

**WRIGHTSVILLE BOROUGH COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 3, 2007 MEETING  
COUNCIL MEETING ROOM**

The regular meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by President Dixon, who led the salute to the American flag. Also present were Council members N. Habecker, E. Pennell, S. Young & M. McDonald, along with Mayor S. Rambler. Treasurer Brenner, Engineer Klinedinst, Solicitor Tilley, Police Chief Pearson & Secretary Jud were also in attendance. Mr. Dixon announced that the meeting was being recorded.

Fire – Deputy Chief Smeltzer gave the report of November activity (enclosed). He noted 55 additional service calls so far this year, the average increase for each of the previous 5 years. The company completed EVOC training with all members qualifying. He presented the keys to the Mayor & Chief of Police for the newly purchased & equipped Durango that will be available at all times for emergency use. He stated that the vehicle is covered by Fire Co. insurance. M. McDonald questioned whether Borough police responded to the medical call at 138 Hellam on 11/24. Mr. Smeltzer said that State Police responded.

**PATRONS:**

Robin Geesey thanked Mr. Brenner for providing requested budget figures. She again asked if the \$395.21 was paid back to the Borough by the Recreation Commission. She read a report indicating that the cost of Bryan's computer training, authorized by the Chief, was not paid by the Borough, but he did the training during normal working hours for which he was paid. Where did the Chief get the authority to authorize this? She noted several items not listed in the budget. She asked who owns the water authority. Mr. Dixon explained that the Borough agreed to guarantee the bonds for sewer plant improvements to get a better interest rate for the Authority, saying that this had been a part of all bond issues in the past. Mrs. Geesey asked if the water system were sold, would the debts be paid off & the Borough get the money? Mr. Dixon said that the Borough bought the water system & turned it over to the working Authority to avoid PUC involvement. Mrs. Geesey also asked why lights were on in the police office at 4:40 AM on 11/8 when apparently no one was on duty. The Chief had no answer for her. Mr. Dixon said he'd have to get that information. Mrs.

Geesey asked what rates would be paid to the police in 2008. Mr. Dixon said that any increases would be approved by Council. She objected to the newsletter cost(\$277.49) being paid by the Borough when the Mayor used it for political purposes. She asked when Council appointments are made. Mr. Dixon said the Sec., Treas., Engineer & Solicitor are appointed every year, while Council officers & committees are named each 2 years. Mr. Dixon clarified his statement that training is done at no cost to the Borough. He was referring to the training fee, saying that employees are paid at their regular rate for time spent during the training.

Brandon Holtzinger noted that the painted line on S. 6<sup>th</sup> St. does not look good. He stated that the Borough web site has not been updated since the beginning of the year & the Borough minutes have not been current on the site nor on the office bulletin board. He thought that the Christmas parade was poorly advertised. He said that a rumor was circulating that Bryan Rambler is becoming a Borough police officer. When this was denied he wanted to know when to expect 24-hr. police coverage.

Dawn Lindeman, in reference to the recessed budget meeting when the public was not given an opportunity to comment, said that, according to the ACLU, the public must be given an opportunity to comment at any public meeting. Mr. Dixon apologized for not allowing that.

Anna Weirich stated that she was pulled over by Officer Carpenter on 11/8, claiming that he harassed her. She complained about his unprofessionalism at that time & noted other incidents, as well as his & Bryan Rambler's talking about police business outside of the office. She objected to Bryan being there if he doesn't work there anymore. She has written several letters requesting Bryan's termination as a liability, but has received no response. She objected to officers spending too much time at the bank & Turkey Hill. Mr. Dixon said the Chief would have to give some answers.

Patrick Shue requested a variance to the regulations for a clear sight triangle for fencing replacement at 50 S. 5<sup>th</sup> St. Engineer Klinedinst will provide his opinion.

Eric White resubmitted his application to fill a vacancy on the Civil Service

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Commission. He also requested better lighting of the American flag outside the Borough office.

Charles Robie expressed his appreciation for Walt Dixon's service on Council, especially as chairman, saying that he's been a staunch citizen, devoting much energy to the community.

N. Habecker moved, S. Young seconded, to approve the minutes of the previous meetings as submitted. Motion passed unanimously.

Royal Farms – Mike Scarborough, Nu Tech Design, requested final approval of the land development plan at the NE quadrant of 9<sup>th</sup> & Hellam. Final comments of the Borough Engineer & YCPC were available. Mr. Klinedinst verified that all comments were satisfied, except the provision of security for development, recommending that Council give approval, conditioned on the posting of the security; all standards of the SD& LD regs. have been met & requested variances approved. E. Pennell questioned the size of parking spaces – 9" x 18". M. McDonald asked if sidewalks would be provided. Mr. Scarborough said that note 18 on the plan states that sidewalks would be installed if requested by the Borough. S. Young moved, M. McDonald seconded, to approve the final plan, pending receipt of security. Motion passed unanimously. Construction is anticipated to start in the spring.

Susquehanna Dodge – Del Wissler verified that YC Conservation, as well as the Borough Engineer, have approved the storm water plan required for his improvement project. The stone parking lot was topped with binder before a land development plan was submitted to the Borough Engineer & YCPC (copies available). This needs Council approval. As long as requirements are in the process of being met, Council had no objection to continuing the use of the parking lot

Police – Chief Pearson gave his report of November activity (included). M. McDonald asked why no police were on duty Thanksgiving week-end. He noted an emergency causing a scheduling problem. She also noted a half-hour delay in response to an incident at Turkey Hill on 12/2 & said that since January, State police responded to 164 calls, including 22 incidents in Oct. She questions the safety of having to wait for State police to respond, and

suggested giving night coverage priority to justify the cost of the department. She asked why the Chief couldn't have covered the Thanksgiving schedule. R. Geesey noted that the Chief was permitted to drive the car home to allow him to return to the Borough when needed.

Treasurer - K. Brenner gave his November report. E. Pennell moved, S. Young seconded, to approve the report & check register as presented. Motion passed unanimously. The Treasurer updated the 2008 budget. Council pay for the second half of the year will be issued this payroll period. E. Pennell moved, N. Habecker seconded, to approve the \$1,000. 457B pension contribution for full-time employees. Motion passed unanimously. W. Dixon requested K. Brenner to revise the final budget figures to allow Council to vote on approval by the end of this meeting. He recommended that the Solicitor not advertise the final budget because the new Council has the right to amend the budget. The Treasurer explained that a resolution is needed to place \$43,600., the unspent police start-up costs, in reserve as recommended by the auditors. Solicitor Tilley will prepare the resolution.

Engineer - J. Klinedinst explained that a subdivision plan was filed with Hellam Township for the Blessing land west of Cool Springs Rd., dividing the area in the Township from that in the Borough. This is shown on a land development plan to be reviewed by the Borough Engineer & YCPC & then by Council in Jan. In reference to the Walnut St. Project, he submitted a requisition for payment of \$20649.93 from the block grant to the contractor. Change Order #2 was submitted to extend the contract to 12/14 due to bad weather & gas co. activity, approved unanimously by motion of E. Pennell, seconded by N. Habecker. The owner of 208 Walnut requested elimination of the grass strip at the curb at his cost to allow the installation of concrete to drain storm water to the street, approved unanimously by motion of S. Young, seconded by M. McDonald, the payment to be made by the owner to the contractor. The contractor will reimburse homeowners the cost of removing stones from sewer lines. N. Habecker reported that YCPC intends to rely on a current Borough Comprehensive Plan showing the location of a project when considering approval of future block grant applications.

Solicitor - W. Tilley submitted Ordinance #2007-9 to approve a 3-way stop at S. 6<sup>th</sup> & Orange Sts, adopted by motion of E. Pennell, seconded by N.

CORRECTED  
BY COUNCIL  
MOTION 1/7/08

Habecker. Motion passed unanimously. Stock & Leader is offering training for municipal officials & staff 1/10/08 at their office. ~~M. McDonald said that Ms. Jud won't be here in January.~~ Of particular interest to be discussed is the Open Records Law, governing records available to the public, & new audit standards, effective with 2007 audit. He noted that the standards have changed, resulting in a probable 15% - 20% increase in audit time & costs.

Health & Safety - N. Habecker requested clarification of the sewer plant project building permit fee. WBMA paid the full amount (~~\$11,856.~~ based on the cost for all customers. The Borough agreed to a credit for Borough customers. Mr. Klinedinst was asked to calculate the revised fee. <sup>\$17,902.</sup> CORRECTED BY COUNCIL MOTION 1/7/08

N. Habecker moved, S. Young seconded, to retain Hemler Animal Control service at an annual fee of \$300. With an animal shelter contract cost of \$800. by Susquehanna Animal Shelter, and \$425. by SPCA, he moved, S. Young seconded, to accept the SPCA contract. Both motions approved unanimously. Randy Gotshall, 101 N. 2<sup>nd</sup> St., requested a handicap parking space. N. Habecker moved to approve, but motion died for lack of a second. Council thought Mr. Gotshall's landlord should provide an off-street space on the lot at her business, which is likely required. N. Habecker informed Council that 25 mph signs need to be posted every 1/2 mi. for enforcement, possibly requiring 20 signs. The UCC COG meetings are on-going. Seven proposals have been submitted by enforcement firms to become a code official. He chose 3 to be interviewed for Wrightsville Borough by the COG. The COG Solicitor should prepare an ordinance including a revised fee resolution.

Personnel - S. Young reported a meeting with N. Habecker & the new insurance agent. Because the issue hasn't been resolved, the current health insurance will be renewed to avoid a lapse in coverage. Raises for Josh & Bobby have not been determined because the figures haven't been available. Increases will be retroactive. S. Young received phone calls asking if the Borough intends to adopt a property maintenance code. N. Habecker said a lot of work needs to be done to adopt such a code, and recommended using another municipality's code that is now working effectively. S. Young said Council needs to determine if Bryan Rambler is employed by the Borough, and if not, he must return keys.

M. McDonald reported a cabinet on the porch at 123 Chestnut & said that a letter needs to be sent by the Mayor. He will check ordinances. She objected to the letter she received about having the yellow line on S. Front St. painted & the letter billing her for calls made to the Solicitor for personal business. She maintained that the calls were made for the good of the Borough, particularly in reference to the S. Front St. land transfer, & feels discriminated against. Mr. Dixon verified that he directed the letter to be sent because he monitors bills & noticed the charges billed by the Solicitor to be paid by the Borough.

Streets – E. Pennell gave the report of November Streets Dept. activity. They provided leaf collection, put up the Christmas decorations & prepared equipment for winter weather.

Recreation – The Mayor reported that Wrightsville Youth sports is no longer overseeing baseball & softball & wants to sell equipment to Wrightsville Recreation Commission. He received an invoice from WYS for \$1,300. for the equipment, to be paid from 2007 Borough recreation budget. No motion was made. Jake Graham is asking for reimbursement of \$217.90, total receipts for purchases he made for baseball equipment, also to be paid from the Borough budget. Council felt that the Recreation Fund should pay. No motion was made.

Mayor – S. Rambler thanked Wrightsville Rotary for Christmas tree decorating & the lighting event, the employees for the decorating the town & everyone involved in the Christmas Parade. Those being considered for appointment to the Civil Service Commission are Crystal Bolton, Sonnie Peak, Eric White, Linda Gotwalt & James Hake. He recommended Crystal Bolton to fill the vacancy as a resident of the 2<sup>nd</sup> ward where the vacancy occurs. The appointment should be made at this meeting because the Commission must meet before the next Council meeting. He congratulated the newly-elected Council representatives. He explained the reorganization procedure for the Jan. 7 meeting & asked that the new board members consider nominations for President & V. President to be done at the beginning of the meeting. A motion was made to appoint C. Bolton to the Civil Service Commission, but it died for a lack of a second. The Mayor

requested a recessed meeting before the end of the year to get the appointment made.

Authority – Mr. Dixon reported a letter from Authority Chairman Landis requesting the appointment of Greg Scritchfield to fill a vacancy on that board. Mr. Dixon recommended the appointment as an asset to the Authority because of Mr. Scritchfield's experience with electronic controls. M. McDonald recommended waiting until the Jan. meeting.

In reference to the budget, Mr. Brenner stated that the revised year-end balance reflects the repayment to the Authority of the approved portion of the sewer permit fee. N. Habecker moved, M. McDonald seconded, to approve the 2008 budget as presented, not including the \$1,500. Fire Co. request. Motion passed unanimously.

Susquehanna Valley C Of C – The Mayor reported receipt of a letter from the Chamber thanking him & Council for support of the Bridge Bust. It was estimated that 25,000 people attended.

N. Habecker asked Council to make the appointment to the CSC to avoid having a recessed meeting. After much discussion & to avoid advertising cost, E. Pennell moved, N. Habecker seconded, to appoint Linda Gotwalt to the Commission. Motion passed.

The Solicitor requested an executive session to discuss a personnel issue, namely, health insurance benefit information. He disagreed with W. Dixon on whether the adopted budget should be advertised.

The public portion of the meeting was adjourned by unanimous motion of S. Young, seconded by M. McDonald.

Prepared by

  
Anne C. Knorr