
Minutes

Call to Order: Mr. Porco

Pledge of Allegiance: Mayor Heller

Roll Call:

Mr. Belmonte	Yes	Mr. Porco	Yes
Mr. Karas	Yes	Mayor Heller	Yes
Ms. Katchmar	Yes	Janet Sullivan, Tax Collector	Yes
Ms. Liscio	Yes	Blaine Lucas, Solicitor	Yes
Mr. O'Malley	Yes	Paul Gaus, Engineer	Yes
Mr. Tomasic	Yes	Steven Morus, Manager	Yes

President's Report: Mr. Porco

Mr. Porco reports on the June 17th rain storm that caused extensive flooding and a substantial amount of damage both to the borough itself in terms of properties that we own and to the many borough homes, streets, sidewalks, etc. The borough is working closely with the engineer addressing the matter. Officials from PEMA and FEMA took a tour of the borough looking at the more devastated areas and we are awaiting word back from them with regards to the amount of relief or what type of relief is available.

Heartfelt thanks to our emergency responders, police, public works dept., fire dept, borough manager and office staff who all are truly an asset to our community and have gone above and beyond to assist our residents.

Comments on the 4th of July Community Days stating it was well attended and turned out to be a great event and thanked the Civic Association for putting it together for the residents.

National Night Out will be held on August 4th.

Mayor's Report: Mayor Heller

Thanks all the emergency responders, borough employees and Steve and Siobhan in particular for getting the information on the website.

Thanks the surrounding fire departments for their assistance and would like to have letters sent to the mayors of those towns thanking them.

Reports on National Night Out and encourages people to participate and if they are having a block party inform the borough office.

Forest Hills Borough will celebrate its 90th birthday this year.

Forest Hills Volunteer Fire Department will celebrate 70 years.

Next week council will be interviewing for position of police chief.

Mr. Porco – council will be working with a consultant, Chief Tom Ogden, to develop a formal qualification and interview process – 3 candidates will be interviewed for the position of chief – the process consists of 3 phases that will be done within 2 days – a chief should be named at the Aug. meeting of council.

Tax Collector's Report: Ms. Sullivan

Ms. Sullivan presented her monthly report.

Officer in Charge Report: Sgt. Williams

Sgt. Williams presented his monthly report and discussed activities, training and investigations.

Fire Chief's Report: Chief Heller

Rick Colella presented an activity report for the first half of the year and discussed storm damage activities.

Rick Colella also was present to discuss the emergency management plan and answer questions from council.

Reports all forms were submitted to the State - the Notification and Resource Manual needs updated – National Incident Response Management System training should be completed by council, manager and staff.

Mr. Morus – NIMS training is on the August public safety committee meeting agenda – at the staff meeting we discussed having an internal plan for emergency situations - Siobhan will be with meeting with a Red Cross representative to obtain information about the Community Shelter Program.

Woodland Hills EMS Report: Adam Knight

No report.

Solicitor's Report: Blaine Lucas

Mr. Lucas noted a notice of a zoning hearing in Wilkins Township that members received in a recent manager's report. They are erecting a sign there that requires a variance.

Wilkesburg Penn Joint Water Authority Report: Ms. Broz

Ms. Broz presented a report for the authority re: a break on Avenue A.

Action Housing – Kelly Building Renovation

Jennifer DiNardo – Action Housing: over the past year have been working with the owners of the Kelly Building – have secured financing through the state for a mixed use facility – finalizing the financing plans and want to make sure council is aware they are proposing this renovation in the community and to go through the process to obtain all the required approvals.

David Noss – architect distributes plans to council for the Kelly Building – commercial on first floor, 2nd and 3rd floors residential. Additional funding for exterior – this is an initial design sketch – reviews the exterior and internal renovations for the building.

Mr. Lucas reviews some of the legalities and suggests council make this an agenda item for committee discussion next month – since a variance will most likely be required it will go before the zoning hearing board either in Aug. or Sept. – Action Housing has been made aware of the legalities.

Mr. Porco – this will be discussed at the Aug. 11th committee meeting and invites Ms. DiNardo and Mr. Noss to attend the meeting.

Public Comment

Jonathan Love, Scout from Troop 90. – for an Eagle Scout project he wants to improve the foot path from the pool to the park and is seeking council's approval. Distributes schematics and gives a brief recap of the type of work he has planned.

Council discusses whether or not there would be liability issues since the path is used so much.

Mr. Lucas – comments that it is an existing path, improving it will not cause additional liability – does recommend the design of the steps be reviewed by the engineer or public works foreman – also check with the insurance carrier

The engineer and public works foreman review the plans and specifications for the box steps and find no fault with the design for the box steps.

Motion: Move to accept the Eagle Scout project proposed by Jonathan Love for the improvement to the foot path from the Forest Hills Swimming Pool to the Forest Hills Park.

Moved: Mike Belmonte
Second: Faith Katchmar

Voice Vote – all in favor

Committee Reports:

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Mr. Belmonte

Motion: Move to accept the bid of Insight Pipe in the amount of \$118,711.30 for sewer lining work.

Moved: Mr. Belmonte
Second: Mr. Tomasic

Bids opened on July 7 as follows:

Company	Bid	Bid Bond (Yes or No)
Insight Pipe	\$118,711.30	Yes
United Survey, Inc.	\$148,273.00	Yes

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Belmonte Yes
Mr. Karas Yes
Ms. Katchmar Yes
Ms. Liscio Yes
Mr. O'Malley Yes
Mr. Tomasic Yes
Mr. Porco Yes

Motion: Move to approve ordinance number 989 amending Chapter 9 and Chapter 23 of the borough's code of ordinances to comply with federal and state stormwater management policies, rules & regulations.

Moved: Mr. Belmonte
Second: Ms. Liscio

Ordinance Title Reads as Follows:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF FOREST HILLS, ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AMENDING CHAPTER 9 OF THE FOREST HILLS BOROUGH CODE OF ORDINANCES, GRADING AND EXCAVATING AND CHAPTER 23 OF THE FOREST HILLS BOROUGH CODE OF ORDINANCES, STORMWATER MANAGEMENT, TO COMPLY WITH FEDERAL AND STATE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT POLICIES, RULES AND REGULATIONS.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Belmonte Yes

Mr. Karas	Yes
Ms. Katchmar	Yes
Ms. Liscio	Yes
Mr. O'Malley	Yes
Mr. Tomasic	Yes
Mr. Porco	Yes

General Report:

1. The speed statistics gathered on Sherwood Road between Morrow and Glasgow were reviewed by the engineer who reported that the statistics justify continuing the speed limit at 25 MPH.
2. Committee members discussed recent flood damage from the June 17 storm with a number of residents who attended the July committee meeting. The manager, engineer and foreman summarized the clean up efforts and damage to borough facilities and the engineer has been asked to investigate further and provide an estimate for the cost of a study of the areas affected by flooding.

Mr. Tomasic comments that information needs to be obtained about the flood plains, agreements with surrounding boroughs, the storm system installation, review of dye testing, etc. and contact the Army Corps of Engineers, present them with the information and have them look at our situation. We get a significant amount of run off from the school.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Tomasic

Motion: Move to approve payment of bills for the month of June in the following amounts:

General Fund Budget:	\$234,923.08
Capital Improvements Plan	\$ 527.17
Corrective Action Budget:	\$178,432.09
Liquid Fuels:	\$ 937.75
Road Improvement Fund:	\$ 2,330.00
2002 Bond Issue	\$ 85.35
2007 Bond Issue	\$ 95.00

Moved: Mr. Tomasic
Second: Ms. Liscio

Roll Call Vote:	Mr. Belmonte	Yes
	Mr. Karas	Yes
	Ms. Katchmar	Yes
	Ms. Liscio	Recuses herself
	Mr. O'Malley	Yes

Mr. Tomasic Yes
Mr. Porco Yes

Detail of non general Fund Items:

Capital Improvements Plan: Comprehensive Plan, Computer System Upgrade
Corrective Action Budget: Sanitary Sewer Consent Order work and Storm sewer work
Liquid Fuels: Traffic lights
Road Improvement: Engineering
2002 Bond Issue: Decals, new truck
2007 Bond Issue: New PW Garage

General Report:

1. Borough staff will begin developing the 2010 budget in August. Members reviewed several budget charts with the manager in preparation for creating a budget for the new year.
2. Committee members discussed alternatives for paying for the new fire truck order three years ago. The borough has made two of the 15 payments for the truck but only has enough to cover three more annual payments before a decision must be made as to how to finish paying the truck lease.

BOROUGH PROPERTY

Mr. Karas

Motion: Move to approve ordinance number 990 that would prohibit smoking in borough parks.

Moved: Mr. Karas
Second: Ms. Katchmar

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Belmonte Yes
Mr. Karas Yes
Ms. Katchmar Yes
Ms. Liscio Yes
Mr. O'Malley Yes
Mr. Tomasic Yes
Mr. Porco Yes

Ordinance Title Reads as Follows:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF FOREST HILLS, ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AMENDING CHAPTER 16 OF THE FOREST HILLS BOROUGH CODE OF ORDINANCES, PARKS AND

RECREATION, TO PROHIBIT THE CARRYING OF A LIGHTED CIGAR,
CIGARETTE, PIPE OR OTHER LIGHTED SMOKING DEVICE IN ANY
BOROUGH PARK.

General Report:

1. Committee members reviewed a proposal from Duquesne University re: funding for the creation of one or more “rain gardens” in the Ardmore median and elsewhere in the borough. Rain gardens assist in controlling stormwater and can be a part of the borough’s program to establish stormwater controls as required by the state. Duquesne University believes that funding may be found so that the borough’s contribution to this would be minimal and/or in the form of in-kind services.
2. Mr. Karas updated council on a growing greener grant.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Mr. O’Malley

Motion: Move to authorize the borough solicitor to prepare and advertise an ordinance that would rescind a previous ordinance provision that reversed traffic flow on Kenmore Ave.

Moved: Mr. O’Malley
Second: Mr. Belmonte

Mr. Karas – was the purpose of changing the flow of traffic to avoid a left turn onto Yost. Blvd.

Mr. O’Malley comments the main reason was a recommendation from the then police chief to reduce egress of bank robbers.

Mr. Karas asks O.I.C. Sgt Williams if it is still important enough to consider a No Left Turn there or is it not an issue.

O.I.C. Sgt Williams - comments that is still an important issue – there is always concern about making a left onto Yost.

Voice Vote – all except Steve Karas in favor

Motion: Move to accept the solicitor’s draft of a mutual aid agreement for police services in neighboring communities.

Moved: Mr. O’Malley
Second: Mr. Karas

Voice Vote – all in favor

Motion: Move to distribute the draft of the mutual aid agreement to the following bordering communities for their review and comment: Braddock Hills, Churchill, North Braddock, Wilkins and Wilkinsburg.

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

Voice Vote – all in favor except Celeste

General Report:

1. The committee asked to meet with fireman Rick Colella on the need for an updated emergency management plan. The manager reported that staff are reviewing emergency management issues internally and will add their recommendations for tasks under the plan once their review is complete in several months. The committee asks that the manager contact local churches to determine if they might have facilities that would serve as a shelter during emergencies or if they are able to offer other services.
2. Council President Frank Porco pointed out the fine work of the staff, police, public works crew, fire department and EMS in handling the recent flood emergency and aftermath. While the number of employees we have is not as great as other communities all worked hard on the clean up activities and in contacting authorities for assistance among many other tasks.

OPERATIONS & POLICY

Ms. Liscio

Motion: Move to approve the minutes from the June 17, 2009 council meeting.

Moved: Ms. Liscio
Second: Ms. Katchmar

Voice Vote – all in favor

Motion: Move to authorize the borough solicitor to prepare and advertise an ordinance that would prohibit the sale of fireworks in the borough.

Moved: Ms. Liscio
Second: Ms. Katchmar

Voice Vote – all in favor

General Report:

1. The committee continues to review several issues including:
 - a. A background check policy for new hires
 - b. An employee evaluation system
 - c. Succession planning in order to maintain continuity should an employee leave or retire
2. Members are concerned about ensuring the all are aware of the need to recuse themselves during voting on issues, bills, etc. that may show a conflict of interest due to involvement of a relative, an employment relationship etc. The committee continues to review this issue.
3. Steve Karas discussed the “use of solicitor” issue

For lack of a better term have a “chain of command” council would contact the president and the president would contact the manager in an effort to try and control costs. Additional checkpoints may be a spread sheet showing what the 2 different firms are working on and have the bills reviewed by the finance committee. There needs to be a process to follow for the “use of solicitor”.

Ms. Liscio comments in the past agreed and voted for the “chain of command”. Agrees a process should be followed because upon review of the bills it became apparent that at times both solicitors were working on the same issue. Yes we need a process but we need a dot line added that allows a council person to be able to contact the solicitor on an issue that they may feel very strongly about.

This issue will be discussed at the next committee meeting.

PLANNING & ZONING

Ms. Katchmar

General Report:

1. The committee received an update on work on Ardmore about to start with the Community Development Corporation. During the summer and early fall, new lampposts will be installed, street trees will be installed as will trees and shrubs in the median and the arches will be installed.

Old Business:

Executive session followed the last committee meeting.

New Business:

August Meeting Date – Mr. Morus has a prior commitment for that night and will not be able to attend the business meeting - council will not change the date the business meeting will remain as scheduled for August 19th.

Mr. Porco commented on a discussion he had with Ken Brown who owned the former Dollar Store/Beacon Auto Parts store. Mr. Brown wanted to know if the borough had an interest in purchasing the building. Council had informally discussed an interest in the building for possibly a library or demolishing it and using the space for parking. Originally the CDC approached Mr. Brown about the purchase of the building but there has been no further contact from the CDC.

Mrs. Powderly, CDC member – the primary interest was to demolish the building and use it for parking – CDC thought the purchase price was too high.

Mr. Porco suggests putting this on the agenda for discussion at the next ops and policy committee meeting.

Mike Belmonte noted the petition for changing the districts for electing school board members and the results.

Adjourn: Motion to adjourn or adjourn by acclamation

Moved: Mr. Tomasic

Second: Mr. Karas

Voice Vote – all in favor

- Next Scheduled Council Meeting: August 19, 2009
- Next Scheduled Committee Meetings (order to be determined): Tuesday, August 11, 2009 (Borough Property, Public Works, & Planning & Zoning) and Thursday, August 6, 2009 (Finance, Operations & Policy, & Public Safety).