
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	Yes	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 – Zoning Ordinance Mr. Lucas

Public hearing was held with court reporter present. Details of the hearing can be found on his transcript. Mr. Lucas discussed the draft zoning ordinance with council and members of the public present including the opinions of the planning commission, Community Development Corporation and county planning.

Motion to close the public hearing.

Moved Mr. Tomasic
Second Ms. Liscio

Voice Vote – all in favor

President's Report Mr. Belmonte

No report.

Mayor's Report Mayor Heller

May is police officer memorial month and Officer Livingstone represented the borough.

The mayor praised Ted Gilbert re: the Arbor Day Ceremony and noted it was a great event.

Tax Collector's Report

Ms. Sullivan

Ms. Sullivan presented a monthly collections report for April.

Police Chief's Report

Chief Fabrizi

The Chief presented his monthly report of activities. He updated all on the canine program.

The computer was removed from the speed monitor and given to a technician for repair.

Volunteer Fire Department Report

Chief Heller

No report.

Woodland Hills EMS Report

Adam Knight

No report.

Solicitor's Report

Blaine Lucas

Requested an executive session to discuss a property acquisition matter following today's meeting.

Discussed the status of the Action Housing project and the parking issue that is causing a problem for the applicant because of HUD. Attorney Ray Baum is present on behalf of the developer. The zoning hearing board commenced a hearing on the parking variance but has continued it. It may also come to council's attention for a conditional use at the June meeting. It has been recommended that a parking demand study be completed up front prior to anyone making a decision and Trans Associates has been called. The developer would pay for this but would let Trans contract with the borough since Trans provides services to the borough.

A representative from Trans Associates, Cynthia Jampole, is also present. Council discussed the study and the scope developed for it.

Joe Ladik, 115 Ashley Court – comments that there is no where to park on Ardmore Blvd. and when the people living in the high rise have company there will be no place for them to park. To have them park across the street at the Thompson property is not a solution. You need to provide enough parking spaces, do it right or don't do it because you are going to have a real problem.

Alan Katchmar, Kohrnak Lane – does the study expand on what happens when they go to park and there is no space? What do they do with their car and what impact does it have on the businesses in the area?

Discussion is held among council members and a decision to expand the parking demand study to include where do cars park when there are no spaces available.

Jim Busa, Atlantic Avenue – who makes the final decision to remove the clause, council or the zoning hearing board? The issue is one little sentence in the contract, so it is confusing as to how the parking study is going to make a difference.

Wilkesburg Penn Joint Water Authority Report

Vivian Broz

No report.

Public Comment

No comments.

Committee Reports

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Mr. Porco

General Report:

1. The committee learned that the sanitary sewer consent decree monitoring agencies will inform all ALCOSAN municipalities soon that they will not hold individual municipalities responsible for the failure to begin the flow monitoring requirements by June 1. They acknowledge that the work should be handled by ALCOSAN but that cannot happen until a consent decree has been finalized with ALCOSAN.
2. Committee members are reviewing the cost of adding Sylvan Way between Braddock Road and Ardmore to the pavement program as well as the cost of undertaking a scratch coat procedure on a small portion of Concord.
3. The crew started the update of the lights on the deck of the Forest Hills/Westinghouse Recreation Center.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Tomasic

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

\$551,143.43 General Fund

\$128,624.72 Corrective Action/Capital 2
\$ 8,518.10 Liquid Fuels
\$ 27,900.00 Bond Issue

Moved: Mr. Tomasic
Second: Mr. Porco

Detail of non-general fund items:

Capital 2: ALCOSAN bill, sewer billing
Liquid Fuels: Salt purchases
Bond Issue: Pool boiler

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 reviewed recent appeals for 9 major properties in the borough. Appeals have reduced the value of properties owned by Cost, Kossman, Viacom and Forest Glen by over \$14 million since 2000.
2. Committee members are considering refinancing the 2002 bond issue this year possibly resulting in a savings of a total of \$130,000 over the next several years.
3. The committee is considering investigating alternatives for pension investment management and administration services.

BOROUGH PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Mr. Meshanko

Motion: Move to formally approve the borough's policy on deposits for rental properties as shown below.

Moved: Mr. Meshanko
Second: Mr. Tomasic

Policy reads as follows:

It is the policy of the Forest Hills Borough that once a potential renter is penciled in on the reservation calendar they have two weeks from the date they are penciled in to send the required reservation deposit for each facility and/or park or they will lose their reservation.

Voice Vote – all in favor

Motion: Move to approve the hiring of Youssef Abdelwahah as a part time assistant tennis coach as recommended by the recreation board to replace the previously approved coach who declined the position.

Moved: Mr. Meshanko
Second: Ms. Liscio

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 borough is reviewing use of the pay phone at the pool lodge to see if its lack of use warrants removal. The borough pays between \$500 and \$1,000 per year on the payphone.
2. The committee reviewed the grant submitted by the manager to the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources for improvements to the Forest Hills/Westinghouse Recreation Center parking lot, grounds and ball fields.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Ms. Liscio

Motion: Move to approve the purchase of a 2007 Dodge Charger as a police vehicle to replace car number 1 from Day Automotive at a total cost of \$26,139 with lease payments over three years of \$9,300.39 and including trade in pending possible sale at a higher price in lieu of trade of the old car.

Moved: Ms. Liscio
Second: Mr. Porco

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 asked the manager to send a letter to representatives of the group that wishes to use the borough park for paint ball competition outlining the concerns of the insurance company and inquiring about the possibility that the group would be able to provide sufficient insurance that may satisfy the borough's underwriters.
2. Ms. Liscio also reviewed the new fire truck purchase with the department and looked at pictures of the construction of the vehicle. It should be ready within a few weeks.

OPERATIONS & POLICY COMMITTEE Mr. Mrazik

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

Moved: Mr. Mrazik
Second: Mr. Meshanko

Voice Vote – all in favor

General Report:

1. The committee discussed options on a policy for taping business meetings and is reviewing 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 its next meeting.

PLANNING & ZONING COMMITTEE Mr. O'Malley

Motion: Move to adopt Ordinance No.970, entitled "An ordinance of the Borough of Forest Hills, Allegheny County, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, repealing Chapter 27 of the Forest Hills Borough Code of Ordinances, Zoning, and adopting a new Chapter 27 of the Forest Hills Code of Ordinances, Zoning", and in connection therewith adopting Zoning Map Scenario No. 4, and adopting the Borough Planning Commission's recommendation with respect to Restaurants and Small Restaurants in the Table 1 Use Chart.

Moved: Ms. Liscio
Second: Mr. Meshanko

Mr. Lucas – this will provide for small restaurants to be permitted in the B-1 and the S-2

any larger than 8 to 10 square feet up to 5,000 with conditional uses in S-2, S-3 and B-1.

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

Motion: Motion to authorize the proper Borough officers to prepare, advertise a public hearing on and distribute a proposed amendment to the new zoning ordinance increasing the maximum height of fences from 5 to 6 feet.

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

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 review the draft rental property ordinance and asked that the solicitor respond to comments made by the borough's code enforcement officer.
2. The committee asked that the code officer again begin the process of reviewing sidewalks throughout the borough and require those whose sidewalks are cracked and/or damaged to repair them. Council is investigating whether the borough could arrange for a cement contractor to provide a bid for the cost of replacing sidewalks that would allow residents to save money.
3. An updated computerized version of the borough's 1992 codification along with subsequent ordinances has been provided to the magistrate for her reference during hearings.

Old Business

Mr. Tomasic discussed the police management peer review from 2001 which noted on page 5 under list of recommendations that council should consider.

Holding quarterly informal meeting with members of the department to improve communications and reduce misunderstandings.

He asked Mr. Belmonte to lead this effort.

Mayor Heller asked about the cost of overtime.

Mr. Tomasic would like to consider options, making it a voluntary meeting, doing it during shift times, etc. and would review with the chief.

Mayor Heller noted that the request to do this should go through the mayor.

New Business

Mr. Belmonte discussed the presentation made by real estate agent Jack Rettger at the finance committee meeting earlier this month.

Mr. Tomasic – the borough does have some properties that could possibly be developed and get them to help the economic base of Forest Hills.

Mr. Belmonte also noted a report he read from the PA Economy League re: municipalities in distress and Harrisburg's increasing involvement in the process.

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn by acclamation without objection

- **Next Council Committee meetings scheduled for Tuesday, June 5, 2007 (*Borough Property, Planning & Zoning, Public Works*) and Thursday, June 7, 2007 (*Finance, Operations & Policy, Public Safety*) at 7:00 PM.**
- **Next Council business meeting scheduled for Wednesday, June 20, 2007 at 7:00 PM.**