

The regular monthly meeting was called to order at 6:31 p.m. by the President, Michael J. Kovach, with the pledge of allegiance, followed by a moment of silence.

In Attendance:

Michael J. Kovach
Jeffrey Wright
Thomas Acri
Albert Gornik
MaryJo Szada
Michael Albert
Jeffery Wrightstone

Absent:

Mayor George Hartwick, III

David A. Wion, Solicitor
Michael G. Musser, II, Secretary
Kathleen D. Handley, Assistant Secretary

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

There were no minutes presented.

EXECUTIVE SESSIONS HELD BETWEEN MEETINGS:

Mr. Musser said he had nothing to report at this time.

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

On a motion by Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. Gornik, Council Members voted unanimously to approve the Schedule of Bills as presented.

APPROVAL OF DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

On a motion by Mr. Acri, seconded by Mr. Wright, Council Members voted unanimously to approve the Community Development, Finance, Fire and Ambulance, Personnel, Police, Public Works, Code Enforcement, and Senior Center Departmental Reports for September, as presented.

Mr. Kovach asked Mr. Conjar about the status of the parks and the alley off of Lincoln Street. Mr. Conjar said that the alley was never opened and recommended that the Borough abandon it. He said that at the East End Park, we are waiting for P. P. & L. to move their pole.

Mr. Acri asked about the status of Swatara Street. Mr. Conjar responded that Swatara Street, from Sixth Street to Front Street will be started this week or next. He said the contractors are running a little behind. He said they are milling along the curb.

Mr. Acri asked what will happen with the run-off. Mr. Conjar said they will do that in the final phase.

Mr. Wintergrass said the Mr. Kutz, an employee in the filter plant will be grandfathered for his license because of his military service. He said that DEP is going to make a decision on the level of license he will receive.

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Council excused Mr. Conjar and Mr. Wintergrass.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Kovach said that the Mayor was running a little late and since we have a lot to cover, he would come back to this later.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Agenda Items Only

There were no comments.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Paula Diane Harris, President of the Greater Harrisburg Area NAACP Branch – Presentation of recommendations to the Borough from the Community Meeting held at New Hope Baptist Church in regards to problems between the police and the youth.

Ms. Harris thanked Council for allowing her time to talk to them. She said they wanted to do a little investigation regarding the Police in the Borough and she has recommendations to present this evening. Ms. Harris distributed copies for Council, Mayor Hartwick and Chief Lenker, along with signatures on a petition from residents of the Borough.

Ms. Harris read the purpose of the NAACP. She said she is deeply concerned about police brutality. Ms. Harris stated that they formed a group called the Steelton Citizen Action Committee, or SCAC. Ms. Harris discussed some of the recommendations. 1) Curfew signs should be posted on the playgrounds; she said she asked for #5 and still didn't receive that; 6) some people seemed confused on the Mayor's directive, where to take the complaints. She said they should go to the Mayor's home; 10) She said this is very important. A lot of people were very intimidated about coming in here; 11) Ms. Harris said that it is very important that parents have a copy, so nothing else is added; 12) She said we need to be very careful who is on foot patrol. Ms. Harris said they are still collecting signatures, but will give the ones she has to Mr. Kovach. Ms. Harris then introduced members of the new SCAC. Lucille Ray – said she is very serious about getting these things resolved; Robin Lemons did not have any comments.

Mr. Kovach said he is not aware what the recommendations of the INC Ministerium were. Ms. Harris said she is going on record as supporting the INC Ministerium.

Mr. Kovach told Ms. Harris that Mr. Musser will get her a copy of #5. Mr. Acri said that all Council people here have a responsibility to be sure that all citizens are safe. Mr. Albert asked if there are any Caucasian members of the SCAC. Ms. Harris said it is diverse. Mr. Albert said that it is not just black children being harassed. Mr. Albert asked if Council could have a list of the SCAC. Ms. Harris said she will get Council a list.

Most members of the SCAC left the meeting at this time.

MR. KOVACH DEVIATED FROM THE AGENDA:

Chief Lenker introduced the new part-time patrolman: Joseph LaPorta, who works full time at the New Cumberland Army Depot and Luz Pabon, the new Parking Enforcement Officer.

AGENDA ADDITIONS:

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Josephus Wallace – Letter of resignation, effective November 12, 2002

On a motion by Mr. Gornik, seconded by Mr. Wright, Council Members voted unanimously to accept Mr. Wallace's resignation, effective November 12, 2002, as presented,

Lisa Chicon – Thank you letter to Donna Czeiner.

On a motion by Mr. Acri, seconded by Mr. Wrightstone, Council members voted unanimously to place the letter in Ms. Czeiner's personnel file.

John Fry – Memo informing Council about starting a roller hockey league.

Mr. Musser said that if anyone is interested, they should contact Officer Fry.

MR. KOVACH RETURNED TO THE AGENDA WITH COMMUNICATIONS:

Eugene Vance, III, Fire Chief – Requesting Steelton Borough Council swear in the new Steelton Fire Police.

Mr. Kovach said they would have to wait for the Mayor.

Mr. Wintergrass IV, Superintendent of Water Filtration & Lab – Providing Council with Certificates of Completion for himself and Daniel Scheitrum.

On a motion by Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. Acri, Council Members voted unanimously to place the Certificates in their personnel files.

William D. Smith, Chief, Derry Township – Letter of thanks to the Steelton Police Department for their valuable assistance.

There were no comments.

Paula J. Sviben, 349 South Front Street – Requesting permission to close River Alley from Strawberry Alley to Blueberry Alley on Saturday, November 2, 2002, from 2:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., for a pizza party for the Steel-High band.

On a motion by Mr. Albert, seconded by Mr. Wright, Council Members voted unanimously to approve Ms. Sviben's request as presented.

Chief Lenker – Requesting the Certificates of Completion of The Police Supervisor In-Service Training and in Officer Scott E. Spangler’s Personnel file.

On motion by Mr. Acri, seconded by Mr. Wrightstone, Council Members voted unanimously to have the Certificates placed in Officer Spangler’s personnel file.

Charity McCrae – Letter commending Officer John King for all of his help and professionalism in regards to a domestic violence incident.

On a motion by Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. Acri, Council Members voted unanimously to have the letter placed in Officer King’s personnel file.

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Thomas Gould, President & Deborah Ritchey, Director, Neighborhood Dispute settlement - Requesting the Borough of Steelton to help fund the partnership between the Borough and their Agency in the amount of \$500.00, to \$1000.00. for Fiscal Year 2003.

There were no comments.

J. Michael Stone – Informing Borough Council that he must resign his position on the Zoning Hearing Board effective September 11, 2002, and his position on the Civil Service Commission, as soon as a replacement is found.

On a motion by Mr. Acri, seconded by Mr. Wright, Council Members voted unanimously , but with regret, to accept Mr. Stone’s resignations, effective September 11, 2002, for the zoning Board and when a replacement if found for the Civil Service Commission. Mr. Acri asked Mr. Musser to send a letter of thanks to Mr. Stone, for his service.

Robert Garraty, President, New Baldwin Corridor Coalition – Reminding the Borough of the “Municipal Officials Meeting on EMS” on Wednesday, October 30th, at Penn State Harrisburg.

Mr. Kovach said that anyone who wishes to attend the meeting, should please contact Mr. Musser.

Chief Vance said that he will attend.

Olga Pugh – Letter of thanks to Mr. Musser for all of his help with her family’s memorial tree.

On a motion by Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. Albert, Council Members voted unanimously to have the letter placed in Mr. Musser’s personnel file.

Dauphin-Lebanon County Borough’s Association - Invitation to the October 22, 2002, Meeting at Hoffer Park in the Borough of Middletown, at 6:30 p.m.

Mr. Kovach said anyone who is interested in attending, should contact Mr. Musser.

Laurel Wilson, Borough Manager, Borough of Highspire – Letter informing the Borough that at the end of October the Borough of Highspire would like to talk with the Borough about possible consolidation.

There were no comments.

New Baldwin Corridor Coalition (NBCC) – Providing the Borough with a copy of the September 17, 2002, minutes.

There were no comments.

Donna L. Czeiner, Code/Zoning/Planning Officer – Providing Council with an article from the Dauphin County Juvenile Probation Newsletter Summer of 2002.

On a motion by Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. Albert, Council Members voted unanimously to have a copy of the letter placed in Ms. Czeiner's personnel file.

Calvin L. Johnson, Chairperson, Dauphin County Lodge #359 - requesting the Mayor and Steelton Borough Council place an ad in their Souvenir Booklet.

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Mr. Kovach said that anyone who is interested in placing an ad must do so with personal funds.

Mrs. Helen Hughes, 443 Catherine Street, Steelton – Informing Council of her concerns in regards to parking in her area and the mud that is coming from the runoff from the properties on Jessamine Street.

Mr. Kovach asked if Mr. Conjar was made aware of this. Mr. Musser said he forwarded it to Ms. Czeiner. Ms. Czeiner said she checked on it and things are on their way.

Paula Sviben – Providing Council with a copy of the minutes from the October 7, 2002, Fire Police Meeting.

There were no comments.

Calvin L. Johnson, Sr., 323 Lancaster Street – Requesting permission to obtain ownership of the unpaved section of Aberdeen Alley, adjacent to his property and for clarification on ownership of a section of Ridge Street between Columbia Street and William Howard Day Cemetery.

Mr. Kovach noted that Mr. Conjar addressed this earlier.

Mr. Musser – Informing Council and the Mayor that the Borough's anticipated 2003 CDBG allocation is \$220,080.00, and requesting a meeting to discuss projects that the funds will be used for.

Mr. Musser said that he will schedule a meeting after one of the Budget meetings. Mr. Kovach asked Council members to write their ideas down and get them to Mr. Musser.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Chief Lenker – Informing Council that it is his recommendation, along with the Personnel and Police Committees to ratify the hiring of Luz E. Pabon as Part-Time Parking Meter Enforcement Officer in the Borough of Steelton, effective October 4, 2002, at \$8.50 an hour.

On motion by Mr. Acri, seconded by Mr. Wrightstone, Council Members voted unanimously to ratify the hiring of Luz Pabon as part-time Parking Meter Enforcement Officer, effective October 4, 2002, at \$8.50 per hour, as recommended by Chief Lenker, the Personnel and Police Committees.

Mr. Musser – Requesting Council approve the execution of the Sub-recipient Agreement for the 2002 CDBG Funds between the Borough of Steelton and Dauphin County.

Mr. Musser said that projects are already under way, but the contracts have just arrived.

On a motion by Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. Acri, Council Members voted unanimously to authorize the execution of the Sub-recipient Agreement of the 2002 CDBG Funds between the Borough of Steelton and Dauphin County as presented.

ADDITIONS:

Mr. Musser - Presenting RESOLUTION 2002-R-21, adopting the Borough 2002 Comprehensive Plan, was presented for Council's consideration.

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Mr. Wright stated that Council held a Public Hearing at 6:00 p.m., this evening and no one from the public was present to comment on the Plan. Mr. Kovach thanked the Mayor, Council and the Borough Staff for their work on this project. He said it hasn't been done since 1972.

On a motion by Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. Acri, Council Members voted unanimously to adopt RESOLUTION 2002-R-21, as presented.

Mr. Musser – Letter from Rogele, Inc., informing Council of the status of the three parks.

Mr. Musser said that most of the work will be completed by November 15th, but they need an extension to color coat the Basketball court at East End Park, and reseed all the areas in the spring. Mr. Musser said that they haven't been able to pave the court, since Verizon hasn't moved the utility pole located in the court. And we have had a lot of rain recently.

On motion by Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. Albert, Council Members voted unanimously to grant Rogele, Inc., an extension, as requested.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Musser – Providing Council with a proposal from HRG, Inc., to provide Sewage Enforcement Officer (SEO) Services to the Borough of Steelton.

Mr. Musser said that Gannett-Fleming used to be our SEO. He said that even though we rarely needed one, the ordinance requires it. Mr. Musser said that since Gannett-Fleming is now longer

our Engineering Firm and HRG, Inc., was appointed as the Borough's Sewer Engineers, they submitted a proposal to serve as our SEO.

On motion by Mr. Albert, seconded by Mr. Wright, Council Members voted unanimously to accept the proposal from HRG, Inc., as presented, to serve as the Borough's Sewage Enforcement Officer.

Mr. Conjar – Providing Council with an estimate to place black vinyl coated chain link fence at the end of the Swatara Street Wall for safety purposes.

Mr. Wright said that he, the Mayor, Mr. Acri and Mr. Kovach, looked at the area and it could be a liability. Dr. Szada said that in addition to seeing kids sliding down the hill, they are also climbing over the wall. She said we are spending a lot of money to improve the area, but parents need to teach their children to respect property that is not theirs. Mr. Kovach said he is concerned about erosion and some blocks on top have been lifted off and rolled down, and they are very heavy. He said this is not budgeted but is needed.

On a motion by Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. Acri, Council Members voted unanimously to approve the price and the installation of the fence, as presented.

James M. Close, Director, Public Works, City of Harrisburg – Providing the Borough with a copy of the City of Harrisburg's Independent Consulting Engineer's Annual Report, the 2003 Budget and informing the Borough that a sewer rate increase is necessary for 2003.

Mr. Musser said that depending on how high the rate increase is and the stability of the sewer fund, we may not have to pass this on at this time, but we will have to see what the increase is. He said we will do our best to keep the price down.

Chief Lenker – Providing Council with information on an Eyewitness In-Car Video System.

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Chief Lenker said this is the best price for voice and video Chief Lenker requested one (10) for the new police car and three (3) for the 2003 budget. He said that two grants were applied for that would offset the costs if they are approved. Mr. Musser said that if Council is considering purchasing this, Chief Lenker must get two (2) more phone quotes, since it is below \$4,000. He said that \$10,000, to purchase three (3) will have to be put out to bid.

Mayor Hartwick arrived at 7:12 p.m.

On motion by Mr. Albert, seconded by Mr. Wrightstone, Council Members voted unanimously to purchase the Eyewitness In-Car Video System, contingent upon Chief Lenker getting two more phone quotes.

ORDINANCE 2002-3 – An Ordinance Amending the Code of the Borough of Steelton by the addition thereto of a New Chapter, Chapter 47, "Cable Rate Regulation", adopting regulations to implement the Steelton Borough's Authority to regulate cable rates for basic service and associated equipment, was presented for Council's consideration.

On a motion by Mr. Gornik, seconded by Mr. Wright, Council Members voted unanimously to adopt Ordinance 2002-3, as presented.

RESOLUTION 2002-R-20 – A Resolution to appoint a Compliance Officer Pursuant to the Steelton Borough Cable Rate Regulation Ordinance, was presented for Council’s consideration.

Mr. Wion explained that 47–7A requires Council to appoint a Compliance Officer to administer the Ordinance in accordance with its terms. He said that the Resolution assigns Michael G. Musser, II, or the Borough Secretary-Treasurer.

On motion by Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. Albert, Council Members voted unanimously to adopt Resolution 2002-R-20, as presented.

Chief Lenker – Requesting permission to discuss the status of a Central Booking Center in Dauphin County.

Chief Lenker said that the Dauphin County Chiefs of Police will review this and make recommendations, so no action is necessary right now. Mr. Kovach said it seems that the County is trying to get funding for something that they should be doing in the first place.

MR. KOVACH DEVIATED FROM THE AGENDA TO ALLOW THE MAYOR TO SWEAR IN THE FIRE POLICE.

GENE VANCE informed Council Members that the Fire Police have reorganized with three (3) former members and ten (10) new members and they are here to be sworn in. Chief Vance also said that Chief Lenker assigned Officer Fry to train them.

The Mayor swore in the following as Steelton Fire Police: Ron Drabenstadt, Elena Daniel, Larry Fry, Robert Houser and Paula Sviben. Mayor Hartwick commended these individuals for volunteering and thanked them for providing them with a much needed service.

Mr. Musser and Mayor Hartwick – Presenting Council with a Memo of Understanding between the Borough of Steelton and Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission.

Mayor Hartwick said that the Turnpike Commission and the Borough will swap land because the Turnpike

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Commission is moving the location of the bridge and it runs through the land we have for the boat dock. He said that the Borough will be getting an additional 8.5 acres as well as improvements on the land for \$65,000, which is due by April 2003. Mr. Musser said that the Turnpike Commission did pay well above the Market value for this land. Mr. Musser said that we will purchase the land, with the improvements, from the Turnpike Commission for the \$65,000 and give them our land. Mr. Musser said that the Borough has \$57,000, in savings and another \$8,000 will be due by the end of April, 2003.

On a motion by Dr. Szada, seconded by Mr. Albert, Council Members voted unanimously to approve the Memo of Understanding between the Borough of Steelton and the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission, as presented.

Mr. Kovach again deviated from the agenda to allow Mayor Hartwick to give his report.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Hartwick said we have several projects in the works with the Main Street Program and we have two more parks bid out. He said he is looking forward to having a summer recreation program. Mayor Hartwick said the borough won the first appeal regarding Bethlehem Steel, but they have the right to appeal this in the Commonwealth Court. Mayor Hartwick stated that we need to encourage the Mill to sell the land they aren't using. He said we want to be sure that the land isn't under-valued and we need to prepare a land use study for that property.

Mr. Musser – Pa Junior emergency Service compliance Manual.

Mr. Musser asked Council and Mr. Wion to review the manual.

Mr. Musser – Budget Sessions.

Mr. Musser said he is going to schedule Budget sessions at 6:00 p.m., on October 28th, November 4th and November 11th.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Mr. Musser – Providing Council with the Certified List from the Borough of Steelton Civil Service Commission for the promotion of Sergeant within the Steelton Borough Police Department.

Mr. Acri requested Council discuss this in executive session.

Mr. Musser – Requesting an executive session to discuss the Dauphin County Board of Assessment's decision in regards to the Borough's appeals of the Bethlehem Steel parcels.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

Jean Barr, 346-B Locust Street - asked why the 4th Street Steps weren't repaired. Mr. Kovach responded that when Council received a proposal for repairs, the costs were just too high to consider repairing them. Mr. Musser added that they were different from the Locust Street steps, since there wasn't anything to rehab. He said those steps would have to be built from scratch and that is why the costs were so high.

Ms. Barr asked if there were any more of those robberies still going on in town, and did they find out who was responsible for the ones by her house. Chief Lenker said no.

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Michael Sucec, 14 Pine Street – said his wife and he were talking to another person on the Turkey Hill parking lot and asked if there is an ordinance prohibiting that. Chief Lenker said that there are copies of the loitering ordinance are on the rack in the lobby. Mayor Hartwick advised Mr. Sucec that, if he believes he was improperly treated, he should file a complaint form.

Dennis Heefner, 337 Swatara St. – Mr. Heefner thanked council for putting up the fence. He said that there are more cracks in the wall. Mr. Heefner asked if there is any way to slow down the cars, since they are doing about 40 mph there. Chief Lenker said his department is working with citizens on complaints. He said he can work in a detail and do a traffic survey on having a stop sign at Fourth and Swatara Streets.

COUNCIL'S CONCERNS:

Mr. Wright – thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and said he hoped they continue to attend the meetings.

Mr. Kovach – congratulated the new Fire Police and complimented the Mayor on his projects.

On a motion by Mr. Acri, seconded by Mr. Wright, the Council meeting recessed into executive session to discuss the Dauphin County Board of Assessment's decision regarding the Borough's appeals of the Bethlehem Steel's parcels, and the Civil Service List, at 7:40 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 8:58 p.m.

On a motion by Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. Albert, Council Members approved the tax assessment as presented.

Mr. Musser submitted the following three (3) names from the Steelton Civil Service Commission, as ranked, for the promotion to Sergeant with in the Steelton Police Department: Officer John King, Officer Scott Spangler and Officer David Crawford.

On a motion by Mr. Acri, seconded by Mr. Wright, Council Members voted unanimously to promote Officer John King to the position of Sergeant, conditional upon passing his physical.

Mr. Musser submitted the following three (3) names, as ranked, from the Steelton Civil Service commission for promotion to Sergeant within the Steelton Police Department: Officer Scott Spangler, Officer David Crawford and Officer Robert Gaither, Jr.

On a motion by Mr. Gornik, to promote Officer Gaither Robert Gaither, Jr., to the position of Sergeant with in the Steelton Police Department, seconded by Mr. Albert, Council Members voted two (2) votes to five (5) against promoting Officer Robert Gaither, Jr., to the position of Sergeant. Dr. Szada, Mr. Kovach, Mr. Wright, Mr. Acri and Mr. Wrightstone cast the dissenting votes.

On a motion by Mr. Wrightstone, to promote Officer Scott Spangler to the position of Sergeant within the Steelton Police Department, seconded by Mr. Wright, Council Members voted five (5) to two (2) to promote Officer Scott Spangler to the position of Sergeant, conditional upon passing his physical. Mr. Albert and Mr. Gornik cast the dissenting votes.

Mr. Musser submitted the following two (2) names as ranked, from the Steelton Civil Service

Commission, for the promotion to sergeant within the Steelton Police Department: Officer David Crawford and Officer Robert Gaither, Jr.

On a motion by Mr. Acri, seconded by Mr. Wrightstone, Council Members voted unanimously to promote Officer David Crawford to the position of Sergeant, conditional upon passing his physical.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no other business before Council, on motion by Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. Acri, the Council meeting adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael G. Musser, II
Borough Secretary

Kathleen D. Handley
Assistant Borough Secretary