

Call to Order:

Mr. Porco

Pledge of Allegiance:

Mayor O'Malley

Roll Call:

|                 |         |                           |         |
|-----------------|---------|---------------------------|---------|
| Mr. Belmonte    | present | Mayor O'Malley            | present |
| Mr. Burleigh    | present | Steve Korbel, Solicitor   | present |
| Mr. Erbellinger | present | David Gilliland, Engineer | present |
| Ms. Wood        | present | Steven Morus, Manager     | present |
| Mr. Porco       | present | Mr. Tomasic               | absent  |
| Mr. Karas       | absent  | Ms. Sullivan              | absent  |

President's Report:

Mr. Porco

Mr. Porco noted the following:

Report on status of Act 13 and the court case re: municipal zoning. Mr. Porco explained the background of the ordinance which would supersede a municipality's ability to control its own zoning re: Marcellus Shale gas and commented on the appeal submitted by the governor. He expressed concern that the state is attempting to take away local control of its own planning and zoning. He noted this should be a concern regardless of how one feels about natural gas drilling. The lawsuit brought by Cecil Township, Peters Township and a number of other municipalities and the court found in their favor. Governor Corbett's reaction was to file an appeal. The state Supreme Court may vote with three pro and three against leading to a deadlock decision and it would fall back to the lower court. The reason that the lower court found as it did was that it found it to be unconstitutional as it pertains to a municipality's ability to decide for itself on this issue. It is important to put this in the public record so that people are aware of the situation that local control of municipal zoning may be taken from the municipalities.

Voter ID law: Anyone going to vote this year will be required to have photo ID in order to vote. There is a website: [www.votepa.com](http://www.votepa.com) with information about how this will be enacted in the polls. If your ID does not match-up with the information at the polls, you will not be able to vote—i.e. maiden name, moved recently, etc.

Proclamation honoring the Forest Hills Rotary and Spiritworks Yoga was presented by Mr. Porco and Mayor O'Malley. A slide show presentation of the work in Rwanda was presented.

Mr. Burleigh expressed his appreciation and noted that it is amazing to see a sign with *Forest Hills* on it in the middle of a village in Rwanda and it is amazing what people can accomplish when they put their minds to it.

Proclamation honoring the swim team is scheduled for the September business meeting.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor O'Malley

The Mayor noted the National Night Out celebration and that he would defer to Chief Williams to report on that.

Tax Collector's Report:

Ms. Sullivan

No report

Chief of Police Report:

Chief Williams

Chief Williams presented his monthly report of activities and discussed National Night Out activities in the borough and the block parties held.

Fire Chief's Report:

Chief Theilacker

No report

Woodland Hills EMS Report:

Adam Knight

No report

Solicitor's Report:

Mr. Korbel

No report.

Wilkesburg Penn Joint Water Authority Report:

Ms. Broz

Ms. Broz presented a report from the authority including the number of water line breaks in the area especially Forest Hills. The authority will be reviewing especially at the top of Filmore.

Public Comment – Agenda Items

*At this time, citizens may address council on any issue appearing on today's agenda. Only residents and taxpayers of the Borough of Forest Hills will be permitted to address council. Comments on non-agenda items will be taken at the end of tonight's meeting.*

*Speakers will be permitted to speak for a maximum of 5 minutes. Groups of people will be required to designate a spokesperson to represent them before council who may speak for a maximum of 10 minutes. 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. Please spell the name for the record.*

No comments

Committee Reports:

**PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE**

Mr. Belmonte

*General Report:*

1. The borough engineer submitted the following report to the committee:

Engineer's Report for August, 2012

Public Works Committee

- A. Significant Deficiency Sewer Repairs – Liner Project  
All work has been completed except for the 48" storm sewer liner in Cherry Valley. This project has been suspended pending a review of finances available.
  - B. 2012 Sewer work for the Consent Decree  
The liner project has been awarded however a hold has been placed pending a review of finances available. We will be meeting with Manager Steven Morus in late August to review these two projects and examine the sewer budget.
  - C. 2012 Paving Project  
Work has been completed with the exception of the stamped asphalt crosswalks which are scheduled to be done on August 6, weather permitting.
  - D. NPDES Permit  
Re: discharging stormwater into water of the commonwealth; Current permit expires in March 2013; he is preparing a notice of intent due 9/14.
2. The committee will continue to review project submissions for the 2013 Capital Improvements Plan.
  3. The committee reviewed the following report from 3 Rivers Wet Weather:

ALCOSAN Wet Weather Plan

On July 31, ALCOSAN released its draft long-term Wet Weather Plan (WWP) for public review and comment. ALCOSAN's consultant, CDM Smith, will give a presentation about the plan at the next 3 Rivers Wet Weather Feasibility Study Work Group (FSWG)

meeting in August. After discussion, the FSWG may provide ALCOSAN with comments. In addition, we recommend that municipal managers and elected officials also review the WWP for the work proposed by ALCOSAN that may impact your municipality. The comment period will extend until October 19. Check the ALCOSAN website, [www.alcosan.org](http://www.alcosan.org) for plan details and a complete schedule of related public meetings.

Sewer Rate Survey

3 Rivers has completed its 2012 update of sewer rates in the ALCOSAN service area.

Mr. Belmonte thanked Mr. Morus for serving on the 3 Rivers Wet Weather committee and for their work in implementing the consent decree.

4. The committee agreed that in the future bid specifications should include requirements that contractors follow correct safety procedures, wear proper safety equipment and have vehicles/equipment properly inspected and legal. Pavement bids should include specifications for use of and/or disposal of millings.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Mr. Erbedinger

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

|                            |              |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| General Fund Budget:       | \$149,352.06 |
| Corrective Action Budget:  | \$ 3,547.50  |
| Liquid Fuels:              | \$ 441.96    |
| Capital Improvements Plan: | \$ 5,987.71  |
| Road Improvement:          | \$ 734.55    |
| Fire                       | \$ 90.00     |

Moved: Mr. Erbedinger

Second: Mr. Burleigh

|                 |                |     |
|-----------------|----------------|-----|
| Roll Call Vote: | Mr. Belmonte   | yes |
|                 | Mr. Burleigh   | yes |
|                 | Mr. Erbedinger | yes |
|                 | Ms. Wood       | yes |
|                 | Mr. Porco      | yes |

Detail of Non-General Fund Items:

|                           |                                                                   |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Corrective Action Budget: | Sewer billing, engineering                                        |
| Liquid Fuels:             | paving                                                            |
| Capital Improvements:     | VFD Roof and the following grant funded item:<br>computer update. |
| Road Improvement:         | Manhole risers and supplies                                       |
| Fire                      | VFD proceeds from fire protection services fee                    |

*General Report:*

1. The manager distributed information to begin preparation of the 2013 budget and capital improvements plan. The committee will review budget requests submitted by departments at each of its meetings through the end of the year. A first draft of the budget will be reviewed at the October finance committee meeting. These meetings are open to the public.

**BOROUGH PROPERTY**

Mr. Belmonte

*General Report:*

1. The Committee reviewed the following report from the borough engineer:
  - A. Tennis Courts  
I have submitted a cost estimate for the reconstruction of these courts with the options of asphalt and rubber surfacing for one, two or all three courts for Council's consideration. Estimates for replacement of one court with asphalt: \$70,000; replacement of 3 courts with asphalt: \$175,000.
  - B. Yost Boulevard Sidewalk  
A letter was submitted to Allegheny County on July 6, 2012 regarding the condition of the sidewalk and curb. No response has been received to date. I followed up with a phone call on July 27 but got voice mail and left a message.
  - C. Leon Way Trail  
On July 26, 2012 Councilman Steve Karas and I met with Senator Costa and Rob Wagner of Cost Realty regarding the construction of a walking trail on the paper section of Leon Way from the dead end near Newport to Juniper Village. Senator Costa expressed his support for the project and offered his assistance. Since that section of Leon Way was never opened, Solicitor Korbel has stated the adjacent property owners would each own half of the right-of-way and that easements would be required to build the trail. Mr. Karas gave Mr. Wagner a draft copy of the easement for his review. Mr. Wagner stated his firm would be in favor of the trail. We also need to contact the property owner of 100 Elmore as they would also need to sign an easement agreement. Once the easements are in place, construction could begin. We would want to wait until the vegetation dies off in the fall/early winter to begin work. The milling material needed to construct the trail is on hand.
2. The committee reviewed a proposal re: installation of a slide at the swimming pool and reviewed concerns from the borough's insurance carrier. Cindy Simm and Dave Gilliland were asked to discuss the proposal with a pool consultant and report back to the committee.
3. Members reviewed a recommendation from a resident re: installation of a Bocce court at Koch Park.

**PUBLIC SAFETY**

Ms. Wood

*General Report:*

1. Chief Williams reported that total police overtime for July amounted to \$5,029 compared with \$9,030 from July 2011.
2. The committee reviewed language changes for the collection of the fire protection services fee which tighten the requirements for the fee from commercial entities. Changes will be incorporated into the borough's fee resolution that will be updated and considered at the December 2012 meeting. No adjustments are needed for the residential and rental fees.
3. Members reviewed concerns noted by police officers of the proliferation of skunks in various locations in the borough.
4. The committee received proposals from the volunteer fire department for inclusion in the 2013 capital improvements plan.

**OPERATIONS & POLICY**

Ms. Wood

**Motion:** Move to approve the minutes from the July 18, 2012 council meeting.

Moved: Ms. Wood  
Second: Mr. Burleigh

***Voice Vote – all in favor***

*General Report:*

1. The borough continues to seek volunteers for the 2019 Centennial Committee. Please contact the office if interested.
2. The committee reviewed a complaint from two residents of LeBeau Pike re: honey locusts trees and Arborist Ted Gilbert's response. The Tree and Shrub committee will review and Mr. Gilbert will respond in writing to the residents.

**PLANNING & ZONING**

Mr. Burleigh

*General Report:*

1. Members reviewed code enforcement activities with the boroughs' code officer, Don Branzel. Mr. Burleigh noted a discussion of the proliferation of skunks in the borough.

2. The committee reviewed concerns for property at the old Westinghouse Research Center at the bottom of Ave F. /West Street.

Old Business:

New Business:

Public Comment – Other Items

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Richard Wheeler, 613 Barclay. He recently moved back to the area, originally from Swissvale. He grew up in Swissvale but moved to Forest Hills because it would be better for his children.

He discussed problems with his tires being slashed. He is also concerned about the property next to him. People use it as a dumping ground and for the last few weeks he has been trying to clean it up. So far he has hauled out six loads of garbage and junk and he is still cleaning up.

He requested a no dumping sign—although he knows who the parties are, he would prefer a no dumping sign to making trouble with his neighbors. He resents paying to haul out other peoples junk.

He also requested a speed limit sign at the lower end of Barclay. People are going 40 to 50 mph before they get to the stop sign. This is dangerous as there are many children in the neighborhood.

The paving in the alley from Barclay to Windsor is falling apart. He broke an axel on his truck driving back there. Mr. Wheeler requested patches for the alley.

Steve said there is a no dumping sign on order for that property.

Adjourn: Motion to adjourn or adjourn by acclamation

Moved: Mr. Belmonte  
Second: Ms. Wood

***Voice Vote – all in favor***

- Next Scheduled Council Meeting: September 19, 2012
- Next Scheduled Committee Meetings (order to be determined): Tuesday, September 4, 2012 – Borough Property, Operations & Policy, Public Safety, Public Works. Thursday, September 6, 2012 – Finance, Planning & Zoning, Committee of the Whole.