

**Wrightsville Borough  
Meeting Minutes  
August 6, 2007 - 7:00 PM  
Borough Council Meeting Room, Wrightsville PA**

The regular meeting of Wrightsville Borough Council was called to order by President Dixon, who led the salute to the American flag. N. Habecker, M. Lentz, S. Young, M. McDonald and Mayor S. Rambler were also in attendance. President Dixon announced that E. Pennell was not in attendance. President Dixon also mentioned that the Solicitor, Secretary and Engineer were present. He announced that the Treasurer was not in attendance. President Dixon announced that the meeting was being recorded. He announced that the Fire report will be given before the patrons section.

FIRE: Deputy Chief Smeltzer gave the July fire report. Chief Smeltzer reported that the amount of calls that they receive exceed the amount that they ever expected, but seem to be handling every call as needed. He reported that they have received plaques for all of their accomplishments in the Firefighter I and II classes. He reported that 80% of the firefighters are certified at the national level. He reported that he feels the siren is working out well.

President Dixon announced that before the patrons section starts, he wanted to explain how the sunshine law operates. He said that since some of the patrons that have never been to a meeting before, he wanted to make sure they are aware that after the patron's portion is completed, they cannot comment or question on any business during the rest of the meeting, unless they are asked by Council. He explained that if he hears any comments from the patrons, he will warn them, and if they fail to listen, he will ask them to leave. He also explained that even though the Borough is a small town, the rules for public meetings are the same as large cities.

PATRONS:

Marlene Lawrence: Mrs. Lawrence came to complain again about her neighbor at 223 Orange Street. She said that there are groundhogs on the property. She said that a couple of teenagers cut some of the weeds, but only cut a small amount. She said that the property is still in horrendous shape.

Larry Kirkessner – Mr. Kirkessner came to voice several concerns. The first was concerning the newspaper article about the Chief and that he was quoted as saying that one of his goals was to reach 24/7 police coverage. His concern was that when the Council had discussed the new police force they raised the taxes to cover that. The next concern was the subject of certain Councilpersons being against nuisance bars. He brought with him, a petition signed by 415 people, with 127 signatures being Wrightsville residents stating that they feel the police department is acting in an unethical manner concerning bars in town. Mr. Kirkessner wanted to know how the Council determines how the police department is doing. President Dixon requested that Mr. Kirkessner give him a copy of the complaint and petition.

The last issue Mr. Kirkessner had was that he saw someone in the Wrightsville Borough Municipal building on 8/5/07 between 3 and 4 am. He said that there were no police on at that time, so he reported it to the State Police.

Donna Yohe – Ms. Yohe of 114 Hellam Street came to report that a couple weeks ago she noticed that there was someone hiding in the bushes near her home, and then found out that it was Bryan Rambler, and he ran from the bushes, got in his car and drove off. She also had a complaint that the building next to her which is a rental has dirt floors. She said that she has seen rats in the building, and smells cat urine outside of the building. She said that the roof looks like it is ready to fall in. She wonders how a place like that can be rented out.

Vanessa Peters – Mrs. Peters, the owner of the Hometown, referenced some of the issues that Mr. Kirkessner did. She stated that the police officers are harassing the patrons of her business, and have treated her with disrespect. She said that they run license plates and then follow her customers when they leave. She stated that she is losing business from this happening. She read a statement concerning her feelings about the police and the town of Wrightsville.

Sandra Waugh – Mrs. Waugh came to say that she is tired of the Council and Mayor fighting at every meeting. She said that she wishes they would start coming down on the owners of apartment buildings and make them improve their properties. She said that people have seen a man sleeping in back of the Turkey Hill, and has reported it to the police.

Diane Lephart – Ms. Lephart of 225 Orange Street was here to complain also about 223 Orange Street and the appearance of the property. She added that it is not only the weeds, and that there is trash and junk lying all around the place.

Phyllis Kauffman – Mrs. Kauffman of 121 Chestnut Street complained about her neighbor at 123 Chestnut Street not cutting the grass up to the fence. She complained about a car with no inspection parked on the street.

Dianne Pennell – Mrs. Pennell asked when the vacant seat on the Civil Service Commission will be filled.

Robin Geesey - Mrs. Geesey asked if more money is made from DUI than public arrests or vice versa. She asked how the figure on the police budget in start up costs can be taken out of the figures.

She said that she feels that Clean-Up Day should not come out of tax payer's money that this Borough has 2 trash pick up days per week, and Borough residents should not be permitted to bring 5 – 6 loads to Clean-Up Day.

She stated that the police department spent over \$1,000 for gas in one month.

She asked if all of the money from Fun Day was paid back to the General Fund.

Don Wilt – Mr. Wilt asked a question concerning hours of coverage. He also asked why they don't hire a part time officer instead of a full time officer.

Anna Weirich - Ms. Weirich brought her 3<sup>rd</sup> public request for Bryan Rambler's resignation. Mr. Lentz called a point of order and said that her issue is a personnel matter and should not be allowed to be addressed.

She asked regarding vandalism and other police issues when the Borough police are not on duty, why the Chief doesn't come back to the Borough to handle them instead of having the State Police respond.

Gaylen Shaud – Mr. Shaud feels that when important issues are brought up by the Council after the patrons section is over, the residents should be able to voice their concerns, and opinions. He also asked if any information was obtained on the vandalism that happened about a month ago.

He addressed the issue that the police are being over-aggressive and making too many stops, including his daughter. He said she was stopped for making a "U" turn, which he looked into and found out that it is lawful to make a "U" turn.

Linda Gotwalt - Ms. Gotwalt came again to find out what else will be done on Spring Alley. She said that she is still getting water in her basement. She asked if the Borough Engineer could look at the alley.

Sharon Young read a statement regarding her feelings concerning the town and Council.

A motion to approve the July 2007 minutes was made by N. Habecker and seconded by S. Young.

Susan Graybill, the Wrightsville Borough Emergency Management Coordinator, came to talk about a county program called ECRIN, Evacuating County Residents In Need. This program helps elderly or disabled residents that don't have any transportation and live alone, or someone with medical needs. This information would be kept in a data base within the Borough, on a GIS System. ECRIN is looking for a township or borough that would be interested in being a pilot for this program. She was hoping that the elected officials would volunteer Wrightsville Borough for being one of the pilots. Mr. Habecker announced that Susan had to give her resignation, and won't be the EMC any longer.

M. Lentz announced that there is a Borough Council member that has not been voting and wanted to bring it to the attention to all Council. Mr. Lentz reported that Code 904 of the Pennsylvania Borough Code book states that if a Council member does not vote, their seat can be vacated. He also said that the council member can have up to 10 days to be notified if the seat will be taken. He stated that on a personal level, a councilperson does not have any power, and that the power is from a collectiveness of all elected officials. Mrs. McDonald asked M. Lentz why he doesn't just say who the council member was.

Mr. Lentz stated that he has not heard Mrs. McDonald vote, residents that have come to meetings have not heard her vote and she has also stated at the last Borough Council meeting that she doesn't count so she doesn't vote. Mrs. McDonald denied all allocations, and said that she always votes, and that he needs to show proof.

POLICE: Chief Pearson gave the July 2007 report. M. McDonald made some remarks about a missing person.

M. Lentz reported that recently his family had an emergency, was on the phone with a Dr. and could not hear what the Dr. was saying because of motorcycle noise coming from patrons at the Dutchman.

TREASURER: K. Brenner was not present. President Dixon mentioned again that this is the second month in a row that the Treasurer is not present. A motion was made to accept the check register as presented by N. Habecker and seconded by M. Lentz, with unanimous approval.

ENGINEER: J. Klinedinst reported that no progress has been taken on Royal Farms over the past month. Mr. Klinedinst reported on his findings concerning the possible storm water problem at 410 Walnut Street. He said that he met with Mr. Sipe on July 12<sup>th</sup>, and came up with 2 options. They are to either mill or be fixed by Streets Dept.

Mr. Klinedinst reported that he has plans for the Walnut Street project that he would like E. Pennell to review. He also reported that his office is waiting for the Borough Streets Dept. to get started on the test pits. Mr. Klinedinst said that the plan is to have the test pits done, advertise for bids on Aug. 17<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> and open bids on Aug. 30<sup>th</sup>, so that contract could be awarded at the September meeting. He submitted 2 requisitions for payment for design on the project. Requisition #1 was for \$4,099.21 and #2 for \$2,264.55. The payment will be forwarded to CSD from York County; out of the grant funds.

Mr. Klinedinst asked the status of the lease agreement on the block building between the Borough and Authority. Mr. Dixon said that it is still in the hands of Solicitor Hovis.

Mr. Klinedinst mentioned that a letter regarding the MS4 Storm Water was sent to C. Jud and has to be signed indicating that the Borough was going to renew the process and send back by September.

SOLICITOR: Mr. Tilley talked about the Memorandum of Understanding with the Water Shed Alliance of York (WAY). He reported that it needs to be renewed and will prepare a Resolution to that effect. He is going to ask WAY about an automatic renewal.

M. McDonald asked Mr. Tilley about a letter from the Hellam Township Solicitor concerning a complaint regarding the police station. Mr. Tilley explained that he received a letter expressing a complaint, and he forwarded that to the Mayor.

HEALTH AND SAFETY: Mr. Habecker reported that Cora Rowe of 606 Hellam Street is asking for approval for a 6' setback for a deck. She has consent from both neighbors. N. Habecker made a motion, M. Lentz seconded for approval of a 6' setback. The Borough unanimously approved.

Mr. Habecker reported that the results of the traffic study for Willow Street, stop sign at Orange Street and speed limit change has not come back.

Mr. Habecker announced that he will be attending a uniform construction code meeting on July 14 at 9 am concerning the COG.

He reported that a resignation must be filled for Susan Graybill.

Mr. Habecker looked at the numbers that Don Wilt brought to Council during the patrons portion, and he calculated that there are police patrolling the Borough approx 86% of the time, which is an increase from 24% at this time last year, at any given time throughout the Borough.

Mr. Habecker talked about an incident that was reported to him concerning possible excessive drinking in which the Wrightsville Borough Police responded to. He said that it was around 5:30 AM on Sunday, August 5<sup>th</sup>. He commented that he heard someone saying that 19 arrests for DUI in one month was too much. He said that he could not understand how any amount of arrests for DUI was excessive when those arrests could have stopped citizens from being harmed by intoxicated persons. He said that he feels that if a violation is occurring, an arrest needs to happen.

PERSONELL: President Dixon mentioned that the Borough Secretary will be on medical leave next month and the office needs assistance for a few weeks. The decision was that Bryan Rambler would fill in with up to 30 hours per week.

M. McDonald mentioned that Eric White applied for the Civil Service Commission and a seat needs to be filled, and she wanted to know why he could not be picked.

M. McDonald requested that she be given a police schedule. Mr. Dixon said that the public should not be allowed to get a current schedule, but could have an old schedule.

She requested to have her email address taken off the Borough web site.

She complained that someone opened a piece of mail addressed to her. Mr. Dixon told her that she should have personal mail sent to her home.

She said that she wants copies of cell phone bills because she believes that the Mayor is using Brett Raver's old phone. The Mayor said that 4 – 5 months ago, the office took over the phone and communicates with E. Pennell via 2-way.

She asked when Front Street was going to be paved. Mr. Dixon told her that he thinks it will be next spring.

She stated that Bill Scantling wants sealing to be done on Maple Street.

She received a complaint that a sign in the alley under the bridge is bent over and needs fixed.

STREETS: With E. Pennell absent, President Dixon went over a few things for Streets. Mr. Dixon publicly thanked Red Lion Borough for the street sweeping. He reported that 16 hoppers was the total amount of debris that was collected, and they did not charge the Borough. He reported that Garden Ave. will be finished before school starts.

RECREATION: Mayor Rambler reported that the next Recreation meeting is on the last Tuesday of the month at 6 pm. The Mayor reported that the Recreation Commission is looking at figures for starting a family gym in the block building behind the Borough office. He reported that Louie Anderson will be appointed the baseball commissioner next year. He reported that when Coke put their machines in the Borough no money was given according to the contract. He said that he has been in contact with them and is awaiting an answer.

MAYOR: Mayor Rambler talked about police coverage. He explained that he is thankful for the police department, because they have stopped many things that the public does not know about. He reported that the police department is closer to having 24/7 coverage than ever before. He reported that binoculars are valid and important tools for police and explained that with the help of binoculars the police made arrests for counterfeiting within the Borough. Mayor Rambler reported that the police department is working well with other municipalities.

He reported that he and the Chief are working on a plan for when the police cruiser will be out of the Borough, and will report in detail at the next public meeting. He mentioned that the Chief has been taking the cruiser home only when it is absolutely necessary.

Mrs. McDonald asked why the binoculars are needed. She mentioned that people are not driving through the Borough anymore and said that the businesses are going to suffer. Mayor Rambler said that the police use whatever means possible to keep the Borough a safe place to live for all.

AUTHORITY: President Dixon reported that the Municipal Authority obtained the permit to start building the new sewer treatment plant. He said that construction should start around September.

SENIOR CITIZEN/S.V.CHAMBER: Mr. Lentz reported that a meeting was held concerning the restoration of the Lime Kilns. He said that 15 residents attended and committees have been appointed to contact agencies that can give information on the restoration project. He announced that the next meeting will be held on Monday, August 27, 2007 at 7 pm at the Lime Kilns; if rain the meeting will be held at the Borough office.

He reported that the County is matching contributions for Senior Centers up to \$8,000.00 for a period of time. Mr. Lentz said to help the Senior Center; the Council could sell burgers at the Bridge Bust this year.

Mrs. Young mentioned that in March of 2006 there was a motion passed that said all Borough vehicles stay in the Borough. She asked that since that motion was passed if it would be violating anything legally for the Chief of Police to take the cruiser out of the Borough. The Solicitor said that the responsibility of the police falls under the Mayor. He also explained that from his research, he found that since there was no ordinance passed to regulate that issue, the Mayor has sole authority over the police.

President Dixon announced that there will be an executive session and the Council would not be returning.

President Dixon publicly thanked all of the patrons for attending and for being civil.

Motion to adjourn was made by M. McDonald and seconded by M. Lentz.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carol A. Jud". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Carol A. Jud  
Borough Secretary