

Call to Order:

Mr. Karas

Pledge of Allegiance:

Mayor O'Malley

Roll Call:

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

Zoning Ordinance Amendment Hearing

Mr. Korbel

The amended ordinance changes the zoning of the Marwood area in question from S-1 to R-3. Mr. Korbel read the ordinance and introduced other documents as exhibits.

This amendment was recommended by the planning commission as explained by Mr. Korbel.

Mr. Korbel opened the meeting to comments from members of the audience.

Rusty Hughes, 29 Marwood Ave – asked what it means to the residents. Mr. Korbel noted that it limits any commercial uses except in very limited form, i.e. church, school, or Bed and Breakfast. However, for any non-residential use, they would have to come before Borough Council for approval. It reduces likelihood of commercial use.

Sam Arbutina, who lives on Filmore Road, but is a property owner of an empty lot on Marwood, asked how this would affect the value of this property. Although he has no present plans for the property, he would now be able to build a residential building on it. However, he commented that if he were to sell the property, it could be an issue as it would now be limited as there would now be fewer commercial uses for the property.

Mr. Tomasic moved and Ms. Wood seconded to close the hearing. All in favor by voice vote.

President's Report:

Mr. Karas

Mr. Karas noted that the Chief will talk about the upcoming hayride.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor O'Malley

The mayor deferred his report to a later time.

Tax Collector's Report:

Ms. Sullivan

Ms. Sullivan provided her monthly collections report.

Chief of Police Report:

Chief Williams

Chief Williams reported on department activities, discussed the upcoming hayride on Saturday and noted that he attended a recent AARP meeting with the manager and foreman.

Fire Chief's Report:

Chief Theilacker

No report

Woodland Hills EMS Report:

Adam Knight

No report

Solicitor's Report:

Mr. Korbel

Mr. Korbel reported on the following:

Noted he has a litigation matter for executive session and a second matter that is attorney client privilege.

Wilkesburg Penn Joint Water Authority Report:

Ms. Broz

Ms. Broz reported on Authority activities and discussed budget meetings.

Mr. Tomasic questioned whether the authority had been contacted re: street repairs and explained what council is attempting to do with these repairs.

---

*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:

Forest Hills Borough  
Engineer's Report for October, 2012

Public Works Committee

- A. 2012-13 Sewer work for the Consent Decree  
Bob Zischkau of my staff will be meeting with Manager Morus on October 3 to discuss upcoming sewer projects and funding needs. We will report to Council on the status of our compliance with the Consent Decree and on upcoming work with costs and a recommendation on sewer rates in the near future.
- B. 2013 Paving  
I am planning to present the tentative 2013 paving list at your November committee meeting after updating the Paser Program and touring streets with Jim Thielacker.
- C. Braddock Road Speed Limit  
I have researched PennDOT's regulations regarding speed limit changes. Section 212.108(b) of PennDOT's Publication 212 Official Traffic Control Devices states that speed limits may be reduced up to 10 mph below the established speed limit if one of three conditions is met. Condition 2 is "*The available site distance from side roads is less than the necessary stopping sight distance values for through vehicles*". Therefore, if Council so desired, the speed limit on Braddock Road at the intersection with Glasgow could be lowered to 15 mph because the driveways from houses on the road do not have the required sight distance to safely pull out on the road. This reduced speed limit would be warranted between the pool entrance and Ridge Avenue. This is not a mandatory requirement. The regulation just states that a reduction is allowable if Council so desires.
- D. Sherwood Road Flooding

Hosanna House has recently hired an engineering consultant to devise a new storm water management plan for their Sherwood property. I will be meeting with Hosanna House, their engineer and Wilkensburg's Code Official after this plan is completed to review the plan and ensure Forest Hills is protected and the plan is adequate.

2. The committee asked that issues related to the Ardmore median in the business district be referred to the Tree and Shrub Committee and arborist, Ted Gilbert for investigation of a solution to the weed problem. Tree & Shrub and the arborist are to review and recommend any and all further improvements and work in that area.
3. The public comment period for the ALCOSAN Wet Weather Plan draft ends on October 19.

## FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Tomasic

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

General Fund Budget:	\$195,105.95
Capital Improvements Plan	\$ 25,953.62
Corrective Action Budget:	\$ 4,420.06
Liquid Fuels:	\$ 3,461.96
Road Improvement:	\$ 740.89

Moved: Mr. Tomasic  
Second: Mr. Burleigh

Roll Call Vote:	Mr. Belmonte	yes
	Mr. Burleigh	yes
	Mr. Tomasic	yes
	Ms. Wood	yes
	Mr. Karas	yes

### Detail of Non-General Fund Items:

Corrective Action Budget:	Consent order sewer work & engineering; GIS maintenance
Liquid Fuels:	paving & traffic lights
Road Improvement:	Manhole risers and supplies
Capital Improvements	Police radios, lift chair – pool, security camera partial upgrade

*General Report:*

1. The committee reviewed the first draft of the 2013 budget with the manager. The first draft showed no tax increase though there will be an increase in the trash fee and may be an increase in the sewer fee (pending discussions with the borough engineer on work required to comply with the consent order). The first draft included a \$5.9 million general fund budget. The committee will continue to review the budget at its November and December meetings and will work toward approving a preliminary budget at the November council meeting. These meetings are open to the public.
2. In Committee of the Whole, members discussed the fee increase indicated by representatives from Ameriserv, the borough's pension investment company.
3. Also in Committee of the Whole, members discussed modifying legal fees by using a retainer format for the borough solicitor that would include all fees except those that might be reimbursable or involve litigation matters. The solicitor will discuss this further with members.

**BOROUGH PROPERTY**

Mr. Belmonte

**Motion:** Move to appoint resident Lynn McGuigan to the recreation board for a term ending on February 29, 2014.

Moved: Mr. Belmonte  
Second: Mr. Tomasic

Roll Call Vote:	Mr. Belmonte	yes
	Mr. Burleigh	yes
	Mr. Tomasic	yes
	Ms. Wood	yes
	Mr. Karas	yes

*General Report:*

1. The Committee reviewed the following report from the borough engineer:

Borough Property

A. Yost Boulevard Sidewalk

Allegheny County will return to place milling material behind the curb in the walking area within the next two weeks.

B. Leon Way Trail

Two easements will be required for the construction of this trail. One is on the property of 100 Elmore which will be laid out by our surveyor. The second will be through Juniper Village's property from the end of the 100 Elmore easement all the way to Sherwood Road.

The easement cannot terminate at the cul-de-sac of Fall Run Road because Fall Run is a private road. Therefore I believe an easement is needed for the portion of the trail that will parallel Fall Run since it is on private property. In this case DPW will have to clear the pathway from Elmore to the cul-de-sac before our surveyor can lay it out so that the trail path and the easement correspond. DPW cannot do this until the leaves fall due to the thickness of the vegetation. May need to cut a path back to the manhole anyway since we need to televise this line.

C. Tennis Courts

I have revised the cost estimate for the reconstruction of the three tennis courts to allow for DPW to remove the existing courts and excavate down 1.5 to 2.0 feet. A contractor would then install the drainage pipes, base material, new asphalt surfacing and painting for the new courts. The estimated cost of this work is \$145,000. I recommend this work be deferred until the 2013 tennis season is over so that rain or unexpected delays do not interfere with the season. Late summer is also a better time to excavate as the adjacent ground (over which construction vehicles will travel for access) will be dryer and more stable.

D. Pool Ventilation

I am recommending the exhaust fan be replaced in the chlorine room. The fan would have to be sized to exchange the air in the room every 4 minutes which is the industry standard for safety.

2. The committee discussed two repairs needed in the pool prior to opening next season. First, caulking in the joints will have to be replaced. Following that, the pool will have to be repainted. Timing for both will depend on weather conditions and could impact opening the pool if the weather/temperature is poor in the spring.
3. In Committee of the Whole, members asked the manager and staff to create a job description for a part time employee who would be certified to work at the pool during the months it is open and with public works at other times and to advertise for the position when ready.

**PUBLIC SAFETY**

Mr. Tomasic

**Motion:** Move to authorize the solicitor to prepare and advertise an ordinance creating a 15 MPH speed limit on Braddock Road at the curve at Glasgow.

Moved: Mr. Tomasic  
Second: Mr. Burleigh

Because of where the houses are, a traffic study is unnecessary and PennDOT allows us to change the speed limit without one. Carl would like to request that Mr. Gilman get a letter that says that we are

permitted to change the speed limit without a traffic study.

***Voice Vote – all in favor***

**Motion:** Move to authorize the solicitor to prepare and advertise an ordinance that will change the alley behind the senior citizen center (service road 1) to one way in the direction from Ave F to Ave A.

Moved: Mr. Tomasic  
Second: Ms. Wood

***Voice Vote – all in favor***

***General Report:***

1. Chief Williams reported that total police overtime for September amounted to \$4,735 in 2012 compared with \$5,407 in 2011.
2. The committee reviewed requirements for bike helmets and Mr. Karas noted the following:

PA law states children under 12 must wear bike helmets though we are unsure if it applies to rollerblades and skateboards. I would like to use our SWIFTREACH to send a PSA out to all residents to be sure kids are wearing helmets when biking, skateboarding, rollerblading, etc. I am sure Chief Williams can put together an appropriate message.

3. Members noted that the Turtle Creek Valley Council of Governments was investigating using Monroeville's animal control services for other communities. The manager will report back on any activity in this regard. Mr. Tomasic noted the efforts to reduce the skunk population and thanked the mayor allowing use of the budgeted mayor's fund.

Mr. Burleigh commented on the skunk control efforts and expressed his appreciation.

Mayor O'Malley commented on public safety budgeting and suggested adding a line item for unexpected problems. Mr. Tomasic suggested raising this at the finance committee meeting.

**OPERATIONS & POLICY**

Ms. Wood

**Motion:** Move to approve the minutes from the September 19, 2012 council meeting.

Moved: Ms. Wood  
Second: Mr. Burleigh

***Voice Vote – all in favor***

**Motion:** Move to approve an agreement with Laurel Printing in the amount of \$6,170 for 4 issues for black and white printing of the Tree City Times in 2013 and \$700 for 4 issues to mail.

Moved: Ms. Wood  
Second: Mr. Tomasic

Ms Wood comments that this item, the newsletter, under administrative costs is one of the most expensive things after salaries and benefits. Cindy has been working hard to keep the costs down. We still need to have a printed version of the Tree City Times. Over the past couple of years we have been trying to lower the costs on this. Laurel Printing will be able to do a comparable job of printing at a reduced cost.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Belmonte yes  
Mr. Burleigh yes  
Mr. Tomasic yes  
Ms. Wood yes  
Mr. Karas yes

**Motion:** Move to eliminate the advertising manager position for the Tree City Times effective January 1, 2013 and merge those duties into the editor position at \$950 per issue.

Moved: Ms. Wood  
Second: Mr. Burleigh

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Belmonte yes  
Mr. Burleigh yes  
Mr. Tomasic yes  
Ms. Wood yes  
Mr. Karas abstain

***General Report:***

1. The borough continues to seek volunteers for the 2019 Centennial Committee. Please contact the office if interested.

2. The Tree & Shrub committee will advertise and accept bids for 2013 tree removals and will refer the bids to council for consideration and approval at its November or December business meeting.
3. Members ask that if a Christmas tree planting program is instituted again that it be discussed with Tree and Shrub for their recommendations on the type of tree that should be used and placement of trees.
4. The committee investigated concerns about the condition of several walkways and discussed the issue with the public works foreman.

## PLANNING & ZONING

Mr. Burleigh

**Motion:** Move to approve ordinance number 1029 amending Chapter 27 of the borough's code of ordinances – Zoning to revise the borough zoning map to change the zoning district designation of property in the Marwood Avenue area from S-1 to R-3.

Moved: Mr. Burleigh  
Second: Mr. Tomasic

Some background regarding this change, we were in the process of evaluating the entire borough in terms of various locations the districts as to how they were assigned these codes. The planning commission suggested we do this. They presented their reasons for this and we agreed with them and that is how this came to a vote tonight.

Roll Call Vote:	Mr. Belmonte	yes
	Mr. Burleigh	yes
	Mr. Tomasic	yes
	Ms. Wood	yes
	Mr. Karas	yes

### *General Report:*

1. Members reviewed code enforcement activities with the boroughs' code officer, Don Branzel.
2. Representatives from Penn Future attended the meeting to review the Sunshine Team program that is working to provide zoning ordinance language to municipalities that will simplify the process of gaining approval for the installation of solar panels on residences. A draft of the zoning amendment was presented to council for review. This draft will be sent to the planning commission for consideration.

Mr. Burleigh said that we have some problems with our codes, and that we need to address codes regarding sidewalk repair. At Filmore at the top end, there are many breakouts in the curbs that probably can be attributed to the plows in the winter.

Mr. Tomasic raised the issue of sidewalk repair requirements via code enforcement and noted that other comments came on curbs.

Old Business:

Ms. Wood commented that now that a new printer has been named for the Tree City Times, she would like to state for the record that Varsity printing submitted a nice quote and donated the printing of the Synchronized Swim Team program this year. She is hoping that the existing printer will also donate something of that nature to the borough.

New Business:

Mr. Tomasic brought up that council is now working with MEIT Health Care Self Insurance Program. He is not sure how this is going to be set up physically. With the school districts, there were reps from both the union and management side to negotiate specifics of the health care program. It saved a lot of money for the school districts, however the time frame for getting into this the plan for next year is November 20th, and council's next meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup>. According to literature, there will be no change in the coverage.

**Motion:** Move to authorize the manager to submit a letter to MEIT rejecting participation in the self-insured medical insurance program if the borough is unable to obtain any legally required consent from either of its collective bargaining units and with evidence of cost savings.

Moved: Mr. Tomasic  
Second: Ms. Wood

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Belmonte      yes  
Mr. Burleigh      yes  
Mr. Tomasic      yes  
Ms. Wood      yes  
Mr. Karas      yes

*At this time citizens may address council on any issue. Only residents and taxpayers of the Borough of Forest Hills will be permitted to address council. 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.*

William DeMarco, a resident of 259 Barclay got a letter in the mail about a sewage bill error. Because the bill was so high he called and spoke with Allison and was told that sewage was owed for 2011 and 2012 and refuse for 11 & 12.

Refuse would be \$388. Mr. DeMarco said that on the website it says that sewage and refuse is combined. This is not correct. Sewage is based on usage and refuse is a set fee. Mr. Morus explained that a new employee was recently hired who has been going over the accounts to find delinquent accounts. In addition we had a software problem, and some accounts were marked inactive and should not have been. Someone is currently living in the residence and using the services/utilities. The DeMarcos are invited to come down to the Boro Building and work out a payment schedule that would be agreeable to all parties.

Adjourn: Motion to adjourn or adjourn by acclamation

Moved: Mr. Tomasic  
Second: Mr. Belmonte

***Voice Vote – all in favor***

- Next Scheduled Council Meeting: November 21, 2012
- Next Scheduled Committee Meetings (order to be determined): Thursday, November 1, 2012 – Borough Property, Operations & Policy, Public Safety, Public Works. Thursday, November 8, 2012 – Finance, Planning & Zoning, Committee of the Whole.