

June 10, 2008 Council Meeting Minutes

The June 10th meeting of the Penn Hills Council was called to order at 7:44 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.a. Resolution No. 2008-035 and Item No. 8. a. Appointments were being deleted from the agenda and that a motion authorizing an agreement with Wilksburg-Penn Joint Water Authority to collect sewage fees was being added under Items for Consideration. He also noted that two resolutions were required for municipal insurances listed under Item No. 7 d. There were no other changes and the agenda was approved as amended.

Pledge of Allegiance

Council and the audience stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

Roll was called and the following members of Council responded:

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

Also present were: Manager Van Horne, Solicitor Brimmeier, Gateway Engineer Minsterman, Finance Director Schrecengost, Principal Planner Blackwell and Deputy Clerk Fitzhenry.

Citizens to Address Council:

Rev. Elsie P. Neal requested to speak concerning the ambulance service, but did not attend the meeting.

EXPENDITURES

Approval of Warrants

Dr. Kincaid made a motion to approve the Master Expenditure Summary dated June 10, 2008 including Journal Vouchers numbering 0 in the amount of \$0; C.D. Requisitions numbering 9 in the amount of \$6,887.73; Master Checks

Approval of Warrants (Continued)

No. 7751 to 7940 in the amount of \$666,195.88, Wire Transfers No. 27 to 36 in the amount of \$153,103.43 for a total Master Account in the amount of \$819,299.31, making a grand total of \$826,187.04.

Mrs. Kuhn seconded the motion.

Mrs. Kuhn questioned Check No. 7888 to Gateway Engineers as it relates to billing for Wal-Mart and Lowe's. She asked if the Municipality was being reimbursed for engineering expenses by the developer.

Principal Planner Chris Blackwell stated that the developer has established an account with the Municipality from which these types of charges are drawn down, so the Municipality is being reimbursed. He was unsure of the total charged to this point, but assured Mrs. Kuhn that Finance Director Schrecengost and Planning Director Davidson routinely monitor the funds.

Finance Director Schrecengost confirmed that funds are available from the developer to pay these expenses.

Mrs. Kuhn questioned Check No. 7894 to Instant Electric and was glad to see they were finally getting paid for their set-up work at 2007 Community Days. She also questioned the remaining money in the 2008 budget under the Community Days project.

Both Manager Van Horne and Finance Director Schrecengost stated that the remaining funds will be redistributed sometime after the end of June to make up for some shortfalls in other accounts.

Mr. Underwood questioned Check No. 7770 to Flynn's Tires and Check No 7889 to Genuine Auto Parts as some of these items have not yet shown up on the vehicle maintenance report. He believes it is extremely important to have the expenditures all show up on the vehicle maintenance report so proper tracking can be completed. He also commented that tracking of the newly refurbished police vehicle #38 must be done promptly and accurately so future decisions can be made on handling of such vehicles.

Manager Van Horne advised that he would discuss the reporting with the Purchasing Agent.

Approval of Warrants (Continued)

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

Ordinances

Mr. Underwood made a motion to approve **Ordinance No. 2499** amending the Codified ordinances at Chapter 1042 to add a section titled "Billing and Collection." Such section shall apply in the event the Municipality enters into an agreement with one or more municipal authorities to provide billing and collection services to the Municipality of Penn Hills for sewer service charges.

Dr. Kincaid seconded the motion.

Mr. Nick Scuccimarri from 126 Richmore Drive explained he has a concern about an overcharge on his sewer bill of approximately \$43.

Deputy Clerk Fitzhenry explained the recent billing cycles and how refunds are being handled. She told Mr. Scuccimarri, if he doesn't receive a credit on his next sewer bill to contact the Manager's Office.

The motion was approved by a vote of 5 to 0.

Resolutions

Note: Resolution No. 2008-035 was deleted at the beginning of the agenda.

Dr. Kincaid made a motion to approve **Resolution No. 2008-036** authorizing the acquisition and ultimate disposition of numerous parcels of vacant land known as Lot and Block Numbers 173-C-355, 173-D-339 and 173-C-367 and providing assurance to Allegheny County of consistency with the Penn Hills Comprehensive Plan.

Mrs. Kuhn seconded the motion.

Ms. Sheila Morgan of 7524 Elk Road asked if the vacant store in the vicinity of these properties would be torn down and if that demolition project could be expedited.

Resolutions (Continued)

Principal Planner Blackwell stated that the store, the bar across the street and an apartment building were in the next round of demolition. He further stated that these projects are being expedited through the Planning Department and Code Enforcement.

The motion was approved by a vote of 5 to 0.

Mr. Underwood made a motion to approve **Resolution No. 2008-037** awarding a contract to Custom Door Systems, Inc., for the William McKinley Community Center Door Replacement in the amount of \$68,619.00.

Mrs. Kuhn seconded the motion.

Mr. Joseph "Mickey" O'Connor asked if this project was funded by the general fund or community development budget.

Finance Director Schrecengost stated that it was a community development project.

The motion was approved by a vote of 5 to 0.

Dr. Kincaid made a motion to approve **Resolution No. 2008-038** authorizing the continued use of Fedele Insurance Services, Inc., as the Municipality's Insurance Broker and authorizing Fedele Insurance Services, Inc., to provide municipal insurance for property, liability, automobile and worker's compensation coverage through Travelers Insurance Company and to provide coverage for the fire vehicles through Arch Insurance Company for the policy year July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009.

Mrs. Kuhn seconded the motion.

Mr. Chris Fedele gave a general overview of the policies – stating that property values were increased by 5% for inflation, payroll values were increased by 5%, 8 or 9 new 2008 vehicles were added to the policy, coverage and deductibles remained the same. He was pleased the premium came in at approximately ½ percent increase over last year.

Mayor DeLuca asked how many companies were asked to quote insurance prices for the Municipality.

Resolutions (Continued)

Mr. Fedele stated that several companies were asked to quote and this is the best price for the package. He stated that Travelers has been the Municipality's carrier and they are very aggressive in the public sector market.

Mayor DeLuca questioned the details of the worker's compensation insurance.

Mr. Fedele stated that this is the second year for coverage with Travelers for worker's compensation with the prior years handled through State Fund. He explained that Travelers is a guaranteed cost program so there will be no assessments on the premium based on claim experience. He explained that the Municipality saves approximately 5% or \$27,000 for having a Safety Committee and Travelers will be conducting several different training programs for members of the Safety Committee.

Mrs. Kuhn voiced her concern over the fact that these Resolutions were just placed in front of her this evening without any explanations of the coverage and cost. She raised concerns over the claims filed in the past year by the volunteer firemen which have been denied, etc.

Manager Van Horne and Mr. Fedele stated that those claims have been discussed and the Manager had a memo prepared for Council which would be sent out explaining all the claims filed last year including the seven claims for firemen and the ones that went unpaid by the insurance company.

Mr. Fedele stated he met with Mrs. Carson and pulled the claims for the entire year. He stated there were a total of 62 workers comp. claims, 7 of those were firemen and a few went unpaid. He said he needs to get more details on the denied claims.

Mrs. Kuhn stated that she will follow up with Administration on those because it may be just a lack of communications with the volunteer firemen that have caused these concerns to surface.

Mayor DeLuca asked Mr. Fedele if he could meet with the Fire Chiefs to discuss any new forms, coverage, etc. to help eliminate some of the confusion.

Mr. Fedele stated he would be happy to meet with the Chiefs and explain new forms, policy changes, equipment lists, etc.

Dr. Kincaid questioned the replacement cost on fire vehicle coverage.

Resolutions (Continued)

Mr. Fedele explained that it is full replacement cost for vehicles and special equipment. He stated those costs are provided by the fire chiefs as far as costs to replace a specific fire truck or specialized piece of equipment.

Mr. Joseph "Mickey" O'Connor questioned if the numbers are within the budgeted costs.

Finance Director Schrecengost explained half of this cost is this year and half will be next year's budget because of the coverage year.

Mr. O'Connor asked if the workers compensation modifier was up or down this year.

Mr. Fedele stated the modifier was down.

Mr. O'Connor stated one concern about the firefighter coverage has to do with those firemen who are self-employed and the loss of income as a result of their injury claim. He stated there is no provision in workers compensation to cover their inability to work and it also causes problems with the Provident coverage. His example was a flower shop owner who gets hurt fighting a fire and cannot work because of the injury and is unable to continue his business because no one else can totally run the business in his absence.

Mr. Fedele explained that loss of wages are based on reportable W-2 income.

Mr. O'Connor said this doesn't affect many firefighters but there are probably 5 or 6 from among the seven fire companies who are self-employed.

Mayor DeLuca and Mrs. Kuhn expressed their concern over this matter and asked that it be looked into and followed up on with Administration and the fire departments.

The motion was approved by a vote of 5 to 0.

Dr. Kincaid made a motion to approve **Resolution No. 2008-039** authorizing the continued use of the HDH Group, Inc., to provide police professional liability coverage with National Casualty Company for the policy year July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009.

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

Items for Consideration

Note: Appointments were deleted at the beginning of the agenda.

Agreement with Wilksburg-Penn Joint Water Authority

Mrs. Kuhn made a motion to authorize execution of an agreement with the Wilksburg-Penn Joint Water Authority for collection of sewer user fees.

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

Introductions of Ordinances, Resolutions, etc.

Mrs. Kuhn suggested legislation requiring inspections by the fire marshal every six months on rental properties within the Municipality particularly those units funded under Section 8 to make the owners more accountable.

Solicitor Brimmeier said that she would have to research the subject, but felt certain that our property maintenance or other existing code would probably permit such inspections on any property, not specific types of units.

REPORTS – Mayor, Council, Manager, etc.

Mrs. Kuhn acknowledged Rev. James Hunt in the audience and explained that Council, School Board and the Clergy held a meeting on May 30 to discuss issues of concern in Penn Hills. She appreciated the prayers of the clergy for the elected officials of Penn Hills. Mrs. Kuhn then reported on the storm sewer problem at Lime Hollow Road and Springdale Drive which has been going on for over a year. She wants people to be aware that the problem is not a Penn Hills problem, but a PennDot problem involving a 72" pipe that goes under Lime Hollow Road. PennDot recently acknowledged the problem and does have repairs scheduled for that intersection. She also reported on receipt of a letter from State Representative Anthony DeLuca regarding the \$50,000 grant that was originally given for Allegheny River Boulevard light improvements/turning lane. She read the letter into the record and stated the money can now be re-allocated to the Penn Hills Park Lighting Project. She also explained that a second grant for \$50,000 for the Allegheny River Project should not be signed until new narratives can be written to allocate the new grant to the Penn Hills Park Project as well. She thanked Representative DeLuca for the funding and for his hours of negotiation with DCED and the Governor's Office regarding these grant funds.

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 and it was approved by a vote of 5 to 0.

The meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

NOTE: There was no Discussion Session held this evening.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Diane Fitzhenry,
Deputy Clerk

These minutes approved by Mayor and Council on August 4, 2008.