

WRIGHTSVILLE BOROUGH COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF DECEMBER 1, 2008 MEETING  
COUNCIL MEETING ROOM

The regular meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by President Young who led the salute to the American flag. Also present were M. McDonald, E. Sipes, T. Groft, and Mayor Lindeman, along with Solicitor Tilley, Engineer Klinedinst, Police Chief Pearson and Treasurer Brenner. N. Habecker was absent. The meeting was recorded.

FIRE – The fire report was presented but not read aloud.

PATRONS: David Miller Associates represented by John Pogue – Presented Council with plans for the addition to the John Wright Restaurant explaining much of the approximate 5000 square foot addition was going to be over the existing terrace and a new entrance would be in the new addition. The parking would stay basically the same with some re-striping being done to comply with ADA requirements. There will be a service entrance to the rear and an enclosure for trash. Three tracts will be combined into one deed. He mentioned that he had provided a written request of waivers and was looking for conditional approval. Mr. Klinedinst commented that the additional 3000 square feet of impervious service was not insignificant. He was in agreement to approve the plan scale waiver and Mr. Sipes made a motion to approve the plan scale waiver. Mr. Groft seconded the motion and the vote passed unanimously. Mr. Klinedinst began to mention quite a few comments that had been presented to David Miller Associates by C.S. Davidson and it became the recommendation of Solicitor Tilley that David Miller Associates present a clean plan, work it out with the Engineer and present it at a later date. Mrs. Sipes made a motion to table the plan approval. Mrs. McDonald seconded the motion and the vote passed unanimously.

Robin Geesey – Felt that the Council was strings and puppets and she's tired of the "nit-picking bull crap." She stated that council members were voted on for their individual minds. She questioned how productive the Chief of Police is. Mr. Tilley intervened stating these are personnel issues that get discussed in executive session. She continued on saying that she sees him socializing and can't believe that he was asking for a \$10,000.00 a year raise. She knows it was not approved but feels it is not right.

Eric White – Gave his monthly contribution to the Senior Center and also was able to get them the Price is Right for the Wii. He questioned who the Appeals Board was for the Borough and Mr. Klinedinst informed him that it was the York County Appeals Board. He asked how a citizen was supposed to know that and President Young told him he would know because he just asked. He presented Mrs. Young with a letter stating it was his formal request for a hearing.

Mark Lentz - He mentioned he had concerns over last month's meeting where the sale of Borough assets came up. He stated that council should think long and hard before doing that as the equipment is not even paid for as pointed out by the treasurer. He feels that Mr. Brenner gives sound advice but that Council does not listen to him. He also brought up the attacks that are on the police and said that they are the only ones consistently under budget. He feels that Council continually throws money at areas that are over budget and takes from areas that are under.

- The minutes of November 17<sup>th</sup>'s meeting were approved with a motion made by Mr. Sipes and seconded by Mr. Groft. The vote passed unanimously.

STREETS - Bob McKee gave an equipment list showing that the F350 is the only piece of equipment that is not being used. He informed Council that the Municipal Authority uses it occasionally and he will check to see

December 1, 2008

Page 1 of 4

if they would be interested in purchasing it. He mentioned that there is a perception that the green dump truck is owned by the Borough but it is not. A request was made to purchase a new fuel tank as the legs of the existing one had previously been busted off and the fuel company will no longer deliver fuel until it is replaced. The fuel company will switch the fuel from one tank to another, install the new tank and haul away the old for approximately \$1000.00. Mr. McKee mentioned it is necessary to keep the equipment warmed, especially the diesel trucks. Mrs. McDonald made a motion to replace the tank, Mr. Sipes seconded the motion and the vote passed unanimously.

RECREATION – Mr. Sipes announced sub sale that is going on until December 12<sup>th</sup> with a delivery date of December 17<sup>th</sup>. It was requested that in the next newsletter to see if there is any interest in Lacrosse or Soccer. Mr. McKee informed everyone that due to the holidays the next Rec. Board meeting has been cancelled. They are not sure at this time how many Bingo tickets were sold.

PRESIDENT – Bobby Tome's supplemental insurance was discussed. It is felt that since next year the employee's will be able to get life insurance with a 90/10 split rather than paid 100% as in the past, it was felt that Mr. Tome's should be on the same split. Mrs. McDonald made a motion to appoint Bonnie Dietz as Open Records Officer. Mr. Sipes seconded the motion and the vote passed unanimously. Mrs. Young mentioned that she met with Brian Lyle regarding the use of Authority employees and Mr. Lyle stated that they would loan the Borough Josh until his position was filled and also the Authority will assist with plowing at no charge during normal work hours but after-hours will be charged. Mr. Lyle's opinion is that it is dangerous for Mr. McKee to work alone. Mr. Groft brought up the fact that it was agreed that Bobby Tome and a part-timer would allow for Mr. McKee to have someone with him at all times. Mrs. Young reminded him that Mr. Tome cannot do everything. He is in his late 70's and there's a lot he can't do. Mr. Groft (posing hypothetical) stated that if someone can't do their job, shouldn't we get rid of them? Mr. McKee stated that he is 76 years old and busts his butt but gave a prime example of when they use the leaf machine Bobby struggles with the hose and he doesn't hear well and Mr. McKee feels that if Bobby would get struck he doesn't want that on his conscious. Mr. Groft questioned why he's not laid off until the summer if he's not capable of doing the job. He said he should either be laid off or tell the Authority that we are not going to use him anymore.

**Deleted:** Mr. Groft stated, "Shouldn't we get rid of Bobby?"

POLICE – Chief Pearson read the police.

TREASURER – Mr. Brenner reviewed the check register and mentioned that the Rec. needs recognized as this is the first time they have raised funds on their own. They began the year with approximately \$3000.00 in their checking account and now they are at \$7000.00. Mr. Sipes made a motion to approve the check register. Mrs. McDonald seconded the motion and the vote passed unanimously. Mr. Brenner asked Council if it was their intent to pay \$1000.00 for the non-uniformed employees, Josh, Bonnie, Bob & Bobby, which would be prorated for new employees. He stated this money is typically paid with the last payroll. Mr. Sipes made a motion to pay pensions. Mrs. McDonald seconded the motion. Mr. Groft abstained and the vote passed with a majority vote. Mr. Brenner mentioned that the upcoming payroll would include pay for the council members and the Mayor. Mr. Tilley brought up the tax ordinance levy for 2009. Mrs. Young requested that a motion be made to adopt the budget as nothing has changed since the preliminary budget which was posted for the required ten day period. Mrs. McDonald made the motion to adopt the budget. Mr. Sipes seconded the motion and the vote passed unanimously.

ENGINEER – Nothing to report.

SOLICITOR – Mr. Tilley informed Council that in regards to selling Borough assets, if the cost would be over \$1000.00 it had to be advertised and bids accepted. It would have to be advertised for ten days and then could be auctioned. The price could be set and the Borough could reject the offers if the minimum price was not met.

December 1, 2008

Page 2 of 4

Mrs. McDonald questioned if the Authority wanted to buy the dump truck, would this process have to be followed and he informed Council that if another municipality was interested in purchasing there was no bid process needed. Mr. Groft feels that if the dump truck is not being used it should be sold as it would save on insurance. Mr. McKee mentioned that if the Authority bought it they would be able to plow their own properties. He stated that the dump truck is not worth much as it has caught on fire in the past but the Authority has sank some money in to it so he will check to see if they are interested in purchasing. Mr. Tilley mentioned the Ordinance 2008-6 which increases the refuse fees. Mrs. McDonald made a motion to approve this ordinance. Mr. Groft seconded the motion. Mr. Sipes questioned whether or not the Authority's budget was available for inspection. Mr. Groft stated that the trash department is losing money and if they do not increase their fees there may not be refuse collection available in the Borough. He also mentioned that Water and Sewer costs would also be going up as the lines are old and lines will need to be replaced. If this is not done, the Water & Sewer Department would end up being sold. Mrs. Young stated that she had done some research regarding trash collection and mentioned that Wrightsville Borough is the only municipality that picks up twice a week. Mr. Groft stated that the Authority researched cutting back to once a week collection but felt there wouldn't be any savings. Mr. Tilley mentioned that he would discuss in executive sessions possible cost savings for legal issues. Mr. Groft questioned the fees charged by the attorney for land deals for Susquehanna Dodge and others and asked if those costs could be recouped. Mr. Tilley stated that other municipalities do charge and Mr. Klinedinst stated that we should be able to go back two years to recoup legal fees. Mrs. Dietz will research the Solicitor bills and invoice as needed. It was also determined that Mrs. Dietz could send a letter to the Hidden Valley Mobile Home Park to try to recoup half of the cost of the survey that was done.

HEALTH & SAFETY – Not present.

MAYOR – Nothing to report but questioned Royal Farms' roof caving in and requested Mrs. Dietz send a letter.

SENIOR CITIZENS/S.V. CHAMBER/TRI-BORO – Mr. Sipes stated that the play that was performed in Hellam raised approximately \$1000.00 for both the Senior Center and the Fire Department. Mrs. Young stated that the play was held at her church and they were told it was \$1200.00.

AUTHORITY – The expired seat needs to be filled. Three names had been thrown in the ring at the last meeting; Bob McKee, Steve Rambler and Rick Lindeman. Mr. Groft recommended made a motion to appoint Mr. Lindeman and stated the Municipal Authority had presented his name for consideration. Mrs. Young asked if there was a seconded. No one spoke up so the motion died for a lack of a second. Mrs. McKee made a motion to appoint Bob McKee. Mr. Sipes seconded the motion. Mr. Groft felt this was a conflict of interest and questioned the solicitor who stated that conflict arises when one is in a leadership position and can influence decisions for his/her own financial benefit. He stated that the position itself is not a conflict and that there may be times that he may have to excuse himself/abstain. There may be times that he may not be able to vote. Tom was opposed. Sharon voted 'I' and therefore the vote passed with a majority vote.

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Mrs. Dietz informed the public that there was over \$200,000.00 received in recycling grant money. Mrs. McDonald made a motion to have the newsletter printed every other month. Mr. Sipes seconded the motion. Mr. Groft opposed but the vote passed with a majority vote. Mrs. Dietz was asked to get figures together on what would be reasonable to charge businesses to advertise.

Mr. Kirkessner's seat needs filled. Mr. Sipes nominated Mr. John Cressler and Mrs. McDonald seconded the motion. Mr. Groft was opposed but the vote passed with a majority vote. Mr. Tilley stated that the Vice-President position needs voted on at the next meeting. The tax rate for the tax levy ordinance was set at 2.69 from 2.29 and .30 for fire for a total of 2.99. Mrs. Dietz will advertise.

December 1, 2008

Page 3 of 4

A motion was made by Mr. Sipes to recess this meeting until December 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. Mrs. McDonald seconded the motion and the vote passed unanimously. The meeting went in to Executive Session at 8:30 p.m. and was not being reconvened.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie K. Dietz, Secretary