save money by using Sprint instead of Verizon for air time.

The Chief applied for a grant through the Allegheny County Chiefs of Police Association. We have been awarded a custom made car camera for one of our units. It is about a \$5,000 value.

A vest company, in conjunction with retired Sgt. Hinchey, donated a shield for the police (valued at about \$2,000). Officer Armstrong demonstrated how it is used.

Bill Homze a former officer, fell and broke his hip and is now recovering.

Officer Armstrong applied for a grant with Sandy Reech through the Ben Roethlisburger fund for canine units. We received notice that he has donated \$5,700 to the fund. He continues to work on fund raising with the Rotary Club. Officer Armstrong has been training his new dog and he should be on the street in April. Officer Armstrong is also still raising funds for health care for the dog and equipment. He is at about 50% of what is needed. It is most likely that a new canine unit will be needed next year as the car

has about 65,000 miles. Ms. Liscio asked Officer Armstrong to make sure that it gets into the budget for next year.

Volunteer Fire Department Report

Chief Heller

Chief Heller reminded all that the 2007 fund drive is in the mail.

Woodland Hills EMS Report

Adam Knight

No report.

Solicitor's Report

Blaine Lucas

No report.

Wilkesburg Penn Joint Water Authority Report

Vivian Broz

Ms. Broz presented her report on authority activity. Has earmarked about \$1.9 million for improvements and wanted a street list so that work can be coordinated. She would like something for the March meeting.

Public Comment

Frank Brozek, 212 Avenue L - comments on several property violations at 224 Avenue L – reported the situation to the borough numerous times and has also requested copies of borough codes related to property maintenance – cannot understand why debris and strong odors caused by a dog kennel is not considered to be a violation.

Mr. Lucas responds that the zoning officer brought this situation to our attention and after looking into the matter we found that there was a violation of the property maintenance code. A notice of violation letter was sent on February 8th to the owner allowing 30 days to clean up the facility in question. Reports there will be a motion tonight to authorize advertising and updating the property maintenance code.

Faith Katchmar, - reads a letter from We the People addressed to Chief Fabrizi – we were very happy to hear that the Forest Hills Police received 3 tasers, provided by the District Attorneys office - at the same time concerned because we can envision situations that might require each officer to have a taser – it is a serious ongoing concern with our organization that the officers only seem to receive this safety equipment if it comes as a result of a grant and doesn't cost the borough anything – one of the "Guiding Principles" of "We the People" is "to continuously promote the awareness to the council and the community that the survival of a thriving and upstanding community is dependent on highly motivated

and well equipped public safety professionals.” - It is our sincere hope that in light of some issues occurring in regards to our police right now that you and your officers realize that the residents think of you with high regard and value all of your officers. It has come to our attention that the 3 tasers came with 3 holsters and they will be shared by 11 officers which will cause premature wear on the holsters – we are pleased to present you with a check for \$416.99 for the sole purpose of obtaining 8 additional taser holsters for the remaining officers – we are also presenting you with a 2nd check in the amount of \$800 for the sole purpose of purchasing a 4th taser – we hope when council sees the remaining empty holsters, they will do the right thing and fill them – thank you and all your officers for all that you and they do.

Ron Ciotti, Action Housing – reviewed a request submitted by letter for an adjustment in the conditional use for the senior apartment building. HUD has a concern with the language limiting the number of residents who own vehicles. HUD feels that the restriction will cause a delay in the full occupancy of the development – easiest way to alleviate the concern would be to remove the restriction – if not an option adjust wording to say only 10 residents can park on site and any residents who own cars beyond 10 will need to park off site.

Mr. O'Malley asked if the written communication from HUD has been made available. Mr. Ciotti obtained the information at a meeting not in writing but may be able to get it. Bob Thomson spoke and noted that he was asked if he would agree to provide additional parking spaces across the street. He is willing to consider that if a letter is prepared that would assist with this issue.

Mr. Lucas explained the conditional use process and the parking concern that was originally viewed. The zoning hearing board placed the condition on parking and council approved that as part of the conditional use. Procedurally, council would have to vote to amend the prior conditional use approval in a public hearing. And the zoning hearing board also has to formally review this as well to get this modified. He needs to file an application to the zoning hearing board as well as a public hearing by council, both of which requires a two week public notice.

Mr. O'Malley noted that he also needs to go to the planning commission. Mr. Lucas said he does not need to resubmit all the information. He suggested that Ciotti call Scott Dellett to get this scheduled.

Mayor Heller noted concerns about additional off street parking and asked that the chief review this issue so that we do not have a dangerous situation with crossing Ardmore Blvd.

Sr. Mathias, Sumner Ave. – re: equipment for the police officers. Hamburger Helper offers grant funds - to apply a letter is required describing your request and it must be sent through a corporation or a group and Mayor Heller helped us

to do this letter and it went out in his name and the second name was Chief Fabrizi. The amount requested was \$6,000 to be used to purchase 2 bat shields for the police cars.

Committee Reports

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Mr. Meshanko

Motion: Move to approve the purchase of 4 Nextel/Sprint cellular phones with accessories for the public works department at a cost of \$75 plus monthly service for all phones at a cost of \$128 per month (\$1,536 annual) for a total annual cost in 2007 of \$1,611 under the state's piggyback purchase plan.

Moved: Mr. Meshanko
Second: Mr. Tomasic

Roll Call Vote:

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

General Report:

1. The committee reviewed a letter provided by Gateway Engineers concerning a previously mentioned proposal to extend the sanitary sewer consent decree's final deadline to permit sufficient time for ALCOSAN to take over the flow monitoring portion of the decree. Flow monitoring is required of each ALCOSAN community but may be handled more efficiently by allowing the authority to manage the project. Once a decision is made by ALCOSAN and the consent decree regulatory agencies, council would be required to approve a letter agreeing to the extension and the transfer of the work.
2. Mr. Tomasic noted that he was asked to look into contract savings for public works. He has reviewed some suggestions with the union and need to meet on this.

Mr. Tomasic - Checking through the contract we do have limitations that are associated with the times they have to work and the minimum amount of time that they have to get when they come out for overtime. We are locked into those contractually.

Mr. Tomasic comments that he has received ½ dozen phone calls regarding the good work the road crew has done over the past few weeks.

Mr. Meshanko comments that driving in Forest Hills vs. driving in the surrounding communities is like night and day. Great job!

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Tomasic

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

\$463,345.87 General Fund
\$ 2,567.00 Capital 1
\$144,083.91 Corrective Action/Capital 2
\$ 97,421.94 Liquid Fuels
\$ 47,733.35 Bond Issue

Moved: Mr. Tomasic
Second: Mr. Meshanko

Detail of non-general fund items:

Capital 1: Pool Maintenance - handrails
Capital 2: Sanitary sewer consent order work, vector/camera service
Liquid Fuels: Salt, Braddock Road paving
Bond Issue: Public works building

Roll Call Vote:

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

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

\$130,435.09 General Fund
\$ 8,593.62 Capital 1
\$155,195.88 Corrective Action/Capital 2
\$ 11,851.50 Bond Issue

Moved: Mr. Tomasic
Second: Mr. Meshanko

Detail of non-general fund items:

Capital 1: Pool filter replacement

Capital 2: ALCOSAN charges, sewer vector work, sewer billing
Bond Issue: Public works building

Roll Call Vote:

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

Motion: Move to authorize the Forest Hills Volunteer Fire Department to proceed with the order of a new aerial ladder truck at a cost of \$734,720 less discounts of \$20,066 for a final total of \$714,654 under the state's PA Costars Purchase Program with financing options to be determined by council after further review by the finance committee.

Moved: Mr. Tomasic
Second: Ms. Liscio

Mr. Belmonte thanked Ms. Colella for taking care of the books for the FHVFD. Also thanked Chief Heller and Larry Heller, Jim Theilacker and Rick Colella for their work.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Motion: Move to authorize the Forest Hills Volunteer Fire Department to solicit bids for the sale of the 1983 American LaFrance Ladder Truck with bid opening date to be determined.

Moved: Mr. Tomasic
Second: Mr. Meshanko

Roll Call Vote:

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

Council will review proposals for the investment of borough funds and may make one or more motions to accept one or more proposals.

Mr. Morus explains that the borough solicited various banks in the area for proposals for investment of borough funds in order to achieve the best interest earnings and provide for safe investment of the funds and perhaps defray any future increases in cost.

Mr. Morus comments funds in PLGIT and funds in four accounts at the PA Treasury Invest will be re-invested. Re-caps the various rates offered by the banks for each of the funds.

Mr. David Perla, Vice President/Manager National City Bank, Forest Hills Branch explains the range of rates based on liquid funds in a money market account - CD investment rates which renew every 14 days and the accounts with larger amounts are considered liquid rates.

Mr. Lucas inquires if the 5.41% rate applies to balances above \$100,000?

Mr. Perla responds that is correct.

Mr. Tomasic comments the accounts should be liquid with no penalties for taking money out and rates checked every few months to see if there is a better rate somewhere else.

Motion: Move to accept the proposal of National City for the investment of borough funds rates specified in their proposal.

Moved: Mr. Tomasic
Second: Mr. Meshanko

Roll Call Vote:

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

General Report:

1. Council received final copies of the new budget and capital improvements plan booklets for 2007. Copies of both booklets are available for public view at the main office during business hours and at the library at the senior center.
2. There was a delay in mailing trash bills to residents due to the changes made to the fees at the January meeting. All households should have received their bills by this time.

3. Chairman Tomasic noted that the borough's attorney is reviewing a letter from the police officers union indicating that overtime pay has been miscalculated based on a recent court decision.
4. Thanks to all who have donated money to help the borough.

BOROUGH PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Mr. Meshanko

Motion: Move to approve the hiring of summer employees including those for the swimming pool, Fun in the Park, and tennis programs as recommended by the Recreation Board and as outlined on the attachment to this agenda.

Moved: Mr. Meshanko
Second: Ms. Liscio

Voice Vote – all in favor

General Report:

1. Members asked the manager to proceed with soliciting prices for the installation of awnings over the office and police entrance to the borough building as approved in the capital improvements plan. Following that project and if funds are available, the manager is asked to proceed with construction of a wall in the main office to separate the office and police office access from the reception area thereby limiting access to both offices.
2. Mr. Tomasic is working with the Churchill Area Environmental Council to hold two presentations at the recreation lodge. One presentation will be held on rain barrel use and one on composting. Two tentative dates for the presentations are March 15 and April 23. Further information will be available at the office later.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Ms. Liscio

General Report:

1. The committee asked Chief Fabrizi to move forward with the purchase of laptop computers.
2. The public safety subcommittee met with Bob Full of Allegheny County concerning contingency plans for the county's emergency communications center.
3. Vivian Broz noted that several seniors have requested an upgrade of the crosswalk on Yost Blvd. between the two shopping centers. The committee asked that she get a letter signed by as many seniors as

possible to support this request since Yost is a county road. She presented a petition this evening.

4. The crime alert computer is working again temporarily but the provider of the program recommended that the police look into gathering emails from people to convert to a new system for these alerts. The current program is old and can no longer be relied upon.
5. Council sends best wishes to Merlyn Trilli who is ill. We appreciate her work and hope for her speedy recovery.
6. Mr. Tomasic asked if we could discuss the “reader” program at the district justice.

Mr. Tomasic – we researched the program and found out it was very successful in the city of Pittsburgh – Churchill Borough, Wilkins Twp. and Edgewood Borough using the program – the magistrate indicated that they have had success with the program.

Mr. Meshanko inquires what is the program?

Mr. Tomasic responds the “reader” program involves a person going to traffic court other than the arresting officer that gave the citation. The intent was to save some money by not having the officer attend the hearing for the citation. It was discussed and we said we would not institute the “reader” program but some variation of it in which the officer would still attend but scheduled in such a way that the borough could still save money. This would be done on a trial basis and if there were not any problems we would then implement the “reader” program. In accordance with the Sunshine Act this is announced publicly this evening.

OPERATIONS & POLICY COMMITTEE Ms. Liscio

Motion: Move to approve the minutes of council for the January 17, 2007 meeting.

Moved: Ms. Liscio
Second: Mr. Meshanko

Voice Vote – all in favor

Motion: Move to appoint residents to borough committees and boards as noted in the following list with new terms expiring at the end of the month indicated:

Name	Committee	Term Expires at end of:
Matthew Rodrigues	Tree & Shrub	2/2010
Vivian Broz	Tree & Shrub	2/2010
Rebecca Watkins	Tree & Shrub	2/2010

Kimberly Hall	Recreation	2/2010
Michael Marini	Recreation	2/2010
Keith A. Morse	Recreation	2/2010
Marilyn Trilli	Crime Resistance	2/2009
Everest Trilli	Crime Resistance	2/2009
Ed Sanders	Crime Resistance	2/2009
Daniel Joscak	Civil Service Commission	2/2012
Lisa Michel	Planning Commission	2/2011
Robert Thompson	Planning Commission (<i>from alternate to regular member</i>)	2/2011
Myron Lewis	Zoning Hearing Board	2/2010

Moved: Ms. Liscio
Second: Mr. Meshanko

Roll Call Vote:

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

General Report:

1. Council continues to seek volunteers to serve on various boards and committees where vacancies may exist as of today. Interested residents may contact the borough office for further information or submit a letter of interest with resume or background summary to the borough office.
2. Council must reschedule the strategic planning session which was cancelled earlier this month due to weather.
3. The committee reviewed a letter from Attorney Dan Cohen reminding all of the potential for the need for a franchise agreement with Verizon when they are ready to serve the borough's residents with cable related services. He cautions all that the borough would be required to reach an agreement within about 90 days. We have not yet been approached by Verizon and the committee made no decision on how to proceed.
4. Committee Chair Mrazik announced that CCAC students will take over

management of the borough's website at a date to be determined.

5. The manager noted that he has contacted the PA Department of Environmental Protection regarding setting up a peer program to review the borough's trash collection system and possible alternatives. We still have not heard anything on this application at this time.

PLANNING & ZONING COMMITTEE

Mr. O'Malley

Mr. Lucas – If council's desire is to not act on this zoning ordinance tonight and think about it and come back on the 14th of March there would be no problem.

Mr. O'Malley – We do not want to give an appearance of rushing this through.

Ms. Liscio – we received a letter from the county with some suggestions for changes and would like to review them before voting.

Mr. Lucas – suggests reviewing the letter and then advise him of any changes.

The zoning ordinance will be placed on the agenda for discussion at the committee meeting for next week.

Motion: Move to authorize the solicitor to advertise an ordinance which would update the borough's code enforcement policy to include use of the 2006 Property Maintenance Code and amend ordinance 930.

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

Voice Vote – all in favor

General Report:

1. The committee reviewed a complaint from Frank Brozek of Avenue L regarding a dog house constructed at the neighboring property of Peter Porco. Council members present at the meeting agreed that the borough should continue to follow the code officer's recommendations regarding enforcement using the property maintenance code to ensure that proper procedures are followed. There are no other existing ordinances that apply to this situation.

Old Business

Mr. Belmonte asked the chief if a taser should be available for each officer. The chief indicated yes.

New Business

None.

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn by acclamation without objection

- **Next Council Committee meetings scheduled for Tuesday, March 6, 2007 (*Borough Property, Planning & Zoning, Public Works*) and Thursday, March 8, 2007 (*Finance, Operations & Policy, Public Safety*)**
- **Next Council business meeting scheduled for Wednesday, March 14, 2007.**

Recommendations -- Pool Employees -- Summer 2007

Position	Recommended Applicant
Pool Manager	Lynn Cassidy
Assistant Pool Manager	Matthew Madden
Head Swim Team Coach	Angela Destro
Assistant Swim Team Coach	Tara Stein
Assistant Swim Team Coach	Brad Glasser
Synchronized Swim Team Coach	Amanda DeLuca
Assistant Synchronized Swim Team Coach	Stephanie Fedorchak
Lifeguard	Rebecca McEwen
Lifeguard	Carrie Adair
Lifeguard	Sarah Hyland
Lifeguard	James Finlay
Lifeguard	Shannon Cassidy
Lifeguard	Pat Neidig
Concession Stand	Carolyn Gormley
Concession Stand	Graham Bodner
Concession Stand/Cashier	Annmarie Rodrigues
Maintenance	Michael Seman
Utility	Nathan Adair

Recommendations -- Pool Employees -- Summer 2007 -- Page 2

Position	Recommended Applicant
Sub Lifeguard	Christina Destro
Sub Lifeguard	Scott Frechione
Sub Lifeguard	Steve McEwen
Sub Lifeguard	Kelsey Kennedy
Sub Lifeguard	Andrew Wellman
Sub Lifeguard	Matt Wozniak
Sub Lifeguard	Luke Gormley
Sub Lifeguard	Abigail Schwab
Sub Lifeguard	Kim Morgan
Sub Lifeguard	Kenny Longo
Sub Lifeguard	Will Grab
Sub Lifeguard	Amanda DeLuca
Applicants with no prior experience or certifications	
Sub Lifeguard	David Marra
Sub Lifeguard	Anton Bubolz
Sub Lifeguard	Andrew Finlay
Sub Lifeguard	Adam Neidig
Sub Lifeguard	Nicholas Ricci
Sub Lifeguard	Chelsea Stein

Recommendations -- Fun in the Park Employees -- Summer 2007

Position	Recommended Applicant
Director	Lauren Heidingsfelder
Counselor	Sam Hebrank
Counselor	Lauren Sivak
Counselor-in-Training	Florence Conover
Counselor-in-Training	Graham Gelzhiser
Counselor-in-Training	Angela Ricci

Recommendations – Tennis Employees -- Summer 2007

Position	Recommended Applicant
Tennis Director	Mark Paull
Assistant Tennis Director	Jonathan Skoner