

**Wrightsville Borough
Meeting Minutes
December 4, 2006 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, E. Pennell, and Mayor S. Rambler were also in attendance.

President Dixon announced that the meeting will be recorded.

President Dixon mentioned that anyone who wants to talk should have an agenda with instructions on how to address Council. He also stated that if they do not plan to address Council, they should stay quiet so that the Council can hear the person talking.

PATRONS: Billy Stevens had a concern about the 300 block of Cherry. He said that certain people are using it for a drag strip. He asked that a stop sign be put at 4th and Cherry Streets. Another concern is that his property has been broken into several times and he said that several times the police didn't show up or when they do, they just drive by.

Ralph Dellinger stated that he was not happy about how the new police situation was handled. He says that he sees police all through the Borough. He thinks we had good protection with Hellam Township Police. He complained about the taxes increasing. He wanted to know how you can hire a Police Chief that is not certified. The Mayor answered.

Phyllis Kauffman complained about her neighbor at 123 Chestnut Street. She stated that they have four dogs and 9 puppies. The one dog, a Pitt Bull, gets out all the time due to their door not staying closed. She is concerned about children getting bitten. The Mayor said he will check into it.

Chet Eckman came to complain about how the tax letter was drafted. He picked out things that he thought were errors and pointed them out to the Council. He asked how the previous council could get into a \$45,000 deficit in the budget. Mr. Dixon explained how the deficit happened, but that the new Council has reduced that deficit to a \$24,000. He is concerned that since he is on a fixed income, but his taxes keep increasing.

Robin Geesey asked the Solicitor, Walt Tilley, what parts of the reports are considered public records. She asked why residents have to put their requests in writing. Robin's last concern was that the Municipal Authority was paying the EYSD \$35.00 per truck load for them dumping back on Vine Street. Mr. Dixon reassured her and all residents that that has never happened.

Dawn Lindeman questioned how the Borough can rely on the State Police when it takes them so long to respond. She is concerned that none of the new police officers will be certified to do truck inspections. She was concerned that Wayne Pearson's background was checked. She questioned how the new Chief of Police can operate the police department and not be certified. The Mayor answered and said that when any police officer changes positions it is normal for he/she to have to get certified or re-certified. She wanted to know if the Chief and any other new hires will have to take tests and if they had to complete a written application.

Sandy Waugh wanted to thank the Borough Secretary and the Mayor for getting her an answer to her question from the November 2006 meeting concerning curfew for teenagers. She has strong feelings that it should be changed from 11:00 pm to 10:00 pm.

Mike Lucas wanted to pass on his feelings that the Hellam Township Police did a good job. His next concern was about the speed limit between 4th and 6th Street on Locust Street. He suggested that it be lowered to 25 MPH.

Anna Weirich wanted to know why she was refused to see the approved check registers. She wants to see them from Jan through Oct 2006, and should put it in writing and the Borough Secretary will accommodate her.

Don Wilt wanted to know that assuming the Mayor has to step down from his position, what would be the order of succession. It was explained to him that interviews and place adds would take place.

A question was asked by a resident who would be in charge of the town if the Mayor's position would be vacant for any period of time. N. Habecker mentioned that according to the Borough Code, the position that would be in charge would be the Council President.

John Wilton questioned the letter that was sent out to the residents concerning taxes. He is not in favor of the tax increase, and is concerned that the increase in the police budget will not be enough to cover the costs. The Treasurer answered.

Venessa Peters wanted to know if the reason for disbanding the old police department was because of the deficit. She did admit that she likes the idea of having police right in the Borough, but doesn't like the tax increase.

Jim Sosa asked where a parking ticket will be paid, and who will be writing the tickets. He asked who will provide back-up, should there be a need. The Mayor answered and said that Columbia Borough, Windsor Township, and the State Police will be there, and hopefully sometime in the future Hellam Township will be there as well.

A resident asked why the Mayor and the Council ask the residents if they wanted their own police department. President Dixon said that the Council and the Mayor did the work necessary and has the knowledge needed for this situation.

Robin Geesey asked about the police department evidence room. The Mayor said that only the Police Chief will have access to that room. The Solicitor said that it is governed by statute. Billy Stevens verified that no one at the fire department has keys to that office.

The regular and recessed meeting minutes for November were approved by motion from N. Habecker and seconded by M. McDonald.

Mr. Ruhl at 333 Walnut Street has requested a handicapped parking space. There was no Dr.=s note with the paperwork. It was decided to get the appropriate paperwork and approve it at the Dec. 18, 2006 recessed meeting.

POLICE: Sgt. Sauers gave the November police report, (see report).

TREASURER: K. Brenner submitted the November Treasurer=s report. Approval was given by motion from M. McDonald and seconded by S. Young with unanimous approval.

FIRE: There was no November fire report submitted.

ENGINEERING: J. Klinedinst brought back to the table, the Wrightsville Borough and Municipal Authority Subdivision plan on a plot of land that needs to be in the ownership of the Authority so that the sewer treatment plant upgrade can move forward. The options that the Authority discussed are 1) the easement along the river 2) give the Borough the block building behind the office building and 3) the building lit at South Front Street. Mr. Dixon said that if the Council agreed to take the lot on S. Front, the Council would have to agree that when it was sold, there would be some setback changes needed to be made, because of the location of it and there would be some variances involved. He feels that the cement block building being just a shell would require a huge amount of work, and might need a grant to provide funds for improvements if it should become a recreation area. Council agreed to make changes to the plan.

The second issue that Mr. Klinedinst brought up was the Walnut Street grant. He needs to give YCPC an answer on whether or not the Council wants to approve. Mr. Dixon suggested using \$20,000 from the Streets project towards this project. E. Pennell suggested using the grant for sidewalk and sewer work and do the overlay the following year. Council agreed for Mr. Klinedinst to tell YCPC that the grant will be scaled back and do some of the other work over and above the \$100,000.

President Dixon presented a drawing for County Line Quarry to subdivide 11 lots in Lower Windsor Township, in which 2 of the lots have portions in the Borough. The plan engineers want the Borough to waive their approval rights. The Council came to the conclusion to look at the plans before anything is decided.

SOLICITOR: Mr. Tilley brought the final paperwork for the stop signs at 8th and South Alley and 7th and Garden Avenue.

Mr. Tilley brought the Police Pension Ordinance, number 2006-7. It has been advertised and is ready for approval. N. Habecker moved to adopt and S. Young seconded, with unanimous approval.

Mr. Tilley reported that Wrightsville Borough needs to enter into an agreement with Hellam Township Police to deal with the transition from police coverage by Hellam Township to police coverage through Wrightsville Borough Police. The issues include the confirmation of the current contract and the start date for Wrightsville Borough Police Department and how issues of ongoing investigations will be handled. Mr. Tilley has a draft ready for the Borough Council to review, but is not ready to be forwarded to Hellam Township yet. Everything should be finalized by the recessed meeting on December 18, 2006.

HEALTH & SAFETY: Mr. Habecker reported that the animal contract from Hemler is ready for approval, but is missing the contract dollar amount. N. Habecker moved to award Hemler Animal Control the contract for 2007, pending finding out the contract dollar amount. S. Young seconded with unanimous approval.

Mr. Habecker reported that the traffic study results came back for South 6th Street, and they recommend that nothing be done, but gave the option to make the west side of the street no parking. Mr. Habecker wants review the traffic studies and take action at a later date. Results are still needed for Willow Street and 8th and Hellam Streets. The Borough Secretary will keep Council informed as to what the results are from YCPC.

Mr. Habecker wanted to add to the motion that approved the hiring of the Police Chief that he will receive 2 weeks vacation as a benefit. Mr. Habecker made that motion and S. Young seconded with unanimous approval.

Mr. Habecker reported that the office for the new police department is ready for occupation. He praised all of the employees who were involved for the job that was done, and said that the Borough and Authority have great employees. He has been receiving a huge amount of positive feedback from a lot of residents concerning the new police department. President Dixon publicly thanked Mr. Habecker for all his volunteer work at the new police department.

Mr. Habecker brought up the accounting software issue and said that Mr. Brenner and Mrs. Jud should be working on a time line of when the conversion can take place. Mr. Brenner reminded him that they were supposed to talk about that issue during his annual review.

STREETS: M. McDonald gave the November report. She said that the guys were busy with picking up leaves, preparing for snow and putting up Christmas decorations.

E. Pennell mentioned that this is the time of year that cracks in the street are to be sealed, and it should be put on the Streets Dept. agenda. He also mentioned that they need to inspect and note whether or not grates need maintenance.

RECREATION: The Mayor reported that the youth bowling night went well, so there is going to be another bowling night on December 9, 2006. The Recreation Commission is working on a trip for the Senior Citizens.

The Mayor reported that the Young Knights new football field is going to be at the Vine Street field. The Young Knights will not have the opportunity to use Memorial Field in 2007. Mr. Dixon added that the dumping of dirt is coming from the Eastern High School to be used for the preparation of that field. Since the school has been transporting the ground, the streets in Wrightsville have been a mess. Some residents have complained, so the York Excavating Company stopped their operation on Friday, December 1st to clean up. Paperwork is being drafted by the York County Conservation so that the dumping can continue.

MAYOR: Mr. Mayor reported that the Fire Dept. did a wonderful job on the 1st annual Wrightsville Fireman=s/Christmas parade on Sat. Dec., 2nd. A second annual parade will be scheduled for next year.

Mr. Mayor reported that the police interviews have taken place and the next step is to prepare for the background checks.

The Mayor again thanked the Rotary Club for the wonderful tree lighting ceremony and also commented and thanked the Peaks for the Nativity Scene.

AUTHORITY: Mr. Dixon mentioned that the office agreement needs to be finalized and approved, by the January meeting.

The Mayor had one more thing to mention and that was that the Civil Service Commission needs to appoint 3 people. Applications can be picked up at the office.

Mayor reported that he attended a meeting in the library of the elementary school to answer questions of concerned citizens about the new police department. He said that he will be forwarding a written summary of that meeting to all Council members.

SENIOR CITIZEN/S.V.CHAMBER: Mr. Lentz reported that a meeting will take place in March 2007 concerning the Lime Kilns.

President Dixon announced that there will be a recessed meeting at 7:00 pm on December 18, 2006.

A motion from, N. Habecker was made to recess the regular meeting at 8:40 pm. M. Lentz seconded, with unanimous approval.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carol A. Jud
Borough Secretary