

**Wrightsville Borough
Meeting Minutes
November 6, 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.

Mr. President announced that the meeting will be recorded.

Mr. Dixon publicly thanked the Wrightsville Borough Municipal Authority for providing the office space to the Wrightsville Borough office and for the wonderful restoration that has been done. He explained that the whole reason for the purchase of the land by the Municipal Authority; is that the State approached several municipalities with requirements to upgrade their sewer treatment plants.

Mr. Dixon voiced his routine comment that no one, during the patron portion of the meeting will make negative comments towards Council or the Mayor, and that since there are many comments this evening, each person has 5 minutes to comment or ask their question. He warned the residents that if anyone gets out of hand, they would be asked to leave the building.

PATRONS:

Robert Sigman asked if all efforts were made to correct the differences between the Borough and Hellam Township. He asked if a police officer would be involved in the hiring of police and if there will be background checks and polygraph tests given. Lastly he asked if tax dollars will increase.

Sandy Dosch asked if the Mayor plans on having a town meeting, which was one of his campaign items that he promised. She voiced a complaint that she sees kids riding around at night on bikes in the street and on one occasion, a policeman drove up to them and did not do anything about it. She also stated that she was very happy about the new police force. She had complaints about messy properties, and abandoned cars around town.

Bonnie Smith complained that Hellam Township does not respond when they are called to an emergency, and that she is happy about the new police force.

David Smith agreed that Hellam Township has refused to respond to certain incidences and that on occasion their answer was that they could not find the address, or that they knew the perpetrator and they wouldn't do anything about it. He said that he thinks the police is a good idea.

Beth Metzgar wanted to express that new police is a great idea. She stated that we need our Ordinances enforced concerning noise, etc.

Dan Eller commended the Council and the Mayor for moving forward with getting police. He said that he has called Hellam Township Police several times, with *no* response. He also mentioned that the Hellam Township Police did not respond to a recent accident for about 15 minutes.

Mary Gable brought a concern about the taxes increasing, but is in favor of the police. She questioned the number of police that are going to be hired.

Don Wilt asked a question concerning the Borough being able to afford 6-7 officers. He agrees that the Borough could be able to have a cheaper police force. His other concern was that if 6-7 officers are hired, how hard will it be to keep them. He wanted to be assured that we won't have to contract out for police services.

Lincoln Stanbaugh thought that the Hellam Township Police did a good job, and that he sees them more than when we had our previous police force. He questioned what the repercussions were for getting out of the Hellam Township contract early.

Kim Avila stated that she is not sure how she feels about the new police force. When we had police before, she said that they had some vandalism to her home and her father had vandalism to his car, and the police did not check it out until 2 days later. Her father lives near the low income housing area and they never see police in that area.

Joe Lyle complained that tractor trailers drive through the area where he lives and damages his property, and they have small grandchildren.

Robin Geesey thinks that the reason for the new police force is for personal reasons. She feels that there are a lot of senior citizens in town that cannot afford another tax increase. She brought her own compilation of police reports over the passed several months. She asked if the Borough plot of land was given to the Authority.

Dawn Lindeman voiced her disappointment. She sat on Council when the prior police force was abolished and she said that it was not an easy decision to make. She stated that Hellam Township has a detective to investigate incidences. She thinks the Council is doing an injustice to the community.

Jeff Grove is a new resident and he feels that more research should have been done before the Council decided to terminate the police contract early.

Anna Weirich apparently had a petition with 91 signatures disapproving of the new police, due to taxes possibly going up, and wants a town meeting on the issue so that more residents can voice their opinions. She asked if the civil service commission was called upon.

Sharon Amatto came to express her appreciation and her need for full time, 24/7 coverage of police. She mentioned that she would like to have a safe town for her children to grow up in. She said that she has had positive *and* negative experiences with the current police. One being that she waited for 1 ½ hours for police to show up for a certain incident. She said that something needs to be done about people leaving the bars when they close and walking up the street with open cans of beer.

Ernie Englehart asked if the preliminary budget will be available for review and if questions/comments will be allowed at the next meeting.

A motion was made to approve the October minutes by N. Habecker and seconded by S. Young with unanimous approval.

Mr. Wissler of Susquehanna Dodge brought a sub-division plan showing the land he wants for expanding the truck business, which is 7 acres in total. They want to put it into macadam for a new product which is similar to UPS trucks. After studying the drawing and discussing the options, Council came up with the following motion: E. Pennell moved to allow Mr. Wissler to strip and stone the areas being 75' X 150', 35' X 40' and 43' X 175', subject to Borough Engineers approval and Mr. Wissler follows up with the Subdivision and Land Development Plan. N. Habecker seconded, with unanimous approval from Council. Mr. Wissler will also need to acquire a building permit for lighting fixtures. He should submit a photo metrics drawing.

There are two handicapped signs to be approved. The first is at 523 Hellam Street and the other is at 525 Hellam Street. Both have physicians recommendations and both have placards. N. Habecker moved to approve both handicapped spaces and was seconded by M. McDonald, with unanimous approval. A question was raised about payment, and Mr. Dixon said that there is a \$60.00 charge.

A question was asked from a patron to remove a handicapped parking space where a person has deceased. The Street Dept. will remove it.

POLICE: Sgt. Sauers of Hellam Township submitted the October report, which is mounted following the minutes.

FIRE: Mayor Rambler gave the October fire report, which is also mounted following the minutes.

TREASURER: Keith Brenner submitted the October check register and financial report. S. Young made a motion to approve the check register and M. McDonald seconded, with unanimous approval. Mr. Brenner mentioned that the fire tax collection needs to be forwarded to the fire department, plus the second half of \$15,000, which is \$7,500 that is due to the Emergency Services Commission.

ENGINEERING: J. Klinedinst explained that the Borough was awarded a \$100,000 block grant and gave the Council options that would be affordable for the Borough. One of the options was to tailor the scope of the project to just the storm water, curbing and sidewalk which would cost the Borough approx. \$115,000 including some contingencies, but would save money. Engineering costs will be approx. \$25,000, but \$10,000 could be paid by the county. In addition, the Borough can ask the block grant department for more money. E. Pennell made a motion to proceed with the rebuilding of a part of Walnut Street between Second and Third Streets with \$100,000 of the block grant money, but to have certain break-outs in the contract so the Borough can back out if the money is not available. M. Lentz seconded, with unanimous approval.

Mr. Klinedinst brought to Council's attention concerning 1.97 acres; lot C track 1 and 2, that belongs to the Borough. The Municipal Authority needs to be able to expand the Sewer Plant and the Authority needs to own it. The Borough and the Authority need to possibly do a land exchange. This land is not subject to eminent domain. Mr. Klinedinst recommended that Borough Council give the Authority 3 options that they would be in favor of which are: 1) Give the Borough a stretch of land for the future park walking trail, 2) Accept the Mayor's proposal to convert the block building behind the Administrative Center into a recreation center, or 3) to convert the cement area where the Electroplators building was, into a skateboard park. A motion to follow through with taking the options to the Authority was made by M. Lentz and seconded by S. Young.

SOLICITOR: Walt Tilley started by congratulating the Borough Council and the Mayor on a beautiful building. A motion to except the Ordinance establishing a Police Department was made by N. Habecker and seconded by S. Young, with unanimous approval. It has been advertised.

The Police Pension needs updated. N. Habecker made a motion to update and amend the Police Pension to comply with federal regulations, and to advertise it as well. M. McDonald seconded, with unanimous approval.

Mr. Tilley has a draft for no parking Ordinances for Willow Street. Mrs. Jud is to check on the traffic study that was supposed to be done at 9th and Hellam Streets.

HEALTH AND SAFETY: Mr. Habecker has the proposal from Hemler Animal Control, but wants to table it. Walt Tilley stated that he received a letter from Hellam Township Solicitor, Mike Craley, saying that the supervisors of Hellam Township Police have agreed with the early termination of the police contract, but feel they need to negotiate some details regarding transition, ie., some testimony and court time will be required for

some arrests in 2006 and they will need compensated for that. Mr. Dixon said that there needs to be something documented and given to the Hellam Township solicitor.

PERSONNELL: S. Young gave the approval for HighMark Blue Shield Health Insurance to move forward with the enrollment process. Mr. Dixon asked that the information be given to the Authority to approve.

STREETS: M. McDonald gave the October report. She reported that most of the month was leaf pick-up.

RECREATION: The Mayor reported that the Wrightsville Recreation Commission is going to hold a Youth Bowling Night on November 18, 2006.

The Christmas lighting will be held on November 26, 2006 at 6:00 pm, thanks to the Rotary Club.

The Mayor is also looking at bus company's to start scheduling bus trips for senior citizens and family's.

MAYOR: The Mayor thanked the Rotary again for the new decorations. He reported that there will be a firemen's parade combined with a Christmas parade on December 2, 2006 at 2:00 pm.

He relayed that police interviews for the Chief position will be held on November 7th and 8th, and the Council will vote on the Chief at the November 20th recessed meeting.

The Mayor stated that an "Open House" will be held at the new Administrative Center on November 10th from 4:00 pm until 7:00 pm, and November 11th from 1:00 pm until 3:00 pm.

CHAMBER: M. Lentz sent thank you's to all that helped with the Bridge Bust. He has been looking into two different grants for the Lime Klins. Mr. Dixon wants to set up a meeting to ask for volunteers to go to the PA State Museum.

PRESIDENT: President Dixon mentioned that if the Borough did not guarantee the bonds for the Authority, the residents would have to pay up to \$4.00 more for their monthly sewer usage. He thinks it is great that the Borough and the Authority are working together on this issue.

Mr. Brenner touched on the updated budget and gave the Council and the Mayor another draft of the budget numbers.

A motion to recess the meeting until November 20th at 7:00 pm was made by N. Habecker and seconded by S. Young at 9:15 pm.

