

**BOROUGH OF CHURCHILL  
2300 WILLIAM PENN HIGHWAY  
PITTSBURGH, PA 15235**

**Minutes of Meeting**

**February 12, 2013**

The regular monthly meeting of the Borough of Churchill was held in the Municipal Building on Tuesday, January 8, 2013 and was called to order by Robert L. Ferry at 7:30 p.m. Mr. Ferry led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance. Members present included Ms. McAbee, Mrs. Pantlik, Messrs. Lepidi, Kline, Dworin and Jurewicz. Also present were Mayor McKenna, Robert W. Goehring, Police Chief Allen Park, Daniel R. Duerring and Donna Perry.

**MINUTES** – There was a motion made by Ms. McAbee and seconded by Mr. Dworin that the minutes of the Regular Meeting held January 8, 2013 be approved as previously presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

**MAYOR** – Mayor McKenna reported that there were two burglaries recently in Blackridge and he urged everyone to be vigilant. He also informed that Officer Theys had a drug bust and the actor was from California.

There was a motion by Mr. Lepidi and seconded by Mr. Kline to accept the report. The motion was unanimously approved.

**MANAGER & FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORTS** – Mr. Robinson stated the Fire Department had 19 calls for the month of January and 11 of the calls were for vehicle accidents.

Under the Manager's Report, Mr. Robinson stated we had a lot of snow in January and we just ordered some of this year's salt requirement. He reminded everyone that sidewalks need to be cleared within 24 hours after a snow storm.

There was a motion by Mrs. Pantlik, seconded by Mr. Kline and unanimously approved by Voice Vote that these reports be accepted and filed.

**REAL ESTATE TAX COLLECTOR** – Mr. Duerring reported that real estate taxes collected at face were \$2,032.63, plus penalties of \$203.27, for a total of \$2,235.90.

In a short summary for 2012, the net assessment after gentrifications and change orders was \$236,600,000. At the face amount this totaled \$1,360,233. The gentrifications amounted to \$1,500,000 million which at the face amount totaled \$8,600. The net change orders had a net deduction of \$317,000 or \$1,800 in taxes. He collected \$1,337,954 for a balance due of \$22,279.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Mr. Duerring read the following report for the month of January, 2013. It showed the following:

<u>CHECKING ACCOUNT</u>	<u>BEGINNING BANK BALANCE</u>	<u>RECEIPTS</u>	<u>O/S CHECKS AND DISBURSEMENTS</u>	<u>ENDING CASH BALANCES</u>
REGULAR ACCOUNT	497,817.69	249,434.48	387,760.45	359,491.18
CAPITAL RES. ACCT.	158,440.74	10.77	-0-	158,451.51
ROAD & HIGHWAY	72,384.28	4.85	-0-	72,389.13
SEWAGE AGENCY FUND	127,070.41	60,125.06	63,302.10	123,893.37
SPECIAL ACCOUNT	12,484.41	.51	-0-	12,484.92
POLICE PENSION FUND	-0-	3,389.32	3,389.32	-0-
EMPL. PENSION FUND	-0-	876.39	876.39	-0-
WELFARE BENEFIT	940.73	-0-	-0-	940.73
EMPL. SEC. 457 D.C.P.	-0-	1,900.00	1,900.00	-0-

There was a motion by Mr. Lepidi, seconded by Ms. McAbee and unanimously approved by Voice Vote to accept the Treasurer's Report for the month of December and have it reproduced in the minutes.

**EARNED INCOME TAX**

**DEED TRANSFER**

DELINQUENT REAL ESTATE TAX – Mr. Robinson reported that the Earned Income Tax Collector had collections of \$63,403.33 for the month of December.

Deed Transfer Tax collection totaled \$911.40 for the month of December.

There was not delinquent real estate collection in December

There was a motion by Mrs. Pantlik, seconded by Mr. Kline and unanimously approved that the reports be filed.

LISTEN TO VISITORS – Joan Gottlieb of Marbury Road stated the latest newsletter was one of the best ever. She informed that page seven of the newsletter refers to the newest Churchill Area

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Environmental Council advisory on Energy Efficient Lighting that is available at the Borough Building.

Ilona Tassone of 3314 Scathelocke Road spoke about the Woodland Hills School Board decision about selling the Administration Building on Greensburg Pike to Trek Development. She is 22 year resident of the Borough and has been selling real estate in the area for 24 years. She is concerned about the tax implications on the borough, plus the tax values of the current residents. The property was never advertised for sale to the general public and the numbers for the study that were provided by Trek to the School District were only provided by them. There was no third party study done. Mr. Fitzgerald, our County Executive, contacted all of our School Board members personally to encourage them to vote in favor of this decision. Mrs. Messina, a School Board member, had a meeting with Trek to review the twice revised sales and lease agreement paperwork. Mrs. Tassone stated she would like to form a committee to address this issue and anyone interested to pursue this should contact her. She also stated she had a petition against the proposed installation of a Walmart in Wilkins Township that she would like interested parties to sign. Mr. Ferry emphasized that this whole proposal is out of our jurisdiction.

Mr. Lepidi stated that Council is closely watching the Trek Development proposal to the School District and is in large part in agreement with Mrs. Tassone's comments. He noted that three Council Members have already spoken at the School Board meetings in some format.

**FILING LIENS - 2012**

**EXONERATE THE REAL ESTATE TAX COLLECTOR** – The Real Estate Tax Collector reported \$22,279.00 outstanding in 2012 unpaid real estate taxes. There was a motion by Mr. Kline, seconded by Mr. Lepidi and unanimously approved by Roll Call Vote for the adoption of Resolution No. 4258 exonerating the Real Estate Tax Collector of any further responsibility for the collection of 2012 real estate taxes and authorizing the Solicitor to file liens on the respective properties.

**AUTHORIZE LEASE PURCHASE OF TWO POLICE VEHICLES** – There was a motion by Ms. McAbee and seconded by Mrs. Pantlik to authorize the lease purchase of two Ford police interceptor vehicles. Mr. Lepidi voted against this issue since the Borough will be having reduced real estate income due to the Westinghouse assessment reduction. Mr. Kline stated he met with the Borough Manager today to discuss this situation and obtain a clearer understanding of the need for this purchase. Mr. Ferry pointed out we have two police cars with high mileage, one with 120,000 that cost us \$19,000 new and we are currently in debt with \$16,500 in repair costs and the other with

140,000 that was purchased at \$21,000 and now has \$10,800 in repair costs. Mr. Ferry stated he will abstain from voting on this matter since the lease purchase financing arrangements are being arranged through his employer which is PNC Bank. Roll Call Vote was as follows: McAbee – yes, Dworin – yes, Jurewicz- yes, Pantlik – yes, Kline – yes, Lepidi – no – Ferry – abstained. Motion carried by majority vote.

POLICE OFFICER JAY THEYS 25 YEAR SERVICE PROCLAMATION – Mayor McKenna read a proclamation honoring Police Officer Jay Theys for his 25 years of service to the Borough and presented him with a service pin award.

PAY THE BILLS – Mr. Robinson read the bills for the month and they totaled \$192,115.13. There was a motion by Mr. Dworin, seconded by Mr. Lepidi and unanimously approved by Roll Call Vote for the adoption of Resolution No. 4260 to pay the bills.

AROUND THE TABLE – Mr. Lepidi stated he appreciates the service provided by all the Borough employees. He still has a concern, however, not only with Churchill but all of the western PA communities with decreasing property values on commercial properties. He stated more tax burden is shifting to residential owners. Council has formed an ad hoc committee comprised of him, Ms. McAbee and Mr. Dworin to look at what can be done to facilitate transactions for a better use of commercial properties.

Mr. Kline noted that he felt this was the best newsletter the Borough has produced.

Mrs. Pantlik updated everyone on the upcoming Recreation Board events; deadline for the Photo Contest is Friday March 1 at 2pm March and Saturday, March 23 are the awards for the Photo Contest, Saturday, March 30 is the Bunny Street Parade and Reception starting at 10am, Saturday, May 5, is the Cheer-on-the-Pittsburgh Marathon Runners, Saturday, May 11 is Bullock Pens Park Appreciation Day and Saturday, June 8 is the Frick Outreach Slideshow.

Mr. Jurewicz extended kudos to the office staff for the excellent newsletter. He reminded everyone to attend the recycling seminars in March since recycling will begin in April.

Mr. Dworin also commented on the improved newsletter. He also commended Mr. Lepidi on forming the ad hoc committee to review real estate uses in the Borough.

Mayor McKenna clearly voiced his disappointment with the School Board's lack of communication with the Borough on the recent Trek Development project.

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Ms. McAbee also thanked the staff on the newsletter. She also stated she hoped everyone read her "letter to the editor" whereby she corrected the erroneous comments regarding some Churchill Council Members voting against a tax decrease in the Borough.

Mr. Ferry stated that Council is very involved with the Trek Development issue and will follow this matter closely. In addition, he will be having discussion with the School Board regarding the tax appeal on the Westinghouse parcel. He stated perhaps an additional appraisal can be obtained to conclude there is more value to the property than currently assessed.

ADJOURN – There was a motion duly made and seconded to adjourn the meeting until Monday, March 11, 2013.

CRAIG A. ROBINSON  
BOROUGH SECRETARY