

WRIGHTSVILLE BOROUGH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 3, 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, N. Habecker, and Mayor Lindeman, along with Solicitor Tilley, Engineer Klinedinst, Police Chief Pearson and Treasurer Brenner. The meeting was recorded.

President Young gave rules of the meeting specifically that it would be handled in an orderly fashion.

FIRE – There was not a fire report available.

PATRONS: Elizabeth Groft – Commented on the way Halloween was handled this year and suggested checking with neighboring municipalities next time before making changes. President Young stated that there were mixed comments

Robin Geesey – Brought up the bickering among council people and stated that the words “shut up” should not be used. If anything, “be quiet” would be better.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved unanimously by motion of Mr. Sipes, seconded by Mrs. McDonald.

Eric White – requested a variance for a deck at 138-140 Hellam Street. He mentioned that this property is on one deed and that he has a letter from the neighbor. Mr. Habecker requested that Eric have Code Administrators include an application for a doorway. Mr. Habecker made a motion to approve a variance from a 10’ to an 8’ building setback at 138 Hellam Street. Mr. Sipes seconded the motion and the vote passed unanimously.

Mrs. Young mentioned that Darvin Shelley needs to put in voting machines so the meeting would be moving along.

STREETS - 220 Orange Street has requested a handicapped space. Mrs. McDonald made a motion to approve the space, Mr. Sipes seconded the motion. The vote passed unanimously.

RECREATION – Mr. Sipes announced that on December 6th the Senior Center will have a gift card bingo from 2 p.m. until 5 p.m. Also, the week of Thanksgiving there will be a sub sale with a delivery date of December 10

PRESIDENT – Mrs. Young mentioned that Bob McKee’s raise will be discussed in the Executive Session.

POLICE – Chief Pearson read the police report and asked the community for substitute crossing guards due to the age of the current guards. Substitutes could be used at 3rd and Chestnut or Hellam and 3rd. Mrs. McDonald asked if the State Police has been used much. Chief mentioned that he doesn’t look at the calls but can. Mrs. McDonald had a report and that according to the report they were used 60 times. She questioned if we could get late night coverage. Chief said that is not where the call volume is. Mayor felt that it was not late at night or early in the morning but this, too, would be discussed in the Executive Session.

TREASURER – October’s report was given by Mr. Brenner. A motion was made by Mr. Sipes to approve the Treasurer’s report. Mrs. McDonald seconded the motion and the vote passed unanimously. Mr. Brenner had updated draft #2 of the budget workshop. He gave some breakdowns between various departments. He

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mentioned that he made small changes to Liquid Fuels and Capital Reserve. Council needs to address expenditures. Mr. Habecker questioned the differences in the proposed expenses versus the income. Mayor Lindeman mentioned the reserve fund was not looking too good. Mr. Brenner is projecting \$258,000 at the end of 2008 and that auditors suggest no lower than \$250,000. We could budget approximately \$35,000 out of the reserve. Mr. Brenner mentioned two items that were increasing. Administrative costs were excessive because the full Borough Secretary salary would not be split with the Authority and that the information supplied by the Engineer was \$41,000 for Safe Routes to Schools grant – we will be getting over \$300,000 in return. This is pushing 50% of our short fall. Mrs. Young requested another budget meeting and it was decided that this meeting would be recessed until Monday, November 17, 2008, at 6:15 p.m. Mr. Brenner wonders when we have to advertise the budget and Solicitor Tilley stated he would look in to it. Mr. Brenner mentioned that we should soon have the insurance breakdown to bill the Municipal Authority in November. He also mentioned that 1 mil of tax brings in \$94,000. Solicitor Tilley mentioned that the budget can be passed at the December meeting and that it looks like 10 days will be needed to advertise.

ENGINEER – Safe Routes to Schools moving forward and looking favorable. Mr. Klinedinst requested going to the school district to request part of the money. He also mentioned that he did an inspection of an unsafe building on Hellam Street, as requested, and submitted a letter to the Mayor.

SOLICITOR – Mr. Tilley developed a trash collection ordinance making trash collection mandatory. This was needed for State grants. He amended 106 Chapter 20 to start with a new sentence. This is for residential and he will advertise. Mr. Habecker questioned what was driving this change and he was informed it was for grant money. He asked about how much grant money we get. Mr. Brenner said that the recycling grant money for 2006 was under \$2000 but anticipates it will go up. Mr. Habecker made a motion to advertise the ordinance and Mr. Sipes seconded the motion. It passed unanimously. Mr. Tilley wanted to confirm that he was not going to change alleys to avenues since there were only two that would benefit and Mayor Lindeman stated that was correct. She feels it would be a waste of time.

President Young questioned when Royal Farms would be going in. Mr. Klinedinst stated that once the recording document that Mrs. Young gave him tonight was turned in it should get underway.

Mr. Habecker brought up a question on behalf of Mr. Groft asking if the real estate taxes at the Royal Farms location would go up once the new building was in place. It was mentioned that the increase should be quite noticeable. It was mentioned that the news Rutters is in Hellam Township.

It was mentioned that this Thursday is the school board meeting. Per Sharon Amato their meeting is the first and third Thursday of every month. Mayor Lindeman and Mr. Habecker may be interested in going to their meeting and would like Mr. Klinedinst or Mr. Baltzer of C.S. Davidson to go along to discuss their assistance with the up front cost for Safe Routes to Schools. Mr. Klinedinst thinks that July starts their budget year and he recommended sending a letter first before attending a meeting. He felt that sending a letter to the school board officials who attended the initial meeting would be appropriate. It was requested that Mr. Baltzer draft the letter and that maybe they would be able to attend a January meeting and possibly get the funds approved for their next budget year. Mr. Habecker mentioned that \$41,000 was more than reasonable to ask the school for assistance with costs. He offered an explanation of what this grant was and questioned Mr. Brenner that if the Borough takes a line-of-credit what would the finance charges be. He mentioned he would like to take all pertinent information with him to the meeting and requested if anyone had any suggestions to show how this would benefit the school he would be interested in hearing from them. Mr. Klinedinst made a suggestion that the Borough take \$300,000 over 12 months plus administrative costs.

HEALTH & SAFETY – Mr. Habecker stated he did not have anything this month.

MAYOR – Mayor Lindeman stated that a negotiating team for the Police Union needed to be named and mentioned that at a prior Executive Session Mr. Groft, Mr. Sipes and Mrs. McDonald had requested to be a part of that team if this was Council's wishes. Mr. Groft then stated that he does not wish to be a part of this team and this discussion was tabled until Executive Session. A motion will need to be made after Executive Session, per Mr. Tilley.

AUTHORITY – Mr. Groft said there was nothing to report. He mentioned that Mrs. Dietz' pay was brought up.

SENIOR CITIZENS/S.V. CHAMBER/TRI-BORO – Mr. Sipes mentioned that he talked to Toni at the Senior Center via e-mail and she mentioned that AARP can do income taxes for seniors. He mentioned that they are looking for the game 'Let's Make a Deal' for their Nintendo Wii. They are concentrating heavily on making Christmas decorations for the Troops. They are hoping to make 14 to 15 boxes. Mr. Sipes informed everyone that 49 letters were sent out to various firms requesting their qualifications in regard to a Comprehensive Plan. Once qualifications were received, the firm's qualifications were analyzed. Mr. Sipes made a motion to send Requests for Proposals to the firms that a committee had chosen. Mrs. McDonald seconded the motion. Mr. Habecker said that Council had never appointed this committee and feels they should be appointed. Mr. Sipes said this committee is not locked. They were used to pick consultants but then Council will need to sit in on. Mr. Habecker again stated that the committee needs to be formalized before adopting their work. Mr. Klinedinst stepped in saying that Pam Shellenberger needs to be on the committee although she stated she did not need to be on committee. Mr. Klinedinst stated that Council will have to sign the contract so however they get to that point is their decision. A motion to appoint the consultant selection committee as listed was made by Mr. Habecker. Mrs. McDonald seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Mr. Sipes original motion came back in to play, requesting letters be sent to the firms that were selected and Mr. Habecker seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

At 8:00 p.m. Council went in to Executive Session and reconvened at 8:43 p.m.

Mr. Tilley stated that the items discussed during Executive Session were pay raise, police services, police investigations of incident in Borough, upcoming negotiations of two police officers that are now unionized, form employee asked to meet with but said no and possible disciplinary action against a current employee.

Mrs. McDonald made a motion to approve a \$.53 raise (3%) for Bob McKee effective retroactive to his 90 days. Mr. Sipes seconded the motion. Mr. Habecker asked if there will be another raise. Mrs. McDonald stated that there would be at his 1 year anniversary. Mr. Habecker asked if promises were made at his interview and Mrs. McDonald said that it was done with everyone in the past including Josh Groft. A vote was taken and it passed with Mr. Groft abstaining.

Mr. Habecker mentioned that he has issues with the numbers regarding health care. He stated that he was not looking to take action but wanted to discuss this further at the 17th meeting and wondered if the employees had been talked to about changes. Mrs. Young stated that they had not. Mr. Habecker mentioned that a \$2000 deductible creates a hardship on families. He discussed various options including starting with a 90/10 split then the following year going to 85/15 and possibly going as far as 75/25. Mr. Brenner mentioned that some plans would decrease their co-pays, as well.

President Young mentioned she has received quite a few calls regarding the newsletter. People in the community want it monthly and mentioned she would be addressing this at the next Authority meeting. Mr. Tilley mentioned that the Borough Association offers a quarterly newsletter and posts a monthly newsletter on the web. Mrs. McDonald mentioned that she began a survey and of the 15 families she had thus far all except one wanted to see it monthly. Mrs. McDonald surveyed these same 15 families for voting-at-large and again,

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all but one was in favor and willing to donate to get it started. Mrs. McDonald made a motion to begin the process of seeing if residents are interested in voting-at-large and said she will raise at least \$3000. Mr. Sipes seconded the motion and Mr. Habecker and Mr. Groft were opposed. The motion passed with a majority vote. Mayor Lindeman requested to veto and Mr. Tilley said that only ordinances not motions could be vetoed. Mr. Habecker asked if this had to be done by drafting a resolution. Mr. Tilley explained the process and discussion was had. Mayor Lindeman stated that she did not wish the taxpayers money to go to voting-at-large.

Mayor Dawn mentioned that Council needs to appoint a negotiating team for negotiating the police contract. Mrs. Young made a motion to appoint Mr. Groft, Mr. Sipes and Mrs. McDonald and Mrs. McDonald seconded the motion. Mr. Groft then declined his position and it was stated that an outside person could be named. Mr. Habecker stated that he understood Mr. Groft's sticking point and stated that level-headed people needed to be on this committee. Mr. Habecker made a motion to appoint Mr. Groft but discussion on the first motion wasn't complete so a vote was taken and Mr. Habecker and Mr. Groft opposed so this motion passed with a majority vote. However, a motion was made by Mr. Habecker to reconstitute the committee (this was done at the direction of Mr. Tilley). Mr. Habecker made a motion to appoint Mr. Groft as chair, Mr. Sipes and himself to sit on the committee. Mrs. McDonald was opposed. Mrs. Young abstained as did Mr. Sipes therefore the vote passed with a majority vote 2 to 1. Some confusion was had regarding the council people abstaining. Mr. Tilley informed them that they cannot negotiate until a committee is formed and since two abstained it becomes a 2 to 1 vote and the committee is formed.

Mr. Brenner informed everyone that changes were made to the police budget and discussed the reasons for those changes.

Mr. Tilley gave information regarding advertising the budget. He said that an announcement has to be put in the newspaper and the budget has to be available for public inspection for ten days. The final budget will be adopted at the December meeting.

Sharon Amato mentioned Mrs. McDonald coming back after Executive Session with voting-at-large knowing that most people will have already left.

A motion was made by Mr. Groft to recess this meeting until November 17th at 6:15 p.m. Mrs. Young seconded the motion and the vote passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:28 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie K. Dietz, Secretary