

WRIGHTSVILLE BOROUGH COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF MARCH 2, 2009 MEETING  
COUNCIL MEETING ROOM

The regular meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President Young, who led the salute to the American flag. Also present were Council members M. McDonald, E. Sipes, T. Groft, N. Habecker, J. Cressler, Mayor Lindeman, Solicitor Tilley who arrived at 7:00 p.m., Engineer Klinedinst, Treasurer Brenner and Police Chief Pearson.

**PATRONS:**

Elizabeth Groft – Mentioned the budget was passed and that a four hour meeting is not in the budget. Suggested freezing spending.

Mark Lentz – Wants the Borough to clean up the property where stray cats are being harbored as this is against the Borough ordinance.

Kelli Cummings – She is frustrated with the landlord of her property located at Hidden Valley Mobile Home Park. She states that he will not fix problems but will evict them if they don't pay. She mentioned that the neighbor, who was in attendance with her, has sewer problems and mold, as well. She gave her name and number to the Borough Secretary, Bonnie Dietz, who will contact Code Administrators to see if there is anything they can do.

Robin Geesey – Presented a problem to President Sharon Young with regards to high cell phone bills for the Streets Department.

Annie Weirich – Questioned why the Streets Department cindered and salted seven or eight times during the last snow storm but only plowed this time. Also, questioned when the storm drains would be cleaned. She wondered if there was an illegal dumping ordinance and cited that between Orange and Chestnut on Front Street there are scraps, trees and shrubbery being dumped. Mayor feels that any dumping should not be allowed because of the Chesapeake Bay Act and stated that this will be looked in to.

FIRE: No report given.

**MINUTES:**

Mr. Sipes made a motion to approve the minutes. Mrs. McDonald seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

**REPORTS:**

Streets – A handicap sign was requested for Patricia Tome at 404 S. Front Street. Mrs. McDonald made a motion for approval and Mr. Sipes seconded the motion. After discussion regarding the ordinance it was decided this would be discussed in Executive Session.

Mrs. McDonald made reference to the cindering and salting and said that in heavy snow they plow and that cindering and salting would be tomorrow. She also mentioned that Marty Peaks home located at 220 Walnut Street has a refrigerator with doors on and a car without plates. Mrs. McDonald questioned how Mark Lentz

could be on a committee when he is suing the Borough. She is requesting that he be pulled off the committee. President Young stated that he was not appointed by the Borough.

Recreation – Mr. Sipes informed everyone that the sub sale will end on March 4<sup>th</sup> and pick-up will be March 11<sup>th</sup> from 3:30 to 7:30. He stated that the Recreation Commission would be spending approximately \$3000.00 for two pitching machines, a batting cage and an L net. He also informed that Saturday two basketball teams were in the playoffs.

Senior Center – Mr. Sipes stated that the Senior Center held a spaghetti dinner this past Saturday but that they lost one fundraiser; the Chef cook-off. They will be looking to do another fundraiser. Also, they will be selling homemade eggs for \$3.50 a ½ dozen. Orders need to be in by March 26<sup>th</sup>.

President – Mrs. Young informed that the Student Council was holding a mini-thon on April 17<sup>th</sup> from 8 p.m. to 8 a.m. and were requesting a donation. No comments were made. Hemler can now charge \$50.00 as a Return to Owner (RTO) Fee. Currently at \$25. Mr. Cressler made a motion to increase the fee. Mr. Sipes seconded the motion and the vote passed unanimously. Mrs. Young informed Council that a couple of meetings took place over the last month with Code Administrators. A contract was signed with them. Kevin Hertzog of C.A. is requiring that he be notified when there is a fire in the Borough. It was mentioned that Chief Smeltzer is not eager to notify them but Mr. Habecker will have discussions with him. In regards to the recent fire at Gregory Scritchfield's (volunteer firefighter), Mrs. McDonald mentioned that he has a business there but no parking and feels this needs looked in to. Property maintenance was discussed and Council is to review information from Code Administrators and look into adopting. If property maintenance was adopted, this would help with Hidden Valley Mobile Home Park. Mrs. Young discussed that she had a meeting with an AFLAC representative and would like to offer this to employees. This would not be a cost to the Borough. It would be payroll deducted and can cover accident, health, cancer, constant care. It was determined that this would be offered to the employees and Council members.

Police – Chief Pearson read the police. Mrs. McDonald stated that she had heard that a man's life was threatened and that it took an hour before the police came. She strongly feels there needs to be weekend coverage. She feels that if we can't afford weekends then we should get rid of Mondays. An argument ensued between Mrs. McDonald and Mr. Groft regarding the times the police are in. Mrs. Young had to get order.

Treasurer – Mr. Brenner informed Council that the auditors were here last week and that funds are being reviewed. A pension meeting was held for the employees to review their accounts and make any updates. The police pension audit was rescheduled. Mr. Brenner explained the Comcast franchise fee and stated that we received \$531 more than last year. The checkbook register was read, reviewed and explained. Mr. Habecker made a motion to approve the checkbook. Mr. Sipes seconded the motion. Mr. Groft questioned the R.W. Hilt expense. It was explained it was for the furnace at the Streets Department. The vote was then passed unanimously. Mr. Brenner informed Council that the police pension plan retirement age was changed from 50 to 55, as requested. Mr. Sipes made a motion to approve Resolution 2009-1 regarding police pension funding. Mr. Cressler seconded the motion. Mr. Tilley commented that he had not reviewed the ordinance. The motion passed unanimously.

Engineer – Mr. Klinedinst recommended tabling the Royal Farms plans change. Mrs. McDonald made a motion to postpone consideration of the plan. Mr. Sipes seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. Mr. Klinedinst thinks that there is not County Aid money available but does recommend joining with Red Lion to submit for grant funding for a sign machine. Mrs. McDonald made a motion to submit for funding. Mr. Cressler seconded the motion. After discussion, Mr. Groft and Mr. Habecker were opposed but since Mr. Sipes and Mrs. Young were in favor, the vote passed. Mr. Klinedinst informed the Council that the Borough put up \$5000 and got a \$15,000 grant. DCED staff accepted and recommended funding of a \$20,000

match. If this goes through, there will be enough money for the Comprehensive Plan. It was mentioned that although he had wrote a letter regarding Royal Farms being a dangerous building, it was not his intent to disallow the fire company from using it as a training site. He requested that if the property maintenance code is adopted that the dangerous building ordinance be revoked.

Solicitor – Mr. Tilley stated that there weren't any issues for him to review from the last meeting. He commented that should the Borough adopt the property maintenance code to consider including the name of the code official. He stated that any inconsistent ordinances are superseded and the unnecessary ones are to be repealed. Mr. Habecker had questions regarding section 104.4 of the property maintenance code and Mr. Tilley stated that if there was not permission of the property owner a search warrant would be needed from the magistrate. He stated that there is no distinction in the law between residential and commercial.

Mrs. McDonald questioned whether or not timecards could be reviewed by Council. He informed her that typically Council cannot look at personnel files. For budgeting purposes, a schedule can be given but not timecards. Since the Mayor is charged with the police, she can get the schedule. Mr. Habecker questioned if the recent time clock purchases were approved.

Authority – Mr. Groft stated that there wasn't anything to report. It was brought up that the Municipal Authority is willing to plow during regular hours in an emergency situation and will plow after hours if the Borough is willing to pay overtime.

Mayor – Mrs. Lindeman requested that a vote be taken regarding whether or not the use of time clocks for the police should enforced. Mr. Habecker would like to see in the minutes where this had been approved.

York County Quick Response Team is requesting a \$500.00 donation. Mr. Sipes made a motion to approve the donation. Mrs. McDonald seconded the motion. Mr. Groft questioned where the money would come from. It was stated that it would come from the police budget. The vote passed unanimously. It was also stated that County knows when the police officers log in and log off.

Health & Safety – Mr. Habecker had nothing to report.

MISC:

Discussion took place regarding advertising in the newsletter. Mr. Habecker was concerned with unsavory ads.

Council entered an Executive Session at approximately 8:02 p.m. and reconvened at 8:55 p.m.

Upon Council's return from Executive Session, Mr. Tilley announced that they had discussed several legal issues, first amendment implications and advertising in the newsletter. They also discussed Department of Labor requirements for maintaining time records and security concerns for the police department and their contact information. Disciplinary actions were discussed in regard to a Borough employee and wage and performance reviews for the police department. Also, hiring additional police and legal enforcement actions to prevent neighborhood disturbances. The pay and benefits of Borough employees were discussed, one requiring action. Mr. Groft made a motion to give Bonnie Dietz a 2.5% raise and Mr. Cressler seconded the motion. The vote passed unanimously.

Mr. Sipes made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Habecker seconded the motion and it was unanimously agreed to adjourn at 9:00 p.m.

Mrs. Young realized that the request for handicapped parking was not addressed. Mrs. Young made a motion to approve the request and Mr. Habecker made a motion to ratify this request at the next meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie K. Dietz  
Secretary