

Call to Order:

Mr. Tomasic

Pledge of Allegiance:

Mayor O'Malley

Roll Call:

Mr. Belmonte	present	Mr. Porco	not present
Mr. Burleigh	present	Mayor O'Malley	present
Mr. Erbdinger	present	Janet Sullivan, Tax Collector	present
Mr. Karas	not present	Steve Korbel, Solicitor	present
Mr. Tomasic	present	David Gilliland, Engineer	present
Ms. Wood	not present	Steven Morus, Manager	present

President's Report:

Mr. Tomasic

During January committee meetings, the President reported on the following appointments:

Devon Wood, Markus Erbdinger and Bill Tomasic will serve on the negotiating committee; Mr. Tomasic remains as lead negotiator.

Mike Belmonte remains as liaison with the Turtle Creek Valley Council of Governments with Bill Tomasic as alternate.

Committee appointments – no changes in chairs and council committee memberships.

Borough's association delegate remains Frank Porco who also sits on their board.

Mr. Tomasic noted there would be an executive session following the meeting.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor O'Malley

Dec. 23, 2011: Attended the FH Edgewood acres winter solstice party.

Dec. 30, 2011: Attended the Ron Placone Show at the Club Café, Southside. Ron is an up-and coming entertainer who grew up in FH and his parents are stalwarts of the community in many ways.

Dec. 31, 2011: Represented FH at Pittsburgh's Light up Night as a volunteer and badge checker for multiple venues throughout the evening. Also spent time with a dozen FH Trinity Christian School High school students, who were also volunteering and who expressed an interest in the workings and learning about FH local government.

Oct. 10, 2011: Represented FH at the OCCUPY PITTSBURGH rally at Pgh City County Building, to call attention to the illegal maneuvers perpetrated by NYMELLON bank to take back their custody of a public park space on Grant Street.

Jan. 13, 2011: Attended the FH Christmas Tree burning event at the FH Westinghouse lodge.

Tax Collector's Report:

Ms. Sullivan

Ms. Sullivan presented her report for December.

Mr. Korbel commented on the property assessment issue.

Chief of Police Report:

Chief Williams

Chief Williams presented a report of activities for the month.

Fire Chief's Report:

Chief Theilacker

Rick Colella submitted a written report for year end.

Woodland Hills EMS Report:

Adam Knight

No report

Solicitor's Report:

Mr. Korbel

Mr. Korbel reported on the Rite Aid development and the availability of a developer's agreement for signature.

One dumpster has been removed from the EPI Building. He also discussed taking the property to Sherriff's sale with Portnoff.

Mr. Tomasic asked Mr. Korbel to explain legal fees for these developments and how they are reimbursed from escrow fees. The same is not true for EPI at this time.

Wilkinsburg Penn Joint Water Authority Report: Ms. Broz

Ms. Broz presented her report of activities for the authority and discussed water breaks during the winter.

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 offered.

Committee Reports:

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Mr. Belmonte

General Report:

1. The borough engineer submitted the following report to the committee:
 - A. Significant Deficiency Sewer Repairs – Liner Project
Twelve of 36 sites have been completed under Phase I of this project. Phase II will be underway in January, 2012.
 - B. CD 37 Demolition
This project has been awarded. Work was supposed to be underway by now but the contractor said he was delayed and will begin in January.
 - C. 2012 Sewer work for the Consent Decree
As authorized by Council at the last meeting, these projects (excavation and liners) will be advertised for bid in January, 2012.
 - D. 2012 Paving Project
The following streets are to be considered for paving in 2012 using the Paser software. Jim Theilacker and I toured the streets on January 4 and offer our recommendations. Once Council reviews and approves a final list of streets, I recommend advertising for bids in March, 2012. The budget for this project is \$291,500.

<u>Street</u>	<u>Est. Cost</u>	<u>Recommendation</u>
A. Barclay Ave. (Marion – Forest Ridge)	\$10,700	Pave
B. Bevington Rd. (Burlington – Cascade)	\$ 9,500	Defer to 2013
C. Braddock Rd. (Ardmore – Glasgow)	\$78,500	Pave
D. Carmel Court (Filmore – dead end)	\$19,400	Defer to 2013
E. Edgewood Rd. (#510 to Wellington)	\$43,200	Pave
F. Fieldcrest Dr. (Glasgow – End)	\$51,000	Defer to 2013
G. Kenmore Ave. (Rockwood – Ardmore)	\$42,200	Defer until Rite Aid built
H. Overdale Dr (Castlegate–Hawthorne)	\$66,200	Defer to 2013
I. Rockwood Ave. (Kenmore-Yost)	\$14,000	Defer until Rite Aid built
J. Windsor Ave. (Marion to Dead end)	\$97,500	Pave
K. Geisler Dr. (Filmore – Main)	\$11,300	Pave
L. Wilkins Rd. (Sherwood – Woodside)	\$50,000	Pave
M. Forest Hills Rd (#311-End)	\$ 6,300	Pave
Total (recommended):	\$297,500	

Note: the above list of streets is not final and is still under review by the committee.

Mr. Tomasic noted that 1 mill in the tax ordinance is only used for paving.

2. The following was an update received by 3 Rivers Wet Weather on sanitary sewer consent order issues & ALCOSAN:

In preparation for the **July 2013** deadline for municipalities to submit their Feasibility Studies to the regulatory agencies, upcoming Manager's Minutes will highlight items of particular relevance to you and your Boards. Although July 2013 seems distant, you should allot time now for the extensive coordination required both within your municipality and in engaging your neighboring municipalities on the selection of alternatives and allocation of costs. You may also have received a request from ALCOSAN to submit a draft Feasibility Study to them by July 31, 2012.

Activities Involving the Wet Weather Control Alternatives Plan

- Municipalities have submitted to ALCOSAN an internal solution (controls within municipal boundaries, such as a storage tanks and increased conveyance capacities) to handle any capacity deficiencies.
- Municipalities should be working with neighbors if they are part of a multi-municipal sewershed.
- Municipalities should be looking at alternative ways to help reduce flow in their systems, such as by removing inflow/infiltration, and installing green infrastructure.
- Estimates of the cost of these alternatives should be developed and reviewed by municipal managers and elected officials.

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

General Fund Budget:	\$ 217,751.24
Capital Improvements Plan	\$ 14,650.00
Corrective Action Budget:	\$ 213,345.64
Liquid Fuels:	\$ 972.01
Pavement:	\$ 16,760.85
2007 Bond Issue:	\$ 14,850.00

Moved: Mr. Erbeldinger
Second: Mr. Burleigh

Roll Call Vote:	Mr. Belmonte	yes
	Mr. Burleigh	yes
	Mr. Erbeldinger	yes
	Mr. Tomasic	yes

Detail of Non-General Fund Items:

Capital Improvements Plan:	Borough Building Flat Roof
Corrective Action Budget:	Sanitary sewer consent decree work and engineering
Liquid Fuels:	traffic signals
Pavement:	Paving & road repair
2007 Bond Issue:	VFD roof repair; bond fees

Motion: Move to pay 25% of excess 2011 RAD funds as required under state law with half provided to the C. C. Mellor Library and the Forest Hills branch and half provided to the Turtle Creek Valley Council of Governments.

Moved: Mr. Erbeldinger
Second: Mr. Burleigh

Roll Call Vote:	Mr. Belmonte	yes
	Mr. Burleigh	yes
	Mr. Erbeldinger	yes
	Mr. Tomasic	yes

General Report:

1. The committee will solicit proposals in 2012 from banks and similar institutions re: refinancing of the borough's 2007 bond issue.
2. Further discussions will be held in committee. Mr. Tomasic noted that this was also done in 2007 to save money and allow new purchases including the fire truck's first 5 year payments. We may get another good deal with interest rates this year.
3. The committee will invite representatives from Ameriserv Trust to the March or April committee meeting to discuss pension plan investments.

BOROUGH PROPERTY

Mr. Belmonte

General Report:

1. Cindy Simm informed the committee that DCNR changed their application dates for grant money so the application to request grant money for the dog park is now due in April 2012 with DCNR's selection to be sometime in September 2012.
2. The Committee reviewed the following report from the borough engineer:
 - A. DCNR Grant (formerly Bright Park Project)

We have received verbal (but not written) approval of our plans from DCNR. The project can be bid with construction to follow in the Spring of 2012.
 - B. Fill Site behind Rec Center

The fill work to date totals only 0.4 acre therefore we are not in violation of any laws for not obtaining a permit for this work. The total number of trees that would be removed to install the proposed fill is 297. The estimated cost of the fence along the new top of slope is \$21,250.
 - C. Fire Dept Roof

This project will be ready for advertisement for bids in February. A fireman has suggested looking into the installation of solar panels in conjunction with the roof work. Council would have to authorize us to investigate the feasibility of this if Council so desires. Council authorizes the engineer to look into the approved sky lights and whether solar panel sky lights are available and at what price.
3. The committee discussed the building inspector's report on work items required at the senior citizens center in the two rest rooms (floor) and the kitchen area (ceiling and lighting). The committee asked that the foreman review and determine if the crew could handle the work rather than contract it out.
4. A representative from the PA Department of Environmental Protection will attend the February committee meeting to discuss yard/leaf waste

composting requirements and the issue of disposal of grass clippings as well as related items.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Mr. Erbeldinger

General Report:

1. Chief Williams reported that total police overtime for December amounted to only \$4,700. This was unscheduled overtime that resulted from sick days or court time. He also noted no problems with the part time officers stating that the borough has two good individuals serving who are committed to Forest Hills. They have saved a substantial amount of overtime costs for a net savings after their salaries of about \$30,000. As a result of the part time officers we were able to budget significantly less for overtime for 2012. We have the ability to use the part timers to plug into slots where needed to increase savings.
2. A report on the parking survey from the Tree City Times will be made at the February committee meeting.
3. Members noted that there should be flexibility in the code officer schedule to cover any winter weather incidents that would require him to be available to ensure that walkways are treated as required. The committee noted that the police are also able to assist in enforcement.

OPERATIONS & POLICY

Mr. Burleigh

Motion: Move to approve the minutes from the December 21, 2011 council meeting.

Moved: Mr. Burleigh
Second: Mr. Erbeldinger

Voice Vote – all in favor

Motion: Move to approve the minutes from the January 3, 2012 council organization meeting.

Moved: Mr. Burleigh
Second: Mr. Erbeldinger

Voice Vote – all in favor

Motion: Motion to approve resolution number 1116 directing and authorizing the proper borough officials to dispose of municipal records pursuant to ordinance 723 and as directed by the authority contained in the PA Municipal Records Act.

Moved: Mr. Burleigh
Second: Mr. Belmonte

Mr. Erbedinger asked Mr. Morus to explain the kinds of records we must keep and can dispose of.

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. Council hopes to meet soon to complete the strategic planning process begun in 2011.

PLANNING & ZONING

Mr. Burleigh

General Report:

1. Members reviewed the hire of the current code officer in the last quarter of 2011, noting that he is a 37 year resident and taxpaying property owner in the borough who was hired at a salary of \$14/hour for 20 hours per week. The former code officer worked the same number of hours at \$15.92/hour for a savings of \$38.40 per week or almost \$2,000 per year. While he is the brother in law of Mr. Tomasic, the solicitor noted there were no violation of ethics and a unanimous vote of 7-0 for the hire. Mr. Tomasic commented on the rumors that had been spread and noted that there was an impropriety in this process. It was brought to my attention by a councilman that I called people up on the phone and told them not to apply for the job. This is a completely false rumor. If someone would like to come in and contest these facts, they can do so.
2. Committee members discussed ongoing code enforcement issues with the code officer.

3. Members asked the manager to send a reminder to the developers involved in the Kliment Building renovations concerning the borough's zoning and permitting regulations to ensure that they can secure necessary approvals in a timely fashion. The manager sent such a reminder to them via email. Mr. Morus commented that this information has been received and distributed.
4. The committee continues to review zoning ordinance changes. Council and the committee asked the solicitor to forward the proposed changes to County planning for review.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

County Executives asked every municipality in Allegheny County to consider a resolution which essentially condemns the court order reassessment of Allegheny County only and it urges the legislature and governor to enact a moratorium on court order reassessments in the commonwealth and to encourage the state to develop a state wide assessment system.

Motion: Move to adopt the Fitzgerald resolution.

Moved: Mr. Erbeldinger

Second: Mr. Burleigh

Roll Call Vote:	Mr. Belmonte	yes
	Mr. Burleigh	yes
	Mr. Erbeldinger	yes
	Mr. Tomasic	yes

Public Comment – Other Items

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designate a spokesperson to represent them before council who may speak for a maximum of 10 minutes.

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Ms. Broz – questioned about the TCVCOG and library split \$1,241.81.

Lois Longo, 482 Atlantic Avenue – was very much disappointed in the Fire Service Fee of \$45.00. Ms. Longo stated that we need to cut expenses in other ways to make up for this.

Mr. Belmonte commented on her issues. We hired two part-time officers this past year for the first time in the history of our Borough to reduce over-time costs. The fire department is a volunteer department and is very valuable to us. The fire department does a lot of fund raising and training on their own.

Mr. Erbelinger noted that the borough has not raised taxes in some time.

Mr. Tomasic commented that we have not raised taxes since 2007 by 1 mill. This was to pave our roads. We have cut the police force, the public works department and reduced the office staff. We changed our investment company and saved thousands of dollars. We did the restructuring of the deficit which helped us buy the fire truck initially and start paying for it for 5 years. We have had grievances that were money issues that we saved money on. We welcome any comments on how we can save money.

Brian Kurtz, 313 Barclay Ave. – discussed the transportation cuts that may happen here and across the area including the Trafford bus routes, eliminating all routes in the borough in September if funding is cut. Works for Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership.

Requested a resolution condemning the cuts and asking legislators to act on the governor's commission on transportation.

Paul Caswell, 130 Cherry Valley Road – commented further on the bus issue. Also asked about the work in Wilkinsburg at the end of Sherwood Road re: heavy equipment work being done there. Concerned about access through our borough, past Bright Park and near school bus stops.

Also commented about Forest Ridge area.

Also commented on composting – usable property at the Westinghouse property – could it be leased from the company.

Adjourn: Motion to adjourn or adjourn by acclamation

Moved: Mr. Burleigh
Second: Mr. Belmonte

Voice Vote – all in favor

- Next Scheduled Council Meeting: February 15, 2012
- Next Scheduled Committee Meetings (order to be determined): Thursday, February 2, 2012 – Borough Property, Operations & Policy, Public Safety, Public Works.
Tuesday, February 7, 2012 – Finance, Planning & Zoning, Committee of the Whole.