

BOROUGH OF CHURCHILL
2300 WILLIAM PENN HIGHWAY
PITTSBURGH, PA 15235

Minutes of Meeting

March 13, 2012

The regular monthly meeting of the Borough of Churchill was held in the Municipal Building on Tuesday, February 14, 2012 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 Park, and Donna Perry.

MINUTES – There was a motion made by Mr. Lepidi and seconded by Mr. Kline that the minutes of the Regular Meeting held February 14, 2012 be approved as previously presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

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

MANAGER & FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORTS – Mr. Robinson stated the Fire Department had 15 calls in February making the year to date total 36.

We are looking forward to getting ready for our road paving program this year that will include parts of Garden Terrace, Hollywood, Black Forest, McCrady near Chapel Hill and Marbury. We are also preparing for the sewer work program this year. A description of the work and when it will occur will be advertised in the next newsletter.

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

REAL ESTATE TAX COLLECTOR – Mr. Duerring reported that the real estate tax bills were just mailed at the beginning of the month and approximately \$125,000 has already been collected in taxes.

TREASURER’S REPORT – Mr. Duerring read the following report for the month of February, 2012. 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	732,397.85	348,587.26	340,873.24	740,111.87
CAPITAL RES. ACCT.	158,324.77	10.03	-0-	158,334.80

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ROAD & HIGHWAY	134,128.07	8.43	-0-	134,136.50
SEWAGE AGENCY FUND	34,622.29	83,012.97	53,596.73	64,038.53
SPECIAL ACCOUNT	12,527.08	1,982.18	3,600.48	10,908.78
POLICE PENSION FUND	3,284.86	3,242.68	6,527.54	-0-
EMPL. PENSION FUND	847.69	854.62	1,702.31	-0-
WELFARE BENEFIT	580.73	-0-	-0-	580.73
EMPL. SEC. 457 D.C.P.	-0-	1,850.00	1,850.00	-0-

There was a motion by Mr. Dworin, seconded by Mr. Lepidi and unanimously approved by Voice Vote to accept the Treasurer's Report for the month of February 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, Pennsylvania Municipal Service Co., reported the collection of \$26,276.16 for the month of February.

Deed Transfer Tax collection totaled \$2,633.01 for the month of February.

Jordan Tax Service collected \$4,076.91 in delinquent real estate tax in February.

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

LISTEN TO VISITORS – Mr. Joe Palastro, Chairman of the Recreation Committee at Edgewood Country Club, presented plans to transform their tennis court facilities into a year-round program. Also in attendance with him was tennis professional Rashid Hassan. The intent is to place a temporary, removable structure over the existing area that would be up for approximately five-six months each year. Council had a question and answer session that resulted in referring the matter to our building inspector to determine the next course of action.

Chief Park reported that Allegheny County District Attorney Stephen Zappala gave a presentation about Child Abuse and Child Neglect at Woodland Hills High School on February 21 and the wrong message got out as to how these cases should be handled and by whom. Because of this confusion, he now has to meet with the District Attorney, Child Protective Services, the other Police Departments of the school district communities, along with some other agencies to set up a

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protocol on how we are going to involve these types of cases.

ADVERTISE FOR 2012 ROAD PAVING BIDS – There was a motion by Mr. Kline, seconded by Mr. Lepidi and unanimously approved by Roll Call Vote to authorize the Borough Secretary to advertise for bids for the 2012 Road Paving Project which is estimated to cost \$108-110,000.

ADVERTISE FOR 2012 SEWER WORK BIDS – There was a motion by Mr. Lepidi and seconded by Ms. McAbee to authorize the Borough Secretary to advertise for bids for the 2012 sewer work. Mr. Lepidi stated that we are now in the Operations and Maintenance Phase of the Consent Order for the sewer repair work. The timetable is as follows: bid specifications for camera work, which is the only work scheduled for this year, will be available from Gateway Engineers on March 27, bid opening on April 24, and the bid will be awarded at the regular meeting of Council on May 8. A Roll Call Vote was taken and unanimously passed to advertise for sewer work bids.

Mr. Robinson advised that the same timetable would be used for the road paving bids. One of the projects will be opened approximately one half hour after the other.

ADOPT THE ALLEGHENY COUNTY HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN – There was a motion by Mrs. Pantlik and seconded by Mr. Jurewicz to adopt the Allegheny County Hazard Mitigation Plan. Mr. Robinson explained that the County updates this plan every 5-7 years. This is basically a risk assessment and history of natural disasters in the County. The individual municipalities are ranked as to what their risk assessment is to flooding, tornadoes, severe storms, etc. The County reports to Fema and if we do have an issue of a natural disaster, such as the heavy snowfall a couple years ago, it qualifies us to apply for funding help. You have to adopt this plan to qualify for both FEMA and PEMA funding in case of a natural disaster. A Roll Call Vote passed unanimously to adopt Resolution No. 4229 to adopt the Allegheny County Hazard Mitigation Plan.

RATIFY THE 3-YEAR POLICE CONTRACT – There was a motion by Mr. Dworin and seconded by Mrs. Pantlik to adopt Resolution No. 4231 to ratify the police contract for a three year period from January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2014. Mr. Ferry advised that the contract has not been finalized with all the signatures, but we are close. Through negotiations a conclusion was reached on the contract and it didn't please everyone on both sides. However, the majority approved it. The parameters include a pay freeze for 2012, 1.5% increase the second year and a 2.5 increase the third and last year of the contract; a huge savings on the health insurance plan via changing from

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Highmark to UPMC (existing contributions made to the health plan stay the same); vacation changed a bit benefiting the officers; additional day off for birthday; unused yearly uniform allowance of \$750 will be given to them; extra bereavement leave; officer-in-charge pay increase; and a temporary incentive for retirement at \$250/month for five years during this contract period only. He felt this contract was a positive cash flow for the Borough. Although, he noted, we will continue to have budget issues as we move forward.

Mr. Lepidi stated he plans to vote against the contract. He does, however, appreciate all the work Mr. Ferry and the negotiating committee did on this issue. This is a very difficult issue, however, this contract does achieve more for the taxpayers than some other contracts he has voted on in the past. As he has previously stated, our tax base is flat and more and more costs are passed on to the taxpayers. We want the police to be fairly compensated and he believes that with the last contract and certainly this one, they are. One of his biggest concerns is that while trying for years, Council has been unable to obtain a commitment to have the police contribute toward health care. The only contribution is a \$250/year single and \$500/family deductible, which is generous compared to anything in the private sector. While we are saving costs with the new plan there was nothing that the police gave up. Another concern was the commitment to a three-year contract with a lot of uncertainty with the tax base. The Westinghouse site, our largest taxpayer, is going up for auction on March 15. He also noted while there is no salary increase, a \$750 signing bonus was negotiated. He also felt it very noteworthy that the taxpayers should be aware about the binding arbitration process. As an elected official he feels very constrained by this process. He doesn't view this process as an arms-length negotiation as you would in the private sector. If an agreement couldn't be reached, this case would be referred to an unelected arbitrator who would tell Council, as public officials, to pass a tax increase or cut services.

Mr. Kline felt the contract is out of step with the times especially in regard to employee contribution toward health care.

Mr. Dworin, a member of the negotiating committee, wanted to clarify some points. He stated that Mr. Lepidi is 100% correct with the binding arbitration process whereby we could be forced to increase taxes or lay off members of the force. What we were able to achieve was a significant savings. Both publicly and privately he would have liked to get more. But the reality is we were able to provide a savings to the taxpayer, maintain the force level and get a contract where we didn't have to face the binding arbitration choices. Lastly, he noted that as an end product what

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Council is walking away with is not ideal for him or anyone at the table, but it is something that is a responsible product that was produced for our citizens.

Mr. Jurewicz congratulated both negotiating committees for coming to this compromise. He noted as an official the core responsibility is to provide for the health, safety and welfare of our residents and that has been accomplished. In practice government becomes the art of spending other peoples money. He stated his vote would reflect his concern for the terms of the health care coverage and the resource tax allocation burden that it represents to our residents. He noted his basic problem was the health care coverage and the lack of employee contribution.

Ms. McAbee voiced her opinion that she will vote for the contract based on the fact that there will be no tax increase, but overall she is not happy with the contract. She also felt that new hires should be mandated to live in the Borough. If you don't live here you don't have a stake in it. She stated the police officers receive a salary that is more than the average person in Churchill and feels saddened that they don't show any compassion with the fact of burdening the taxpayers to pay for all their requests. She further felt that if Council is putting their signatures on the contract, this information should be put on the website so the citizens can view it.

Mr. Lepidi wanted to clarify the fact that there is no tax increase this year. This does not extend for the length of the three-year contract. There are no assurances beyond this year that taxes will not increase.

The Roll Call Vote was as follows: McAbee – yes, Dworin – yes, Jurewicz – no, Pantlik – yes, Kline – no, Lepidi – no and Ferry – yes. Motion to ratify the contract passed by a Majority Vote.

Mr. Lepidi stated that after all the signatures are obtained on the contract and it is final, the information should be put on the website.

PAY THE BILLS – Mr. Robinson read the bills for the month and they totaled \$277,870.08. There was a motion by Ms. McAbee, seconded by Mrs. Pantlik and unanimously approved by Roll Call Vote for the adoption of Resolution No. 4230 to pay the bills.

AROUND THE TABLE – Mr. Lepidi noted that if there is any hesitancy about putting the contract on the website he would have a problem with it. The taxpayers should be able to view it and no one's individual compensation is divulged. If it is not placed on the website he will obtain a copy and disseminate it.

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Mr. Kline stated it was nice to see Edgewood Country Club do their presentation. They are a large employer in the Borough and also community base. Would like to see more activities done jointly together.

Mrs. Pantlik stated she looked at the Edgewood Country Club site with regard to the structure they want to install on the tennis courts and it doesn't appear that there would be any visibility problems with homes in the area.

Mr. Jurewicz commented that he is glad that the police contract issue is settled and is ready to move forward. He stated that this is a vibrant community and he wants to contribute to have it stay this way.

Mr. Dworin appreciated the fact that throughout the police negotiations there were opposing views, but all discussions were handled in a civil manner.

Mayor McKenna congratulated everyone on settlement of the police contract. Also, he is looking forward to participating in helping with the bunny parade by providing the transportation.

Ms. McAbee would like to see the Community Relations Committee work on helping to improve the appearance of the hillside along Beulah Road that is the owned by Westinghouse.

Mr. Ferry appreciated the input from everyone regarding the police contract. He stated he feels comfortable that it is good for both sides.

ADJOURN – There was a motion duly made and seconded to adjourn the meeting until Monday, April 9, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.

**CRAIG A. ROBINSON
BOROUGH SECRETARY**