

April 21, 2008 Council Meeting Minutes

The April 21st meeting of the Penn Hills Council was called to order at 7:47 p.m. in Council Chambers of the Municipal Building, Mayor Anthony L. DeLuca presiding.

Approval of Agenda Items

The Mayor announced that Item No. 7.b. Appointments were being deleted from the agenda. There were no other changes and the agenda was approved as amended.

Roll Call

Roll was called and the following members of Council responded:

Present: Mr. Palumbo
Mr. Underwood
Mayor DeLuca
Dr. Kincaid
Mrs. Kuhn

Also present were: Manager Van Horne, Solicitor Brimmeier, Controller Sciulli, Finance Director Schrecengost, Gateway Engineer Minsterman, Planning Director Davidson, Controller Sciulli, and Deputy Clerk Fitzhenry.

Mayor DeLuca announced since there were many people in the audience wishing to speak regarding sewer fees, the Council would complete the agenda items and the discussion session and the allow time for the Engineer to make a brief presentation followed by questions from the audience.

Approval of Minutes

Dr. Kincaid made a motion to approve the December 5, 2007 Budget Hearing Minutes, the December 12, 2007 town Meeting Minutes and the December 19, 2007 Budget Hearing Minutes as presented.

Mr. Underwood seconded the motion and it was approved by a vote of 4 to 0 to 1, Mr. Palumbo abstained.

EXPENDITURES

Approval of Warrants

Mrs. Kuhn made a motion to approve the Master Expenditure Summary dated April 21, 2008 including Journal Vouchers numbering 1 in the amount of \$33,374.78; C.D. Requisitions numbering 12 in the amount of \$15,360.00; Master Checks No. 7328 to 7477 in the amount of \$1,079,877.56, Wire Transfers 1 to 8 in the amount of \$122,571.36 making a grand total of \$1,251,183.70.

Approval of Warrants (Continued)

Dr. Kincaid seconded the motion.

Mrs. Kuhn questioned Check No. 7435 to Duquesne Light, Check No. 7352 regarding the Wilkins dispute and 7439 to Flynn's Tire and the number of tires purchased on a regular basis i.e., tracking of tire purchases and use, Check No. 7370 to Nick's Auto for repairs and Check No. 7468 to Verizon as it relates to cell phone usage and the implementation of a municipal policy.

Manager Van Horne addressed each of the checks and the concerns raised.

Mr. Underwood questioned Check No. 7339 to Control Tech Solutions regarding flow monitoring calibrations, Check No. 7345 to Duquesne Light regarding the inspection of WPCD truck #301, Check No. 7352 to Flynn's Tire and Check No. 7356 to Genuine Auto Parts.

Manager Van Horne, Finance Director Schrecengost and Engineer Minsterman responded to the questions raised on each check.

Dr. Kincaid questioned Check No. 7417 to Allied Waste as it relates to sludge removal and recycling and Check No. 7336 to Cargill for road salt.

Manager Van Horne, Finance Director Schrecengost and Deputy Clerk Fitzhenry responded to each inquiry.

Manager Van Horne also commented that several checks were received regarding telephone communications – Remi, etc.

There being no further discussion on this matter, the motion was approved by a vote of 5 to 0.

Resolutions

Dr. Kincaid made a motion to approve **Resolution No. 2008-022** authorizing execution of a contract with Gateway Engineers for the Pavement Management Program in an amount not to exceed \$65,000.00.

Mr. Underwood seconded the motion and it was approved by a vote of 5 to 0.

Mrs. Kuhn made a motion to approve **Resolution No. 2008-023** authorizing the execution of a contract with Gateway Engineers for professional engineering services related to the Penn Hills Community Development Program.

Resolutions (Continued)

Dr. Kincaid seconded the motion and it was approved by a vote of 5 to 0.

Dr. Kincaid made a motion to approve **Resolution No. 2008-024** authorizing the participation of the Municipality in the Redevelopment Authority of Allegheny County's vacant property recovery program subject to certain requirements.

Mrs. Kuhn seconded the motion and it was approved by a vote of 5 to 0.

Items for Consideration

Dr. Kincaid made a motion authorizing the Municipality of Penn Hills to opt out of the County's Community Development Block Grant Program.

Mr. Underwood seconded the motion and it was approved by a vote of 5 to 0.

Appointments were deleted at the beginning of the meeting

Introduction of Ordinances, Resolutions, etc.

Council had no legislation to introduce at this time.

REPORTS – Mayor, Council, Manager, etc.

Mr. Underwood extended his thanks to the Administrative Staff, specifically Peggy Schonbachler, Cynthia Carson and Diane Fitzhenry for the great job they have done in answering the large volume of telephone calls regarding the new sewer rates.

Mayor DeLuca reported on the organization of a safety committee and noted that having the committee will save the Municipality 5% or \$24,960.00 off the worker's compensation premiums. Mayor DeLuca thanked all the members of the Safety Committee: Corrine Puszko, John McClintock, Joe Probo, Jack Mason, Jane Carr, Ursula Pofi, Dianne DiNatale, Ken Sebastian, Moe Rayan, Cynthia Carson, Tom O'Grady, Mary Ann Zeak, Ron Zarotney and Bob Hunter.

Mayor DeLuca also reported that the audit report was in for the CDBG Program and he thanked the Planning Department for all their work. He noted the audit report had no findings.

Deputy Clerk Fitzhenry asked residents to held stack chairs after the meeting for election events tomorrow.

DISCUSSION SESSION

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| 1. Grants | (S. Kuhn) |
| 2. Sewer Delinquencies | (S. Kuhn) |
| 3. Payment of Invoices | (J. Palumbo) |
| 4. Library Operating Policies | (H. Davidson) |
| 5. Schedule of Fees | (H. Davidson) |
| 6. Vacant Property Ordinance | (H. Davidson) |
| 7. New Business | (A. DeLuca) |

Gateway Engineer Rick Minsterman gave a brief overview of the sewer issues of concern to the residents. He provided copies of a pie chart representing revenue and expenditures. The chart represents debt at 50%, regulatory compliance at 6%, administration at 9%, operations at 21%, line maintenance at 9% and employee benefits at 5%. A substantial part of the pie chart is the debt service at 50% which equates to over \$4 million a year. He explained that over the years, some of the debt payments were delayed by refinancing the bonds so that rates would not be increased. This Council is looking to pay the debt down and not put those payments off any longer which is what resulted in this rate structure. He explained that the new \$10 per month customer service charge is being used to pay back the debt. In addition \$3.74 of the per thousand gallon cost goes directly to debt service.

The following residents addressed Council on concerns with sewer rates, billing and sewer fund budget:

Karyn Zunich of Poplar Ridge Drive, Cynthia Riddle of Quincy Drive, John Ziegler of Third Street, Yvonne Rollins of Suncrest Drive, Jane Loney of Randolph Lane, Marlene Schott (a Penn Hills landlord) of Mardi Gras Drive in Plum, Ed Ostrowski of Maple Avenue, Joseph "Mickey" O'Connor of Maple Avenue, Karyn Zunich of Poplar Ridge Drive, Ed Zullo of Elizabeth Drive and Elaine Woods of Suncrest Drive.

The Council, Solicitor and various members of the Administrative Staff attempted to further explain the sewer issues based on the concerns raised by each resident. Manager Van Horne intends to meet with several of the individuals on their concerns and will call others back after reviewing their concerns with billing issues. He urged residents to call or visit the Administrative Offices, if they have any billing concerns.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the Mayor asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Dr. Kincaid made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Underwood seconded the motion to adjourn and it was approved by a vote of 5 to 0.

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Adjournment (Continued)

The meeting adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Note: The items listed below were discussed in closed session following the adjournment of this meeting: Wilkins Boundary (S. Kuhn); EADS Fencing - Skate Park (S. Kuhn); Personnel Behavior (S. Kuhn).

Council also held an executive session on Personnel and Litigation matters.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Diane Fitzhenry, MMC
Deputy Municipal Clerk