
MINUTES

Call to Order: Mr. Porco

Pledge of Allegiance Mayor Heller

Roll Call:

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

Public Hearing – Action Housing Laura Stone

A court reporter is present to take information on the record and his transcript can be referred to for details and speakers. This hearing is in regard to an amended conditional use which changes parking requirements for the proposed senior citizen apartments on Ardmore. It was approved but the applicant wishes a modification removing a limitation on parking also placed on the applicant by the zoning hearing board (next hearing on July 9) and removing the 18 month follow up traffic study.

Planning commission recommends the first amendment but not the second.

Raymond Baum, attorney for Action Housing, appeared to testify.

Cynthia Jampole, Trans Associates, appeared to testify on the parking study.

Mr. Meshanko and Mr. O'Malley questioned Mr. Baum and Ms. Jampole on a number of issues related to the parking study and the development.

Mr. O'Malley read a statement outlining the issues and opposing the application. Mr. Heller questioned Mr. O'Malley's use of a comment from former Mayor Gormley, a member of the CDC in this context.

The decision was made to continue the hearing until July on motion of Mr. O'Malley and second of Mr. Tomasic. On a roll call vote, all present voted yes.

Public Hearing – Zoning Ordinance Amendment Laura Stone

A court reporter is present to take information on the record and his transcript can be referred to for details. This ordinance raises fence height from 5 feet to 6 feet.

There were no comments and the hearing was closed.

President's Report

Mr. Porco

Mr. Porco noted that council held three executive sessions since the last business meeting to discuss personnel issues.

Mr. Porco noted that Mr. Belmonte was not present in order to attend the Woodland Hills School District board meeting along with fellow elected officials from district communities and explained several reasons for council's concern on school district activities and their new budget.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Heller

The Mayor noted that summer is bringing a number of borough activities including St. Maurice's parish festival. He noted that the farmer's market started in early June and runs through the last Friday in October sponsored by the Late Bloomer's Garden Club.

"We the People" coordinated some volunteer efforts on the part of students in cleaning various areas around the borough.

The Mayor noted that he would like to discuss the email policy during a future ops and policy committee meeting.

Tax Collector's Report

Ms. Sullivan

No report.

Police Chief's Report

Chief Fabrizi

Chief Fabrizi presented his monthly report of activities and incidents.

The chief thanked Mr. Porco for his report on school district concerns. He noted that his force has had to deal with several issues there.

Volunteer Fire Department Report

Chief Heller

No report.

Woodland Hills EMS Report

Adam Knight

No report.

Solicitor's Report

Laura Stone

Ms. Stone noted several items that the solicitor is working on including the garbage contract and recommendations by Michelle Nestor, policy on taping meetings, and the Thorn Alley project. Reports will be provided in the future.

Wilkesburg Penn Joint Water Authority Report

Vivian Broz

Ms. Broz presented a monthly report on authority activities.

She also promoted the rain barrel project in the borough and noted Mr. Tomasic's efforts in getting them into homes and a trial use at borough facilities. This will also help with borough storm water requirements.

Public Comment

Barb Chappie, 48 Marwood Avenue – complained about the paving of the roads list in the Tree City Times and noted that Rockwood was picked but not Marwood. Marwood is a mess. Mr. Porco agreed with her statements but explained that the question came up as to should an entire neighborhood zone be up for paving. Based on past experience, council decided to not do an entire area at once and selected Rockwood first. Marwood could be on the program next year although he did not want to guarantee it.

Committee Reports

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Mr. Meshanko

Motion: Move to approve the purchase of a Ford F550 4 wheel drive dump truck from Woltz & Wind Ford using the South Hills Area Council of Governments bid price of \$52,118 and accessories in the amount of \$7,650 with funds budgeted in the capital improvements plan.

Moved: Mr. Meshanko
Second: Mr. Tomasic

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Meshanko	Yes
Mr. O'Malley	Yes
Mr. Porco	Yes
Mr. Tomasic	Yes

General Report:

1. The committee reviewed the status of the sanitary sewer consent order work with engineer Paul Gaus.

2. Committee members will invite Ruth Ann Omer, President of Gateway Engineers, to attend a future committee meeting to provide a report on Gateway's activities in the borough.

3. The committee advises council that, without further objection, dollars to pay for pavement crack sealing this year should come from the liquid fuels fund with future crack sealing work to come from the road improvement fund when the 2008 budget is created. Mr. Heller questioned taking this work out of the 1 mill tax increase fund and objected to it, saying that it should be explained to the residents. Mr. Porco explained the crack sealing process and the reason for doing this work on newly paved roads to maintain the integrity of the road and reduce future paving efforts. The Mayor noted he is not questioning crack sealing just questioning that the funds come out of the road program. Jim Theilacker explained the reason and noted that crack sealing allows you to save money so that more money is available for doing other roads. Mr. Tomasic comments this is only a recommendation from council. We will discuss it further before we come up with a final policy.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Tomasic

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

\$182,369.50 General Fund
\$ 10,884.92 Capital Improvements Plan/Capital 1
\$ 23,695.21 Corrective Action/Capital 2
\$ 11,224.00 Bond Issue

Moved: Mr. Tomasic
Second: Mr. Meshanko

Detail of non-general fund items:

Capital 1: CDC Main Street Program, District Justice Building roof, pool, Comprehensive Plan
Capital 2: Sanitary Sewer Consent Order work including dye testing, televising, cleaning, mapping, vactor/camera equipment service and sewer billing
Bond Issue: Public Works new garage

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Meshanko	Yes
Mr. O'Malley	Yes
Mr. Porco	Yes

Mr. Tomasic Yes

General Report:

1. The committee is reviewing a draft investment policy created by the manager and will discuss the policy at the July meeting.
2. Committee members discussed a possible bond issue refinancing with Mike McCaig of PNC Bank that would save a net of \$91,000 based on today's interest rates. The committee has no recommendation at this time and asks that council discuss options as to timing of a refinancing.
3. The committee recommends continuing the annual contract for the Fundware accounting software with Software Systems in the amount of \$2,156 without objection. This represents a decrease in the cost of the annual service contract with SSI from the former cost of almost \$4,000.

BOROUGH PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Mr. Meshanko

Motion: Move to approve a resolution authorizing the borough's application through the Turtle Creek Valley Council of Governments for a community development block grant in the amount of \$22,500 to fund improvements to the restrooms in the main park.

Moved: Mr. Meshanko
Second: Mr. Tomasic

Mr. Meshanko noted that this would make the restroom ADA compliant.

Voice Vote – all in favor

General Report:

1. The committee asked the manager and public works foreman to secure an estimate from a leak detection company to determine where leaks continue to occur at the swimming pool.
2. Members asked pool staff to review the use of a manual chlorination system with the baby pool and to monitor test results and report back to the committee.
3. The committee is investigating the use of rain barrels at selected borough buildings beginning with the senior citizens center.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Mr. Tomasic

Motion: Move to authorize the solicitor and manager to advertise an ordinance that would permit the installation of a “no throughway” designation for Sylvan Way at Braddock Road.

Moved: Mr. Tomasic
Second: Mr. Meshanko

Kay Powderly, Cascade Road – asked what this would mean. Mr. Porco explained that council was trying to eliminate this as a cut through.

Vivian Broz, Burlington Road – asked that a similar designation be made for her street.

Mr. Tomasic comments that the problem is the traffic light. This is a very dangerous intersection and if we can get the light system changed allowing people to turn left we wouldn't need to designate Sylvan Way as a “no throughway”.

Chief Fabrizi comments that he is in favor of making Sylvan Way a “no throughway”. It is a very narrow street and you have motorists who are trying to beat the light traveling at a high rate of speed causing safety issues for the residents who are trying to pull out of their driveways.

Voice Vote – all in favor

General Report:

1. The committee discussed the use of the old borough emergency phone number for use as a back up number should the county 911 center experience an emergency shut down.

OPERATIONS & POLICY COMMITTEE Mr. O'Malley

Motion: Move to approve the minutes of council for the May 16, 2007 meeting.

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

Voice Vote – all in favor

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 will discuss options for committee formats for future council reorganization at future meetings.
3. Committee members asked that the arborist continue to work with Duquesne Light in its tree pruning program to secure the best results for the borough during the program as they had advised previously.

4. The borough has agreed to work with the Turtle Creek Valley Council of Governments and other member communities in securing a contract with Verizon for cable television and other services.

PLANNING & ZONING COMMITTEE

Mr. O'Malley

Motion: Move to authorize the solicitor and manager to advertise an ordinance that would establish regulations for residential rental properties within the borough.

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

Voice Vote – all in favor

Motion: Motion to approve an ordinance amending the new zoning ordinance by increasing the maximum height of fences from 5 to 6 feet.

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

ORDINANCE TITLE READS AS FOLLOWS:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF FOREST HILLS,
ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AMENDING
CHAPTER 27 OF THE FOREST HILLS BOROUGH CODE OF
ORDINANCES, ZONING, TO INCREASE THE MAXIMUM
ALLOWABLE HEIGHT FOR FENCES.

Mr. Tomasic questioned if there are other ways to deal with the problem without amending the ordinance? Ms. Stone noted only by seeking a variance.

Mr. O'Malley noted that 6 feet is a standard height based on discussions with the solicitor.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Meshanko	Yes
Mr. O'Malley	Yes
Mr. Porco	Yes
Mr. Tomasic	Yes

Motion: Move that the Borough Manager be authorized to execute a Non-Disturbance Agreement on behalf of the Borough in a form acceptable to the Borough Solicitor with respect to the property located at 487 Atlantic Avenue.

Moved: Mr. O'Malley

Second: Mr. Tomasic

Ms. Stone explains there was a simple residential sale of property and the mortgage bank requested a survey be done. The survey showed that the home of the seller encroaches about a foot on the boroughs easement for sanitary sewers. The bank then said they would not finance the house and then have the borough say they need to tear it down because a foot is on the easement. Therefore the borough can issue a standard form called a "non-service" agreement which indicates that the borough won't make them tear there house down if there is work to be done on the sanitary sewer. Also the agreement has been drafted so that the borough would agree to this non-disturbance but in return for that they would get a 20' wide surface easement outside of the existing sanitary sewer easement. We would also get a \$1,000 escrow to cover the boroughs fees in allowing to let this happen for them.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Meshanko	Yes
Mr. O'Malley	Yes
Mr. Porco	Yes
Mr. Tomasic	Yes

General Report:

1. The committee discussed alternatives for the code enforcement program with the borough's contractor, Building Inspection Underwriters. The committee will continue to investigate.

Old Business

Mr. Tomasic noted that he met with the chief and Mike Belmonte and noted it was a positive step forward toward communication and looks forward to continuing this in the future with the department.

Mr. Porco wanted to draw attention to the rental property ordinance, approved earlier for advertisement. This will encourage anyone who owns rental property in this borough to inspect it, keep it up, keep all the records current and basically keep the quality of the house at an appropriate level.

New Business

None.

Adjourn

Motion to Adjourn

Moved: Mr. Tomasic Second: Mr. Meshanko

Voice Vote – all in favor

- **Next Council Committee meetings** scheduled for Tuesday, July 3, 2007 (*Borough Property, Planning & Zoning, Public Works*) and Thursday, July 5, 2007 (*Finance, Operations & Policy, Public Safety*) at 7:00 PM.
- **Next Council business meeting** scheduled for Wednesday, July 18, 2007 at 7:00 PM.