
MINUTES

Call to Order: Mr. Porco

Pledge of Allegiance: Mayor O'Malley

Roll Call:

Mr. Belmonte	Present	Mr. Porco	Present
Mr. Burleigh	Present	Mayor O'Malley	Present
Mr. Erbelinger	Present	Janet Sullivan, Tax Collector	Present
Mr. Karas	Present	Steve Korbel, Solicitor	Present
Mr. Tomasic	Present	David Gilliland, Engineer	Present
Ms. Wood	Absent	Steven Morus, Manager	Present

President's Report: Mr. Porco

Mr. Porco extended a happy new year to all.

He noted an executive session on Jan. 6 2011 to discuss contract negotiation items. Another will be held following this meeting tonight for the same reason plus for personnel issues.

He reported on recent events including the tree burning and the strategic planning meeting held last Saturday.

Mayor's Report: Mayor O'Malley

- 11/19 Attended Allegheny County's Coroner's indoctrination and toured the facilities along with the Forest Hills Police Chief. This was designed to acquaint the municipal officials and other personnel to the requirements, capabilities, duties and obligations not just of the coroner but of us and how we interact with them.
- 11/30 Attended the introductory meeting with Glenn Engineering.
- 12/2 Participated in the demonstration at Senator Casey's and Spector's office showing Forest Hills' overwhelming opposition to a tax bailout for millionaires, which did get some favorable publicity in the Post-Gazette.
- 12/4 Attended Juniper Village's Craft Festival which was a fundraiser for the Forest Hills beautification project in the Sherwood Road neighborhood.

- 12/10 Attended Friends of the Riverfront event accompanied by Forest Hills' own Warden of the Jail Trail, Dr. Art Fleming, who was recognized for his work in organizing the cleanup of the Jail Trail all this past year.
- 12/11 Participated in a Coffee Party's Planning of Future Public Awareness about the first anniversary of the activist US Supreme Court decision that's allowing unlimited foreign and domestic corporations to make financial contributions to federal election candidates.
- 12/16 Represented Forest Hills at a meeting of the Joint Taxing Authority for Municipalities and School Districts of the Turtle Creek Valley and the surrounding areas.
- 12/21 Attended, along with Vivian Broz, a political meeting of just about all of Allegheny County's elected officials and committee persons.
- 12/31 Represented Forest Hills as a volunteer in Pittsburgh's First Night event. This is family celebration held in downtown Pittsburgh on New Year's Eve; he's been doing this for several years.
- 01/04 Represented Forest Hills in a Planning Meeting for the Race for the Cure event which is held every year on Mother's Day; he's been involved in this for 15 years.
- 01/8 Attended an educational planning meeting of the Marcellus Shale Drilling controversy which was held at East Liberty Presbyterian Church. This particular controversy will be a future Forest Hills council discussion, and there will be some decisions made.
- 01/11 Met with the executives of Forest Hills Rotary to coordinate with them their interest in expanding their volunteer activities in Forest Hills.
- 01/14 Attended the Christmas Tree Burning. There were over 200 citizens and friends at the event when the trees were lit up, along with about another 100 or 150 people milling around besides that.
- 1/17 Represented Forest Hills at the Make-A-Wish Foundation's Bowling with the Pittsburgh Penguin Players and Coaches in Crafton.

Tax Collector's Report:

Ms. Sullivan

Ms. Sullivan presented a report for December 2010. Real Estate collections for December were \$27,036; real estate penalties collected were \$2,687; total collections for the month were \$29,723. Year-to-date she collected \$2,444,054. Our budgeted amount was \$2,459,745 which is 99% of our budgeted figure.

Chief of Police Report:

Chief Williams

Chief Williams presented a report on department activities for January 1 – December 31, 2010.

Fire Chief's Report:

Chief Theilacker

No report

Woodland Hills EMS Report:

Adam Knight

No report

Solicitor's Report:

Steve Korbel

Mr. Korbel noted two items including liens filed against vacant Windsor Ave. property.

He also noted that his office will attend the Planning Commission meeting on the 26th regarding zoning ordinance issues.

Wilkesburg Penn Joint Water Authority Report:

Ms. Broz

No report.

Public Comment – Agenda Items

At this time, citizens may address council on any issue appearing on today's agenda. Comments on non-agenda items will be taken at the end of tonight's meeting. Citizens are asked to use the microphone at the speaker's stand, clearly state their name and address for the record and keep comments brief and to the point (5 minutes or less). It would be helpful to spell the last name for the record.

Georgette K. Starnes, 7 Dinell Drive – She spoke in opposition to no parking regulations from 2 AM to 6 AM on Dinell Drive. She said she bought her property in May 2010, and a petition was circulated that she didn't sign. It was presented to council without notification of anyone in the community so the ordinance was passed. She's asking that council review it, overturn it or open it for discussion. She stated if council cannot make a decision, she wanted to know what the next steps might be.

Frank Porco – He stated it's still under consideration; he believes a few members of the Public Safety Committee wanted to actually drive up to Dinell and take a look at around the street, and we may have some kind of decision by the February Public Safety Meeting.

Judy Traster, 10 Dinell Drive – She stated that the resolution was issued, and she believes that 8 out of 10 households did sign it. The emphasis appears to be on inconvenience. She bought her condo 23 years ago, and has a tandem garage and she is inconvenienced several times a week, but she would like to keep the ordinance as is. It also is a safety hazard in the winter time.

Jeff Casselhoff, 12 Dinell Drive – He doesn't see a public safety issue on Dinell Drive that requires an ordinance. He stated he doesn't see a problem with an occasional car being parked out there for four hours, and that 90% of the time there are no cars there between 2 and 6. He would like to have the ordinance rescinded.

Mr. Porco stated that he feels like we're getting sucked into a neighbor's dispute. We'll look at everything and we'll have a decision for you in February.

Susan Delsalle, 6 Dinell Drive – She spoke in support of keeping the ordinance. She stated she shares a driveway with Ms. Starnes. The previous owners always had 2 cars where they've had to shovel back and forth. No cars were ever parked in the driveways or in the streets overnight. She'd like to keep it that way.

Committee Reports:

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Mr. Belmonte

Motion: Move to authorize Glenn Engineering to prepare and advertise specifications for sewer lining work in 2011.

Moved: Mr. Belmonte
Second: Mr. Tomasic

Roll Call Vote:	Mr. Belmonte	Yes
	Mr. Burleigh	Yes
	Mr. Erbeldinger	Yes
	Mr. Karas	Yes
	Mr. Tomasic	Yes
	Mr. Porco	Yes

General Report:

1. Members of this committee and all other council committees reviewed a list of pending action items for future committee consideration.
2. Members discussed the public works regionalization proposal submitted by Wilkins and are awaiting further discussions between the two board presidents before this moves forward.
3. Committee members asked that Glenn Engineering review the CITF grant proposal to determine if any sewer or corrective action projects may qualify.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Erbeldinger

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

General Fund Budget:	\$177,846.05
Capital Improvements Plan:	\$ 12,457.20
Corrective Action Budget:	\$266,662.69
Liquid Fuels:	\$ 19,384.01
Road Improvement:	\$ 7,438.64
2007 Bond Issue:	\$ 750.00

Moved: Mr. Erbeldinger
Second: Mr. Burleigh

Roll Call Vote:	Mr. Belmonte	Yes
	Mr. Burleigh	Yes
	Mr. Erbeldinger	Yes
	Mr. Karas	Yes
	Mr. Tomasic	Yes
	Mr. Porco	Yes

Detail of Non-General Fund Items:

Capital Improvements Plan:	Engineering, office equipment, A/C repair borough building
Corrective Action Budget:	Sanitary sewer consent decree work, ALCOSAN bill
Liquid Fuels:	Traffic signals, salt
Road Improvement:	Engineering

General Report:

1. The committee discussed a potential municipal services fee and fund raising with representatives from the Forest Hills Volunteer Fire Department at its January meeting. Key facts are:
 - a. \$43k is a good estimate for their fund drive
 - b. \$22k average deficit over the last years (those deficits were caused by unscheduled events such as furnace)
 - c. To cover those two items equaling \$65k would result in a fee around \$42 per household
 - d. The FHFD is requesting \$75k resulting in about \$45 per household
 - e. The committee was not necessarily opposed to \$75k but would need a better understanding how they came up with that number.

2. The manager presented a summary of the borough's bond issue fund balance and the status of the general fund and other accounts at the end of 2010 during the January committee meeting. The committee also briefly reviewed the 2011 budget and capital improvements plan with the manager.
3. In February, the committee will review potential funding for the Turtle Creek Valley Council of Governments or other intergovernmental cooperative efforts because of the increase in RAD tax funding in 2010.

BOROUGH PROPERTY

Mr. Karas

Motion: Move to award the contract for elevator repair work to Otis Elevator in the amount of \$18,039.95 with funds to come from the 2007 bond issue.

Moved: Mr. Karas
Second: Mr. Burleigh

Bids received as follows:

Bidder	Amount – one jack/both jacks
Eastern Elevator	\$16,000 / 21,500
Otis Elevator Co.	\$ no bid/ 18,039.95

Motion: Move to table the motion.

Moved: Mr. Karas
Second: Mr. Belmonte

Voice Vote – all in favor of tabling

Motion: Move to approve the purchase of 4 basketball hoops in the amount of \$533.80 total including freight and 4 backboards in the amount of \$1,505 including freight for Koch Park from KOMPAN, Inc. under the state contract with funds to come from the 2007 bond issue and with installation by May 1, 2011 the responsibility of the borough's public works department.

Moved: Mr. Karas
Second: Mr. Belmonte

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Belmonte Yes
 Mr. Burleigh Yes
 Mr. Erbeldinger Yes
 Mr. Karas Yes
 Mr. Tomasic Yes
 Mr. Porco Yes

Motion: Motion to approve Resolution Number 1106 certifying that the borough is willing to participate in the energy conservation measure (ECM) retrofit phase as part of Allegheny County's energy program for municipalities financed by a block grant through the US Department of Energy.

Moved: Mr. Karas
Second: Mr. Tomasic

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Belmonte Yes
 Mr. Burleigh Yes
 Mr. Erbeldinger Yes
 Mr. Karas Yes
 Mr. Tomasic Yes
 Mr. Porco Yes

General Report:

1. Members reviewed a proposal for construction of one or more cell towers on borough property and asked a company representative to come to the February meeting to discuss.
2. The committee will review summer job applicants for 2011 and vote on these hires at the February business meeting.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Mr. Tomasic

Motion: Motion to authorize the police department to purchase a new police vehicle from Day Ford in the amount of \$31,269.00 with the purchase payments covered by a three year lease purchase.

Moved: Mr. Tomasic
Second: Mr. Burleigh

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Belmonte Yes
 Mr. Burleigh Yes
 Mr. Erbeldinger Yes
 Mr. Karas Yes
 Mr. Tomasic Yes
 Mr. Porco Yes

General Report:

1. The committee continues to review suggestions for the post of Emergency Management Coordinator.
2. Members reviewed a complaint from a Dinell resident regarding the installation of “no parking from 2 AM to 6 AM” signs there.
3. The committee continues to review snow removal requirements and encourages all residents and businesses to follow the borough’s regulations by maintaining their public walkways as outlined there. A summary of these regulations appeared in the last Tree City Times and are outlined on the borough’s website (www.foresthillspa.org). Mr. Tomasic noted he has received positive feedback from many residents on the new enforcement effort. He also noted a meeting was held to discuss modifications in the enforcement policy. He also welcomed that people call him directly with comments/complaints.

OPERATIONS & POLICY

Mr. Karas

Motion: Move to approve the minutes from the December 15, 2010 council meeting.

Moved: Mr. Karas
Second: Mr. Tomasic

Voice Vote – all in favor

Motion: Move to authorize the solicitor to prepare and advertise an ordinance regulating the use and placement of construction dumpsters and portable storage units within the Borough of Forest Hills.

Moved: Mr. Karas
Second: Mr. Erbedinger

Mr. Belmonte asked what the time frame would be in the ordinance. Mr. Korbelt has not received any feedback. He can present information at committee meetings and this could be adopted in March.

Mr. Porco stated while we do not want to encourage the permanent parking of dumpsters outside of residents’ homes, we don’t want to create a hassle for people who are trying to improve their homes. We need to strike a reasonable balance between giving them enough time to do the work and to work with their contractors, etc., and not create a situation where we’re harassing them.

Mr. Tomasic stated that now there are bags you can purchase from Home Depot which are significantly smaller. He would just like to somehow be able to let residents know what the available options are to them. He said that on some of these streets, those very large dumpsters cause problems for car and truck traffic and for the garbage trucks that have to go through some of these narrow streets.

Mr. Lucas stated that council can regulate things like size, where they should be placed in relation to the corner, driveways, etc. You can regulate that there should be reflective material on the dumpster so you can see them at night and that they should not be placed on one-way streets. It's definitely a work in progress.

Mr. Tomasic stated he didn't want to make this onerous on our residents. He said he'd like this to be a consideration, maybe more for the people who are doing the work as opposed to maybe our ordinance.

Voice Vote – all in favor

General Report:

1. The committee will begin consideration of a new contract for trash and recycling collection this year since the current contract with Waste Management expires at the end of 2011. Discussions will continue at the March committee meeting.
2. The committee continues to discuss potential service regionalization opportunities with Wilkins Township and discussed an Edgewood proposal as well.
3. Council wishes to begin planning for the 2019 borough centennial and will include a notice in the Tree City Times for volunteers to chair and serve on a committee that will assist in planning events and raising funds.
4. The committee stated that the borough's current schedule for office hours should remain as is.
5. The borough continues to seek applicants for vacancies on various boards and committees and encourages residents to volunteer. Information can be found on the borough website (www.foresthillspa.org) or by contacting the borough manager.

PLANNING & ZONING

Mr. Burleigh

General Report:

1. Code Officer Ron Willard presented a monthly report to the committee.
2. The borough manager continues to seek applicants to serve as alternate members of the borough's Zoning Hearing Board for terms to be determined and with council seeking to appoint 1 to 3 alternate members. Contact the borough office for more information.
3. The committee discussed a request from Wilkins Township to consider a joint code enforcement operation and has referred the request to the Committee of the Whole for further consideration.
4. Members are considering the solicitor's suggestion that a separate attorney should be hired to consider oil and gas drilling regulations in the borough. No action has been taken to date, although information on the subject has been submitted to the planning commission. However, they will wait to review the information until an attorney is hired and they are so directed by council.
5. The manager is reviewing a potential grant for community planning assistance. The solicitor offered to discuss this with the planning commission as an item for their review if so directed by council. Specific projects only may be considered and thus requires either council or planning commission or both to provide details and a funding source.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

None

Public Comment – Other Items

At this time citizens may address council on any issue. Citizens are asked to use the microphone at the speaker's stand, clearly state their name and address for the record and keep comments brief and to the point (5 minutes or less). It would be helpful to spell the last name for the record.

Adjourn: Motion to adjourn or adjourn by acclamation

Moved: Mr. Tomasic
Second: Mr. Belmonte

Voice Vote – all in favor

- Next Scheduled Council Meeting: February 16, 2011
- Next Scheduled Committee Meetings (order to be determined): Tuesday, February 1, 2011 (Public Safety, Public Works, Borough Property, Operations & Policy) and, Thursday February 3, 2011 (Planning & Zoning, Finance, Committee of the Whole).