

WRIGHTSVILLE BOROUGH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF JUNE 2, 2008 MEETING
COUNCIL MEETING ROOM

The regular meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Young, who led the salute to the American flag. Also present were Council members L. Kirkessner, M. McDonald, E. Sipes, T. Groft, N. Habecker, Solicitor Tilley, Engineer Klinedinst, Treasurer Brenner and Police Chief Pearson. The meeting was being recorded.

Greg Fahringer – Requested a variance to his setback. He is replacing an existing shed with a larger shed and had notes from the neighbors who were not opposed. Because it is a movable shed Council was in agreement with it. Mr. Habecker was opposed.

Fred Fidler – He received a violation notice regarding a vehicle nuisance. He brought in plates showing that it is a street rod and explained he is going to be working on it but has another hot rod project he's working on so it may be two months before he can move it. Council agreed to allow him to leave it the way it is until the end of August. Mrs. Dietz will fax him a letter stating that.

Michael Henry - Suggested that Council move on regarding personal vendettas against Steve Rambler. He also stated that with regards to the police department Council needed to compare apples to apples and also said to quit embarrassing the town in the media.

Cindy Kisner – Spoke up to say she was for the police department and felt they were doing a nice job.

Dale Singer – He stated that money has nothing to do with conduct and was wondering why Council was making a laughing stock out of the town. He felt that the value of the resident's properties was going down. He suggested doing a background check on the new mayor.

Jill Hake – Stated she wanted to keep the police department.

Lois Hougentogler-Hoffman – Wants to keep the police.

Lynda Habecker – Brought up the fact that Council was creating extraordinary legal fees.

Sharon Amato – She brought in a newspaper article and was downing Council.

Janelle Hobbs – In favor of the police. Wanted to know what other areas was money being used. She felt the \$200 - \$300 tax increase the Mrs. McDonald talked about was fabricated to scare the residents and that the budget was broke five months ago.

Robin Geesey – Keith was questioned about the police budget and agreed that the employee medical benefits of approximately \$16,000 needed to be added on top. Keith mentioned he was working on splitting out. Ms. Geesey gave a comparison of calls between Wrightsville Police and when Hellam Township Police covered Wrightsville. Per Keith, the Hellam budget of \$158,000 included everything.

Marlene Lawrence – She spoke of a loose dog that had attacked her. She stated that she is 71 years old and should not have to run from a dog. The neighbor, whose dog it was, told her she only received a scratch. Chief has the information. She was really concerned because this happened in the morning when kids are preparing to go to school. She also mentioned that she had spoke to a family member who stated that when their police

department was lost to regional police they don't see them anymore – that it's more personal when they're in town.

Geraldine Stevens – She mentioned that she gets the paper every morning around 5:30 – 6:00 and she always sees the cop. She also sees them around the cemetery. She told Council to take a look at themselves and brought up a time when her son had passed away that someone on Council had solicited during her son's viewing. She also mentioned that Mayor Rambler wasn't so bad and that no one is 100% perfect.

Bill Raczewicz – He requested that Council considering banning RVs on the street. Marty Peaks stated that he will get his other vehicle inspected and registered and he was going to park it right in front of Mr. Raczewicz' house.

Claire Storm – She commended Council for considering the river front options and announced Flames Across the Susquehanna – a reenactment of the burning of the bridge, which will be held June 28th from 4 – 10:30 and there will be music. The bridge will be closed to vehicles from 7 – 11 and there will be reenactment units camping and possibly having campfires. She also informed everyone that rifles/cannons will be fired at 9:30 p.m. She asked who would be placing signs at Hellam and Cool Creek and blocking the bridge. She was answered by Chief Pearson that the police would be.

Ray Dailey – He feels the police are worth paying for and that there are ways to come up with the money.

Eric White – He informed Council that his videos are now being shown on White Rose Community Television but that Wrightsville does not receive this channel. He suggested that Council renegotiate with Comcast and ask them to bring that station to this area especially since they have the franchise in this area. Should renegotiate also because now a lot of people have all three services provided by Comcast.

John Shannon – informed of Diane Pennell's verbal resignation as Secretary of the Civil Service Commission. He also stated that he is part owner of Hake's Sporting Goods and they donated \$250 to the fire department and offered to provide all ammunition to the police department.

Kim Lentz – She mentioned that although 41 people at the May Special Meeting stood up in favor of the police department she heard that Council didn't feel that was a true representation of the residents. She then mentioned that 499 people voted Council into office and she presented petitions with 318 residents and business owners in support of the police department.

Mark Lentz – He stated that he has heard that the thought of changing the Police Department was because of cost. He said that the residents weren't being told that the figures include traffic lights, crossing guards and pension. He also stated that when Hellam Township Police provided coverage we received coverage 21% of the time and that with Wrightsville Police we receive coverage 83% of the time. He said at the rate that we paid Hellam, in order to compare accurately, it would cost \$717,331 to have coverage 83% of the time and that's at the 2006 rate. He feels that the reasons for being over budget are not due to the police department but because of a list of things: almost all the legal fees that were budgeted are spent, \$320 was spent to replace the lock on the Mayor's office door, the cell phone fiasco, the discussions with the solicitor about wards, and the replacing of the red mulch because someone didn't like the color. He went on to discuss the certain council members behavior including petty vandalism, 4:30 a.m. calls to his home and everyone who worked for the Borough having a fear of being fired. He stated that this is not normal.

Lori Cunningham – She wanted to know why funding options were not being investigated. She mentioned that the police were in contract negotiations and who could blame them with everything that's going on including

taking away the use of their vehicle. Also mentioned that appointing the only applicant for Mayor is not the best thing, that it should be left open for others to consider.

Crystal Bolton – She feels that saying we can't afford the police department and saying that taxes will go up is mismanagement as she feels the overage is due to Mrs. McDonald's unauthorized expenses totaling \$2136.50, Mrs. Young's expenses of \$713.00 and over \$7,100 of the \$10,000 budget spent for legal expenses.

Greg Fahringer – spoke again regarding the fact that he sees the police daily and only saw Hellam maybe once a week.

Annie Weirich – Brought up the drain at 200 Willow Street stating that it's busting even more and wondered who was going to take care of it and who was going to clean storm water drains. She said it's been two years. Also, asked whether or not we had a vagrancy ordinance citing that a man was living in an old van located at Howard Avenue behind 622 S. Front Street. Ms. McDonald stated that her van was traded for a new Toyota.

Sandy Wall – She feels we need an ordinance regarding parking campers on the street. Chief Pearson stated that per the District Attorney, if on a person's property, we must be selective on how we address. Mr. Sipes questioned whether or not they had to move the vehicles every so often. Mr. Fahringer mentioned that old ordinances should be thrown out before creating new ones, like the one about washing cars on the street.

The minutes of May, both regular and special, were approved after some questions and one change by Mr. Habecker. During the regular meeting, the motion did not die because of lack of a majority vote but rather because it was overrun and never voted on. Also, he commented on the fact that Adam Hoff had spoke at last month's meeting stating that everyone knew what he was doing for three months and no one stopped him. Mr. Habecker asked Mrs. Young who Mr. Hoff was and she informed everyone that he was her son-in-law and so Mr. Habecker wondered why she, herself, did not inform him of the requirements and she stated that Walt Dixon had been called. Mr. Habecker said that he spoke with Mrs. Young recommending he get a permit and she stated that she called Mr. Dixon back in November of '07. Mr. Habecker just wanted to know whether or not we were going to enforce ordinances or not and whether or not Council was going to back him up in the future.

Solicitor – Informed everyone that President Judge Richard Renn made his ruling and therefore a new Mayor needed to be appointed within 30 days. If not, the vacancy board would appoint someone at a public meeting. In regard to the Mayor, the Borough is not be party to the litigation. The D.A. will get all legal documents. The Borough has no say. If an appeal has been filed, he has not seen it. If an appeal is filed, that does not delay the application of the Judge's decision. If Mr. Rambler is asking to be reinstated, that request would have to come from Judge Renn and he would fill the vacancy. Mr. Tilley mentioned that parking restrictions had been requested on Hellam Street and said that the first step would be to refer to York County Planning Commission (YCPC) for a traffic study. Mrs. Dietz mentioned that she had already done this. Mr. Tilley stated that a motion would need to be made to ratify the secretary's actions. Ed made the motion. Mel made a second. The vote passed with Mr. Groft opposing as he feels the owner does not supply adequate parking for his tenants.

Council President – Vacancy of Mayor needs to be filled. Mr. Groft nominated Dawn Lindeman. It was asked if there were any other nominations. None were made. Mr. Habecker requested a motion to solicit resident responses. Motion died for lack of a second. Mrs. Young made a motion to close the nominations. Mr. Sipes made that motion and Mrs. McDonald seconded the motion. Mrs. McDonald made a motion to appoint Dawn Lindeman; Resolution No. 2008-13 and Mr. Kirkessner seconded it. The motion passed with Mr. Habecker opposing. Someone asked if a background check would be done on the new mayor.

Police – Chief Pearson wanted to set the record straight. He said that the figure in the paper stating that the State Police had to come 180 times this year is incorrect. He says there have only been 25 calls for the Borough with only eight reports. Mrs. Young states she was misquoted. That when she mentioned 180 calls it was for last year. Chief says that since the second week of February he has been on call 99% of the time and that's why there has not been much with State Police. Someone stated that they thought he was on-call 24/7 which he replied that he had to sleep sometime. He read his police report for the month and thanked the fire department for an excellent Memorial Day parade. Mr. Sipes began to ask about giving warnings to individuals who are out-of-towners that come to participate in charity walks and before he could finish he was told that it was already taken care of.

Fire – Mr. Kirkessner read the fire report for the month.

Treasurer – In Mr. Brenner's report he showed another money market account. He mentioned that although the insurances have never been broken down since 1980, he would do his best to try to do that. He began the process and stated that Mrs. Dietz and himself would have to go through the policies and try to get accurate figures which is difficult due to the fact that discounts are given for multiple policies. He mentioned that the bulk of the real estate taxes have been received and earned income taxes putting the Borough in a good cash position at this time. He informed everyone that the fire department received a portion of their EMS tax money that was due to them. Mrs. McDonald made a motion to approve the treasurer's report. Mr. Sipes made a second and the report was approved unanimously. Also, Mr. Brenner stated that the audit report as submitted last month needed to be officially accepted. Mr. Sipes made a motion to accept the audit report and Larry seconded it. Mr. Habecker questioned why an unpaid invoice billed to Mrs. McDonald was not mentioned in the audit report. This was discussed and Mr. Brenner stated that we have our audit done on a cash basis and therefore items are recorded when received. Mr. Tilley also stated that there are other items that are unpaid like tax bills and also items that are due to be paid that do not necessarily raise attention to the auditor. Mr. Habecker wanted to if we were ever going to find out if it was a valid bill. Mr. Shaud, in the audience, stated that the invoice in question was because the D.A. office called Mr. Tilley and the bill then came from Stock & Leader. Mr. Habecker thought this was cute that Gene Herchelroth knew so much when it's a political issue. The motion ended up passing unanimously to accept the audit report as submitted.

Engineer – Mr. Klinedinst recommended payment of final bill for Walnut Street project. He recommended payment. Mr. Habecker made a motion to pay final bill. Mr. Kirkessner made a second and the vote passed unanimously. He also mentioned that additional money had been requested for the Walnut Street project from the block grant people and it is being granted; Requisition #11 for \$20,000. A motion was made by Mr. Sipes to approve Requisition #11 and Mr. Groft made a second. This vote passed unanimously. Mr. Klinedinst had a PennDot completion report for Walnut Street project. A motion is needed by Council to approve completion report basically telling PennDot that we are done. In doing so, the County will send us \$10,000 that they committed to the project. Mr. Sipes made a motion to approve, Mr. Groft made a second and it was passed unanimously. He mentioned a meeting he attended and Mr. Sipes house following up with regarding to grant money for the river front. Talked about how all grants had could be put together. They also talked about ways to leverage money and ways to spend other people's money. Applications and Resolutions were created and Mr. Klinedinst ran through them and they were approved as follows:

	1 st	2 nd	Unanimously
2008-5	Mr. Sipes	Mrs. McDonald	Yes
2008-6	Mr. Sipes	Mr. Habecker	Yes
2008-7	Mr. Sipes	Mr. Kirkessner	Yes
2008-8	Mr. Sipes	Mrs. McDonald	Yes
2008-9	Mr. Kirkessner	Mrs. McDonald	Yes
2008-10	Mr. Sipes	Mrs. McDonald	Yes
2008-11	Mrs. Sipes	Mr. Kirkessner	Yes
2008-12	Mrs. Sipes	Mrs. McDonald	Yes

Health & Safety – Per Mrs. Dietz, the fence above the Hidden Valley Mobile Home Park that had been in question at an earlier meeting was found to be in the Right-of-Way of the Borough and the Streets Department is looking into the cost of material for fencing.

At 9:00 p.m. and Executive Session was called. The meeting was reconvened at 9:45 p.m. Mr. Tilley announced that the purpose of the Executive Session was to discuss a police performance issue but that no action was needed.

Health & Safety – In regards to the Civil Service Commission Secretary position resignation, Mr. Habecker requested that time be given to the public to submit their names for that. Mrs. Dietz will advertise and take applications. This will be done once a written resignation is given and the position can be filled at the next Council meeting. Mr. Habecker went on to discuss how he is baffled over the lack of contact he has with council members. He feels like he is not given any warning about things that are going to be discussed and also does not see the topics on the agenda. He feels this is a violation of the Sunshine Law. He showed a newspaper from 2006 that states this, also. He felt that the issues regarding the police department that were brought up last month should have been open for public comment but the public was only given three days to make arrangements to attend a Special Meeting. He doesn't understand why letters were sent to the Chiefs of Police for Hellam and Columbia and not their council. He feels that executive sessions are a bitch and gripe session. He stated that he has good success in his personal and business life and does not want to be a part of "taking someone in to the woodshed." He mentioned that he and Mr. Groft were unaware of the hiring of a Streets Manager. He went on to say that although the Hellam contract was no "bed of roses" and was a rocky situation he had developed a relationship with them and it hurts him greatly that they weren't able to work through it. He feels no one listened two years ago when he gave facts and figures. He states that he has a binder full of information if anyone is interested in reviewing it. He mentioned that the Hellam contract was vague. He said that Chief Pearson spends personal time talking with a boy whose dad was killed by the police and visits elderly. He feels he's a huge value. He went on to talk about face-to-face meetings with Mike Martin and James Ball regarding the Hellam coverage or lack thereof and read a letter from David Splain of Donsco regarding lack of response to 9-1-1 calls regarding spray paint. He also stated that the dollar amount is irrelevant and that the key to policing was presence. He stated that he is deeply hurt that people he made relationships with are no longer here and that he doesn't get the action of taking away the Chief's car. He stated that a portion of that is reimbursed. He was glad to get this off his chest and requested that if further action is taken that he be involved as he feels it is part of health and safety. Mrs. Young commented that the reason she does not call him anymore is because at one point he stated, "Why does everyone call me, I can't fix everything."

Streets – Bob McKee meets the qualifications for Streets Manager and knows how to do grants and will be a working supervisor. Mrs. McDonald made a motion to hire Mr. McKee at \$19.50 an hour. Mr. Kirkessner seconded the motion. Mr. Groft was opposed and asked if he had a CDL license and also mentioned that he did not think that Bud made that much money mentioning that there are employees that aren't on the Streets Dept. that are getting a paycheck. He recommended waiting until next month to make a decision. Mr. Habecker felt the same way and also opposed stating that this time last year our staffing was the same and we made due. We're trying to trim the budget and utilizing Authority employees can get us through until next year when we can add it to the budget. Mr. Kirkessner stated that by cutting out Bud's salary and the Authority employees that are getting Borough paychecks that we would have enough money to pay Mr. McKee. He feels the budget was destined to be over from the beginning. Mr. Sipes is in agreement. Although Mrs. Young was not able to vote, the vote passed with a majority vote. Mrs. McDonald had made a motion to hire Zach Ishman at \$7.50 an hour for summer help and Mr. Kirkessner thought that wasn't necessary questioning whether we could possibly get community service workers. This motion died for lack of a second.

Recreation – As Mr. Kirkessner was not able to attend the last meeting, Mr. Sipes reported to Council that Louie resigned. He stated that the Rec. Board recommended Danielle Neff for replacement. Mr. Sipes made a motion to have Ms. Neff fill the expired term. Mel seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. He also stated that the Rec. Board needed Council's approval to spend \$700.00 for trophies. Bob McKee has quotes from 4 places and this is the cheapest. Mr. Sipes made a motion and Mr. Kirkessner seconded the motion. Mr. Groft questioned the money that the Borough put in and the money they put in and Mr. Brenner informed him that the \$10,000 that the Borough put up is not in the Rec. account and that money is for maintenance, porta-potties and utilities. Ms. Amato suggested asking parents to contribute. Mr. Sipes stated that the \$700.00 would actually be coming from fundraisers. Someone suggested contacting Tim O'Donnell at Modern Landfill for a donation and Ms. Bolton stated that it had already been done. The motion passed unanimously. He informed Council that the Recreation Board may take over Basketball. In the process of getting facts and figures. They would like to use the fire hall for trophies with individuals bringing covered dishes. Lastly, he mentioned that funds were coming in to the concession stand.

Sr. Citizens – Mr. Sipes has been communicating with the Senior Center. They are doing pretty well. A Nintendo Wii was donated and the seniors are playing bowling. They would like exercise games for this system. Also mentioned that Pat Estel has been going to meetings with him or in place of him regarding the river front project. Also mentioned that you can visit www.brinjac.com to see proposed lights for the bridge. Mrs. Lentz recommended that this website and the Rivertowne site be added to our website. Mr. Sipes informed her that Rivertowne was already there and that Mrs. Dietz would add brinjac.

Authority – Mrs. Dietz mentioned the availability of ACH payments for Water, Sewer, Refuse bill. The bill would be automatically deducted from your checking account. Mr. Groft mentioned he has been attending the Authority meetings and commends them.

Mrs. Dietz again requested the old minute books be microfilmed at no charge. A motion was made by Mr. Sipes to have it done. Mr. Kirkessner made a second and the motion passed unanimously. She also mentioned that some businesses have requested advertising every month in the newsletter and would be willing to pay a fee. It was suggested that the first time be free and then after that a donation could be made. Mr. Tilley did state that charging for it was allowed as long as we did not make a profit. This practice would offset the cost of the printing. Mr. Habecker requested that Mrs. Dietz create a policy and bring it before Council at the next meeting. Mrs. Dietz mentioned the ordinance request we received from East Brunswick Township and Mrs. Young stated that this had no relevance to us.

Mr. Habecker corrected himself stating that the Donso's report stating that the police did not respond to their 9-1-1 calls regarding kids spray painting is refuted by police tapes.

A motion was made by Mr. Groft to adjourn and seconded by Mr. Habecker. This motion was passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 10:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie K. Dietz
Secretary