

---

**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 noted that office hours are adjusted beginning March 1<sup>st</sup> as an experiment for 2 months after which time we will evaluate.

Mr. Porco noted that the boy scouts along with the police department are completing a project for retiring flags. The first ceremony will occur on March 28<sup>th</sup> at 11 AM. The location is Perry and Greensburg Pike. Flags can be dropped off at the main office in the borough building.

Mr. Porco noted that executive sessions were held to discuss personnel matters on Monday 3/9, Wed., 3/11 and tonight.

Mayor's Report: Mayor Heller

Mayor Heller noted that Chief Fabrizi informed council and mayor that he would like to retire effective today. Sgt. Williams is officer in charge.

Mr. Porco asked that a motion be placed under public safety to accept the Chief's retirement.

Tax Collector's Report: Ms. Sullivan

No report.

Police Chief's Report: Chief Fabrizi

No report.

Fire Chief's Report: Chief Heller

No report.

Woodland Hills EMS Report: Adam Knight

No report.

Solicitor's Report: Blaine Lucas

The updating of the land use permit forms has been finalized. Within the week there should be a new set of forms and a check list providing better guidelines and making it easier for people interested in developing there properties.

Wilkesburg Penn Joint Water Authority Report: Ms. Broz

No report.

Comments on her attendance at the Philadelphia Flower Show. There was an exhibit called the South Philadelphia Garden and in the middle of the landscaping there was a beautiful rain barrel. The Philadelphia Water Department had supplied the exhibit with brochures explaining why you should save rain water and how to help your community. Ms. Broz brought back a brochure for Mr. Tomasic in hopes of providing Forest Hills residents with more information on rain barrels.

#### Public Comment

Philip Bitar of Jodi B's Restaurant – would like to know what procedures he needs to take to get a letter from the borough allowing him to sell liquor in his establishment. The LCB is requesting a letter from the borough stating that he is in compliance.

Mr. Lucas – liquor licenses can be transferred from anywhere in Allegheny County. The 1<sup>st</sup> three in a borough, the LCB goes through their normal procedures, beyond three is subject to local governing body approval. Mr. Lucas will take a look at the letter Mr. Bitar was sent from the LCB.

Arthur Murphy Jr., Attorney – former resident and borough solicitor present here to talk about Jack Shepherd and his service to the borough. Jack was a member of council and council president and he continued to be very active in public service to the community long after he stopped serving on council. His unfortunate death two weeks ago was a surprise to all. He was a man of the people, elected by the people of Forest Hills Borough and he was for the people of Forest Hills Borough.

Committee Reports:

**PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE**

Mr. Belmonte

**Motion:** Move to authorize the manager and public works foreman to prepare and advertise an ordinance that would reverse the direction of traffic flow on Kenmore pending a survey of Kenmore residents and restrict parking on the following roadways:

- Arnold Avenue
- Portage Lane
- Leon Way

Moved: Mr. Belmonte  
Second: Mr. Karas

Mr. Lucas suggested that "in consultation with the borough engineer be included". Mr. Belmonte and Mr. Karas agreed.

***Voice Vote – all in favor except Ms. Liscio***

**Motion:** Move to authorize the borough engineer to prepare and advertise specifications for paving the following streets under consideration for the 2009 paving program with the final determination of streets to be paved subject to change depending on bids received and funds available and for conducting other paving work as noted in this list:

- Windsor from Marion to House #534
- Tanglewood Drive Cul-de-sac
- Filmore from Sharon to Geisler
- Avenue A (4 slabs to be replaced)
- Sylvan Way from Braddock to Ardmore
- Carl from Barclay to Greensburg Pike
- Arnold from Barclay to Greensburg Pike
- Installation of 2 speed humps on Sherwood from Cherry Valley to the borough line
- Paving of the Woodland Hills EMS parking area

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

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 authorize the purchase of a 4 wheel drive 10 ton dump truck with snowplow under a piggyback purchase arrangement with funds to come from the 2007 bond issue.

Moved: Mr. Belmonte  
Second: Mr. Tomasic

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 authorize the manager and public works foreman to advertise for sale the following:

- 1999 4 Wheel Drive Ford F350 Pick up truck with snow plow
- 2000 Ford Crown Victoria

Moved: Mr. Belmonte  
Second: Mr. Tomasic

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 committee is reviewing the feasibility of using a portion of the grass lot at the recreation center on Barclay Road for the storage of equipment and materials.

Mayor Heller noted that the police have some responses from Kenmore residents and they have been favorable to the change so far.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Mr. Tomasic

**Motion:** Move to approve ordinance number 985 amending Chapter 18 of the code of ordinances on sewers restating charges for sewer accounts and delinquent accounts and establishing guidelines for use of the sanitary sewer usage charge.

Moved: Mr. Tomasic  
Second: Ms. Liscio

Ordinance Title Reads as Follows:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF FOREST HILLS, ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AMENDING AND RESTATING PART 3 OF CHAPTER 18 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF FOREST HILLS, SEWERS, IN ITS ENTIRETY AND ADDING PART 6 TO ESTABLISH GUIDELINES FOR USE OF THE SANITARY SEWER USAGE CHARGE.

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. At the April meeting, committee members will discuss how best to engage the public in preparing the budget for 2010 and beyond. Members would like to solicit input from citizens on spending, tax issues and related budget numbers over the next several months to assist council in making decisions on the 2010 budget initially. How to handle such a discussion will be on the committee agenda for April. The initial suggestion is that the committee will use future business meetings to discuss various aspects of the budget with all citizens interested in attending.

2. The committee will continue to discuss paying for speed humps on Sherwood Road at its April meeting. Mr. Porco noted it is a priority to have these installed because of conditions we worked out with Bryn Mawr neighbors.
3. The manager discussed several issues with committee members including cash flow issues, the budget reserve, capital budgeting, and the new trash billing system. Regarding the latter after a few initial complaints most have been happy that both sewer and trash fees are on one bill and that the trash fee has been spread out over the course of the year rather than requiring a lump sum payment. Part of this discussion also centered on future payments for the new fire truck. After the first 5 years of payments are made, the borough has not determined the best source of funds for the final 10 years. Payments amount to approximately \$72,000 per year.
4. Bills for February were not ready for approval at tonight's meeting. They will be included with March bills at the April meeting for final approval.

Mr. Porco – Regarding the speed humps, do we have a time frame yet?

Mr. Morus – comments that it is part of the paving contract.

Mr. Porco – For the record, make it a priority to install the speed humps due to the conditions we worked out with the neighbors regarding Hosanna House.

Mr. Tomasic comments the speed humps have been discussed in committee. Decisions as to whether we have public works install them, do we pay for them from the paving program fund or the general fund and if we wait for the paving bid will we get a better price.

## **BOROUGH PROPERTY**

Mr. Karas

Mr. Porco noted that he will recuse himself from the discussion of the next item, turned the gavel over to Mr. Tomasic and left the room since the motion involves his father.

**Motion:** Move to approve a non exclusive contract with Frank Porco Sr. for cleaning services at the Forest Hills/Westinghouse Lodge with the contract to become effective upon final signatures of all parties and subject to approval as to form and content by the solicitor.

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

Roll Call Vote:      Mr. Belmonte            Yes  
                              Mr. Karas                    Yes  
                              Ms. Katchmar            Yes  
                              Ms. Liscio                 Yes  
                              Mr. O'Malley             Yes  
                              Mr. Tomasic              Yes  
                              Mr. Porco      - recused from this discussion and vote

*General Report:*

1. Committee members discussed the plan re: extending the ball field at the recreation center with the engineer.
2. Cindy Simm reported on several recreation issues including a staffing concern for the Fun in the Park program. The borough continues to seek qualified employees for that program. Those interested should contact Cindy.
3. Committee members noted that the Garden Club will hold a flower sale in the magistrate's office parking lot on May 2 from 8 AM to 2 PM.

**PUBLIC SAFETY**

Mr. O'Malley

**Motion:** Move to accept a proposal from AmeriHealth Casualty Services via our insurance broker, the Higbee Agency, for Heart & Lung insurance coverage at an annual premium cost of \$7,634.

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

Mr. Tomasic – comments he is still uncertain about the insurance.

Mr. O'Malley – the reason for buying this kind of insurance is to level over a period of years the money that the borough will be outlaying to protect the budget from the large charges such as we've accrued over the past few years.

A variety of questions and explanations about the heart and lung insurance from council members and the mayor. To be discussed further at the next committee meeting.

Motion to table – Mr. Tomasic; second by Mr. Belmonte

---

***Voice Vote to table – all in favor***

**Motion:** Move to approve the purchase of a 2009 Ford Crown Victoria as a police vehicle to replace car number 4 from Day Automotive at a total cost no greater than \$30,316.00 with funds for the full amount to come from the budget reserve.

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

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

Mayor Heller – inquires if council or the public safety committee discussed changing the police cars to black and white?

Mr. Porco – it was brought up to us but there was no formal decision.

Ms. Katchmar – council gave there opinion and if that is the way the police wanted to go it would have to be one car at a time, not the whole fleet.

Mr. Tomasic – we asked the Chief about it and there would be an additional \$2,000 per car expense to change the color.

**Motion:** Move to accept the resignation and retirement as William Fabrizi effective on March 18 at 4:00 PM and to thank Chief Fabrizi for his 35 years of service.

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

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 authorize the council public safety committee to evaluate and make recommendations to the full council on the process to be employed on filling the vacancy of the position of police chief.

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

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 committee noted that the old fire truck remains unsold. We have been approached by a volunteer fire company from Texas but they have not made an offer. The fire department will discuss a price with them to determine if it is sufficient before re-advertising the truck.
2. Members agreed that the engine in the current canine car should be replaced rather than using the car that is about to be retired in its place. In order to have the car functioning as soon as possible, canine fund dollars may be used for this replacement until a decision is made whether funds from the sale or trade of car 4 should be used instead.

Mr. Karas – where did the funding for the K-9 engine come from?

Mr. Morus – the initial cost, was discussed at the public safety committee meeting, will come from the K-9 fund. Depending on the trade in or sale of the old police car the fund could be reimbursed at council's discretion.

Mayor Heller – the reason for the K-9 fund is to deal with these types of expenses.

**OPERATIONS & POLICY**

Ms. Liscio

**Motion:** Move to approve the minutes from the February 18, 2009 council meeting.

Moved: Ms. Liscio  
Second: Mr. Belmonte

**Voice Vote**

*General Report:*

1. The committee noted that this year will mark the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Forest Hills. Members discussed preparing a memento of some sort that might be available to residents during community day in July. However, they want to limit the expense due to today's economic climate. They also agreed with the Mayor's suggestion that we should begin preparation for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary early to provide funding and solicit ideas.
2. Members continued discussion of the manager's memo on establishing a protocol governing ethical and courteous interaction between elected officials and setting standards for behavior that ensures that all viewpoints and ideas are respected even when there is disagreement.
3. Members agreed that the manager should re-visit the idea of a "paperless office" by providing various reports to council electronically only on a trial basis. The manager promised to pick a convenient time to experiment.

**PLANNING & ZONING**

Ms. Katchmar

**Motion:** Move to approve ordinance number 986 that will outlaw obstructions on sidewalks with certain exceptions.

Moved: Ms. Katchmar  
Second: Mr. Tomasic

Ordinance Title Reads as Follows:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF FOREST HILLS,  
ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AMENDING  
CHAPTER 21 OF THE FOREST HILLS BOROUGH CODE OF  
ORDINANCES, STREETS AND SIDEWALKS, TO REGULATE  
OBSTRUCTIONS ON, ABOVE OR ADJACENT TO STREETS  
AND SIDEWALKS.

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 committee noted recent concern of local businesses regarding Thorn Alley near Trenton. Thorn Alley is a paper street that was never opened by the borough and to which therefore the borough no longer has rights. However, the committee has asked that the neighboring businesses cooperate with each other so that all may continue to access the alley.

Old Business:

None.

New Business:

Mayor Heller – received information via e-mail on LED street lights – they are expensive but over time there is a substantial energy savings. It would be prudent to look into these lights and see if there is any grant funding available.

Mr. Tomasic – comments that council is going to hold an open meeting with residents, business, etc. to come up with money saving ideas and the LED street lights could be discussed then.

Mr. Karas – comments on the Mayor of Braddock, John Fetterman, and all the different things he has done and reports that the mayor and his wife just had a baby boy and suggested sending them a card.

Mr. Belmonte – the Inner Council meeting will be held next Tuesday at the Rankin Christian Center at 7:00 PM. A representative from Alcosan will be there to speak on ways to save money by improving are sewers. At the April 28<sup>th</sup> Inner Council meeting a representative from DCED will speak to us about multi-municipal planning. The meeting will be held at the Turtle Creek Borough Building at 6:00 PM. A group of citizens are gathering signatures to present to the school board. The petition seeks change in the election of school board members reducing the number of regions from nine to three under this proposal. The Flag Retirement ceremony will be held at 11:00 am on March 28<sup>th</sup> council should try to attend.

Mr. Porco thanked the public works department for helping with the boy scout project.

Adjourn: Motion to adjourn in honor and memory of former councilman and long time volunteer Jack Shepherd who passed away recently.

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

***Voice Vote – all in favor***

- Next Scheduled Council Meeting: April 15, 2009
- Next Scheduled Committee Meetings (order to be determined): Tuesday, April 7, 2009 (Borough Property, Public Works, & Planning & Zoning) and Thursday, April 2, 2009 (Finance, Operations & Policy, & Public Safety).