

WRIGHTSVILLE BOROUGH COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF OCTOBER 6, 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, and Treasurer Brenner. The meeting was recorded.

FIRE – Annie Weirich gave the fire report.

PATRONS: Denise Caswell – Wondering when Royal Farms coming. Feels it's an eyesore.

Annie Weirich – Not happy with the fire company situation and not satisfied with Council Rep. for her ward as, per Annie, this council member harassed a member of the fire company who is on dialysis. She's feels this council member is accumulating costs for the Borough and then went on to request Mrs. McDonald's resignation. 18 people stood in agreement. Mrs. McDonald responded that she did not have an argument with Lennie Urey and also stated that the issue with the Fire House is that residents should be allowed to rent it. Mayor Lindeman mentioned that she met with the Fire Company has read a letter that was written by Chief Smeltzer. Rick Penyak mentioned that in Middletown the fire hall got trashed. He requested a public apology be placed in the newspaper and that the apology should be from all and not just one person as they should be united. Mr. Groft stated that he supports the fire department 100% and was outraged by the comments by Mrs. McDonald. It was mentioned also that 2<sup>nd</sup> Street would be closed during the memorial service for the fallen firefighter, Paul Lentz.

Pat Estel – lives at 115 Locust Street and has done so for about four years. He loves his home and Wrightsville but due to teen punks is looking for a new home. He mentioned windows being shot out, apples being thrown through windows and he understands the police's frustration as they can't catch these punks in the act. Mayor Lindeman mentioned that she will see what can be done. Mr. Estel said he was going to get a Louisville Slugger to take care of the problem.

Rick Penyak – He brought up the fact that at Borough meetings it has been mentioned that Police Officers have been seen at various places with cameras. He feels this should not be mentioned publicly as it puts the police in jeopardy if they are working on a drug bust or something of that nature.

Mark Lentz – wants to know if Council is going to work as a group. He mentioned that the people of Wrightsville want their police department and their fire department and said, do we need more signs? He stated that the council people need to get behind their emergency services. He also mentioned that he was concerned about all the business that was done behind closed doors like ordinances and voting-at-large. He said he did not agree with voting-at-large and Mayor Lindeman mentioned that it was not happening.

Kim Lentz – She brought up the fact that Solicitor Tilley on January 7<sup>th</sup> explained voting-at-large and she read from the minutes. She mentioned that Article VI of the Borough Code explains in detail voting-at-large and said that money should not have been spent on the solicitor researching at a charge of \$548. Plus, she mentioned there was a two-page memo from Mr. Tilley ten days later. She stated that this was not Council's decision that the Borough would have to pay the solicitor to petition the court and pay for commissioners then the people would tell whether or not they want this. Mrs. McDonald stated that there is an election board and that Council votes on it. Mrs. Lentz says the court makes the decision.

Robin Geesey – Stated she has been accused of calling the paper. She mentioned that the lawsuit regarding Carol Jud includes Carol's husband. She states the council people are costing the people of Wrightsville money and that committees should be taken away from the council person responsible for these fees. She brought up the issue of the fire hall and mentioned that Columbia has an actual social hall.

Sharon Amato – Addressing Solicitor Tilley stating that he was allowing the executive meetings to get out-of-control and shame on him. She mentioned working on neighborhood watch programs. She brought up in the defense of the fire department that she recalls a BINGO that was held at the fire hall and the fire department received a call during it and they had to work around the BINGO participants to get gear, etc. Mayor Lindeman remembered a story about a party being held at the fire hall and items were taken. She feels this is the fire company's decision.

Pat Brewster-Smith – Asked if parents could be held accountable for their children's actions. Solicitor Tilley says they need to meet with the Police Chief. Mrs. Lentz asked if the Chief attends the Police Chief Association meeting to see what other areas are doing.

\*\*\* President Young mentioned that if anyone speaks out again will be sent out. Mr. Peaks mentioned that Mrs. McDonald spoke out and still sits there and asked if she was afraid of her \*\*\*

Sandy Waugh – Turkey Hill needs cleaned up. There is trash and kids hang out there. Mr. Sipes said that the Chief is watching.

Eric White – Mentioned that the Municipal Authority is willing to allow the building in back to be used for a community center and was wondering if anything was being done about that. Mrs. Young mentioned that this was going to be discussed a little later.

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

STREETS - Showed report. No questions. A question came up about putting rusty equipment somewhere and Bob McKee stated he had found a place.

RECREATION – Pat Estel resigned position. Recreation is asking that Chet Eckman fill the spot. A motion was made by Mr. Sipes and seconded by Mrs. McDonald. The vote passed unanimously. Janella Englehart gave the report of \$221 being made at the Bridge Bust. She mentioned a gun raffle taking place and that all the 50/50 tickets were sold and that the drawing was being held on the 18<sup>th</sup>. It was mentioned that the agreement regarding the building in the back of the Borough Office needs to be looked over and it was mentioned that maybe the electric/heat was going to be done by the Authority. It is thought that a batting cage with a pitching machine could go in the high part. Mr. McKee mentioned that this was to be done by the Rec and that the Borough wasn't needed for this. Mr. Habecker asked if there was an occupancy permit and insurance. Mr. Sipes mentioned that they were trying to get the kids off the streets. Mr. Habecker mentioned this was not a new idea and that the building was simply a shell and that about a million dollars would need to be dumped into this building to get it up to code. He mentioned it would take multiple grants and that fundraising was not going to be enough. He stated he thinks the agreement is for three years and that one year has already passed. He cautioned putting people in the building and that they would need to find a way to recoup their money. It was also mentioned about needing a new hot water heater in the concession stand. Mr. Kirkessner stated he would make sure that was there. Mr. Kirkessner questioned why there was even an agreement if the building can't be used.

PRESIDENT – Mrs. Young brought renewing the Hemler Animal Control contract. It was mentioned that Kohler was being looked at for animal control but they are being investigated so Mayor Lindeman feels there is no need to look anywhere else and Mrs. McDonald made a motion to renew the contract with Hemler, Mr. Sipes seconded it and the motion passed unanimously. Also, the SPCA contract had to be approved. Mr. Habecker made the motion, Mrs. McDonald seconded it and the motion passed unanimously. Mrs. Young requested a motion to approve Eric White’s letters to Comcast. Mr. Sipes made a motion, Mr. Kirkessner seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. Mr. White mentioned asking legislators was important. Mrs. Young mentioned that the Borough Association toured the new 911 center on Concord Road. She felt it was an informative tour and suggested anyone interested should tour it.

POLICE – Mayor Lindeman read the report. Attached to the report was a request for tires for the police cruisers. Mayor wondered if three cruisers were needed. She requested approving tires for two vehicles and Mr. Habecker argued that tires should be purchased for all three as it would be better for selling. Mr. Groft felt they should just sell the one and take a loss if necessary so no more insurance would need to be paid on it. Plus, he feels that a 4-wheel drive vehicle is necessary.

TREASURER – Report was presented. Mayor questioned Crafcro and Keith said it was for a Streets Department project. Mr. Sipes made a motion to approve the checkbook register and Mr. Kirkessner seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Mr. Brenner mentioned it was time for the annual budget workshop. The Police Pension contribution funding obligation for 2009 is \$15,860, however, no actual money will come out of the general fund as we receive money from the State. Mrs. Geesey asked if there was a guarantee from the State and this is unknown. Mr. Brenner informed everyone that Liquid Fuels estimate for 2009 is just over \$44,000. However, that is less than last year and cautioned that the State says this money is based on projected sale of gasoline so that number could be less. Mr. Klinedinst recommended figuring on 10% less. The 2009 budget workshop will be held the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of October typically. This years will be held October 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:30. He said that financial records would be made available. He said information needs to be submitted to him by October 20<sup>th</sup> and stated he already had a submission from the Recreation Commission.

ENGINEER – Mr. Klinedinst stated that the Borough’s Safe Route to School is a good project. All four were sent as recommendation for funding. It requires a \$40,000 local match but if you can get \$320,000 for \$40,000 – take it. We will be notified if funded. South Second Street was marked. Being confirmed. He mentioned that he is helping Mr. Sipes find grants for the Comprehensive Plan and Waterfront Plan. He stated that Mr. Sipes is doing a great job. YCPC is really trying to help. He mentioned that the Borough has to be committed as we are leveraging a lot of grants. Must have a plan to get grant money.

SOLICITOR – Mr. Tilley requested that Council adopt the revised mandatory recycling 2008-4 ordinance. Mr. Sipes made a motion to adopt it and Mrs. McDonald made a second. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Tilley informed us that the Police have petitioned the Labor Relations Board and that he will send a report once he has received it. He stated they may be waiting on an affidavit. A sexual offender’s ordinance was prepared by Mr. Tilley and discussed. Residency restrictions were a big issue and pre-existing sex offenders were brought up. Mr. Tilley felt they would be grandfathered in. Mr. Habecker was concerned about the cost involved with preparing this ordinance. He was concerned about how you would enforce the ordinance and felt this was a slippery slope. Crystal Bolton concerned about children who live in areas that sex offenders would be allowed. Sharon Amato wondered if the ACLU would back this and if Solicitor Tilley would handle it at no charge. Mr. Tilley said that it is not a law in Pennsylvania that if you are registered sex offender you have to stay a certain distance from a school. He said that you would have to go to your State legislator and Mr. Habecker felt this was a good idea. Mr. Habecker brought up the fact that he did not recall agreeing to have Mr. Tilley prepare this ordinance and mentioned that the solicitor bill was going to be a lot. Mrs. Amato questioned

whether the executive sessions could be held after public comment and wondered who requested Mr. Tilley to research and create the ordinance. Mr. Tilley's notes made him believe he was asked during an executive session. Mr. Peaks left after screaming at Mrs. McDonald.

HEALTH & SAFETY – He mentioned that he feels the information in the newsletter regarding voting-at-large was misleading and that it needed to be changed. Mr. Groft feels there is not need for a newsletter every money and Mr. Habecker agreed. A motion was made by Mr. Groft to have the newsletter prepared quarterly and Mr. Habecker seconded the motion. Mr. Sipes abstained and Mrs. McDonald opposed however the vote passed with a majority vote.

MAYOR – Announced that Trick-or-Treating would be held on Thursday, October 30, 2008 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

SENIOR CITIZENS – Mr. Sipes announced that the Senior Center would be holding their annual all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast for \$6 per person and requested this information be placed on the board by the bridge. He also informed everyone that they were making Christmas ornaments for the troops in Iraq. November 16<sup>th</sup> at the United Methodist Church in Hellam they will have a dinner theater that benefits the Senior Center and the Hellam Fire Hall and the cost will be \$10 per person. November 13<sup>th</sup> is the Alzheimer's Candlelight Vigil and on November 8<sup>th</sup> is the Pampered Chef bingo. He stated that the Nintendo Wii is working well for them.

Mrs. McDonald requested a handicapped spot for a Jennie Caracher who lives as 32 N. 7<sup>th</sup> Street. She has bad leg problems. Mr. Sipes made a motion to approve the spot. Mrs. McDonald seconded it and it passed unanimously.

Mrs. McDonald discussed everyone wanting her to flip out but she said she is not going to. She made a motion for voting-at-large and Mr. Sipes seconded it. The rest of Council was opposed. The matter was left open-ended and no vote was taken. Mr. Sipes stated he would like to do some personal research.

Mr. Habecker mentioned that he and the Mayor had talked about the Hometown Hotel and feel it's a dangerous building. He feels the owners need to document their intentions and Mr. Kirkessner stated that the Borough engineer can reaffirm engineers have been there. He assured Mr. Habecker that the building is being worked on and that he has obtained the proper permits as well as a building analysis. The Borough engineer agreed to put something on the record

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 PM by motion of Mr. Groft, seconded by Mrs. McDonald and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie K. Dietz, Secretary