

WRIGHTSVILLE BOROUGH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MARCH 3, 2008 MEETING
COUNCIL MEETING ROOM

The regular meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Vice-President Kirkessner, who led the salute to the American Flag. Also present were Council members M. McDonald, E. Sipes, T. Groft, N. Habecker, Mayor Rambler as well as Solicitor Tilley, & Police Chief Pearson. The meeting was being recorded.

PATRONS: Marlene Lawrence brought up the issue of roaming cats. Mrs. McDonald state the cages are “ready to roll” but can’t trap in the winter.

Lois Hougentogler Hoffman questioned if there were restrictions on the proximity of a parking lot to an adjoining property. Per Mr. Habecker, the building ordinance references pavements and the 10’ setback would be required unless a variance was approved by Council. Also, he stated that the storm water ordinance as well as the land development/subdivision plan regarding buffer zones would apply.

Sandy Waugh had concerns regarding trash being put out the night before and it getting rummaged through, specifically behind the old camera shop in the alley way behind Turkey Hill. Also, said she would like to stop hearing about the issues with the Mayor. She said to let the citizens vote him out if they want but to move on.

Robin Geesey made her 5th request for information about who was in the police office in the middle of the night in Nov. She said that the lights were on at 4:40 a.m. and off at 5:00 a.m. Chief Pearson stated he did not know of anyone being in the office but that the lights were just left on. She again commented on the issue of why there was no civil service commissioner meeting in December since the Mayor was not locked out until ’08. Although Mrs. Knorr had informed her that there was a computer glitch on the part of AT&T, she felt that the lack of detail on the January phone bill was intentional. Mrs. McDonald eluded that someone in the Borough office made the change. Mrs. Knorr informed Mrs. Geesey that the detail is back on the bill. Lastly, Robin brought up the points that were available on the visa card and she was informed that once we reached 50,000 points, we will be able to receive a check for \$500.00. She was thanked for pointing out the available points. Mr. Kirkessner asked the Mayor if there were any plans regarding the civil service commission and he said, no. Solicitor Tilley shed light that there is an organizational meeting the first February of even numbered years when elections take place. He referenced Section 1174 of the Borough Code.

Galen Shaud stated that since the Walnut Street project began and the permeable macadam was installed, water dumps into his basement. He has a dirt basement so to him it’s not a big issue but he will not deal with it permanently. Mrs. Knorr interjected that additional block grant funding was being sought. Mr. Habecker stated that the project as planned is complete which did not include a top coat. Suggested Council look into this further. Mr. Shaud’s next issue was regarding the fact that Council is to serve the people of Wrightsville. He feels that the Mayor should not be using taxpayer’s money on legal fees and that he should just be willing to move his office. Clapping ensued.

Ruth Myers asked Council if an exception to the open bottle ordinance had been established. Mr. Tilley gave Council some options for re-wording the ordinance and it was decided to table the discussion as there was a lot that would need to be discussed. Both Mr. Habecker and Mr. Sipes stated that they have received numerous calls and e-mails and even a petition regarding alcohol-related issues. Ruth also questioned the Columbia revitalization plan that she saw in the Columbia paper and wondered if Wrightsville would be involved. Mr. Sipes stated he would address this in his report.

Anna Weirich brought up the fact that the Senior Center was the farthest East of York County and that they don't get any money from the State. Mr. Sipes stated he would address this in his report. Ms. Weirich mentioned that as of last week oil cost \$103.00 a barrel, \$3.15 a gallon and for this reason Chief Pearson should not be allowed to take his cruiser home as he has not responded to all emergencies. Her third piece of business was to ask if the bills, such as phone bill, for sewer, water, police and office were going to be split. She was informed that they already are coded using a chart of accounts as established by law. Neil mentioned that the break-down of the bills by line items is the same as all other boroughs. In regard to the company vehicles for personal use, Marlene chimed in that she has noticed the Streets personnel at Smith's in Columbia having lunch. Solicitor Tilley informed Council that they could create a vehicle use policy.

Vincent Masch spoke. He is the owner of 201 N. 7th Street. He is interested in purchasing the plot of land adjoining his property. He was informed by Solicitor Tilley that if it was a "paper street", he would need to seek out an attorney who specializes in title searches, find out who the successor is/was and if no current deed holder the attorney could advise him how he could get title to the property. Gene Herschelroth stated that the company that owned that land went bankrupt and it's very hard to research. Solicitor Tilley mentioned that bankrupt records may also need to be searched.

Eric White had questions about the Lancaster Conservancy he read about in the January Merchandiser. He fears that the ball field that is on the river's edge being a prime piece of property, may be taken into conservancy. Mr. Habecker will call to get more information regarding this. He also expressed a concern regarding a proposed traffic circle. He would like more detail. He said there was a press conference regarding the tri-boro and was wondering why Council didn't know about it. Mr. Sipes stated he would address this issue in his report. Eric also brought up the fact that DSL is not available in our area and feels we are at the mercy of Comcast and feels the citizens should have choices. He said he had heard that fiber optics would be coming in the spring of '08 but has not seen trucks laying fiber. He mentioned that a community internet could be started. To this end, Galen stated the Borough could increase the franchise fees but that would just add to the citizen's bills. Eric mentioned that he worked with Tom Armstrong in the 90's and has some resources regarding grants if Council was interested. Mr. Kirkessner requested that the meeting proceed.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved by motion of Mr. Habecker, seconded by Mr. Sipes. Motion passed unanimously

Solicitor - Solicitor Tilley regarding the Open Bottle Ordinance. He referenced his email which stated there were provisions for beverages out-of-doors back in 1981 and that the ordinance was changed in 2007. He stated that it could be changed again and gave some suggestions of wording including it be for a charitable event, note the duration of the event, location to be specified, suggestion was made of a possibility for a rain date, insurance to be required, etc. Ms. Myers mentioned she would provide a one million dollar insurance policy, compliance with the LCB and asked if she should get letters from the charitable organizations. She stated there would not be liquor outside as that is against State law. Mr. Groft asked if the number of times a year that this type of event could take place could be limited. Mr. Kirkessner felt there was a lot to discuss and the discussion was tabled. No draft to be drawn up by the Solicitor at this time. Mr. Habecker mentioned citizens' concerns for potential DUI's. It was asked how much it costs to "flip-flop" ordinances. Solicitor Tilley stated it was approximately \$100.00 with advertising and approximately a half to one hour of his time for a total cost of approximately \$180.00. No guarantee was given that a decision will be made in time for Ms. Myers' event. It was stated that whatever decision is made will affect all other similar activities

Fire – Mr. Kirkessner, in the absence of the Fire Chief, read the report of February activity.

Police – Chief Pearson gave the report of February activity and addressed Mrs. McDonald's concern of the Fire Department Durango not being allowed for traffic stops due to no blue lights on it. She stated that a little blue light could be put on it to use. Chief said he prefers they to use the cruiser with chains.

Treasurer – Mrs. Knorr, in the absence of the treasurer, informed the group that the Comcast franchise fee in the amount of \$25,686.00 had been received. Mr. Sipes made a motion to approve the check register which Mrs. McDonald seconded. The motion was unanimous. However, Mr. Groft questioned Robert Crawford being on payroll for the Borough. Per Mrs. Knorr, she was informed by employees that when he is working for Sewer/Refuse it is marked on his timecard and all other time is allocated to the Streets Department. Mr. Habecker stated that there needs to be a consistent procedure and requested that someone sign off on timecards. Mr. Kirkessner mentioned that there is no supervisor for the Streets Department and felt this needs to be discussed as elected officials can't be there during the day.

Health & Safety – Mr. Habecker is talking with the Fire Department about the preemption device. He is willing to have discussion with Springettsbury and Hellam regarding joining with them in their Emergency Management efforts if Council is interested. Council and secretary were informed that they will need to become NIMS (National Incident Management System) certified.

Streets – Mrs. McDonald presented an alley project proposed by Josh Groft. It would be an in-house repair. Mrs. Knorr stated that there is approximately \$25,000 left for the streets project per Treasurer. Mr. Kirkessner feels the Walnut Street project may be more important. Mr. Habecker says the top coat will need to be outsourced. Mr. Kirkessner stated it was his understanding that Red Lion and/or Lower Windsor may loan Wrightsville their paver. Advertising needs to be placed in order to award bids for road material for alley project.

Recreation – Mr. Kirkessner reported that five resignation letters were received by the Recreation Board and that although he did not receive a letter from Tim Kopp he assumes he resigned also, leaving six vacancies. The positions need to be filled as soon as possible but would like to take some time to consider the individuals that are applying. Mr. Kirkessner was comfortable recommending Crystal Bolton. A short recessed meeting was suggested. According to the Solicitor, if there is a quorum, which would be five out of nine members, it would not be needed. To that end, Mr. Groft made a motion to appoint Mr. Kirkessner and Ms. Bolton to the Board. Mr. Habecker seconded. The motion was unanimous therefore no recess meeting was necessary.

Mayor – Two years ago the Rotary helped purchase Christmas decorations. The Mayor would suggest putting American flags down Hellam and Front Street under the lights on every pole. He would seek outside funding. Mr. Groft suggested making sure to use proper flag etiquette as to not offend anyone especially veterans. Ms. Weirich mentioned one light not staying lit and asked if anything was being done to honor hometown heroes. Mr. Sipes said he would call about the wall. It was mentioned that Dick Weitzel at the American Legion donates flags.

Authority – No report.

Senior Citizens/S.V. Chamber - Mr. Sipes addressed the question raised by Ruth Myers regarding the revitalization project. He informed Council that he would be attending a meeting regarding this matter. It is a plan that is to involve Marietta, Columbia and Wrightsville. He stated Claire Storm, President Rivertownes PA USA, feels Wrightsville would be the best place to start – on Front Street, South. In regards to Anna's

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concerns for the Senior Center, Mr. Sipes stated that he visited the Center twice and got a copy of their budget. They are open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. They service 20-25 people from Wrightsville, Hellam, and Marietta. They will be doing a mass mailing to the 17368 zip code which will inform people how they can help (i.e. \$5 will give a senior three meals, \$10 will provide craft supplies, etc). There will be a Chef's Association Dinner on April 16th, \$13, All-you-can-eat. Lynda Habecker asked if local churches donate to the Senior Center. Mr. Herschelroth noted that the Rotary donates \$1000.00 a year and a question was brought up also as to whether or not the County Commissioner's office has funds budgeted Mr. Sipes did not know all funding sources at this time. Mr. Habecker made a challenge to Council to donate their bi-yearly check. Mr. Kirkessner stated that it is his intent to have the recreation commission offer future assistance.

General information – It was brought to the citizen's attention that the annual Flames Across the Susquehanna will be held in June.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 PM by motion of Mr. Habecker, seconded by Mr. Sipes. An executive session followed.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie K. Dietz, Secretary