

**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

Bid Opening – Sewer Lining Mr. Porco

Contractor	Bid Bond	Bid Alternative 1	Bid Alternative 2
Robinson Pipe Cleaning Co.			
Insight Pipe Contracting	Yes	none	\$132,772
Renolds Inliner, LLC	Yes	None	\$187,925
Insituform Technologies, MD			
Insituform Technologies, MO	Yes	None	\$143,648
Insituform Technologies, PA			
United Survey, Inc.			

Bids are submitted to the borough engineer to review the bids and determine whether they are appropriate.

Mr. Gaus explained that alternate 1 is called “formed in place”. The second is called “cured in place.”

President’s Report Mr. Belmonte

Mr. Belmonte announced that an executive session was held prior to the meeting on litigation and personnel. Also, he attended a school board meeting on the disposition of the junior high school.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Heller

Mayor Heller noted several items:

Centurion Commons had a dinner celebrating their 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The mayor issued a proclamation honoring them as well as the groups below. He thanked Steve Morus and the office staff for preparing the proclamations.

Joel Bloom and Jody Shapiro had a gathering at the senior center to thank those who helped with the book on the history of Forest Hills.

He investigated the history of the Westinghouse site and has gathered several articles and toured the site.

He attended the 90<sup>th</sup> Bryn Mawr corn roast.

East Edgewood Acres neighborhood celebrated the 15<sup>th</sup> annual pig roast also attended by the mayor.

Tax Collector's Report

Ms. Sullivan

Ms. Sullivan presented her monthly report for August 2007.

Police Chief's Report

Chief Fabrizi

Chief Fabrizi presented his monthly report.

The chief reported on activities at the Hosanna House and Sherwood Road area re: parties held there. They had extra police but it was fairly quiet.

Volunteer Fire Department Report

Chief Heller

No report.

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 monthly report and noted that they are working on the new budget and 5 to 10 year plans.

Pittsburgh Film Office/Film Production Co.

Jessica Connor & Jeff Caron

Ms. Connor (film office) and Mr. Caron (Location Manager) were present to discuss work on the movie "Adventureland" in the borough.

Bond Issue Refinancing

Mike McCaig

Mr. McCaig outlined reasons for considering a refunding of the current bond issue.

Public Comment

Vivian Broz, 312 Burlington Road – member of the Tree & Shrub committee. Asked to discuss the proposed tree planting for Light Up Night. The committee was not presented with a plan or answers to their questions. After discussing this with Faith Katchmar, a plan was presented by Faith to Vivian.

Jane Freund, 37 Bryn Mawr Road – inquires about the status of a proposed project for the beautification of the wall on Bryn Mawr Road along Fall Run Creek. The project would be a tile mosaic. Proposes planter boxes for along the top of the wall and adds that all work would be done by volunteers.

Mr. Belmonte comments the project will be discussed at the October committee meeting.

Jane Freund thanks the Mayor, Chief Fabrizi and council for their help with Hosanna House. The work you did made a tremendous difference this summer. Discussion related to the temporary speed hump that was petitioned by neighbors.

Ms. Liscio comments that the temporary speed hump will be put on the agenda for discussion at the October committee meeting.

Jane Freund comments on the landscaping at the corner of Morrow and Sherwood Roads – states that the borough has a landscaping agreement with Cost to maintain the trees – the trees have never been trimmed and because of the density some of the trees are dying.

Mr. Belmonte comments that the Mayor will talk to Mr. Wagner and committee will discuss it at the October meeting.

Madeline Sweder, 115 Fieldcrest Dr. – Family care facility near her home at 311

Glasgow Road. Has been to the borough office several times to express concerns about the facility and complained to the zoning and code officer.

Committee Reports

**PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE**

Mr. Porco

*General Report:*

1. The committee continues to review a draft paving program policy and all members of council and the mayor were provided with a copy of the draft.
2. The engineer, foreman and manager will review the computer pavement program and provide an updated list to council at the October public works committee meeting.
3. The public works crew and engineer are reviewing the sewer line along Filmore Road because of a complaint of basement flooding at a home there.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Mr. Tomasic

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

\$134,392.94 General Fund  
\$306,337.77 Corrective Action/Capital 2  
\$ 3,225.33 Road Improvement Fund

Moved: Mr. Tomasic  
Second: Mr. Porco

Detail of non-general fund items:

Capital 2: Sanitary Sewer Corrective Action work  
Road: Paving Program curbs & engineering

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 disbursements for the month of August in the following amounts:

\$376,936.26 General Fund  
\$ 87,608.30 Corrective Action/Capital 2  
\$ 8,768.60 Road Improvement Fund

Moved: Mr. Tomasic  
Second: Mr. Porco

Detail of non-general fund items:

Capital 2: Sanitary Sewer Corrective Action work  
Road: Paving Program curbs & engineering

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 the solicitor to prepare and advertise an ordinance updating the Emergency and Municipal Services Tax to the newly approved Local Services Tax at the same rate of \$52 per year with requirements as specified in state law.

Moved: Mr. Tomasic  
Second: Mr. Meshanko

Mr. Lucas explained the change in the tax.

***Voice Vote – all in favor***

**Motion:** Move to approve resolution number 1065 authorizing the proper officers of the council of the borough of Forest Hills and other officials to explore the possibility of issuing general obligation bonds and appointing professionals to assist the Borough of Forest Hills in taking such action.

Moved: Mr. Tomasic  
Second: Ms. Liscio

Discussion regarding the amount of \$100,000 which is in the resolution and the minimum net savings for the existing of \$76,300 which is 2% of the industry net standard. The resolution requests that refinancing occur if 2008 savings is greater than \$100,000.

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. A first draft of the 2008 budget will be ready in time for the October 4 finance committee meeting. The committee will hold a separate meeting on Tuesday, October 23 in addition to its regular October meeting. All meetings are open to the public.
2. Members reviewed a summary of personnel expenses over the past 8 years including salaries and fringe benefits.
3. The committee briefly discussed the 2006 audit and agreed that Case Sabattini did a fine job.
4. The committee discussed the use of change orders for major contracts as well as the need to call emergency meetings if a contractor must deal with a significant adjustment or problem. The committee asks that the solicitor consider appropriate options for developing a policy on such meetings and has also asked the manager to consult with other municipalities as to their policies in such instances.

**BOROUGH PROPERTY COMMITTEE**

Mr. Meshanko

**Motion:** Move to approve Cheryl Finlay as a member of the recreation board to fill Robert Gatt's seat which expires on March 1, 2009.

Moved: Mr. Meshanko  
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 foreman and crew to review the pool leak

situation and Cindy Simm and Lynn Cassidy are asked to contact pool maintenance companies to solicit costs for a full replacement of all caulking in the pool's joints before next season.

2. The manager is asked to advertise for a resident to take a vacancy on the recreation board.
3. The committee has approved the request of We the People and Womythink that a new electric drop be installed in the median near the borough building for use with holiday decorations on 3 pine trees that would be installed in the median at each end of the business district for Light up Night in November. The groups have been asked to work with the public works crew on this item.
4. The borough announces that the following surplus property will be considered for disposal and is available for sale to the highest bidder:
  - a. One IBM Personal Wheelwriter Typewrite (inventory #00116)
  - b. Two Okidata Microline 321 nine (9) pin printers (inventory #00126 & 00157)

As established by borough resolution number 1057, sealed bids will be accepted from the public at the office of the Borough Manager no later than 4 PM on Wednesday, October 17, 2007, and all bids received will be opened at the October 17, 2007 council meeting scheduled to begin at 7 PM. The property shall be transferred to the highest bidder upon receipt of the bid amount by certified check or cash. The property may be inspected at the borough office during normal business hours.

5. Mayor Heller raised an issue from several senior citizens. They complained they were turned away from the senior center during very hot days. Borough property will discuss at committee.

**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

Ms. Liscio

**Motion:** Move to approve an ordinance that establishes the speed limit on Sylvan Way at 15 MPH.

Moved: Ms. Liscio  
Second: Mr. Porco

Blaine Lucas noted that council went through a process to determine that 15 MPH was warranted. This would not carry on to other streets without a traffic study.

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 the sale of police car 1 to Swissvale Borough as is in the amount of \$7,300.

Moved: Ms. Liscio  
Second: Mr. Tomasic

Mr. Tomasic noted he has no problem with this sale but related to that is that council has discussed hiring a code officer who would need a car. Questioned if the borough has an extra vehicle for use. Is concerned as to what car will be available for the proposed code officer. Should we consider keeping this car instead of selling it?

Mr. Morus comments that if we continue with the vehicle rotation next year, instead of selling the next police car in rotation, which is in better condition and has lower mileage than the car we are selling now, it can be used by public works, code enforcement and the police.

Ms. Liscio comments that at a committee meeting we gave Chief Fabrizi approval to go ahead and sell the car to Swissvale Borough.

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 has deferred action on purchasing portable speed humps for Sherwood Road as patrols from FHPD and Wilkesburg PD have increased in the area.
2. Members discussed concerns regarding accidents and near misses at the intersection of Braddock Road and Greensburg Pike.
3. The manager is asked to advertise for a resident to take a vacancy on the civil service commission.

**OPERATIONS & POLICY COMMITTEE** Ms. Liscio

**Motion:** Move to approve the minutes of council for the August 15, 2007 meeting.

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

Mr. Tomasic asked to have the minutes corrected before approval to add something he

feels was omitted and he noted it was related to the road program and the problem on Burlington Road with the contractor.

Add the following to the August 15, 2007 minutes: The contractor made a mistake, he was told to correct the mistake, and he did so. We investigated through our solicitor as to whether or not we could sue this person and the solicitor told us we would probably lose in court. Money was available and is available in the budget to pay for this particular paving, the other side, so there is no increase in taxes to get this done. It is not what we wanted but we do end up with a net savings in having that entire road paved of around \$10,000. There was a request for a comparison of what the unit price would cost us and the unit price was \$60.00 more per ton and even when added in it still gives us a net savings of around \$10,000.

***Voice Vote – all in favor***

*General Report:*

1. The committee reviewed changes made by the manager to the borough's website ([www.foresthillspa.org](http://www.foresthillspa.org)). The website has been updated with current information and the manager continues to work toward improving its usefulness. Mr. Belmonte highlighted Steve's work on the website. He is put in a lot of overtime to get it into shape and is continuing to improve it.
2. The committee continues to review a policy for audio taping council meetings.
3. Steve Morus, Manager, has been appointed to chair the program committee for the statewide manager's (APMM) conference in 2008.
4. Members received a summary of work done on strategic planning by committees through August and ask all members to review and add further objectives by emailing them to the manager.
5. Committee members discussed the importance of receiving emails in a timely fashion as several members of council expressed concern that a policy may need to be established concerning receipt of electronic mail.
6. The committee began a discussion on business development in the borough that will continue at the October meeting.
7. Members approved the request of this year's sponsors for Light Up Night, We the People and Womynthink, to place signs advertising the event in the Ardmore median in mid November.

**PLANNING & ZONING COMMITTEE**

Mr. O'Malley

*General Report:*

1. The committee continues to review the draft rental property ordinance and suggested changes by the solicitor.
2. The code enforcement program was reviewed and the committee recommends that the 2008 budget include the cost of hiring an individual to work part time on code enforcement beginning in 2008. Mr. Tomasic noted that he put forth a suggestion as to how to afford a new officer. He asked Mr. Lucas what do we need to do to put this in place?

Mr. Lucas inquires if this position would be just for ordinance enforcement or are you talking about zoning and land use administration or both?

Mr. Tomasic replies that the discussion as he remembers it stated that we would continue to maintain the building code enforcement officer but because so much of his time is taken up with ordinance enforcement we would hire a part time person to do ordinance enforcement only.

Mr. Lucas suggests surveying the options in terms of contractual arrangements, either hiring someone independently or contracted services and finding out what those costs are.

Mr. Tomasic – asks if the borough needs to advertise the position?

Mr. Lucas comments that these types of positions are generally “at will” positions and you can change them any time you want and you are not required to bid them.

#### Old Business

Ms. Liscio noted that she forgot to mention that we are trying to get the budget issue settled and hopes to meet with the Chief and invites anyone else interested in this budget meeting.

Mr. Porco noted that the last meeting discussed issues with the way the paving problem was handled on Burlington Road. He offered to discuss this now with anyone interested. Mr. Tomasic noted that he raised the issue of holding emergency meetings in situations like this as had been discussed earlier in the meeting.

#### New Business

Woodland Hills intercommunity council will meet again this month.

#### Adjourn

*Motion to adjourn by acclamation without objection*

- **Next Council Committee meetings scheduled for Tuesday, October 2, 2007**

***(Borough Property, Planning & Zoning, Public Works) and Thursday, October 4, 2007 (Finance, Operations & Policy, Public Safety) at 7:00 PM.***

- **Next Council business meeting scheduled for Wednesday, October 17, 2007 at 7:00 PM.**