
MINUTES

Call to Order:

Mr. Belmonte

Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Heller

Roll Call:

Ms. Liscio	Yes	Mr. Belmonte	Yes
Mr. Meshanko	Yes	Mayor Heller	Yes
Mr. Mrazik	Absent at roll call Arrived 7:25PM	Janet Sullivan, Tax Collector	Yes
Mr. O'Malley	Yes	Blaine Lucas, Solicitor	Yes
Mr. Porco	Yes	Paul Gaus, Engineer	Yes
Mr. Tomasic	Yes	Steven Morus, Manager	Yes

Public Hearing Continued – Action Housing

Blaine Lucas

The public hearing opened at last month meeting continued this evening. A full transcript of testimony is provided by the court reporter present and not included in detail here. Mr. Lucas opened the public hearing and announced items to be included on the record. The court reporter administered an oath to those testifying.

A motion to close the hearing was made by Mr. Tomasic and seconded by Mr. Porco and was approved on a unanimous voice vote.

President's Report

Mr. Belmonte

Mr. Belmonte announced that an executive session was held prior to the meeting to discuss the Action Housing hearing.

Mr. Belmonte noted that he attended the Woodland Hills School board meeting last month and he reported on the actions taken there.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Heller

The Mayor followed up Mr. Belmonte's comments on the school district and noted wasteful spending on the football field in Turtle Creek.

He also noted a report on CBS re: successful communities and the emphasis placed on schools and mentoring.

The Mayor complimented all on the work at Community Day.

He noted a meeting with Bill Flanigan who works for the Allegheny Conference for Community Development at a recent farmers market re: a statewide race that will come through Forest Hills. Flanigan wants to see the communities involved make the bike race special.

He and Mike Belmonte will attend a parade in Braddock celebrating that community.

The Mayor discussed traffic concerns on Sherwood Road and use of the speed trailer to monitor speeding. The borough is investigating the use of speed humps. Mr. Lucas referred to a representative from Trans Associates, Mr. Mike Mudry, and asked him to explain their recommendation that a general policy be established as to the appropriateness of speed humps throughout the community and how that would be evaluated. Mr. Mudry discussed traffic calming work they have done elsewhere and noted that a policy is recommended for those communities before establishing any potential solutions. He explained how this may be addressed and discussed options with the Mayor and council and answered questions.

This will be discussed further at the public safety committee meeting.

Tax Collector's Report

Ms. Sullivan

Ms. Sullivan presented her monthly report of collections.

Police Chief's Report

Chief Fabrizi

The chief is on vacation this week and there was no report.

Volunteer Fire Department Report

Chief Heller

No report.

Woodland Hills EMS Report

Adam Knight

No report.

Solicitor's Report

Blaine Lucas

Copies of the new zoning ordinance are available at the borough office.

Wilkesburg Penn Joint Water Authority Report

Vivian Broz

Ms. Broz presented a report on authority activities and preparation of their new budget.

She also noted that the new back door at the senior center has been installed.

Asked that council consider a wall at the senior center near the library entrance.

Public Comment

Timothy Hurney, 409 Burlington Road – presented a petition re: the paving of one side of Burlington Road, complaining that it is an embarrassment and asked council to have the paving company return to finish the job.

Chuck McKeel, Burlington Road – curbs have been lowered and people are driving in his yard now. Believes that the seam between the old and new part will crumble as there is an uneven surface. Also has pets and used invisible fence to keep them in the yard.

Mayor Heller asked that the engineer and solicitor comment on the work.

Mr. Gaus explained that the contractor was suppose to repave a 125' portion of Burlington Road, but whoever was the foreman for the milling contractor, who is now aware of this situation, just kept on milling 970' over what was contracted to be done. To pave the entire road would cost \$32,000 which is not in the current budget, the road is scheduled to be done in 2009, so the contractor was told to replace the material that was milled off.

The bottom line is he made a mistake, he milled too far and he made it good.

Ms. Liscio comments that she drove on Burlington and the contractor didn't make anything good, it is a mess. Doesn't understand why the borough does not have a legal ground to stand on in this matter.

Mr. Porco asked that the Folino foreman and owner are present at the next committee meeting.

Mr. Lucas believes that there are some things that can be dealt with here.

Jean Bunyan, 415 Burlington Road – grateful to hear that the borough recognizes the problem and is taking action to correct it.

Doug Monroe, 307 Burlington Road – concerned about the gap created at his driveway and the use by the contractor of gravel on his driveway to fill part of the gap.

Chuck Schmieler, owner of Laurel Gardens apartment complex, discussed the rental property ordinance. Requests that council send the ordinance back to planning and zoning, and promises as the largest multi-family owner in the borough, with professional staff, will come and constructively work together with the committees to address these issues and come back with something we can all work with.

Joseph Collins, Swissvale Attorney – spoke on behalf of several of the property owners and requests that the ordinance be reviewed again.

Margaret, from Arbors Management discussed occupancy issues and regulating behavior.

John Mandalakas, 201 Marion Ave. - property owner – understands what the borough is trying to do but asks if this is the way to go about it?

Alan Katchmar, 210 Korhnak Lane – comments that the rental ordinance is needed, but suggests not to vote on it tonight, meet with these people and review it further. Does not want this borough to turn into a Wilkesburg or Braddock. If the borough does not step in and control some of these rental properties that's what will happen. This might not be the best way to do it but we need to do something or our property values will continue to go down.

Mr. Porco comments that there are problems in the borough with the rental properties. Some of the points brought up tonight are excellent and I think that maybe we need to re-visit the ordinance and not take action tonight. It is not fair to say that we are targeting landlords but you need to understand that it is the landlords that control who come into the borough and there needs to be some way to control the demographics of who comes into the borough.

Alan Katchmar, 210 Korhnak Lane – asked Celeste Liscio to comment on the solution discussed re: emergency procedures should the 911 system go down.

Ms. Liscio complemented “We The People” on putting together a magnet that reflects the emergency number to call should the 911 system go down. This is a dedicated line that was originally the old borough emergency number.

Committee Reports

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Mr. Porco

Motion: Move to approve resolution 1062 authorizing an amendment to the sanitary sewer administrative consent order which will authorize ALCOSAN to undertake flow monitoring requirements of the original order except that the borough will remain responsible for a quality analysis and quality control analysis of all flow data from flow meters, extend the

deadline to initiate flow monitoring activities to February 1, 2008 and extend the termination date of the administrative consent order to March 30, 2015.

Moved: Mr. Porco
Second: Mr. Meshanko

Roll Call Vote:

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

General Report:

1. The committee is reviewing options with the borough solicitor that may allow for the temporary hire of a full time employee in the public works department.
2. Committee members asked the manager to draft a policy on the ongoing evaluation of roads in the borough as part of the borough's paving program. A first draft has been submitted to the committee chair for review.
3. Members asked the foreman and manager to prepare specifications for the purchase of two pieces of used equipment: a bucket truck and a brush hog.
4. The borough received the compliments of Dr. Melvin Federbusch, a Carmel Court resident, on the courtesy, efficiency, thoroughness and speed with which Jim Theilacker and the borough public works crew dealt with the tree problem he had on July 12.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Tomasic

General Report:

1. The bill list for June will be approved next month. It is unavailable tonight due to a minor glitch with the interface between the new sewer billing system and Fundware. The problem has been corrected by the office staff but there was not sufficient time to prepare a bill list before tonight's meeting.

2. The committee is reviewing a draft investment policy created by the manager and will discuss the policy at the August meeting.
3. Committee members continue to discuss a possible bond issue refinancing and have no recommendation at this time.
4. The committee discussed preparation of the 2008 budget. Staff will begin preparation in August with a first draft due at the finance committee meeting on October 4. Committee members suggested that one or more finance committee meetings should be moved from their current scheduled dates in October and possibly November to a date that was separate from other committee meetings in order to devote additional time to budget discussions. All committee meetings are open to the public.
5. The manager noted that the state has approved changes to the Emergency and Municipal Services (EMST) tax. It has been renamed the Local Services Tax (LST) and continues to have a maximum fee of \$52 per year. However, a number of changes will be instituted in 2008 including quarterly collection and a minimum income of \$12,000 or higher which will likely reduce the revenue received from this tax next year. Further details will be forthcoming from the state.

BOROUGH PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Mr. Meshanko

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. Members noted that a grant from Sen. Jay Costa has arrived which will allow the borough to spend \$15,000 to repair the bathrooms in the pool lodge meeting room. If funds remain, other improvements may be made as well.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Ms. Liscio

General Report:

1. The committee was notified that the police regionalization study with Chalfant and Wilkins has started. Chief John Pushak of Cecil Township is handling the study on behalf of the state and has offered to meet with the borough's police officers and the Chief to discuss the process. The study does not commit the borough to take any action and is done at no cost to the borough.

2. A laptop computer will be purchased for the canine unit car to match the laptops in the other cars. The shared services grant received from the state will pay for a portion of this additional computer.

OPERATIONS & POLICY COMMITTEE

Mr. Mrazik

Motion: Move to approve the minutes of council for the June 20, 2007 meeting.

Moved: Mr. Mrazik
Second: Mr. Meshanko

Voice Vote – all yes

Motion: Move to approve resolution 1063 that authorizes the borough to participate in the Verizon cable franchise agreement negotiations conducted by the Turtle Creek Valley Council of Governments using the Cohen Law Group to handle negotiations.

Moved: Mr. Mrazik
Second: Ms. Liscio

Mr. Belmonte comments that Forest Hills along with other communities are entering into an agreement with Cohen & Associates to help reduce the legal cost for entering into this cable franchise agreement. Verizon gave a grant in the amount of \$20,000 that was applied toward what the fees would be to reduce the cost of entering into the agreement for each municipality. Mr. Porco will be attending the meeting being held at the Monroeville Municipal Building.

Mayor Heller comments that it is important to get this type of agreement in place because the franchise fee is revenue to the borough and if the agreement is different there is a potential chance for loss of revenue to the borough and it would need to be made up in another way.

Roll Call Vote:

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

General Report:

1. The committee continues to discuss options on a policy for taping business meetings and asked the solicitor to review an old policy passed by council in 1991 regarding access to tape recordings.

2. The committee reviewed a report from Michele Nestor of Nestor Resources, who attended the July committee meeting, on the borough's trash collection program. The study was paid for by the state and reviewed a "pay as you throw" option as an alternative to the present system. Implementing such a system or one of the alternatives suggested by Ms. Nestor will likely not occur for a year due to the ground work that must be laid. Members will continue to discuss options at the August 2 committee meeting. The cost of continuing the current contract in 2008 will likely increase the cost to the borough by at least \$20,000.

PLANNING & ZONING COMMITTEE

Mr. O'Malley

Mr. Lucas comments on the landlord ordinance – requests that specific questions and comments related to the ordinance be written and directed to the borough manager several days prior to 8/9/07.

Mr. O'Malley comments that council was trying to address issues caused by absentee landlords who were creating serious problems for the community. Council's intent was never to harass the good landlords.

Motion: Motion to approve the application of Forest Hills Senior Housing, Inc. to amend the conditional use decision letter dated June 22, 2006 to delete Condition Numbers 2a and 5, all other conditions of said decision letter to remain in full force and effect, and subject to the additional condition that the applicant comply with the conditions of Zoning Hearing Board decision letter dated July 11, 2007, and to direct the proper Borough officers to prepare findings of fact and conclusions of law in support of said decision.

Moved: Ms. Liscio
Second: Mr. Tomasic

Mr. O'Malley referred to his statement made at last month's meeting and summarized the reasons again tonight. Senior housing is not economic development – parking is an issue – development is being done with federal and state money – not satisfied with the traffic study.

Mr. Tomasic comments that parking would be an issue regardless of the type of development that would be in that location.

Mr. Belmonte comments on the positive side people on fixed incomes could move into this type of development and those homes would free up for wage earning families.

Roll Call Vote:

Ms. Liscio	Yes
Mr. Meshanko	No
Mr. Mrazik	No
Mr. O'Malley	No
Mr. Porco	Yes

Mr. Tomasic	Yes
Mr. Belmonte	Yes

General Report:

No report.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Mr. Belmonte noted a public hearing will be held by the school district on the junior high issue.

Mr. Katchmar asked if the CDC is committed to fixing the sidewalks at the bank area. Should be fixed before light up night.

Mayor Heller also discussed the computer crime watch system. He has been looking into options with the crime committee. Mr. Lucas noted that Aspinwall and Moon Twp. both have this.

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn by acclamation without objection

- **Next Council Committee meetings scheduled for Thursday, August 2, 2007 (*Finance, Operations & Policy, Public Safety*) at 7:00 PM. and Thursday, August 9, 2007 (*Borough Property, Planning & Zoning, Public Works*)**
- **Next Council business meeting scheduled for Wednesday, August 15, 2007 at 7:00 PM.**