

**Wrightsville Borough  
Meeting Minutes  
January 8, 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, E. Pennell, and Mayor S. Rambler were also in attendance. President Dixon also mentioned that the Borough Engineer and Solicitor were present, but the Treasurer was not in attendance.

President Dixon announced that the meeting will be recorded, and explained that the reason for recording the meeting is for the purpose of assisting the Secretary in preparing the minutes for Council.

President Dixon mentioned that anyone who wants to talk should have an agenda with instructions on how to address Council.

PATRONS:

Robert McBride – Mr. McBride brought a drawing of a concrete slab that he wants to put in his back yard. Mr. Habecker told him that he should fill out an application and someone from Council would look at it.

James Allen – Mr. Allen wants to erect a shed in his back yard at 503 Locust Street. He had to ask for approval for a 7 foot variance. Mr. Habecker motioned to approve a 7 ft. variance and M. Lentz seconded.

Sandra Waugh – Mrs. Waugh came to report that there is a car near the Northwest Bank up on blocks and being worked on. It has been there for a while.

Robin Geesey – Mrs. Geesey questioned the number of police officers that will be on duty at one time. She also asked if the police vehicles are to stay in the Borough at all times. She wanted to know if they have been riding around in them lately. She wanted to know if the police officers were hired yet. She wanted to know why the details were not broken out on the insurance for police, for instance vehicle, workers' comp, etc. She also wanted to know more about the police pension. She asked why the police cruisers are so large. She wanted to know how many tons of leaves were picked up in the Borough. She asked how much the Borough pays to have them taken away. She wants to know how many tons of leaves were taken out of the Borough and how many hours the Streets Dept. cuts grass. She wanted to know how the process is handled for open employment positions.

Michele Myers – Ms. Myers asked Borough Council for approval for an anniversary party on June 16, 2007 from 12 pm until 4 pm. She is requesting permission for patrons to have open containers in their roped off parking lot, and to have vendors, who will be off their lot by 6 pm. Council agreed that she needs to fill out an Entertainment Permit and come back to the February meeting.

Louis Hougentugler Hoffman - Mrs. Hoffman reported that there has been a lot of vandalism to her possessions, such as smashing tomatoes on the back of her garage, her snowman has been thrown in the church parking lot, took Christmas lights off of her tree outside and smashed them on to the pavement. She had been asking some residents why they don't want police in Wrightsville, and they told her that they like to drink and drive.

Larry Kirkessner – Mr. Kirkessner wanted to know when the police will be ready to start patrolling. He also wanted to know if the police department is going to give a 24 hour per day, seven days per week service. Mr. Kirkessner reported an incident that happened at his place of business, & his assessment was that it took the State Police 40 minutes to arrive. He reported that he called 911 on 1/6/07 at approximately 2:50 am. He reported that Trooper Capp was the officer who responded to the call. Mr. Kirkessner also reported another incident that happened the next morning and he said that it took 35 minutes for the State Police to show up.

Anna Weirich – Anna had a concern that the new police officers are young, and there is a lack of experience. She also said that they are too gung-ho and will be stopping everyone. She wanted to know the ages of the new officers. She wanted to know why Officer Earhart with Hellam Township was not hired and also Mr. Faringer. She wanted to know why Chief Pearson was not certified yet. She also wanted to know about who is covering back-up.

President Dixon asked for a motion to approve the December 2006 regular and recessed minutes. S. Young moved for the approval and M. Lentz seconded.

POLICE – Mayor Rambler gave the last Hellam Township Police report. Chief Pearson reported on how the new officers were making out and said that everything is going well. He reported that the radios were installed in the cars. They have ordered all of the paperwork that is needed for the department. The Mayor reported that the officers are using the time until they get their MPOEC cards to gain knowledge about the Ordinances and training that is necessary anyway. Mr. Lentz wanted to know if the hours that the Hellam Township police spent at the town meeting was included in the total hours spent in the Borough.

FIRE – Deputy Chief Fred Smeltzer gave the December report. He reported that a number of the fire fighters will be at Fire Fighter II level by the end of March 2007. He brought one of the volunteer fire fighters with him to the meeting. Mike Poole was in full gear, and Mr. Smeltzer told everyone how much each piece costs. The Fire Company pays for all of the firemen's uniforms and they have 26 full sets. Each set comes to a total of approx. \$6,000.00. Mr. Habecker mentioned that there is a quarterly Health and Safety meeting set up for Monday, January 15, 2007 at 6:30 pm in Council Chambers.

APPOINTMENTS – The Borough Secretary was reappointed for the year 2007. The motion was made by N. Habecker and seconded by S. Young.

The Treasurer was reappointed for the year 2007. The motion was made by E. Pennell and seconded by M. McDonald.

The Borough Engineer, C. S. Davidson, was reappointed for the year 2007. The motion was made by N. Habecker and seconded by E. Pennell.

The Solicitor, Stock and Leader, was reappointed for the year 2007. The motion was made by N. Habecker and seconded by S. Young.

All reappointments were unanimously approved by Borough Council.

S. Young thanked Mr. Tilley for the tin of cookies.

TREASURER – President Dixon announced that Mr. Brenner would not be in attendance to give the report. Mr. Dixon reported that the unofficial final budget numbers look great and that the deficit was cut in half. He commended and thanked the Council for improving the budget. A motion to approve the check register was made by N. Habecker and seconded by S. Young.

ENGINEERING – Mr. Klinedinst brought drawings of the Municipal Authority reverse subdivision plan of property of the Authority's. The Authority has a 50' easement along the river that would be given to the Borough in exchange of Lot C that the Authority needs in order for the Waste Water Treatment Plant upgrade to take place. Mr. Dixon reported on the lot that is in the ownership of the Borough and he said that he had two realtors look at it and has estimates of approx. \$30,000 to \$35,000. If the Borough agrees to sell it, they would agree to give set-backs on variances on S. Front and Willow Streets. A motion was made by N. Habecker to approve the plan as shown, conveying Lot C to the Wrightsville Municipal Authority, understanding that the Authority will grant a 50' easement to the Borough as well as grant a lease on the block building to the Borough for Recreational/Community Center and convey a property on the corner of Willow and Front Streets, also to the Borough, conditional upon the lease agreement being acceptable to the Borough. S. Young seconded with unanimous approval.

SOLICITOR – Mr. Tilley brought the 2007 Tax Ordinance number 2007-1, which has been advertised and ready for approval. Mr. Tilley mentioned that his office will start to email the Ordinances to Mrs. Jud so that she can print them out and have them ready for meetings and approval, plus it will save the Borough money as well. He said that it will be more efficient because it will be on the electronic data base. Mr. Dixon asked for a motion to approve and set the tax rates for 2007 for the purpose of 2.29 mills for the Borough and 0.30 for the Fire Tax. N. Habecker moved and M. McDonald seconded, with unanimous approval.

HEALTH AND SAFETY – Mr. Tilley submitted the Hellam Township exit agreement and said that it was amicable. The agreement states that there will be some involvement with testimony and evidence with preexisting issues that were in effect before the end of the contract, and the Borough will be charged \$50.00 per hour for those issues.

Mr. Habecker submitted a statement concerning some derogatory comments that were made against the Pennsylvania State Police. His statement will be sent to the PSP in which he thanked them for their assistance during the time that the Wrightsville Borough Police were not able to be on the streets.

Mr. Habecker has two traffic studies; one for South 6<sup>th</sup> Street and the other, Willow Street. The York County Planning Commission results say that a parking restriction be put on the west side of the street. For Willow, the results say that a parking restriction be put on the South side. N. Habecker made a motion to approve no parking on the South side of Willow Street, and E. Pennell seconded. Mr. Habecker reported that the existing signs on South 6<sup>th</sup> Street need replaced. Mr. Habecker moved to approve the advertising of the Ordinance for a no parking restriction on the West side of South 6<sup>th</sup> Street from Hellam to Orange Streets. E. Pennell seconded with unanimous approval.

S. Young voiced some complaints of speeding on Locust and Cherry Streets. Mr. Habecker passed those complaints on to the Chief.

Mr. Dixon reported that he received a call from Code Administrators who are the uniform construction code officers. They want a meeting to be scheduled to meet with the Council. Mr. Dixon mentioned to them that the contract does not run out until June.

PERSONNEL – S. Young wanted to make known that overtime is not paid until after 40 hours has been worked. She said that it is written that way in the handbook, but wanted it to be written in the minutes.

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STREETS – M. McDonald gave the December Streets report.

She also addressed the mail box at 312 S. Front Street. Mr. Dixon said that he talked to the gentleman who is the owner, and he agrees that he will provide the office with the name and address of the business and the mail box will be mounted on the garage on Howard Ave. Mr. Dixon mentioned how nicely the Authority and Borough employees work together.

S. Young had a complaint concerning pot holes on alley between Locust and Walnut Streets, between 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Streets.

N. Habecker happened to be at the Streets Department and was impressed that the office and trucks were clean.

RECREATION – The Mayor reported that a meeting will take place on Monday, January 15, 2007 at 7 pm at the Trinity Lutheran Church to prepare for baseball, and everyone is welcome.

MAYOR – The Mayor reported that the Civil Service Commission is up and running. They had their first meeting and the Mayor swore them in. The Commission members appointed themselves into their offices. They scheduled their next meeting which will be February 5, 2007 at 6 pm, at the Wrightsville Borough Administrative Center.

The Mayor reported that Mr. Morgan who conducted all of the background checks is finished and has a report on each officer that was hired. Mr. Morgan, who was present at the meeting said that Council and the Chief hired a great group of people with great character, and reassured everyone that they hired the best that could be gotten. He also reported that he dug very deep into each of the officers' past, and that the town will be pleased with who was hired. Mr. Morgan apologized for taking so long to finish, but he said that he wanted to be as thorough as possible. Mr. Morgan submitted the final report to the Mayor.

Mr. Mayor explained that on the treasurer's report, the account numbers starting with 410.XX would be what payables for police would be classed to.

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AUTHORITY – Mr. Dixon announced that two appointments need to be made for the Authority. Mr. Dixon entertained a motion to reappoint himself as an Authority member. M. Lentz moved

and S. Young seconded, with unanimous approval from Council. Mr. Dixon entertained a motion to reappoint Tim Kopp as an Authority member. N. Habecker moved, and then Mrs. McDonald said that she has a problem with the appointment. E. Pennell seconded, and then Mr. Dixon asked for questions and/or comments. Mrs. McDonald had a concern that allegedly Mr. Kopp is not being charged for trash. She said that he takes his trash to his mother-in-laws. Mr. Dixon said that he owns a property on Cherry Street. Mr. Dixon said that it will be looked into. E. Pennell stated that with the Authority going through the expansion to the Sewer Treatment Plant, he couldn't think of a better person to oversee the operations. The vote was 4 yes and 2 no. Mrs. McDonald and Mrs. Young opposed.

Mr. Dixon moved on to the office lease agreement. The Chairman of the Authority appointed Mr. Dixon and Tim Kopp and President Dixon appointed the Mayor and Mr. Habecker to sit down and come to an agreement that all could live with. N. Habecker moved to approve the lease agreement between the Authority and the Borough. M. Lentz seconded with the understanding that the motion would be tabled until the February meeting so the Council members could have more time to study the agreement in full.

SENIOR CITIZEN/S.V.CHAMBER – Mr. Lentz had a statement concerning comments that have been made over the past few months, concerning the formation of the Wrightsville Borough Police Department. He said that the Council and Mayor have been criticized for making a hasty decision on bringing back the police, but he wanted the public to know exactly how the previous police force was disbanded. The previous Council voted to disband the police in 2003 over 2 regular meetings and 1 recessed meeting, without a town meeting or survey. The process took 4 months. The current Council had researched the concept of bringing back police for more than 6 months, and have come to the conclusion that the tax payers over paid Hellam Township for the years 2005 and 2006. Hellam Township budget numbers showed that they had a surplus of funds over the past two years.

PRESIDENT - Mr. Dixon asked Council what they wanted to do with the property at Front and Willow Streets. The consensus was that the Council wants to wait until they receive the deed. This issue is tabled until the February meeting.

E. Pennell asked how the recycling is going since the Council adopted the Recycling Ordinance. Mr. Dixon said that the driver of the recycling truck keeps a log of residents who do not recycle, and mentioned also of how much the increase of recycling will help the Borough get more money through grants.

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Mr. Dixon announced that the Council and Mayor would be going into an executive session. The time of executive session was 8:50 pm.

At 9:25 the regular meeting resumed.

Mr. Dixon entertained a motion to have Josh keep track of daily operations and give to Carol to give to Council. He will be in charge of all vehicle maintenance, including police cars, and keep a log on each vehicle. He will keep all information on the computer. He will have to complete a 90 day probationary period to see how he performs. Josh will receive a \$.45 per hour increase due to his annual review being missed in July of 2006. The increase will be effective for the next pay period. S. Young moved and M. McDonald seconded, with unanimous approval.

S. Young moved that when information is requested by a resident and the Borough Secretary has to retrieve it, they are to be charged \$17.30 per hour for records that are more than one year old, and copies per page will be increased to \$.50. M. McDonald seconded with unanimous approval from Council.

The Chief mentioned that they failed to mention that there is one more "extra" police officer that needs the approval for hiring, and his name is John Leaman. The Chief would like permission to hire John at \$13.00 per hour, to work up to 30 hours per week, with no benefits and probation for one year. N. Habecker moved to hire Mr. Leaman and S. Young seconded, with unanimous approval.

S. Young moved for all Borough Council members to have keys to the office. M. McDonald seconded, but N. Habecker and E. Pennell opposed. The vote was 4 yes and 2 no.

A motion to adjourn at 9:35 pm was made by S. Young and seconded by M. Lentz.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carol A. Jud  
Borough Secretary