

MEETING MINUTES

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

December 21, 2010

7:00 p.m.

- I. Call to Order by Mr. Kirkner at 7: 00 p.m.
- II. Roll Call – Those present on roll call were as follows: Buckwalter, Dugan, Evans, Gautreau, Handwerk, Kirkner, Reber, and Speck. Also present were: Borough Manager Krack, Solicitor Rau, Lt. Sjostrom, and Mayor Scoda.
- III. Public Participation
  - a. Michael Makita – President of Dogwood Festival. Council received confidential information. Working on our 60 year anniversary. If we have to take on the additional cost we would not be able.
  - b. Michael Hill East High Street. Think about budget and laying off of police officers. Still hear violent crimes and vandalism. What happens if you cut the police force? The decision you make will effect the property. Next year is an election year. You will be held accountable.
  - c. Penny Washington 300 High Street - Please consider more police coverage not less. I understand these are challenging times but we need to be protected.
  - d. Chris Bauers, 1003 Bateman Drive. Disappointed with Council action on the budget. I have observed no new proposal for ways to cut the budget. I encourage Council to not pass the budget.
  - e. Brenda Kenney, 354 Washington Avenue – Implore that you not cut the law enforcement in the Borough. It would be a shame to throw away how far we have come.
  - f. William McGinley, 356 Nutt Road – Spoke against the police layoffs. Corporal Artz stated that the incident rate rose by 509 in 2009 over 2008. I request a roll call vote on the police employment part of the budget.
  - G. Janine McDormant--Does anyone on Council work inside the Borough on a day to day basis? We are in this together. We need a safe community. We need more police officers not less. Has anyone talked to the Chief? This is your community and ours. We want a good community.

Richard Kirkner read letter from Brent Miller – Baptist Church, 248 Church Street. Letter read into the record.

- IV. Executive Session – Legal and Personnel
- V. Consider Adoption of the 2011 Budget – Mr. Reber made a motion to adopt the

2011 budget with proposed changes, seconded by Mr. Speck, and approved by a vote of 5 to 4. Mayor Scoda broke the tie.

ROLL CALL VOTE – NO - Buckwalter , Dugan, Gautreau, and Kirkner.

YES - Reber, Handwerk, Speck, and Evans.

Solicitor said Mayor Scoda can vote if he chooses. Mayor Scoda voted yes for the budget.

- a. Mr. Gautreau, will not vote for 9.9%.
- b. Mr. Buckwalter will not vote for the 9.9%. For the years I have sat on Council I cannot vote for an 80% increase.
- c. Mr. Reber – this has been a difficult budget. Good budget for distance to cover. Middle ward has asked me to support for the proposed budget.
- d. Mr. Evans – I am shocked to see providers for software 10% increases. We need to hold providers to a reasonable level. I have heard speakers from public. We have lost almost \$900,000 in the tax base. Be friendly to businesses.
- e. Mr. Speck – difficult budget year. Staff put in the work. I will support this budget.
- f. Mr. Kirkner – I cannot vote for this budget. I was glad when OP Tax was taken away. It is a nuisance. SS recipients have no increase. Losing benefits. People losing jobs. We have cut a lot. We did a lot of work. Finance asked Police to come up with 10%; this is a time when people can barely afford to pay this. Lost revenue when PASD stopped paying of resource officer. I do not see it turning around anytime soon. I can't do that to my family or the senior citizens.
- g. Mr. Speck – This is not about political will, I am looking at the will of the community I serve.
- h. Mr. Evans – talked asking for police to cut 10% I never had a vote it was not one administrative Council said \$200,000.
- i. Mayor Scoda – Cut expenditures increase revenue. Cuts already in expenditures. Increase in revenues may save police position but other positions are being cut and everyone should be aware of it. I like the \$10 OP tax because it falls on all of the residents. I have suggested looking at a BID. Business license tax. To help property owners. If the economy does not improve we will be faced with the same next year.
- j. Mr. Buckwalter – If you take all the taxes out of 48 we are # 9 in high taxes. Taxes in Phoenixville--tax is quite high. If tonight goes through we have raised taxes 71% since 2003.
- k. Mr. Kirkner – We did eliminate Business License tax. Not enough confidence it would hold up. No one can say the Mayor did not help because he helped move forward.

- VI. Consider Adoption of the 2011 Budget – Mr. Reber made a motion to adopt the 2011 Sanitation Budget with an increase of \$5 per quarter to \$74 per quarter, seconded by Ms. Dugan and approved by a vote of 8 to 0.

- a. ROLL CALL VOTE – YES - Buckwalter, Dugan, Evans, Gautreau, Handwerk, Kirkner, Reber and Speck.  
NO -none

VII. Consider Adoption of the 2011 Water Budget – Mr. Reber made a motion to adopt the 2011 water budget with proposed Water infrastructure Fee of \$5.00 per quarter, seconded by Mr. Buckwalter and approved by a vote of 7 to 1.

- a. ROLL CALL VOTE - YES - Buckwalter, Dugan, Evans, Gautreau, Handwerk, Reber and Speck.  
NO – Mr. Kirkner.

- b. Mr. Reber said he recommended a fee to cover for infrastructure.
- c. Mr. Buckwalter spoke in favor of it.
- d. Mayor Scoda asked a few questions about replacing mains.
- e. Mr. Evans said when water system was sold in a township in which I own property the rates went up 100% when they sold to a water company.
- f. Mr. Buckwalter We need to make sure we have a clean source of water.

VIII. Consider Adoption of the 2011 Budget – Mr. Reber made a motion to adopt the 2011 water budget with proposed 4.3% increase, seconded by Mr. Speck and approved by a vote of 8 to 0.

- a. ROLL CALL VOTE – YES – Buckwalter, Dugan, Evans, Gautreau, Handwerk, Kirkner, Reber and Speck.  
NO – NONE

IX. Consider Adoption of the 2011 Budget – Mr. Reber made a motion to adopt the 2011 budget with proposed Waste Water increase of 15.7%, seconded by Mr. Buckwalter and approved by a vote of 8 to 0.

- a. Questions about the increase – reported that much was due to debt payment.
- b. ROLL CALL VOTE - YES – Buckwalter, Dugan, Evans, Gautreau, Handwerk, Kirkner, Reber and Speck.
  - i. NO – NONE

X. Consider Advertising the property tax ordinance of mills 4.41 for general purposes – Mr. Reber made a motion to schedule and advertise the proposed tax ordinance for a public hearing and consideration at the January 11, 2011 meeting, seconded by Mr. Speck and approved by a vote of 8 to 0.

XI. Motion to authorize the staff to draft a per person per capita tax – Mr. Evans made a motion to draft a per person per capita tax ordinance seconded by Mr. Reber and approved by a vote of 5 to 4. Mayor broke tie.

- a. ROLL CALL – YES – Reber, Handwerk, Speck and Evans.
- b. NO - Buckwalter, Dugan, Gautreau, and Kirkner.
- c. Mayor Scoda voted yes.

Mr. Kirkner thanked the public, Council and staff for their effort on the budget.

- XII. Consider Approval of the Prepaids Dated 11/13/2010 to 12/18/2010 in the Amount of \$1,704,070.22 – Ms. Dugan made a motion to approve the prepaids, seconded by Mr. Reber and approved by a vote of 8 to 0.
- XIII. Consider Adoption of the Fund Balance Resolution – Ms. Dugan made a motion to approve the adoption of the fund balance resolution, seconded by Mr. Reber and approved by a vote of 8 to 0.
  - a. Mayor Scoda questioned--what is this about resolution? Mr. Nease gave an overview of the resolution.
- XIV. Mr. Buckwalter made a motion to cancel meeting for the 28th, seconded by Ms. Dugan and approved by a vote of 8 to 0.
- XV. Mr. Kirkner said we passed a budget to only tape one meeting per month. He would like to have only one meeting per month.
  - a. Finance, Recreation and Infrastructure on 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday,
  - b. Policy and EDC on 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday.
  - c. First Monday, Police and Personnel.
  - d. Mr. Speck asked the Manager how this will impact staff. Were there any potential problems with the delay?
    - i. Manager directed to advertise Police and Personnel, first Monday and first Council meeting on Tuesday, the 11<sup>th</sup>.

Recreation Committee made recommendation that Karen Johns coordinate July 4 celebration. She would be glad to do so with a written notification.

- XVI. Adjournment – Ms. Dugan made a motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.