

Call to Order:

Mr. Tomasic

Mr. Tomasic asked all to remain standing after the pledge for a moment of silence for Forest Hills resident Ed Bunyan who passed away unexpectedly this weekend. He was a friendly face at the pool and around the community.”

Pledge of Allegiance:

Mayor O'Malley

Roll Call: absent – Wood, Erbedinger, Sullivan

Mr. Burleigh	present	Mr. Erbedinger	absent
Mr. Karas	present	Mayor O'Malley	present
Mr. Kiley	present	Janet Sullivan, Tax Collector	absent
Ms. Sowiski	present	Stephen Korbel, Solicitor	present
Mr. Tomasic	present	David Gilliland, Engineer	present
Ms. Wood	absent	Steven Morus, Manager	present

President's Report:

Mr. Tomasic

Mr. Tomasic as vice president presided in place of Mr. Erbedinger.

Mr. Tomasic noted we had an executive session following the Jan. 6 meetings to discuss a pending litigation matter. Also Mr. Korbel requested an executive session following tonight's meeting re: litigation and to provide advice to council.

Mr. Tomasic wished all a happy new year and reviewed recent accomplishments. This year we purchased two hay-wagons that we use on our annual hayride. Before we didn't own them –this year we purchased two and made one. We have an agreement with Wilkins Township concerning that. We also extended the public works contract— we have an extension of three years starting at the end of next year and that was worked out very quickly. We also have upgraded the truck fleet with the Public Works. We had a lot of older trucks, a lot of repairs necessary. We moved around some numbers in the budget. We also got a new leaf truck, we worked with the state in putting monies together. We also have a continued agreement with Chalfant a small community next to us for police and public works services. We are continuing with that. Every year we have the opportunity to walk back from this agreement. We are not going to have a tax increase this year. We will have a small tax credit that will be established tonight at the meeting. The bond rating went from A+ to double A. That is significant because of our location and our association with other taxing bodies as well.

We are going to start into a body camera test program with the police force. We will be dealing with purchasing some body cameras for our police force. We still have an extended contract with them that we finalized last year. Our road program continues to be successful. As you know, we put one mill which is dedicated to roads every year. And when we find some problems as we did last year on Filmore. Last year we had Public Works up there about 15 times to repair potholes. None of that has occurred this year because we redid the drainage system, so that the water was draining down into the sewers instead of finding its way underneath the road. A couple of years ago we had a major problem with animal complaints, very few at all occurred this year. The bee and chicken permits seem to be going through without any problems. The EPI Building—the owner's started to tear that building down. However, we have been talking to Senator Costa and some other people and we are hoping that will be developed. Up at the atom smasher, as you know that has been demolished; an idea from the developer is that it could be made into a self-storage facility. That's only an idea and that is entirely up to the developer. We also have plans for a new municipal building on Greensburg Pike. We have been talking about that for a year now. Our plan is to construct a new building up on Greensburg Pike. Due to the fact that we own the property, so we save there; its flat, it would be minor excavation compared to some other locations. We would be looking to sell this building and the entire lot. We are looking for appraisals. And of course any sales would go to assist or offset the cost of a new building. As you can tell these buildings are rather old and inefficient and we think that at this time, if you look at the economy and you look at the rates, this is the best time to go for that.

We had the tennis courts completely reconstructed up there. We took everything up, redid it and put down new asphalt, and we had a partial grant from the USTA to assist with that. We hired a part-time employee in terms of a combination of jobs at both the pool and down here. We got rid of the cleaning service, combined the jobs and I think we are doing it for about 50 or 60% of the total cost that was out-laid before we put the plan into place.

We received a grant for Main Park for improvements including walking paths and fences. We finished up last year a walking path from Juniper Village over to Fall Run Road. Hosanna House—we had continuing problems with them over the years. We worked it out in Public Safety—we purchased a decibel meter. We have worked on traffic flow and have had very few complaints about traffic or noise this year.

The Park and Ride Lot across from Vincent's belongs to the Borough, we are in agreement with the Port Authority—we are bringing in about \$1,500 a month. We are very business friendly. When the Rite-Aid relocated, we worked with them on all their plans and designs, we then changed the ordinance so that Auto-Zone could come back into that building. The Roman Bistro seems to be doing quite well. We also are in the process of making some ordinance changes to allow for daycare for more than six children in the borough. We have had major upgrades to the Pool Lodge—we have put in new doors, windows and a fireplace which many people have commented on as being a nice change. Outside maintenance to the firehouse was completed. Complaints came in about the doors and walls. We have upgraded the boroughs code of ordinances with access to the borough website. With the police we got an upgrade on the canine car thanks to some work by Officer Armstrong in terms of raising some

money, we put that together. This information has been available on our website in the meeting minutes and other sources including Twitter. So starting the new year, I would like to thank council because we have all worked together in putting these things into place. Of course we will always have detractors. If any other council member would like to add to that list.

Mr. Karas added that at the Hosanna House there is also the Pittsburgh Penguins Foundation hockey dek and anyone in the Woodland Hills School District has access to that.and it can be arranged through Hosanna House.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor O'Malley

Mayor O'Malley reported that the Civic Association and Rotary conducted the Christmas tree burning ceremony last Friday. It was announced as the last ceremony and he discussed changes in County regulations that would prevent future permits.

Tax Collector's Report:

Ms. Sullivan

No report as Ms. Sullivan was absent

Chief of Police Report:

Chief Williams

Chief Williams presented a report of activities for the month and some statistics for 2014.

Mr. Karas commented about resident concerns about the lighting at the shopping centers on Ardmore Blvd. Chief Williams says we have had some issues with that in the past where there is a power outage and it needs reset. He will investigate that and make some phone calls to the owners about it.

Fire Chief's Report:

Chief Theilacker

No report

Woodland Hills EMS Report:

Chief Morse

No report

Solicitor's Report:

Mr. Korbel

Mr. Korbel had no report.

Wilkinsburg Penn Joint Water Authority Report:

Ms. Broz

No report. Ms. Broz unable to attend but did provide notice that she forwarded council's concerns about delinquent fee collections to the authority board.

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.

Elaine Balun, 265 Ave A. – expressed distress at the atom smasher's demolition. She noted attending public meetings with Mr. Cassidy and believes they were misled. She felt there were miscommunications among those involved. They were told there were going to be apartment buildings there and now the word is that there might be storage units.

Mr. Tomasic commented on the Silversmith development. The property does not belong to the borough. We have listened for two years about ideas for the development, but council does not have control over private property. Mrs. Balun responds that she would like someone from the borough to provide some oversight and preserve that property as an historic landmark.

Mr. Korbel commented on zoning issues and oversight. Mr. Silversmith has not submitted any plans to the borough as to what he intends to do with the property. His discussions and what he represented to the community was in conjunction with his attempt to secure funding from the State Department of Community and Economic Development to remediate the property. In order to secure these funds, Mr. Silversmith needed to have a "plan" and that was what he was bandying about the community with. That is the apartment complex that you referenced in your statement. We have as a borough, zoned that property in a particular manner and whatever that property is zoned for is what is permitted to be constructed there unless he is able to obtain a variance from our Zoning Hearing Board. So from a watchdog perspective those restrictions are in place. I can tell you that Mr. Silversmith has been in contact with the borough on a fairly regular basis. I would anticipate that to the extent that he is moving forward that nothing will go up on the property with respect to construction or development without the borough being a participant in that process. It just can't happen from a legal or a practical perspective. From a watchdog perspective I think that would be something that should address your concern. As it relates to preservation etc. that's a policy decision beyond all legal concerns that I can address and that is something beyond what I can address as solicitor.

Mr. Tomasic comments about rumors that circulate about the EPI Building and what will happen there. Hopes are raised then dashed. We have no control over that.

Mr. Karas also provided some history--back in 2007 or 2008 we started a process to try to obtain that property—through several attempts we were unable to get in touch with either Westinghouse or CBS. They own the property. After a certified letter was sent

they neither wanted to donate the property to us or sell it to us. Shortly after P&L Investments purchased the property they are cleaning it to residential standards. As far as a watchdog, that is supervised by the PA DEP. Just anecdotally, they have contacted local, state, federal government, and the Smithsonian and Woodland Hills an org called Save the Garage and WH School District just to try to find funding for that structure and they were not successful. So I think there is a balance between creating some sort of economic development and also keeping some of the history. Personally I hope Westinghouse and Mr. Silversmith can work together to save that structure. There was no activity there for a long time. So I think there has to be a balance between some sort of development and historic preservation.

End about 29:00

Committee Reports:

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Ms. Sowiski

Motion: Motion to approve resolution number 1153 amending the non uniform pension plan to establish a defined contribution plan for all new hires.

Moved: Ms. Sowiski
Second: Mr. Karas

Mr. Tomasic comments this is simply a boiler plate deal that we do every year. Mr. Korbelt comments that at the last council meeting we discussed making it broader and I can report that Mr. Rhoades our pension attorney did indeed make those changes and I reviewed it and approve of those changes. Mr. Tomasic explained that future employees will move to a 401K style pension plan.

Resolution title reads as follows:

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF FOREST HILLS RELATIVE TO THE ESTABLISHMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF THE NON-POLICE EMPLOYEES PENSION, ANNUITY, INSURANCE AND BENEFIT FUND OR FUNDS, TO AMEND CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE PENSION PLAN OR PROGRAM APPLICABLE TO THE NON-POLICE EMPLOYEES OF SAID BOROUGH AND TO AMEND THE PLAN TO INCLUDE NEW HIRES IN THE DEFINED CONTRIBUTION COMPONENT OF THE PLAN

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Burleigh yes
Mr. Karas yes
Mr. Kiley yes
Ms. Sowiski yes
Mr. Tomasic yes

General Report:

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

Engineer's Report for January, 2015

Public Works Committee

1. 2015 Sewer Significant Deficiency Repairs
The recently awarded Sewer Repair Project is in the process of contract signing and bond/insurance submission and should be underway within a month or two depending on the severity of the winter.
 2. 2015 Street Paving
Street selection for the 2015 Paving Project will be underway this month based on the Paser Street Inventory and input from DPW. We should have a list of streets for the Committee's consideration at the February meeting.
2. The committee reviewed the following update from 3 Rivers Wet Weather on sanitary/stormwater issues:

EPA, in their June 17, 2014 meeting with ALCOSAN service area municipalities, identified a municipal source flow-reduction program as a critical component of a regional wet weather plan. In particular, they noted that inflow/infiltration controls provide key opportunities for source flow reduction.

In December 2014, 3 Rivers Weather solicited proposals to develop a Regional Flow Isolation Measurement Program in 2015 to identify the appropriate technologies needed to assist separate sewer municipalities with this source flow reduction planning. Using the municipal consent order-required 2008 flow monitoring data, six ALCOSAN Points of Connection (POCs) were identified as candidate basins to serve as a pilot program for future flow isolation programs. The six ALCOSAN POCs (Basins) were then further broken down into the smaller neighborhoods (Sub-basins) for the flow isolation studies in order to identify cost-effective source flow reduction candidate areas at a street/neighborhood level. 3RWW will provide EPA grant funding for the Flow Isolation Measurement Program to ADS, Stantec, and Applied Science. Basin and Sub-Basin monitoring will begin in January and night-time flow isolation measurements are planned during elevated groundwater conditions in February through April 2015 in the pilot neighborhoods.

In addition to source reduction, the region will continue to aggressively work on the other goals identified by the EPA – regionalization, green infrastructure, and flow targets – in order for the region to be allowed to move forward with a water quality-based Interim Wet Weather Plan.

3. The foreman reported on work planned for January including the following tentative jobs (subject to change due to weather, emergencies, etc. and not

including normal maintenance and Chalfant work):

- Sanitary Sewer Work (some overtime)
- Repair pole lights/electrical problem – Ardmore
- Collect Christmas Trees for burning
- Patch potholes with cold patch material
- Repair summer mowing equipment
- Maintenance on all trucks and machinery
- Cut trees along pool roadway and parking lot

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Karas

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

General Fund Budget:	\$ 228,789.38
Corrective Action Budget:	\$ 207,797.16
Fire Protection fee	\$ 7,927.20
Capital Improvements	\$ 8,855.10
Road Improvement	\$ 131.31
Liquid Fuels	\$ 11,482.60
2013 Real Est. Tax Ref.	\$ 2,410.25
2014 Real Est. Tax Ref.	\$ 11,482.60
MMO	\$ 364,568.72

Moved: Mr. Karas
Second: Mr. Kiley

Mr. Tomasic states that we are still giving back tax relief to people who have gone through the appeal process. And that is one of the reasons that we waited until this year to give back the tax refund.

Roll Call Vote:	Mr. Burleigh	yes
	Mr. Karas	yes
	Mr. Kiley	yes
	Ms. Sowiski	yes
	Mr. Tomasic	yes

Detail of Non-General Fund Items:

Corrective Action Budget:	ALCOSAN Bills, engineering
Fire:	Utilities, hydrants, submitted bills
Road:	Paving
Capital Improvements	Electrical, grant funds returned to state
Liquid Fuels	Salt
MMO (Min. Muni. Obligation)	Pension funding required payment

Motion: Move to pay 25% of excess 2014 RAD funds as required under state law with \$1,350 provided to the C.C. Mellor Library Forest Hills Branch and the remainder provided to the Turtle Creek Valley Council of Governments.

Moved: Mr. Karas
Second: Mr. Burleigh

Note: the total 25% increase amounts to \$2,033.40

Mr. Karas noted the library asked for an increase and this permits that.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Burleigh yes
 Mr. Karas yes
 Mr. Kiley yes
 Ms. Sowiski yes
 Mr. Tomasic yes

Motion: Move to approve a tax credit of 0.45 mills for 2015 real estate taxes.

Moved: Mr. Karas
Second: Mr. Burleigh

Mr. Kiley clarified that this is a credit not a reduction in millage. Mr. Tomasic noted that the millage remains at 8.0.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Burleigh yes
 Mr. Karas yes
 Mr. Kiley yes
 Ms. Sowiski yes
 Mr. Tomasic yes

General Report:

1. The finance committee reviewed a report from Standard and Poors Ratings Services. S & P has raised the borough's rating from A+ to AA for several reasons, noting "We view Forest Hills' management as strong, with "good" financial management practices under our Financial Management Assessment methodology..." Budgetary performance and flexibility, liquidity and the borough's formal capital planning process were among the reasons cited for the rating improvement.
2. The final 2015 budget is being prepared for printing and for dissemination on the borough website. In the meantime, those interested may review the 2015 preliminary budget posted on the borough's website which became the final 2015 budget that council approved in December (except that the corrective action preliminary budget shown requires adjustment to reflect an estimate of ALCOSAN payments for the coming year which must be included under agreement with the authority).

BOROUGH PROPERTY

Mr. Kiley

Motion: Move to approve the summer hires as shown on the list attached to this agenda and pending applicant's adherence to our hiring policy on background checks.

Moved: Mr. Kiley
Second: Ms. Sowiski

Mr. Kiley noted we continue to look for an assistant tennis coach

Roll Call Vote:	Mr. Burleigh	yes
	Mr. Karas	yes
	Mr. Kiley	yes
	Ms. Sowiski	yes
	Mr. Tomasic	yes

General Report:

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

Borough Property

A. Tennis Courts

The small rust stains that appeared in the surface paint were repaired but were not done satisfactorily. We are still withholding payment until the repairs are done correctly which will be done this spring.

B. Main Park GTRP Grant Project

Now that the grant agreements have been signed, the Committee and Council can authorize Glenn Engineering to begin the preparation of bid specifications for this project which includes the following items:

- A. Repair and clean stone wall along Ardmore.
- B. New trail to Centurion Commons.
- C. Rehabilitate trails within the park
- D. Resurface parking lot by basketball court
- E. Restriping basketball court
- F. Striping entry road for emergency vehicle access lane/no parking.
- G. Team benches
- H. Barbeque grills
- I. Picnic tables including handicap accessible tables
- J. Exercise Trail with 5 sites
- K. Bongo Steps (playground equipment)

The grant application asked for \$154,615 with a local match of \$27,285, however the grant was awarded at \$150,000 so the local share will be slightly higher. Of course the costs are based on estimates and may vary when actual bids are received.

2. Members discussed a preliminary study on the value and possible sale of this borough property along with the magistrate office property on Ardmore and

potential erection of and financing for a new borough building on Greensburg Pike. Council will continue this discussion at future borough property committee meetings and/or committee of the whole and information on the effort will be noted in a future issue of the Tree City Times.

3. The USTA awarded the borough a \$20,000 grant for the reconstruction of the pool area tennis courts. The money will be returned to the bond issue funds where the payment for the cost of the tennis court work originated.
4. In Committee of the Whole, Council noted that the last Saturday in April each year is officially established as the annual cleanup day for the borough. Members encourage volunteer groups to use that day for any cleanup activities for parks and public lands. Material collected for disposal can be bagged and placed in select common areas for pick up by the crew following that weekend. While crew members will not be involved that day, volunteers may contact the borough foreman via the borough office to secure garbage bags and other material that might facilitate the effort.

Mr. Tomasic comments regarding Mr. Kileys statement on the sale of the borough building and the magistrate's office and that there will be an article coming in the Tree City Times. We plan to hold some meetings and talk to everyone in the borough who wants to participate in that project. The magistrate is moving out shortly and it is a tough building to rent out. There is no profit in having someone in there right now.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Mr. Kiley

Motion: Move to authorize an expenditure not to exceed \$5,000 for the purchase of body cameras.

Moved: Mr. Kiley
Second: Mr. Burleigh

Mr. Kiley asks if this would be coming from Public Safety or General Fund. Mr. Tomasic responds that it would be coming from Public Safety. Mr. Kiley states that this is a *pilot* project and the funding would be for that.

Roll Call Vote:	Mr. Burleigh	yes
	Mr. Karas	yes
	Mr. Kiley	yes
	Ms. Sowiski	yes
	Mr. Tomasic	yes

General Report:

1. The committee continues to review the use of body cameras and their feasibility for use in the Forest Hills Police Department.

2. The committee discussed the letter and budget sent with the fire protection services fee billing in December.

OPERATIONS & POLICY

Mr. Karas

Motion: Move to approve the minutes from the December 17, 2014 council meeting.

Moved: Mr. Karas
Second: Ms. Sowiski

Voice Vote – all in favor

Motion: Move to approve a contract with borough treasurer/finance officer Wendy Archer specifying salary and benefits for the position with the annual salary established at \$43,537.50 effective in 2015.

Moved: Mr. Karas
Second: Mr. Kiley

Mr. Karas comments we have people in our administrative office doing a very effective job. Mr. Tomasic comments that she was doing the job under the previous person's salary, and she is doing an excellent job and deserves that increase.

Roll Call Vote:	Mr. Burleigh	yes
	Mr. Karas	yes
	Mr. Kiley	yes
	Ms. Sowiski	yes
	Mr. Tomasic	yes

General Report:

1. The committee discussed delinquent billing procedures established by the Wilkesburg Penn Joint Water Authority and ordered the manager to send a letter expressing several concerns.
2. The borough continues to seek volunteers for the 2019 Centennial Committee. A separate committee is important for planning, organization and fund raising purposes. Please contact the office if interested.
3. The borough continues to seek volunteers to serve on various boards and committees and asks interested residents to contact the manager at the borough office for further information.

PLANNING & ZONING

Mr. Burleigh

Motion: Move to authorize the solicitor to prepare and advertise an ordinance modifying the borough's zoning ordinance to authorize child day care centers where care is provided for 7 or more minor children.

Moved: Mr. Burleigh

Second: Ms. Sowiski

Voice Vote – all in favor

General Report:

1. Members reviewed code enforcement activities with code officer Don Branzel
2. The borough was approached by a group interested in placing senior citizen apartments on the EPI Building property at the corner of Ardmore and Braddock. The group may send a representative to a future meeting to provide details if they are successful in negotiating an agreement to buy the property.
3. Members noted discussions with the Silversmith group developing the former research center site. Discussions centered around the status of the atom smasher (demolition vs. preserving) and building and potential development of self-storage units on the site.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

Lights in Shopping Centers:

Mr. Karas

Mr. Karas deferred this item – he referred it to the Chief.

Public Comment – Other Items

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.

Bill Gorol, 408 Marion Ave – He noted that Marion is already deteriorating and he is concerned as it was just re-paved. There is some subpar patching due to the water authority or gas company work. Also, plugged up all drains on Marion as well.

Mr. Gilliland commented that this is the first he has heard of any problems, and he will look into it.

Mr. Tomasic commented that he will look into his concerns. But anytime there is a problem, you should call the borough offices immediately and report it.

Adjourn: Motion to adjourn or adjourn by acclamation

Moved: Mr. Karas
Second: Mr. Burleigh

Voice Vote – all in favor

- Next Scheduled Council Meeting: February 18, 2015 beginning at 7 PM.
- Next Scheduled Committee Meetings (order to be determined): Tuesday, Feb. 3, 2015 – Borough Property, Operations & Policy, Public Safety, Public Works.
Tuesday, Feb. 10, 2015 – Finance, Planning & Zoning, Committee of the Whole.
Council may choose to meet as a whole on these dates and conduct business if necessary. Meetings begin at 7 PM.

Recommended 2015 Pool Staff (per council approval)		
	Yrs. Prev.	
Name/Applicant	Worked/Pool	Recommended Position
Bonacci, Nicole	3	Lifeguard
Brucker, Peter	1	Assistant Swim Team Coach
Bunyan, Katie	1	Sub-lifeguard
Cassidy, Lynn	27	Pool Manager
Cassidy, Shannon	10	Sub-lifeguard
Cross, Laina Jean	2	Assistant Synchronized Coach
Davis, Sarah	2	Sub-lifeguard
Dihtzeruk, Julia	2	Lifeguard
Galloway, JD	2	Utility
Goldinger, Tyler	1	Maintenance
Houtsinger, Caitlyn	1	Sub-lifeguard
Houtsinger, Hailey	3	Lifeguard
Johnston, Merrick	3	Sub-lifeguard
Johnston, Miranda	3	Sub-lifeguard
Kennedy, Sara	0	Assistant Swim Team Coach
Layton, Jacob	3	Assistant Pool Manager
Lehman, Emily	1	Sub-lifeguard
MacCamy, Renee	4	Lifeguard
Ricci, Angela	4	Lifeguard
Rodrigues, Annmarie	10	Head Coach-Synchro Team
Schmidt, Heidi	2	Cashier
Schwoegl, Erin	5	Lifeguard
Scifo, Emily	3	Concession
Sorek, Greg	5	Swim Team Head Coach
Thomas, Blair	3	Concession
2015 Pool Staff – New Hires		
Barnes, Dakota	0	Sub-lifeguard – 1 st year
Chernyshev, Ariana	0	Sub-lifeguard – 1 st year
Edinger, Kaitlyn	0	Sub-lifeguard – 1 st year
Gormley, Madeleine	0	Sub-lifeguard – 1 st year
Kefalos, Jacob	0	Sub-lifeguard – 1 st year
		As of: 1/14/15

Recommended 2015 Tennis Staff (per council approval)		
	Yrs. Prev.	
Name/Applicant	Worked/Courts	Recommended Position
Seman, JoAnn	1	Head Coach
		Assistant Coach*
*A potential candidate for the assistant coach position is being asked by JoAnn Seman to apply and should be in place before season starts in May. If no assistant applies, program could be in jeopardy.		
		As of: 1/7/15