

---

**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	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

President's Report Mr. Belmonte

The Progress presented Jim Theilacker with the Citizen of the Year award. Mr. Belmonte called Mr. Theilacker a community treasure and thanked him on behalf of council and the citizens of the borough.

Mr. Belmonte also noted that the borough spent \$38,000 in legal fees to on the Progressive development.

Mayor's Report Mayor Heller

The Mayor noted several items:

Discussed disturbing news stories re: missing children in the area and Amber alerts that resulted. He discussed the Amber Stick program, a computer storage facility that allows for storage of information on children for emergency use should a child be missing. "We the People" will be coordinating the program beginning with St. Maurice.

Discussed establishing a neighborhood block program for children in case of emergency.

Late Bloomers sponsored a party for all the vendors at the Farmer's Market and met to plan this year's gardens.

Womanthynk and We the People will work together on Light Up night this year.

Tax Collector's Report

Ms. Sullivan

Ms. Sullivan noted that the first report will be for March since collections just began this month.

Police Chief's Report

Chief Fabrizi

Chief Fabrizi presented his monthly activity report on police matters. Noted generous donations from a number of people.

Tasers are in service now as the officers are being trained.

The laptops are now in the cars although there are some minor issues that must be resolved.

Discussed several issues re: break-in's on Halsey Ave.

Volunteer Fire Department Report

Chief Heller

No report.

Woodland Hills EMS Report

Adam Knight

No report.

Solicitor's Report

Blaine Lucas

Inadvertently left off the agenda is an ordinance adopting the 2006 property maintenance code.

Mr. Lucas discussed the zoning ordinance draft and several changes that are required based on alternate versions of the zoning map and several other issues. He suggested that council may wish to not act on the ordinance tonight and instead move to the meeting in May. The alternate maps would be sent to county planning so that council may consider them all. Also, the county had made several recommendations that council may wish to allow the planning commission and their consultant EPD to review. Mr. Lucas will attend the planning commission meeting to explain the county's recommendations.

Wilkesburg Penn Joint Water Authority Report

Vivian Broz

Ms. Broz presented a report on authority activities. The street list for improvements has been sent to the authority in case there would be work required there.

Public Comment

John Rotliff, Frame Outlet – discussed potential changes to bus service along Ardmore Blvd. and how that would affect his employees who do not drive. He spoke to Bob Grove at PAT re: rider-ship. He is concerned about the bus service that comes from Trafford. He spoke to several businesses who were also concerned.

Mayor Heller noted that he wrote a letter to Dan Onorato and county leadership re: his concerns on this matter. He has not received a response.

Mr. Belmonte noted that he will write a letter, also. He encouraged members of the audience to do the same.

Mayor noted he asked to keep routes like the 68F an express. He noted that this will be a real inconvenience.

Vivian Broz noted that one of the comments made by Action Housing was that the new senior apartments would be on the bus line for convenience of residents.

Mr. O'Malley noted that the pension plans and retirement health benefits of Port Authority management are greater than that of the unions.

Committee Reports

**PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE**

Mr. Porco

**Motion:** Move to authorize the borough engineer to prepare specifications and solicit bids for improvements to the following borough streets under the pavement improvement program:

Barclay Avenue from Avenue F to Perry  
Barclay Avenue from Lenox to Marion  
Bevington Road from Burlington to Braddock  
Elmore Road (south) from Newport to Geneva Way  
Morrow Road from Ardmore to Sherwood  
Newport Road from Berlin to Cascade  
Rockwood Avenue from Ardmore to Yost

Moved: Mr. Porco  
Second: Ms. Liscio

Mr. Meshanko stated that he thought that an earlier letter from Paul Gaus would be reviewed first. Mr. Porco explained that he, Jim Theilacker and Mr. Tomasic went out

and reviewed roads this morning. They found several roads that were worse than expected and changed the original list. This took into consideration the budget amount that we have to work with.

Roll Call Vote:

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

*General Report:*

1. The committee reviewed the requirements for funding improvements to the main park restrooms through CDBG funding. Funds are available to improve handicapped accessibility and the committee recommended that the manager and engineer proceed with preliminary and final applications to determine if we qualify. The committee and council will evaluate any award received later to determine if it covers the full cost of the work.
2. Public works overtime budget stood at approximately \$16,800 as of the date of last week's committee meeting.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Mr. Tomasic

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

\$221,812.70 General Fund  
\$ 7,534.82 Capital 1  
\$ 56,469.17 Corrective Action/Capital 2  
\$ 58,114.43 Liquid Fuels  
\$ 30,823.62 Bond Issue

Moved: Mr. Tomasic  
Second: Mr. Porco

Detail of non-general fund items:

Capital 1: Braddock Road pavement, office computer upgrade  
Capital 2: Sanitary sewer consent order work, vector/camera service, ALCOSAN billing  
Liquid Fuels: Salt, Cinders, Ralumac

Bond Issue: Public works building, pool heater

Roll Call Vote:

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

**Motion:** Move to approve resolution number 1059 to authorize the Oshkosh Capital financing plan for the new fire truck at a total cost of \$734,720 less discounts of \$20,066 for a final cost of \$714,654 and with lease payments for 15 years at a cost of \$70,678.29 per year with council's finance committee to consider adding the low interest loan option at a future committee meeting.

Moved: Mr. Tomasic  
Second: Mr. Meshanko

Roll Call Vote:

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

**Motion:** Move to accept the settlement from Ed Limbacher's legal counsel including a check in the amount of \$41,328.99 as payment in full of subrogation interests of the borough and to direct the borough manager to place the funds in the borough's budget reserve account upon receipt pending further review of use of the funds by the finance committee.

Moved: Mr. Tomasic  
Second: Mr. Porco

Roll Call Vote:

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

**Motion:** Move to exonerate tax collector Janet Sullivan from the collection of all delinquent taxes for 2006 and previous years which have been turned

over to the borough office staff for collection.

Moved: Mr. Tomasic  
Second: Mr. Porco

Mr. Porco: this is done annually to turn over all delinquent accounts.

***Voice Vote – all in favor***

*General Report:*

1. The committee reviewed a report from Treasurer Barbara Livingstone concerning improvements in the relationship with Citizen's Bank which serves as the depository for borough funds. Fees have been eliminated which should save the borough about \$7,000/year and the interest rate on the checking account has been improved from 2.85% to 4.87%. The committee appreciates Ms. Livingstone's work in securing these improvements.
2. Committee members reviewed a report from the county assessor's office regarding the latest round of appeals. There was a net reduction in value for the 23 properties under appeal in this round amounting to \$697,300. This decline in assessed value reduces taxes received by the borough by \$697.30 per mill (or \$5,822.46 at 8.35 mills). Further appeals are anticipated.
3. The committee will consider whether council should adopt a policy on periodic reviews of contract services like insurance which would establish time lines for council to solicit other interested contractors for insurance and other services periodically.
4. Committee members asked that the planning and zoning committee continue its review of the draft rental property ordinance at the April meeting.
5. Mr. Tomasic recommended that the finance committee begin preparation of next year's budget by considering establishing a goal of reducing the budget by a certain percentage in order to lower taxes.

**BOROUGH PROPERTY COMMITTEE**

Mr. Meshanko

**Motion:** Move to approve the recreation board's recommendation that all playground equipment at Cliffwood Park be removed.

Moved: Mr. Meshanko  
Second: Mr. Porco

Mr. Porco noted that the equipment is old and there are liability concerns. Mr. Belmonte asked what we would do with the park. Mr. Tomasic noted that the part that the borough owned is not in the borough. Mr. Gaus noted that the borough does own a small part of property in Braddock Hills at that location. Mr. O'Malley asked if we should contact Braddock Hills re: this. Ms. Liscio suggested this should go back to committee on disposition of the property. Mr. Morus noted that the borough has acted responsibly and removed old and dangerous equipment but the remaining equipment is old and will become worse over time.

Roll Call Vote:

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

*General Report:*

1. Members discussed the status of the library with C. C. Mellor librarian Sally Bogie.
2. The crew will investigate costs for replacement of an exterior door at the alley behind the senior center.
3. The committee asked that the engineer and staff proceed with the solicitation of bids for the installation of a chlorine tablet system at the pool to replace the liquid chlorine system.
4. The committee asked that the staff proceed with the use of epoxy paint at the swimming pool to replace the water based paint beginning in 2007 in an effort to reduce the need to paint the pool surface each year.
5. Mr. Meshanko asked that Mr. Lucas consider including the ability for the baseball association to sell advertising signs and change the zoning ordinance accordingly to permit this. Mr. Lucas raised a contractual issue here with the association based on information provided to council earlier and will review this and the zoning issue with council to try to put this on the April agenda.

**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

Ms. Liscio

**Motion:** Move to approve resolution no. 1060 amending the existing fee resolution to specify that solicitation permits are valid for 7 days from the date the application is approved.

Moved: Ms. Liscio  
Second: Mr. Porco

Mr. Meshanko wants the permits date stamped

Roll Call Vote:

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

*General Report:*

1. Faith Katchmar addressed the committee on the use of "Amber sticks" to assist in protecting children and or the elderly. "We the People" is an authorized provider and she asked council for cooperation in allowing the police to participate in training programs and other public safety training in conjunction with the group's work in selling the sticks. The police would not participate in actual sale of the sticks. The public safety committee did not see a problem with the request considering that the police will not work with them to market a product. The sticks are password protected. Mr. Belmonte thanked Mayor Heller for providing the idea for the sticks to the organization.
2. Mr. Tomasic suggested that council consider a recommendation from the police peer study of several years ago that would have council and representatives from the police association meet on a regular basis to maintain open communications between the department and elected officials. The committee will consider this at a later date.
3. Alan Katchmar of "We the People" sent a letter requesting use of the Forest Hills/Westinghouse Recreation Center for a volunteer fair for all organizations in the borough. The purpose of the fair is to give residents an opportunity to visit with representatives of these organizations and learn more about them. Ms. Liscio read the entire letter. She asked that council support this and all agreed that this was a good idea. She will contact Mr. Katchmar.
4. Ms. Liscio will meet with the VFD on fundraising. Noted that both the VFD and WHEMS are undergoing their subscription drives and she urges all to support them.

**OPERATIONS & POLICY COMMITTEE**

Mr. O'Malley

**Motion:** Move to approve the minutes of council for the February 28, 2007 meeting.

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

***Voice Vote – all in favor***

**Motion:** Move to appoint Elizabeth Hanzel to the Bird & Wildlife Committee with a term to expire at the end of February 2010.

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

***Voice Vote – all in favor***

*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. This was carried over to the next meeting.
3. The manager submitted an application to the PA Department of Environmental Protection regarding setting up a peer program to review the borough's trash collection system and alternatives using the "pay as you throw" system. We hope to have the study completed in time to consider alternatives to the current trash collection system and fee. Mr. Tomasic agreed that this needs review. Wilksburg was used as an example but they are at \$150 rather than the \$90 number given earlier. He noted that council is trying to find a solution. Mr. Porco noted that every community is faced with this dilemma.
4. The Pittsburgh Pirates notified Forest Hills that it is instituting a "community day" program that would allow various communities to celebrate with the Pirates at a game this season. Council wishes to gauge interest in the program to determine if enough residents would be interested in attending a Pirates game at a "Forest Hills Borough Night at PNC Park."
5. The Churchill Area Environmental Council has published a flyer on deer population control. The flyer is available in the information rack outside the entrance to the borough office near the restrooms.

**PLANNING & ZONING COMMITTEE**

Mr. O'Malley

**Motion:** Move to approve ordinance number 968 which makes revisions in the borough construction code as required by the state's Uniform Construction Code update.

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

Ordinance title reads as follows:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF FOREST HILLS, ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AMENDING CHAPTER 5, PART 1 OF THE FOREST HILLS BOROUGH CODE OF ORDINANCES, CONSTRUCTION CODE, TO MAKE CERTAIN REVISIONS TO THE BOROUGH CONSTRUCTION CODE.

Mr. Belmonte asked if the borough's rules are better than what the UCC has does that super-cede what the UCC offers?

Mr. Lucas – we are adopting the UCC with the one exception that if we have old ordinances on the books that are more restricted they can be grandfathered in.

Roll Call Vote:

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

**Motion:** Move to approve ordinance number 969 which makes revisions to the borough property maintenance code.

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

Ordinance title reads as follows:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF FOREST HILLS, ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AMENDING CHAPTER 5, PART 2 OF THE FOREST HILLS BOROUGH CODE OF ORDINANCES, PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE, TO ADOPT THE 2006 INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE AS THE BOROUGH PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE AND TO REVISE THE REGULATIONS RELATED THERETO.

Roll Call Vote:

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

**Motion:** Move to authorize an additional public hearing and advertisements of the proposed zoning ordinance for the May 16 public meeting.

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

Roll Call Vote:

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

*General Report:*

1. The committee asked the solicitor to review the state's Uniform Construction Code (UCC) for possible changes in the sections on residential building alterations to determine if the prior borough code contained stricter provisions to which the borough may wish to return.
2. Committee members decided that the solicitor should not consider changing the accessory structure provisions of the UCC to require building permits for accessory structures of less than 1,000 square feet.
3. The committee asked that the chair contact the planning commission thanking them for their work on the zoning and subdivision ordinances and asking that commission members advise council on the next steps that should be taken toward further implementation of the borough's comprehensive plan.

Old Business

Mr. Tomasic thanked the Katchmar's for their generous gift which is enough to purchase a fourth Taser.

New Business

None.

Adjourn

*Adjourn by acclamation without objection*

- **Next Council Committee meetings scheduled for Tuesday, April 10, 2007 (*Borough Property, Planning & Zoning, Public Works*) and Thursday, April 12, 2007 (*Finance, Operations & Policy, Public Safety*) at 7:00 PM.**
- **Next Council business meeting scheduled for Wednesday, April 18, 2007 at 7:00 PM.**