

WRIGHTSVILLE BOROUGH COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 8, 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, Treasurer Brenner and Police Chief Pearson. The meeting was recorded.

FIRE – No report submitted.

PATRONS: Listed on the agenda was Tammy Hunter; Mrs. Young said she was not present, but her issue would be discussed at an executive session.

Crystal Bolton asked the status of the proposal to abolish the ward system, noted in the January meeting. Mrs. Young said that the proposal is still in progress & is expected to be enacted. Robin Geesey questioned if Council approved the change. Mr. Habecker said the proposal information was to be included twice in the newsletter. Mr. Groft said there was no hurry to make the decision & thought the research done by Mr. Tilley should be made public (letter dated 1/16/08). Mr. Shaud suggested that the letter be on the Borough web site & copies made available to the public. Mrs. McDonald said that costs could be reduced if 3 impartial commissioners can be recruited as volunteers. Mr. Sipes asked if other boroughs in York County vote by the ward system. Council decided to postpone further efforts until budget time. Mrs. Young stated that questions & complaints can be directed to any Councilperson, not necessarily a representative of a particular ward.

Anna Weirich said that the Nuisance Animal ordinance needs to be enforced. She is dissatisfied with poor & uneven police response to complaints. Mrs. Young said that the Chief & Mayor are responsible to maintain an appropriate schedule of police coverage. Mrs. Weirich again asked for Mrs. McDonald's resignation from Council.

Kim Lentz objected to abolishing the ward system, mostly because of cost to the Borough. She requested a public meeting for a question & answer session. Referring to a motion adopted at the May 1, 2008 meeting, she asked what happened to discussions with Hellam Twp. & Columbia Borough regarding police coverage in Wrightsville Borough. Mayor Lindeman answered that she reported at the July Council meeting that she met with Hellam Twp. for information only; no proposals or decisions were made. Mr. Habecker moved, Mr. Groft seconded, that Council is not pursuing police service by an outside department at the present time. Mr. Groft said that Council should continue looking at our coverage to assure whether better service at a better cost may be available in the future. The Mayor emphasized that the Borough cannot afford 24-hr. coverage. Mrs. McDonald thought that night-time hours should be continued. The motion passed unanimously.

Eric White presented to Mr. Sipes a contribution of a Wii game to be used by the Senior Center. He contacted Comcast to request York channel access to governmental programming for Borough residents. This would help our citizens to participate in governmental activity & understand decisions made. With no progress in direct phone contact with Comcast, Mr. White presented 2 letters to be sent by the Borough, one to Comcast & the other to State representative. Mr. Shaud commented that Wrightsville is the only area in York County tied to the Lancaster system. Mrs. Young referred the letters to Mr. Tilley for review.

STREETS - See report included in the minutes.

RECREATION – Mr. Sipes moved, Mrs. McDonald seconded, to approve an expenditure of \$1,600. by the Board for the purchase of equipment for the basketball season. Motion passed unanimously. The Commission

is planning to operate a stand at the Bridge Bust to raffle off a gun & sell food; Council had no objection to a location on the Legion property, which is owned by the Borough. In the absence of Mr. Kirkessner, no information was available regarding a water heater or refrigerator for the concession stand. The board is looking for a building to hold a gift card bingo on Nov. 16. Mr. Sipes will contact the Senior Center location & Crystal Bolton was given several suggestions to pursue.

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

PRESIDENT – Mrs. Young asked for a report on the request to revise the handicap parking signs at Locust St. UM Church. Mr. Sipes said he was called by the pastor who said that the church council wants no change to the signs because of activities held during the week. Mrs. Geesey noted that the church has a parking lot adjacent to a rear entrance that is handicap accessible. Mr. Sipes, Mr. Groft & Mrs. Young will meet with church representatives to resolve the situation. A handicap parking application by Violet Fillmore, 509 Hellam, was unanimously approved by motion of Mrs. McDonald, seconded by Mr. Sipes. It was noted that a doctor's certification that the space is needed was attached to the application.

Mrs. Young reported a request by Girl Scouts in the Hearth of PA that Council send letters to Erin Gross & Angela Wertz, residents of the area, to congratulate them on attaining the Gold Award, the equivalent to the Boy Scout Eagle Award. The Mayor will send the letters. It was suggested that the information be put on the web site.

Mrs. Young attended last month's Authority meeting to request approval of their share of the raise for the Borough Secretary. The Authority waived a review, agreeing with the Borough's decision to grant the increase. Mr. Groft said there is a possibility that the Authority would not share the Secretary's salary in 2009 & asked that this be considered at budget time.

The contract for animal control by Hemler in 2009 has been submitted. Mr. Groft intends to contact a similar business now subcontracting for Hemler to determine if a lower cost is available before Council proceeds with contract approval.

Mrs. Young asked for approval of the insurance renewal by Glatfelter Insurance, the present coverage to expire 9/10/08. The total premium cost for the package for 2008-2009 is \$26,766., up from \$24,617. for 2007-08, some of the increase due to coverage of additional vehicles. The workers' compensation premium of \$30,630. is up from \$25,417. for the previous year because of claims made. The President said that no comparative proposals were sought based on the savings realized the previous year, indicating that Glatfelter gave the Borough a fair rate. Mr. Sipes moved, Mr. Groft seconded, to accept the coverage by the Glatfelter Agency. Motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Young announced that Mrs. Dietz intends to come in to the office when possible, starting with issuing the newsletter. Mr. Sipes said that the Senior Center agreed to fold & staple the mailing. Because of the cost for color copies, Mr. Sipes thought the maintenance contract should be looked into; in the meantime, the newsletter will be printed in black.

The issue of the fence at 6<sup>th</sup> & Garden was again introduced. Mr Groft questioned why the subject keeps coming back when the variance was denied in January based on the opinion of Solicitor Tilley. The clear sight triangle was marked by C. S. Davidson.

TREASURER – Mr. Brenner reported a meeting with M & T Bank whereby all Borough & Authority service charges will be waived. An attempt is being made to waive credit card fees.

The Treasurer reported receipt of \$20,000., additional block grant money for the Walnut St. Project. The Borough received notice that the \$10,000. requested from County Liquid Fuels has been approved, but not yet received. Mr. Brenner praised Mrs. Harmer for assuming the Borough's financial roll in the absence of Mrs. Dietz. He expressed appreciation for the Authority's agreement not to charge for this service.

Mr. Brenner reviewed his August financial report, including the budget comparison & the comparison of January thru August in 2007 & 2008. He welcomed questions leading up to next month's budget session. The Recreation Fund is now accumulating interest. He invited a representative of that board to attend the Borough's budget session; a recreation budget needs to be submitted prior to that session. Mr. Groft questioned several unfamiliar vendors listed as payees. He advised that each category be examined separately to determine if it is on budget. Mr. Habecker noted the payment of \$700. to Hemler for cat removal. He said Council needs a policy about such expense when costs exceed the budget. He noted that feeding outside cats is harboring, in violation of the animal nuisance ordinance. Mr. Sipes moved, Mrs. McDonald seconded, to approve the check register & report. Motion passed unanimously.

POLICE – The Chief read his report, included in the minutes. Mayor Lindeman requested approval to replace Officer Tobias with another part time officer, granted by motion of Mr. Habecker, seconded by Mr Groft. Mrs. Lindeman said that the police schedule changes periodically & that the department cannot schedule all night-time hours. Mrs. Lindeman administered the Oath of Office to Eric White as a member of the Civil Service Comm. She asked for an executive session to discuss police & crossing guard issues. The Mayor reported receipt of an application for a therapeutic massage parlor at 324 Hellam St. Upon review, she declared the application complies with ordinance requirements. Mrs. Lindeman reported that the dangerous building notice was sent certified mail to the owner at 507 Hellam St. With no written response or attempt to correct the problem, she asked the next step in enforcement. After discussion, it was determined that the ordinance allows the Borough to remove or correct the dangerous situation, with the costs collected from the owner. Mr. Klinedinst does not recommend that the removal be done by Borough employees because of liability. Mr. Tilley advised that the work be contracted & the property be liened. Mr. Habecker moved, Mr. Groft seconded, to proceed with enforcement. Motion passed unanimously. Demolition cost under \$4,000. does not have to be bid, according to Mr. Kinedinst. When a contractor has been determined, the property owner must be notified of the starting date of demolition to allow his removal of the contents.

Sale of the Borough-owned property at 701 S. Front was discussed. Because bidding is required, per Mr. Tilley, a value must be determined to establish a minimum bid. Mr. Habecker recommended delaying action to retain control over use of the property. It was noted that the parcel is not covered by the package insurance policy.

ENGINEER – Mr. Klinedinst reported additional work on the Safe Routes to School Application by Ben Baltzer, noting a requirement for "other funding" not included in the grant of \$319,700. A letter to YCPC confirms that the Borough recognizes the additional costs required to implement the SRTS program. While it appears that no ROW acquisition is needed, the Borough is negotiating with the Authority to relocate 2 hydrants. If the Authority is not able to do this without cost, the Borough acknowledges it will be responsible

for the cost without reimbursement. The preliminary/final design cost of \$41,700 & the HOP for signal & signage on Hellam St. of \$4,000. are considered to be warranted with no SRTS reimbursement. Mr. Klinedinst recommended that the Council President sign the letter & suggested approaching the school district for assistance with the expenditures if the project is approved.

With YCPC tentatively allocating \$15,000. for the Comprehensive Plan update project, Mr. Klinedinst suggested that Council authorize the consultant selection process to begin so that the actual cost can be determined. This will allow application for a LUPTAP grant (50% match) from PA DCED, to be submitted by Dec. 3, 2008. Mr. Habecker moved, Mr. Groft seconded, to approve beginning the consultant selection process. Motion passed unanimously. The application for additional matching funds for the Recreation Plan & Master Site Plan for Riverfront Park from a grant by PA Dept. of Conservation & Natural Resources (DCNR) is due April, 2009. The Engineer reported that an ongoing YCPC study encouraging economic development is being monitored by C. S. Davidson.

Mr. Klinedinst reported that the EPA notified the Borough of their investigation into a Superfund Clean-up of a landfill that was utilized by, among others, Barkman Disposal Service, with which the Borough had a refuse collection contract in 1983-84. The Borough did not respond to the certified mail notice when received in June, 2007, & follow-up correspondence was allowed to expire when received recently. The Engineer emphasized that this needs serious follow-through. With Solicitor Tilley's advice that the Borough not respond except by legal representation, Mr. Groft moved, Mr. Habecker seconded, that the matter be referred to Attorney Alex Chiaruttini, Stock & Leader, without further comment directly from the Borough. Motion passed unanimously.

SOLICITOR – Mr. Tilley will review Ordinance No. 2008-4 to revise the mandatory recycling ordinance & advertise it for adoption at the October meeting. Mr. Sipes moved, Mrs. McDonald seconded, to adopt Resolution No. 2008-15 to upgrade the street light from mercury vapor to hi-pressure sodium at 950 Hellam. The resolution was submitted by MET-ED to update their records. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Tilley's report of the location of fencing at the west end of the mobile home park at S. 2<sup>nd</sup> St. was reviewed. There was no evidence found in courthouse documents that the fence is located on Borough-owned property. He noted that an existing survey shows a straight line r/way, while the street actually bends. Mr. Klinedinst's opinion is that the street r/way doesn't include the quarry drop-off; therefore the fence is on private property. He noted that Junction Alley shown on the street map does not exist; therefore, it is not a Borough r/way if not opened within 21 years. Because a survey to mark the 2<sup>nd</sup> St. r/way from Mulberry to Lemon is the only way to make a final determination, Mr. Habecker moved, Mr. Sipes seconded, to approve the survey. Motion passed unanimously. Mr. Tilley could not verify that the abstractor report cost did not exceed \$500. as requested by Mr. Habecker. If the fence is found to be located on private property, the owner will be notified to maintain.

HEALTH & SAFETY - Mr. Sipes said that a 4-way stop is needed at 4<sup>th</sup> & Walnut. Mrs. Lindeman said that such stop intersections were not favored by the previous Police Chief Quickel, but deferred to Chief Pearson. He thought that the problem is the offset of Walnut; because of poor sight distance, drivers creep beyond the intersection. Mr. Shaud said that people don't stop at existing signs, so more signs won't help. Mr. Groft thought a 4-way stop might result in more accidents. Mr. Klinedinst suggested that the Streets Dept. paint stop bars where there are stop signs to bring attention to the need to stop. Mr. Habecker suggested that bars be painted at 7<sup>th</sup> & Locust and 4<sup>th</sup> & Walnut to test the effect. He again encouraged a 25-mph speed throughout the

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Borough. He noted Mr. McKee's report of a cost of \$1,470. for the signs, plus labor., & suggested that this be included in the budget for 2009.

SENIOR CITIZENS – Mr. Sipes reported that a Pampered Chef Bingo is scheduled to be held on Nov. 8, 2 PM at the Center, co-sponsored by Kreutz Creek Library. The Boy Scouts have been asked to help; Mrs. Lindeman suggested sending letters to businesses for contributions. Mr. Sipes also announced a candle-lighting event at Trinity Lutheran Church to honor those affected by Alzheimers, part of a national event.

The meeting was recessed for an executive session at 9:40 PM.

The meeting was called to order at 10:51 PM. Solicitor Tilley listed the subjects discussed in the session: three police investigations, the use of political signs by power groups, the police union, ordinance research into use limits within the Borough regarding sex offenders required to register with the State Police, the need for a former employee to return Borough equipment, police shift assignments, and a crossing guard safety issue. No decisions were made for the record.

Mrs. Young reported many complaints about RV's parked on streets & trailers hooked to cars, occupying substantial parking space. Mr. Habecker suggested control by GVW or dual wheels, as well as restricting the number of commercial vehicles.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:56 PM by motion of Mr. Habecker, seconded by Mr. Groft.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne C. Knorr, Asst. Secretary