
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	Absent
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 several items:

- Ardmore construction on the CDC's streetscape work
- Paving program is completed with some minor repair work to be completed
- 2010 Budget and Capital Improvements Plan work has been ongoing and a first draft will be available on October 1 at the finance committee meeting.
- Finance committee will review the Minimum Municipal Obligation tonight regarding the pension plans.

Mayor's Report: Mayor Heller

No report.

Tax Collector's Report: Ms. Sullivan

No report.

Officer in Charge Report: Sgt. Williams

Sgt. Williams presented a monthly report of activities.

Mutual Aid Agreement - meeting with police chiefs of the various surrounding communities.

Race for Pace will be held on Sat. Oct. 10th – Greensburg Pike will be closed for a period of time – signs will be posted – the media has been notified and letters were sent to residents.

Ms. Liscio – comments that she has noticed a lot of the same officers on various shifts over the past two weeks.

Sgt. Williams – comments that Officer Sharp is on military leave, one officer got married and some had scheduled vacation.

Ms. Liscio – comments that comparing last year's overtime to now we are already \$15,000 over.

Ms. Katchmar – inquires if there is a policy in place that states how many officers can be off at the same time?

Sgt. Williams – comments usually no more than two.

Mr. Tomasic – do we have a written policy that dictates the number of officers that can be off?

Sgt. Williams – not a written policy.

Mr. Tomasic – do we have final say in terms of how those particulars are structured?

Sgt. Williams – replies, yes.

Mr. O'Malley – requests Sgt. Williams to put something in writing stating that this isn't the written police policy but the O.I.C. understanding of how the system works.

Mr. Karas – reports that a resident had a complaint about the bushes located at Glasgow Road and Cheryl Lane.

Sgt. Williams – reports that the issue has been resolved.

Fire Chief's Report:

Chief Heller

No report.

Woodland Hills EMS Report:

Adam Knight

No report.

Solicitor's Report:

Blaine Lucas

Action Housing has withdrawn their request for variances on the Kelly Building as the sale has fallen through.

Rite Aid – has applied for variances to update the ones that had expired. Council's role is completed since the plan was approved although council may want to participate in the zoning procedure with the hearing board.

EPI Building – new developments - the developers have a new plan and we will meet with them in the next week.

Car Wash – is moving ahead with their plans for a convenience store.

Ms. Katchmar – inquires if a Right to Audit clause should be added to contracts that are bid out?

Mr. Lucas – depends on the type of contract – what is it that your concerned about that you want the right to audit provision – what do you want to audit – need to decide on a case by case basis whether it makes sense to add the clause or not - sometimes the audit clause can scare off bidders – the audit clause is mostly used for larger types of contracts.

Wilkesburg Penn Joint Water Authority Report: Ms. Broz

No report.

Public Comment

Rob Beckwith, 308 Avenue A – inquires about the fire department and EMS reports – no one in attendance from those agencies – how often do they provide reports to the borough since the borough allocates money to each of these agencies.

Mr. Porco – the borough receives written reports from the fire department and EMS monthly – representatives from those agencies show up three to four times a year and present a quarterly detailed report of activities.

Bill Gorol, 420 Pacific Ave – minutes of council meetings have not been posted on the website since March – very upset that council voted not to give civil service protection to the new police chief – would like council to reconsider their position on the matter – comments on an article that appeared in the Fall issue of the Tree City Times, Hunting in Forest Hills – comments that council did not follow the bid process when opening bids for the cleaning of the Westinghouse Recreation Center – Boy Scouts of Troop 90 strive to obtain their Eagle Scout status – they have done numerous projects in the borough and are not recognized for their efforts – comments on potholes

Two Scouts from Boy Scout Troop 90, – working on a merit badge and one of the requirements is to know what problems the borough is facing right now and how they plan to fix them.

Mr. Karas – comments on various projects done by the scouts over the past few years.

Ms. Liscio – balancing the budget and safety issues are among some of the issues we are dealing with currently.

Mr. Porco – suggests that the scouts pick up an agenda which will show many topics that the borough is dealing with at this time and to call the borough office with any questions.

Scout from Troop 90 – provides council with a list of projects done by the scouts: created the path from the pool to the soccer field, flag pole at the recreation center, rebuilt shelters at the Forest Hills Park and mulched the trails at the Forest Hills Park.

Faith Katchmar – grateful for the scouts and all the projects they have done – perhaps we can set up a council liaison for the scouts – regarding the article in the Tree City Times on hunting, can we hunt in the borough?

Officer In Charge, Chuck Williams – yes, there are some areas but you can only use a bow, guns are not permitted. Signs will be posted at the parks, pool and recreation center prohibiting hunting.

Committee Reports:

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Mr. Belmonte

Motion: Move to approve a 5 year agreement for snow removal on Ardmore Blvd. with PennDOT at a rate of \$1,401.99 per lane mile and to authorize the manager to complete all necessary paperwork and to file any required resolutions on behalf of the borough to complete the process.

Moved: Mr. Belmonte
Second: Ms. Katchmar

Note: Agreement currently at \$1,384 per lane mile.

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 asked the manager to forward a letter of intent to the Army Corps of Engineers re: undertaking a study of borough streams flowing into the Turtle Creek basin. This was done immediately after the committee meeting.
2. Public works committee along with each of the other 5 council committees reviewed various points and questions to assist members of council in working on the 2010 budget. These items are part of the manager's budget message.
3. The committee is reviewing new language in the seniority call out policy re: overtime call outs for those who might be on light duty and will continue the discussion at the October meeting.
4. Members are reviewing the condition of two streets – Carmel Court and Elmore Road. Faith Katchmar and Mike Belmonte spoke with several residents of each street. Meanwhile, the manager and foreman had scheduled Carmel Court for patching this year during a spring review of streets. Except for some additional repair work, that has been accomplished.
5. The committee reviewed work handled by the engineer and crew re: overall sewer televising but specifically with flow from Churchill into the Cherry Valley sewer line. Councilman O'Malley drafted a letter to Churchill for review by the committee members indicating the borough's concerns re: ongoing problems in the Cherry Valley area.
6. The committee was informed that Chalfant is considering another grant application for funds to assist in paving West St. Their first application was denied. Borough council would be required to approve a new resolution in support of this application should Chalfant apply. This will be discussed at the October meeting.
7. Members asked Paul Gaus, engineer, to review problems from downspouts that direct stormwater flow to pits or to otherwise cause drainage problems for surrounding private properties. The issue was raised by a resident of Glasgow near Sylvan Road.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Tomasic

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

General Fund Budget:	\$271,970.20
Capital Improvements Plan:	\$ 934.66
Corrective Action Budget:	\$ 29,909.14
Liquid Fuels:	\$ 938.24

Road Improvement Fund: \$ 26,330.74
2007 Bond Issue \$109,638.00

Moved: Mr. Tomasic
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

Detail of non general Fund Items:

Capital Improvements Plan: Air cards for police laptops
Corrective Action Budget: Sanitary Sewer consent decree work; Vactor
truck maintenance
Liquid Fuels: Traffic signals
Road Improvement: 2009 paving program
2007 Bond Issue: New public works truck (partial payment)

Motion: Move to approve the Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) calculation received from actuary Mike Pisula specifying that the borough's obligation to the police pension fund is estimated to be \$186,975 in 2010 and to the non uniform fund estimated to be \$66,609 in 2010.

Moved: Mr. Tomasic
Second: Ms. Liscio

Note: The total MMO for both plans is \$253,584 and the estimated state aid for 2010 is \$102,000.

Motion: Move to amend the MMO as it is stated in the motion and use the 2007 MMO calculation that was received from the actuary.

Moved: Mr. Tomasic
Second: Ms. Liscio

Mr. Tomasic – using the 2007 calculation will reduce the amount of monies that need to be put in at this time. We can earmark funds to be used at a later time for the MMO incase we need it to meet our obligation, but we are not committing that money just for the pension, if not needed for the pension it can be used elsewhere.

Discussion is held on whether or not the stock market will go up or down – is

it legal to ear mark the funds instead of committing them to the pension – review of the actuaries recommendations

Mr. Porco recommends placing the ear marked funds into a pension reserve account.

Public Comment

Resident – comments that he attended the finance committee meeting were the amounts in the agenda were decided on and Mr. Tomasic was very convincing about that much being needed. Can understand making the change, but what was expressed at the meeting was that it was not financially responsible to kick down obligations to future generations of the borough that would not be met by council now. Even if the market goes up you never gain back that 2 or 3 years that you lost. Thinks that the sense of urgency that council felt at the finance meeting needs to be revisited

Mr. Tomasic comments that at the finance meeting he did not take into consideration the stock market but since then has done extensive research and believes that it is to the boroughs advantage to use the 2007 amounts and ear mark funds in case we need them.

Resident – how do you determine what holds that money, when you need to put it in and are there preset conditions?

Mr. Porco – this will be revisited in 2011, every odd year – if funds are needed then the money from the reserve fund would be used.

Mr. Tomasic – suggests passing the motion using the 2007 evaluation and doing a separate motion for the reserve money.

The above motion and amendment was withdrawn by Mr. Tomasic and Ms. Liscio.

Motion: Move to approve the Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) calculation received from actuary Mike Pisula specifying that the borough's obligation to the police pension fund is estimated to be \$84,368 in 2010 and to the non uniform fund estimated to be \$27,896 in 2010.

Moved: Mr. Tomasic
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

Discussion is held among council regarding the reserve funds for the pension plans – decision to continue discussion under new business

Motion: Move to appoint Mr. O'Malley as the delegate to the Earned Income Tax collection committee for our district and to appoint Mr. Karas as the alternate delegate.

Moved: Mr. Tomasic
Second: Mr. Belmonte

Voice Vote – all in favor

General Report:

1. Members requested that a representative from the Municipal Employers Insurance Trust (MEIT) attend a committee meeting before year end to discuss health care insurance issues and to answer questions.
2. The committee will review the first draft of the 2010 budget at its October meeting. Subsequently, the budget will be discussed during future committee and business meetings and all are invited to attend as these meetings are open to the public. A preliminary review of 2010 numbers submitted by the borough manager indicated the possibility that the first draft could have as much as a \$290,000 deficit. However, the committee asks that all staff members and council review each line item for cuts and savings during the process in an effort to eliminate or reduce this number.
3. The committee asked that public works investigate the feasibility of renting or purchasing an "asphalt zipper" machine that recycles asphalt as part of the paving process in an effort to reduce the cost of paving.

BOROUGH PROPERTY

Mr. Karas

Motion: Move to approve the borough's membership in ICLEI (International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives) —Local Governments for Sustainability at a rate of \$600 and to authorize the manager to complete all necessary paperwork and to approve resolution number 1082 to complete the application process and affirm the borough's application for membership.

Moved: Mr. Karas
Second: Ms. Katchmar

Note: Membership in this organization is required to allow the borough to implement the greenhouse gas study funded through a grant from the state and coordinated with Wilkins, Penn Hills, and Duquesne University's Center for Environmental Research & Education (CERE).

Voice Vote – all in favor

General Report:

1. Committee members were apprised of the Solar Cities Conference coming to Pittsburgh in October. The conference considers ways of using solar power to save money and energy. It is uncertain whether anyone from the borough will attend at this time.
2. The chairman and public works foreman discussed replacing several pieces of playground equipment in the parks that may be damaged or antiquated. Total cost could amount to \$7,000. The items would be either purchased through the state's Co-Stars (piggyback) program or come from the company where the equipment was originally purchased in order to replace damaged parts.
3. The committee discussed a number of ideas re: funding the swimming pool in order to balance the 2010 budget. Mr. Karas noted that he met with Cindy and the recreation board on this issue.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Mr. O'Malley

Motion: Move to approve an ordinance that would reduce the speed limit on Sherwood Road to 20 MPH.

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

Roll Call Vote:	Mr. Belmonte	Yes
	Mr. Karas	Yes
	Ms. Katchmar	Yes
	Ms. Liscio	No
	Mr. O'Malley	Yes
	Mr. Tomasic	Yes
	Mr. Porco	Yes

General Report:

1. The committee reviewed the borough's curfew which now officially stands at 11:00 PM but decided to maintain the curfew warning chime at its 9:45 PM schedule.

2. Members discussed the upcoming G-20 Conference and whether any safety concerns might be experienced in the borough. Council believes that any demonstrations or other disruptions are more likely to occur elsewhere although they did express concern that Forest Hills residents would be impacted by closings and schedule changes.
3. Committee members asked the borough crew to check the intersection of Glasgow and Sheryl for visibility issues and work with the code officer to correct any problems.

OPERATIONS & POLICY

Ms. Liscio

Motion: Move to approve the minutes from the August 19, 2009 council meeting.

Moved: Ms. Liscio
Second: Mr. Tomasic

Voice Vote – all in favor

Motion: Move to accept the 2010 option year for trash and recycling collection with Waste Management in the amount of \$14.51 per household per month.

Moved: Ms. Liscio
Second: Mr. Tomasic

Note: the current rate is \$13.91 per household per month. The 2010 trash fee would increase by \$6 - \$8 per household annually pending council approval of the final fee resolution in December.

Mr. Belmonte – comments on municipalities joining together for trash collection to try and get better prices.

Ms. Liscio – Wilksburg joined with the City of Pgh and it is not any cheaper.

Mr. Morus – comments that about a year and a half ago he attended a joint meeting in Pittsburgh because they were talking about how they were willing to help surrounding communities. When it was all said and done they were not willing to come to Forest Hills they were helping Wilksburg with trash removal and Wilksburg had to take care of recycling on their own.

Mr. Belmonte – you can see the dilemma with Waste Management, vote for the option year to hold prices down for this year and then the following year they will go up even more.

Mr. Lucas – can't speak for other communities in terms of whether or not they lock into a 3 or 4 year contract but yours is setup in a way where you go through this exercise every year because you have the ability to evaluate the

circumstance every year and determine whether or not you want to go in a different direction.

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 the policy developed by the solicitor that would require that all new hires and current employees seeking a promotion submit to background checks prior to an offer of employment.

Moved: Ms. Liscio
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

General Report:

1. The committee reviewed proposed changes in the PAT bus schedules coming through Forest Hills. Briefly, two routes would serve Ardmore Blvd (#69 and P69) and one would serve Greensburg Pike (#66). On Ardmore, 69 would be a local bus that would enter the city via Oakland. P69 would serve as an express – type bus operating during morning and evening rush hours and use the East Busway to enter Pittsburgh. Details can be found on the PAT website. The Port Authority will be taking public comments on the proposed final Transit Development Plan through <http://tdp.portauthority.org/paac/> or by mail at Port Authority Fare and Service Proposals, Heinz 57 Center, 345 Sixth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15222-2527. The public comment period begins Friday, August 28, 2009 and ends Wednesday, September 30, 2009 at 4:00 p.m.
2. Mr. Karas is drafting a policy regarding use of the solicitor's time and provided a preliminary copy to the committee for review and comment. The committee will continue the discussion in October.

PLANNING & ZONING

Ms. Katchmar

General Report:

1. The committee reviewed several code violations that Ron Willard, code enforcement officer is addressing.
2. Members again reviewed the requirement in the zoning ordinance that work exceeding 50% of the value of a property that is a non conforming use triggers a review of its status. Members were averse to removing this provision and may review again in the future.

Old Business:

Motion: Move that Babst, Calland, Clements & Zomnir is used to represent the borough in the case against the borough brought by Mr. Ellicker.

Moved: Mr. Tomasic
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

New Business:

Mr. Karas – the machinery used to work on the sewer pipes across from Bright Park did some damage to the grounds – area prone to flooding and the hill that was there was moved into the stream – asks the engineer if the work is being done by a private or borough contractor.

Mr. Gaus, Engineer – responds the work is being performed by a borough contractor - he and Jim Theilacker looked at the work and there are some areas where they entered the stream and disturbed the soil but that will be cleaned up.

Motion: Motion to direct the finance committee to consult with special labor council and the borough actuary to develop for consideration at council's next regular meeting a motion which will assure that funds representing the differential between the borough's MMO as calculated based on the 2007

audit vs. the 2009 audit, \$141,320, are available to fund the MMO for the year 2012 if needed.

Moved: Ms. Liscio
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

Faith Katchmar – inquires if there is going to be an executive meeting in regards to a process we opened up and have heard nothing about for the past few weeks.

Mr. Porco – states there will be an executive meeting after this meeting.

Mike Belmonte : 1) feed back from an elected official from a neighboring community regarding mutual aid and the concern that when a police officer goes to another community and something happens to them what is there liability. All are aware that we have had three officers shot, two who are on permanent disability and this ties into the MMO and how it is affected by what we are obligated to pay these officers down the road. 2) Saturday, September 26th from 9:00 – 11:00 AM at the Rankin Intermediate School the Home Depot Program will have its 3rd distribution. Any Woodland Hills School district resident is invited to come and see if there is something they can use, just bring proof of residency. 3) Consider committee restructuring. 4) Superintendent of Woodland Hills School District will attend the November meeting. 5) In all of are neighboring communities I have had the good fortune of dealing with in either general discussions or business dealings with everyone of Steve's counterparts, and he is second to none of the people I have dealt with and I just wanted to state this publicly.

Mr. Porco announced that council held an executive session on August 19, 2009 both before and after to discuss litigation and personnel matters and will discuss personnel issues tonight following the meeting in executive session.

Adjourn: Motion to adjourn or adjourn by acclamation

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

Voice Vote – all in favor

- Next Scheduled Council Meeting: October 21, 2009

- Next Scheduled Committee Meetings (order to be determined): Tuesday, October 6, 2009 (Borough Property, Public Works, & Planning & Zoning) and Thursday, October 1, 2009 (Finance, Operations & Policy, & Public Safety).