

**WRIGHTSVILLE BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2011**

The regular meeting of the governing body convened at 7:00pm on Monday, September 12, 2011.

In attendance: Borough Council President Groft, Council Vice- President Hobbs, Councilman Scritchfield, Councilman Nelson, Councilwoman Bolton, Councilman Sipes, Mayor Habecker, Secretary Wirls, Engineer Klinedinst, and Police Chief Pearson.

Council President Groft called the regular meeting of the governing body to order at 7:00pm and led the salute to the American Flag.

**Patrons:**

Scott Blymier:

- Was at a Council meeting 2 months ago and had asked for a response to his questions regarding civilians riding along with officers. Still has yet to receive a response and wants answers. Will bring legal action upon the Borough if not given an answer within 2 weeks.

Eric White:

- Stated his displeasure in the Wrightsville Borough Property Maintenance Code.
- Voiced his opinion in regards to the fee schedule associated with the Wrightsville Borough Property Maintenance Code.
- Expressed his unhappiness with the appeal process for the Wrightsville Borough Property Maintenance Code. Asked Borough Council if the appeal fee for an appeal hearing would be reimbursed if the hearing is determined to be in the residents favor.
- Complained about the message on the Borough's Facebook page that was posted during the floods. Mr. White stated that he felt the message was forcing people to stay out of town which was not fair to the business owners.

Mel McDonald:

- Stated that the Mayor did not act upon a situation with a resident that occurred during the flooding when she informed him of it.
- Expressed to those in attendance that this is not a good time to increase taxes as most people are on a fixed income. The streets in town are fine and do not need work performed on them.
- There is no other town with a Fire Tax, so asked Borough Council why Wrightsville Borough has one.
- Stated her opinions in regards to the small property the Borough owns and the

suggestion made to possibly donate the property made by Councilman Scritchfield at an earlier meeting.

Mary Boswa:

- Stated that she was a resident on the 500 block of Hellam Street and asked why a nearby neighbor does not have to trim his low lying tree limbs as they are dangerous and will cause an accident.

Connie Stadler:

- Asked Borough Council if there was an Ordinance prohibiting a construction vehicle from parking on the street.

Annie Weirich:

- Thanked Borough Officials for how they handled the flooding disaster and for keeping residents informed.

Terry Cornelius:

- Stated that he has not yet received the documentation he requested from the Fire Department via a Right to Know request.

Councilwoman Bolton made a motion to approve the August 2011 Regular Meeting Minutes. Councilwoman Sipes seconded the motion. All in favor.

Motion carried with a unanimous vote, 6-0.

Resident Charles Kelly asked to speak to Borough Council. He informed Council that there is water coming from Mulberry Street when it rains and it is flooding his home. He stated that he has tried to alleviate the problem by implementing a swale but it has not rectified the situation and asked the Borough to look into it.

Councilman Sipes made a motion to approve the August 2011 Planning Meeting Minutes. Councilman Scritchfield seconded the motion. All in favor.

Motion carried with a unanimous vote, 6-0.

#### **POLICE -**

Chief Pearson addressed Mr. Blymier's comments made earlier in the meeting by informing those in attendance that the Police Department does have a ride along program that does not allow for just anyone to participate. The participants are those aspiring to become involved in an aspect of law enforcement as a career. All ride alongs are documented and various forms are filled out by participants. He asked that if a complaint is to be made about the Police Department, residents put it in writing and give it to either him or the Mayor.

Borough Council read the police report for September 2011 which consisted of:

50 Calls for service

20 Traffic Citations

11 Non Traffic Citations for Public Drunkenness, Disorderly Conduct or Curfew

5 DUI Arrests

9 Motor Vehicle Accidents

6 Warrant Services

**TREASURER -**

Treasurer Brenner was not in attendance. Borough Officials read the check register and financial report.

Councilman Sipes made a motion to approve the check register for the month August 2011. Councilman Scritchfield seconded the motion. All in favor.  
The motion carried with a unanimous vote, 6-0.

Councilman Sipes made a motion to approve the financial report for August 2011. Councilwoman Bolton seconded the motion. All in favor.  
The motion carried with a unanimous vote, 6-0.

**ENGINEER –**

Mike Scarborough addressed Borough Council on behalf of Royal Farms and stated that everything seems to be moving along on the project. Asked that Borough Council approve renewing the Penn Dot permit associated with the project.

Councilman Scritchfield made a motion to approve the Penn Dot renewal for the Royal Farms project. Councilman Sipes seconded the motion. All in favor.  
The motion carried with a unanimous vote, 6-0.

Engineer Klinedinst explained that the John Wright Land Development Plan is back in front of Borough Council because it was mistakenly not recorded within the required 90 days.

Councilman Nelson made a motion to reapprove the John Wright Land Development Plan. Councilman Scritchfield seconded the motion. All in favor.  
The motion carried with a unanimous vote, 6-0.

Engineer Klinedinst gave the engineering report for August 2011 which consisted of:

1. Royal Farms – Building razed in May. Reviewed approval process with Melissa on 3/30, anticipating an application. Meeting held with Royal Farms representative July 13; permit applications scheduled for August, construction following. Phone calls with Royal Farms reps; resolving issues slowly. Penn DOT permit renewal to be executed, I recommend approval.
2. John Wright Land Development Plan – originally approved 4/5/2010, resubmitted for re-approval due to failure to record within 90 day period. Recommend re-approval for recording purposes.
3. Comprehensive Plan Update– Total project cost is \$80,195 (Comp Plan Update \$40,970 and Riverfront Park Master Plan \$39,225). Funding makeup is YCPC \$15,000, DCED \$20,485, DCNR \$26,732 (pending), and Borough \$17,978. Preliminary Waterfront Master Plan presented 4/11, working on Implementation strategies. Public Meeting by Committee held 8/15; comments from YCPC received. Public Hearing by Council to be held in October.
4. Safe Routes to School - Grant awarded the amount of \$239,900.00. YAMPO approved additional \$90,000 funding. Ready to bid subject to one R/W. Working with solicitor to acquire Carney right of way.
4. CDBG – Applications filed. Citizen Advisory Committee meeting to review proposed 3-year Plan scheduled for 9/21.
6. MS4 –Derek Rinaldo plans to meet with the Borough in late fall to discuss any potential improvements to the Borough’s MS4 program.

Discussion amongst Borough Officials regarding the Act 167 proposed Stormwater Ordinance.

Discussion regarding the Susquehanna Dodge agreement and how the Act 167 proposed Stormwater Ordinance could potentially have an effect upon it. Council President Groft suggested waiting until the Planning Meeting next week to further discuss the situation. After additional discussion, Councilman Sipes made a motion to approve the

impervious/pervious surface agreement between Susquehanna Dodge and the Borough of Wrightsville. Councilman Scritchfield seconded the motion.

All in favor.

Motion carried with a unanimous vote, 6-0.

#### **SOLICITOR -**

Borough Council reviewed the written report provided by Solicitor Ehrhart, who was not in attendance.

#### **MAYOR -**

Borough Council reviewed the written report provided by Mayor Habecker which consisted of the following:

Previous month's activities;

- Attended July meeting of WBMA.
- Attended Council Planning Meeting.
- Attended Comprehensive Plan Meeting.
- Discussing 2012 Police Budget with Chief of Police.
- Continue to attend meetings pertaining to the future of ambulance service.
- Requested pricing from HVAC contractors to replace the PD furnace.
- Continue to work with the WBPMC.
- Fire Department Flurry.
- Issued Disaster Declaration ahead of hurricane Irene's arrival.
- Declared Disaster Emergency for Labor Day week flooding.
- Requested and received National Guard assistance for flood related matters.
- Worked with surrounding municipalities, county and school district during flooding.

Community Concerns Received;

- Flooding concerns.
- Continue to meet with various residents regarding ordinance violations in their neighborhoods.
- Addressed concerns with SRTS. (Pre- construction meeting with property owners needed)

Comments;

- The WBPMC is having some initial success.
- For the first time in six years the school crosswalks were painted and the signal lights at the Hellam Street crossing were operating *prior* to the first day of school. All credit goes to Jason! Thank you Chief Pearson for your assistance.
- Thank you to the WFD for organizing a "hurricane party" the Saturday of Irene.

- Chief Pearson is continuing efforts to find a suitable person to fill the vacant part time position within the PD.
- Thank you to all who helped throughout flooding. I cannot adequately express my gratitude to everyone involved!

Mayor Habecker thanked everyone involved in the flood emergency for their assistance and hard work such as but not limited to Chief Fred Smeltzer and the firefighters of the Wrightsville Fire Company 41, Chief Matt Dube and the firefighters of the Hellam Fire Company 21, Andrew Stern (Hellam Township Emergency Management Coordinator), Hellam Township, East Prospect Fire Company, Amy Smith and Tom Graybill (Wrightsville's Emergency Management Coordinators that also work for York County Emergency Management Services), Canodochly Ambulance, PA National Guard, Craley Fire Station.

Mayor Habecker addressed the following:

- Stated that resident Eric White asked for a fee schedule associated with the Wrightsville Borough Property Maintenance Code, so it was implemented. Not having a fee schedule when the WBPMC Ordinance was adopted does not have any effect on the validity or legality of approval of the WBPMC.
- Borough Council is perfectly capable of addressing the Property Maintenance Code.
- The Uniform Construction Code is not associated with the Property Maintenance Code in any way and it bothers him when someone is constantly using scare tactics and incorrect information when making comments about the Property Maintenance Code.
- The Borough is working on the low lying tree limbs throughout the Borough.
- Explained the complaint process for the Wrightsville Borough Property Maintenance Code in detail and expressed his pleasure in the progress made thus far.
- Stated that during the August Planning Meeting, resident Mel McDonald made comments pertaining to the amount of dogs residing on one property on Chestnut Street and that they are running a kennel out of the property. Mayor Habecker explained that without zoning, the Borough cannot really dictate how many dogs are on one property nor restrict the land use for it. The Borough of Wrightsville cannot act on hearsay and does not have the legal right to enter on anyone's property. At this time, the Borough cannot restrict the land use because of the lack of zoning but assured those in attendance that the Borough is working on implementing zoning in the near future.
- Gave Council his opinions pertaining to the budget and the need for additional employees.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS –****Administration & Finance:**

No report

**Public Works:**

Councilman Nelson gave the Street Department report, which consisted of:

- Mowing and weed whacking as needed
- Refuse collection at the river, the parks and the school as needed
- Set up of school crossing lights
- Training of temporary employee
- Filling up gas cans for mowing
- Repair of downed stop sign at North Front Street and Willow Street
- Removal of downed tree limbs in the lower park after a storm
- Obtained 3 quotes for new stop signs and purchase of 12
- Barricade placement for Historic Art Show
- Cleaned up Riverfront Park pavilion and the cleaning and placement of picnic tables at the pavilion for the Olde Town Picnic
- Worked with the Inmate Program on the walking trail down by the river
- Set up of barricades to prevent traffic from entering flooded areas
- Worked with the Outmate Program on the painting of curbs
- Painting of pedestrian lines
- Attended class on tort and liability
- Equipment maintenance

Councilman Nelson explained that the Borough had placed 3 large dumpsters for residents to use in their removal of flood damaged property items.

Councilman Nelson stated that he could not in good conscious adopt the Act 167 Stormwater Ordinance but struggles with the fact that if it is not adopted, the Borough could stand to lose a lot of State and Federal funding.

Discussion ensued about the Act 167 Stormwater Ordinance.

Council President Groft brought up the parking of construction vehicles on the road. Chief Pearson stated that Borough Council would have to amend the current Ordinance that addresses the parking issue but noted that it is a state road maintained by Penn Dot and they would have to be involved.

**Public Safety:**

Councilman Scritchfield left during the Mayor's report to assist in a fire call.

Borough Officials read the Fire Department report which consisted of the following:

Total responses

Hellam Township: 52

Wrightsville Borough: 23

Hallam Borough: 6

Columbia Borough: 2

Lower Windsor Township: 2

Manchester Borough: 0

Springettsbury: 4

East Donegal Township: 4

York Township: 1

East Manchester Township: 0

Medical Assists: 16

Vehicle Accidents: 10 (2 with entrapment)

Structure Fires: 7 (4 were working fires)

Brush Fires: 4

Automatic Fire Alarms: 5

Standby Transfers: 7

Fire Police: 1

Co Alarms: 2

Vehicle Fires: 4

Investigations: 2

Pedestrian Struck: 2

Public Service: 31 (trees/ wires down)

Debris Removal: 5

Water Rescues: 1

Average Crew Size: 16 PERSONNEL

Average Fire/Rescue Response Time: 30 seconds

Average QRS Response Time: 40 Seconds

**Community & Economic Development:**

Councilman Sipes made a motion to advertise the Public Hearing for the Comprehensive Plan Update for October 3, 2011 at 6pm in Council Chambers.

Councilwoman Bolton seconded the motion. All in favor.

The motion carried with a unanimous vote, 5-0.

Vice President Hobbs made a motion to approve and award the Safe Routes to School TCIS Inspector position to JMT. Councilman Sipes seconded the motion. All in favor. The motion carried with a unanimous vote, 5-0.

Vice President Hobbs made a motion to appoint and award the creation of a Zoning Ordinance to C.S. Davidson. Councilman Sipes seconded the motion. All in favor. The motion carried with a unanimous vote, 5-0.

Councilman Scritchfield returned to the meeting.

**Parks & Recreation:**

Councilwoman Bolton relayed the following:

- Basketball signups were coming up and there was to be a flyer going home with each of the children at the school.
- October 6<sup>th</sup> would be the fundraiser dinner at Hoss's.

Councilman Sipes relayed the following:

- The Senior Center would be having a sub sale in October.
- There would be a gift card raffle at the Senior Center in November.
- The Seniors are making ornaments to send to soldiers overseas.
- Historic Wrightsville, Inc will be hosting Museum Day and there is a request to close off 3<sup>rd</sup> Street from Locust to the alley. Councilman Sipes made a motion to close off 3<sup>rd</sup> Street from Locust Street to the alley. Councilman Scritchfield seconded the motion. All in favor.

The motion passed with a unanimous vote, 6-0.

**Personnel Committee:** No report

**Additional Business:**

Councilman Scritchfield gave the Fire Department report and relayed the following:

- The Fire Department saved 23 people during the flooding.
- Details pertaining to some of the incidents of that occurred as a result of the flooding.
- Explained the reasoning behind the request for the Fire Tax increase.
- Stated that if someone's house is falling in, they need to call 911 or the Fire Department and not their neighbor.
- The Borough would be temporarily using Canodochly Ambulance until a formal Ambulance Company could be decided upon pending the discussions between Hellam Township, Hallam Borough and Wrightsville Borough.

Councilman Scritchfield made a motion to amend the Wrightsville Borough employee handbook to state that employees are given their personal/sick days after 120 days of

employment as opposed to the 45 days that is currently in place. Councilwoman seconded the motion. All in favor.

The motion carried with a unanimous vote, 6-0.

Councilman Nelson addressed the comments made by resident Mel McDonald earlier in the meeting by stating that we do not want our roads to get to a bad condition and now is the time to correct and properly maintain them in order to alleviate potential problems in the future.

Councilwoman Bolton addressed the comment made earlier in the meeting by resident Eric White in regards to the posting on Facebook asking for people other than residents to respectfully refrain from entering the Borough as it was a health and safety issue. Additionally, it was not a mandatory request but rather a request made out of respect for the residents dealing with the flood at that time. It was simply asking that people be respectful of residents, emergency personnel and law enforcement and the job they have to do.

Council President Groft expressed that he felt the Mayor did a good job and made good decisions during the flood.

Councilman Sipes made a motion to recess the September 12, 2011 Regular Borough Council Meeting until Monday, September 19, 2011 at 4pm. Councilwoman Bolton seconded the motion.

Chief Pearson quickly made the comment that the Bridge Bust was coming up and reminded everyone that there would be extra traffic coming through town.

All of Council was in favor of the motion on the table pertaining to recessing the Council Meeting. The motion carried with a unanimous vote, 6-0.

The Monday, September 12, 2011 Regular Borough Council Meeting was recessed at 8:29pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Melissa B. Wirls*

Melissa B Wirls  
Borough Secretary