

The regular monthly meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m. by President, Jeffery Wright, with the pledge of allegiance, followed by a moment of silence.

In Attendance:

Jeffery Wright
Stephen Shaver
Michael Albert
Dennis Heefner
MaryJo Szada
Maria Marcinko
Raymond Spencer
Mayor Thomas Acri

Absent:

David A. Wion, Solicitor
Douglas E. Brown, Secretary/Treasurer
Kathy I. Sosnowski, Executive Assistant

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS AS PRESENTED:

A motion was made by Mr. Albert, seconded by Dr. Szada and approved unanimously to approve the minutes from March 21, 2011 with a correction by Ms. Marcinko: on page 4 in regard to the East End Sewer Separation Project “Ms. Marcinko stated that whatever the engineers feel would be more important should be done”.

APPROVAL OF SCHEDULES OF BILLINGS, REQUISITIONS AND CHANGE ORDERS AS PRESENTED:

A motion was made by Mr. Shaver to approve the schedules, seconded by Mr. Albert and approved unanimously.

COMMENTS ON DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Mr. Shaver – From the Public Works Report, he questioned several notations; Mr. Heefner explained the projects. Mr. Shaver also stated that the rearrangement of vehicles at the fire house as suggested is not possible. The Fire Department is moving ahead with the 9-11 Memorial; Mr. Brown is working with the Authorities of New York and New Jersey for proper certificates, insurances, etc.

Mr. Heefner – He spoke with the Dauphin County Authority regarding the Adams Street property; they’ll meet next week with Mr. Heefner, Mr. Wion and HRG to discuss legal terms, responsibilities, rental vs. outright purchase, and other items that arise. Mr. Shaver said that larger town houses would be worth more money and would be appraised higher.

Mr. Heefner countered that fewer homes would equal less people and less taxes. Mr. Wright confirmed that our recommendation was for 12 units – no rentals. He also suggested that this situation be discussed in more detail. Mr. Spencer asked if lease/purchase agreements could be an option. Mr. Heefner added that possibly sales agreements could be an option. Mr. Spencer stated that the developer will have ultimate responsibility. Mr. Wion questioned that if someone was to purchase the property, could they not turn around and lease it to someone else? Mr. Wright stated that the discussion would continue in Executive Session.

Mr. Heefner also reported on several items in the Public Works area: Grass cutting at vacant properties will begin, as well as the cleaning of the Swatara Street wall. He also noted that Teddy Cleckner is working on getting his CDL License; Tommy Cleckner's knee is worse than the doctors thought. He asked that Borough staff notify Doug and Council when the public calls with problems. He suggested that a letter be sent to elected officials from Council requesting the repaving of Pine Street. Mr. Spencer said we should check with PennDOT to see if the project is in their five-year plan. Mr. Shaver suggested that we send a letter to PennDOT with copies to elected officials, possibly with photos of the most serious locations. Commissioner Hartwick suggested a letter from Council to the Dauphin County Commissioners.

Ms. Marcinko - mentioned upcoming items for the Neighborhood & Economic Development Committee: the Brownfields Conference in Philadelphia, the storefront meeting, a possible urban garden. She also wanted to point out that the Police Report indicated that hiring two full time officers is working out great – there was no overtime for court, etc. Lastly, she wanted to let council know that the furnace at 1 N. Front St. was inoperable, but another organization, Castaway Critters, paid the \$1,500 to have it repaired.

Mayor Acri – mentioned that the Dauphin-Lebanon County Boroughs Association meeting is on Thursday, April 28, 2011; there is also a Handicapped Parking meeting on that night. Hopefully we can make sure both meetings are attended. Also, the Police meeting is scheduled for April 27, but the Dauphin County Planning Commission meeting with Swatara Township is also scheduled. He hopes the Police Meeting can be moved to April 26. He noted the Census Bureau letter he had passed out earlier. Lastly, Ms. Marcinko lined up volunteers to pick up litter in River Alley and on Front Street from Gibson Street to Chambers Street starting on Saturday. The Water Department will then pick up the garbage bags.

Mr. Wright – reminded everyone that the Veterans Appreciation Parade is May 7th at noon.

A motion was made by Mr. Albert to approve the Department Reports, seconded by Mr. Shaver and approved unanimously.

Ms. Zoie Kiger - read her Black History Month essay “A Change for Slaves”. A copy of the essay will be put in the archives with the minutes.

Honorable George Hartwick introduced David Botero and Sally Snyder of the The Joshua Group. They are trying to introduce more positive opportunities for young folks in Steelton. Dave has been working with Harrisburg to put handball courts at Reservoir Park; they would like to expand the program to include Steelton. One benefit could be an investment, for example they are hoping to attract the Keystone State Games to the Harrisburg area in the future.

Mr. Botero informed Council that The Joshua Group works with all families through handball. They have 26 players in Steelton; 9 are youth. Sally stated that playing handball is not limited to any age group; she lives on Market Street in Harrisburg and often plays with others of various ages. Dave added that there is more involved in the program than just the sport. They also provide mentoring and tutoring, and their involvement keeps kids active and entertained. (They have been playing indoors at the YMCA, but have to pay fees.)

Mr. Spencer asked if this was a team sport; Dave indicated that it wasn't, but they do sometimes schedule doubles matches. Their team is “Hope in Handball” and is very diverse – boys, girls, all ages – and includes Steelton, Swatara Township and Lower Paxton Township.

Mr. Wright asked if the Commissioners could fund one-half of the \$8-10,000 cost. Commissioner Hartwick said he couldn't make that decision without the other Dauphin County Commissioners. Mr. Wright then asked if any grant money was available; Mr. Hartwick and Mr. Brown will check into this possibility. George also stated that adding the court has potential for more recreational activities and tourism – Municipal Park already has a skate park, as well as roller hockey.

Two players were introduced: Serenity Nieves (age 10) has been playing for 6 to 7 months with her brother and others; she even taught a 26-year old how to play. Jelani Splawn (age 15) has been playing for 4 to 5 months and waits excitedly for game day, as he enjoys his new hobby and showing new people how to play.

Mr. Shaver will take this information to the Community and Economic Development Committee. Mr. Hartwick said he would attend the next meeting.

Mr. Heefner – asked Mr. Hartwick if the Turnpike Commission was still going to give us the land mentioned when the boat dock was being built; he indicated that he was not sure with the new turnpike commissioners, but he'll check with Mr. Haste.

Referring to the Constellation Energy minutes, Mr. Shaver asked if anyone was contacted about the lighting at the firehouse; Mr. Heefner said the contract cannot be changed. Mr. Brown noted that lighting at the firehouse is included.

Referring to the Keystone Collections Group letter, Mr. Wright noted that Central Dauphin favored Burkheimer, so others went along with that because they're the largest collection agency in the area. Burkheimer then adjusted figures and contract requirements which led the Dauphin County TCC to drop them as tax collector and appoint Keystone.

Mr. Brown will take care of getting the proclamation ready for Bishop Ivy Anne Hopkins (Grace Temple Church) so that the Mayor can present it.

Mr. Wion is working on the pretreatment program ordinance amendments; the EPA added pollutants and definitions. Mr. Shaver asked if this needed a motion; Mr. Wion said that it doesn't since it was already advertised.

Ms. Marcinko indicated that our new contract with the Humane Society allows for no public drop offs of animals (this was allowed until October, 2010). Chief Spangler will work with the Humane Society to get a security code and swipe card so that our officers can take animals to the shelter after hours.

Mr. Wright asked Mr. Brown to attend the PLCM convention in June on Council's behalf.

Referring to the NVA letter, Mr. Shaver questioned whether we accounted for the increase in rates; Mr. Brown indicated that he checked with Rose and room was made in the budget for an increase.

Capital Area Transit sent a letter indicating that they will refrain from any further action in pursuing the installation of a bus shelter at Front and Dupont Streets until Council gives a motion to proceed.

Referring to the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission letter, Mr. Shaver stated it's possible we should consider having an MOU (Memo of Understanding) with Swatara Township since we share many borders with them. Mr. Heefner will look into that possibility.

Mr. Wright indicated that he would go to the Community & Economic Development Committee for suggestions for project proposals for 2012 CDBG funding.

Joshua Fox, P.E. (HRG) – presented request for payment #7 in the amount of \$503,724.01 for the East End Sewer Separation Project. A motion was made by Mr. Shaver to approve payment, seconded by Mr. Albert and approved unanimously.

He also presented a request for reimbursement request #10 in the amount of \$538,007.31 to PennVest. A motion was made by Mr. Albert to approve payment, seconded by Mr. Shaver and approved unanimously.

Mr. Fox then presented work change order #11 in the amount of \$1,731.00. A motion was made by Mr. Heefner to approve the change order, seconded by Mr. Albert and approved unanimously.

He also presented work change order #12 for the paving of several areas in the amount of \$8,694 (this money is in the contingency fund – Balance = \$252,476.92). A motion was made by Mr. Shaver to approve the change order, seconded by Mr. Albert and approved unanimously.

Mr. Fox then requested an additional \$31,215.40 for landscaping at Dura Bond to extend the buffer to the parking area and access road entrance. Ms. Marcinko asked whether Dura Bond was required to provide the buffering. Mr. Heefner indicated that they saved the Borough a lot of money by giving us the right-of-way we needed. Mayor Acri does not agree with spending over \$30,000 of taxpayer money for trees, etc. Mr. Wright requested that the staff check prior Council meeting minutes; if Council approved the landscaping for additional buffering, we should move forward. Mr. Shaver said someone should look at the diagrams. Mr. Heefner reminded everyone that Dura Bond had to make numerous changes to their work area for the EEESP; Josh said that the Planning Commission approved this. Mr. Albert emphasized that we're spending \$31,000 in return for saving ¼ million dollars – why wouldn't we move forward?

Josh reminded everyone that this work order is time sensitive (due to planting season). If the approval mentioned is in previous minutes, Doug will call Mr. Wright, Mr. Shaver and Mayor Acri.

Josh also presented a modification proposal in the estimated amount of \$18,589 to remove two manholes during phase 2 on Felton St. Mr. Heefner stated that he does not agree with putting a pipeline on Rt. 230 from T Street to Felton St. If phase 2 doesn't go through (H2O money) the pipe will be there for nothing. Mr. Wright asked what the next step would be if we don't approve manholes. Ms. Marcinko asked for clarification of the money left in contingency; the EEESP has torn up residents' curbs, sidewalks and yards as well as removal of some trees and unevenly paved streets. Josh reminded everyone that all sidewalks, curbing, etc. are already included. Mr. Spencer questioned whether there was \$18,000 in contingency; Josh said there wasn't.

Mr. Heefner made a motion for no pipe to be put at Felton Street. Dr. Szada questioned why it was not involved in the original plan. Mr. Shaver said that DEP requires that these projects be done in phases. Mr. Heefner said that HRG should (Ed Ellinger) have included manhole covers in phase 1. After some discussion, Mr. Heefner withdrew his motion.

Josh also mentioned that PennVest may not approve landscaping as part of the project. The issue was tabled for now. Mr. Wright asked Josh to update him and Doug on PennVest.

There was some discussion about the paving of streets in East End; an ordinance requires a 5" base. Public Works said they wanted to take it down to 3"; Josh said the cost for paving is not going to save that much money. Ms. Marcinko expressed concern for the East End residents, including her family. Mr. Wright stated that the base will remain at 5 inches.

Lastly, Josh informed Council that the Adams Street Project is underway. Mr. Wion presented Resolution 2011-R-8 designating Steelton Borough public officials and public employees required to file Ethics Financial Statements. This is an annual resolution. Mr. Albert asked why John DeSanto was listed; he was a *former* employee. We clarified that this resolution includes employees from 2010. A motion was made by Mr. Albert to pass the resolution, seconded by Mr. Heefner and approved unanimously.

The Mayor announced that 4/17-23 is designated as "National Osteopathic Medicine Week"; he had two proclamations for Dr. Kambic and Dr. Wewer. He also said thanks to Dr. Szada and Dr. Shaikh in the Borough of Steelton. Dr. Szada was concerned that a formal proclamation is denigrating to those who are not D.O.'s; she suggested a change for next year.

Mr. Brown recommended that the Borough set up a payment plan for Valerie Duhig of 11 S. 3rd St. after discussing her situation with Michele (noted in a letter). Mr. Wright stated that he agreed with the payment plan. A motion was made by Mr. Shaver to approve the payment plan, seconded by Ms. Marcinko and approved unanimously.

The request by "Unity in my Community" to hold a block party was discussed. Pine Street cannot be blocked off; it is a state road. He suggested holding the party on Second Street between Pine and Walnut Streets. The mayor will have Chief Spangler contact Reverend Tucker to make suggestions; possibly behind Turkey Hill. Mr. Wright said we should let the churches decide, as long as they follow any restrictions. A motion was made by Mr. Heefner to approve their request, seconded by Mr. Albert and approved unanimously.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

Pauline Douglas, 433 Bessemer St. – asked if there was some kind of warning system in the Borough to warn residents of eminent danger. Mr. Shaver stated that the County activates their siren in case of tornado, etc. Then they advise residents to turn on a radio or television for more information. Mr. Shaver also mentioned a system called PA Alert that will text message you on your cellular phone if there is an emergency.

Emuel Powell, 321 Lebanon St. – asked if something can be done about his neighborhood. The rental properties aren't taken care of, people are hanging out drinking beer, arguing loudly and generally causing trouble. He said that certain areas of Harrisburg have no Section 8 housing; wondered if we could do the same thing. Mr.

Shaver said he does not think this is true; if Mr. Powell knows of a contact; please give Mr. Brown the phone number so that he can call them about the situation. Mr. Powell is also concerned about the gullies on Adams Street; there is a stream of water running down the street. Mr. Heefner will talk to Mr. Conjar about Adams Street.

COUNCIL CONCERNS:

Mr. Heefner – mentioned an article about a Swatara Township Ordinance that controls bankers with mortgage loans.

Ms. Marcinko – said it is called the PA First Ordinance; a copy can be obtained from Mr. Wion. She also reported on the recent successful trap & return clinic – 88 cats were processed.

Mr. Shaver – Regarding the Three Mile Island Drill last week, he wanted to thank Joe Conjar, Sgt. Crawford, Mr. Brown and all other volunteers and Borough staff for their help.

Mr. Albert – wished everyone a Happy Easter!

Dr. Szada – expressed her agreement with Mr. Powell in that people don't have respect for their properties, neighborhoods, etc. Litter is thrown everywhere.

Mayor Acri – Reminded everyone that on Monday, May 9th there will be a tour of the Water Treatment Plant at 5:00pm. We can meet behind Borough Hall and go over together. He also reminded us that the Police Meeting was moved to April 26 at 6:00pm. He then closed by wishing all a nice Easter.

Mr. Wright asked those present to share in prayers for the White family holding a double funeral on Wednesday.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Douglas E. Brown – requested an executive session to discuss personnel matters, land acquisition and potential litigation issues.

On motion by Mr. Shaver, seconded by Mr. Albert, the Council meeting recessed into executive session at 8:22p.m. to discuss personnel matters. The Council meeting reconvened at 8:51p.m. with a motion by Mr. Spencer, seconded by Mr. Heefner.

REGULAR COUNCIL, CON'T.:

A motion was made by Mr. Shaver for Mr. Wion to advertise the Borough Manager Position, seconded by Ms. Marcinko and approved unanimously.

There was some discussion about the Adams Street Project. Mr. Wion indicated that in the plan of record, we'll sell to the Redevelopment Authority to find a developer. Mr. Wion stated that there are deed restrictions in the plan; the developer won't be able to change the original plan. The deed restriction states that these homes should be owner-occupied for 30 years. The next meeting will be April 28th at 10:00am with Mr. Heefner, Mr. Wion and HRG.

Mr. Heefner said that the Authority does not want responsibility for the wall or bank. Mr. Musser said that the Gaming Commission may have money available for curbing, pavements, etc. Mr. Heefner will check with Rogele.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no other business before Council, on a motion by Mr. Shaver, seconded by Mr. Heefner, the meeting adjourned at 9:22p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Douglas E. Brown
Borough Secretary/Treasurer

Kathy I. Sosnowski
Executive Assistant