

BOROUGH OF CHURCHILL
2300 WILLIAM PENN HIGHWAY
PITTSBURGH, PA 15235

Minutes of Meeting

SEPTEMBER 11, 2012

The regular monthly meeting of the Borough of Churchill was held in the Municipal Building on Tuesday, September 11, 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, and Jurewicz. Mr. Dworin was absent. Also present were Mayor McKenna, Robert W. Goehring, Police Chief Allen Park, Daniel R. Duerring and Donna Perry. After the Pledge of Allegiance, Mr. Ferry called for a moment of silence in remembrance of the anniversary of the "911" act of terrorism against our country.

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

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

MANAGER & FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORTS – Mrs. Perry stated the Fire Department had 16 calls in August bringing the year to date total to 129. There were no significant calls in the Borough last month.

Line striping was completed on Lewin Lane, Garrick Drive, Nottingham Drive and McCrady Road.

The Steel Valley street sweeper worked in the Borough on September 6. It was also scheduled for September 7, but became in need of repair and will have to be rescheduled.

The road paving and sewer line televising projects have been completed.

There was a motion by Mr. Lepidi, 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 real estate taxes collected at face were \$2,490.33 plus penalties of \$249.04 for a total of \$2,739.37. Balance collectable is \$47,746.05.

September 11, 2012

TREASURER'S REPORT – Mr. Duerring read the following report for the month of August, 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	1,292,516.89	283,797.55	367,792.48	1,208,521.96
CAPITAL RES. ACCT.	158,387.76	10.74	-0-	158,398.50
ROAD & HIGHWAY	201,137.16	509.05	991.00	200,655.21
SEWAGE AGENCY FUND	68,680.63	119,922.79	101,583.86	87,019.56
SPECIAL ACCOUNT	12,471.91	10.51	5.00	12,477.42
POLICE PENSION FUND	3,138.43	3,294.26	6,432.69	-0-
EMPL. PENSION FUND	840.76	840.76	1,681.52	-0-
WELFARE BENEFIT	760.73	-0-	-0-	760.73
EMPL. SEC. 457 D.C.P.	-0-	1,850.00	1,850.00	-0-

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

EARNED INCOME TAX

DEED TRANSFER

DELINQUENT REAL ESTATE TAX – Mrs. Perry reported that the Earned Income Tax Collector had collections of \$75,677.82 for the month of August.

Deed Transfer Tax collection totaled \$5,500.25 for the month of August.

Jordan Tax Service collected \$2,912.56 in delinquent real estate tax.

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

September 11, 2012

LISTEN TO VISITORS – Mr. Ferry provided an update as to where we stand with the recycling issue. The bids for garbage and recycling were received. Two haulers that submitted bids were Waste Management and our current hauler, Allied Waste. Allied was clearly the low cost provider in all categories. The garbage collection cost did come down. This is a five year bid that will increase with each year thereafter. Recycling is about \$18,000, which combined with the garbage collection cost, is lower than what we currently pay just for garbage collection. Other decision points that still need further discussion regarding recycling are size of recycling bin, frequency of collection, and mandatory or non-mandatory. The other issue is a budget factor that includes costs for other capital expenditures such as paving. The idea of instituting a garbage fee as opposed to having the cost absorbed in taxes will also be discussed. A vote will be taken next month on awarding the garbage/recycling contract.

David Lippock of Garrick Drive questioned why we were even considering recycling. Mr. Ferry stated we are considering the issue just as most other municipalities do.

Dan Duerring spoke as a resident in addition to being the Borough's real estate tax collector. He stated now is not the time to sign a contract for recycling. He walks throughout the Borough and observes many streets that need surface repairs. He also stated he is worried about reduced tax income from the Westinghouse property reassessment and the impact this will have in the future. While we're looking at a five year contract for garbage, what about the next five years with increased costs for payroll, fringe benefits, energy, gasoline for police cars. How will all these increased costs be addressed? The bins for recycling, when fully loaded, are extremely heavy and the senior residents of the Borough need to be considered.

Mr. Kirchner of Garrick Drive suggested having the recycling issue as a referendum on the election ballot. He was advised that an advisory item is not permitted. Mr. Kirchner also recalled the former Borough Manager received costs for recycling and it simply was not cost effective and was puzzled why this issue is still under consideration.

Mr. McManus of Garden Terrace voiced his opinion that he likes the current garbage collection and it is done in an efficient manner. He stated everyone has the option to voluntarily recycle.

September 11, 2012

Dolores Patterson of the Churchill Condos on the Greensburg Pike stated she is in agreement with the tax collector that increased costs in the future really need consideration. The residents of the Churchill Mansions pay a fee for garbage collection and she felt they are being taxed twice since the cost for garbage collection is included in the real estate tax. She voiced her opposition for recycling. She further stated that the residents in her building had a meeting with an individual last evening to discuss recycling and he found there is not a market for newspapers or aluminum cans. From all the residents she has talked to regarding this issue, they are all very pleased with the current method of garbage collection.

Mr. Jim DiPerna of Branning Road requested the numbers received and Councilman Jurewicz read some of the various amounts received. Just landfill trash was \$10.95 per unit per month. Our current price is \$12.23 per unit per month. The bid received for a 90-gallon maximum can per household would be \$10.50 per unit per month. Recycling every other week in a 65 gallon container would be \$1.00 per household per month, which includes the cost of the container. Leaf Collection starts at \$1,500 per collection. He stated he is in favor of voluntary recycling.

He questioned if Council was planning to lower the millage rate for next year. Mr. Ferry stated we have to wait until the final assessment value is received from Allegheny County. A major factor is what eventually will happen with the Westinghouse property re-assessment.

Kathy Youngo of Greensburg Pike was opposed to recycling based upon the heavy bins.

Margie Darbut of Williamsburg Place stated she was completely unaware of the recycling issue and felt the residents need to be informed about issues such as this. Also, she stated the minutes of the meeting for the past two months are not on the website. She felt that she would not be able to physically move the large bin. Her opinion is that people have the option to voluntarily recycle.

Mr. Beamer of 46 Churchill Road stated that the Allegheny County maintenance crew did work on the roadway and the two flagmen were actually frightened due to motorists traveling at high rates of speed. He requested that the police monitor this roadway more frequently as this is a continual issue.

Mr. James Hovan of Marbury Road couldn't quite comprehend the problem with taking the recycling bins to the curb. It's still the same amount of garbage, just that it would be separated. He

September 11, 2012

stated we are the largest garbage producing nation in the world. He voluntarily recycles and would like to see recycling in the Borough and urged Council to vote accordingly.

PAY THE BILLS – Mrs. Perry read the bills for the month and they totaled \$384,057.68. There was a motion by Mr. Lepidi, seconded by Mr. Jurewicz and unanimously approved by Roll Call Vote to adopt Resolution No. 4242 to pay the bills.

AROUND THE TABLE – Mr. Lepidi stated he appreciates comments from the residents and would like everyone to abide by the rules and refrain from random discussion during the meeting after you have had the opportunity to speak. The big question that seems to be asked is why we are changing the garbage collection to include recycling. He thought this matter needed to be investigated and if it was cost effective it should be considered. He is for the most efficient use of resources. He informed that he voluntarily recycles.

Mr. Goehring stated at some point in December Allegheny County will come up with a reliable assessment value for each community so Council can determine the millage rate for 2013. The big component for the Borough is the ultimate outcome of the assessed value for the Westinghouse property.

Mr. Kline stated that the garbage cost represents close to one millage point of our budget. He felt we should change to a user fee system.

Mrs. Pantlik stated she is in favor of recycling. During the research of this whole process, it takes a lot of money to develop a landfill. She stated the Borough is being spared because our surrounding communities recycle. Our younger residents have stated they are in favor of recycling and we need to move our community forward.

Mr. Jurewicz stated he is pro recycling. Our costs for garbage are predicated by the amount of garbage we put in the landfill. All we are asking is that our residents consider taking the recyclables out of the landfill.

Mayor McKenna addressed Mr. Beamer's comments about speeding and stated that he has been aware of and has been complaining about it for the past decade. The Mayor advised he lives on Holland Road which has a stop sign that people constantly ignore. He has talked to Chief Park about this issue and would like more citations written regardless if they are residents or not. If we have a more aggressive effort perhaps we can cut down on violators.

September 11, 2012

Ms. McAbee stated she is against recycling. She doesn't believe Churchill is going to attract younger people to move into the Borough until something is done with the Woodland Hills High School. We have a lot of fiscal issues that include older police cars that need replaced. The first year bid for garbage collection is a reduction of \$18,000 that can help purchase a new police car. We also have roads that need paved. One of the former members of Council did a survey that showed the average person in Churchill earns \$60,000 per year which means a lot of people are making \$40,000 per year. The police make an average of \$37.00/hour with a \$55.00/hour overtime rate. To pay for recycling when we have all these other increased costs, she felt it was fiscally irresponsible.

Mr. Ferry stated that we do have budget concerns and the budget process is not an easy process. A number of years ago we lowered the millage rate because we had a sizable fund balance. This was due in large part to money that was escrowed that we thought we would have to pay back to Westinghouse because of reassessed value on the property. We have not had a balanced budget the past couple of years due to the fact we have been eating into the fund balance, which he stated is a pet peeve of his. He wants to see an adequate fund balance at the end of the year.

He stated he is in favor of recycling, but he reminded the residents that they will have the option to continue their current method of garbage removal. If, however, you do end up with a recycle bin and you elect not to use it, you must store it as it has to stay with the house.

ADJOURN – There was a motion duly made and seconded to adjourn the meeting until Monday, October 8, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.

CRAIG ROBINSON
SECRETARY