

BOROUGH OF CHURCHILL  
2300 WILLIAM PENN HIGHWAY  
PITTSBURGH, PA 15235

Minutes of Meeting

November 13, 2012

The regular monthly meeting of the Borough of Churchill was held in the Municipal Building on Tuesday, November 13, 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 Allen Park, Daniel R. Duerring and Donna Perry.

MINUTES – There was a motion made by Mr. Jurewicz and seconded by Mr. Kline that the minutes of the Regular Meeting held October 9, 2012 be approved as previously presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

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

MANAGER & FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORTS – Mr. Robinson stated the Fire Department had 12 calls for the month bringing the year-to-date total to 157. The only significant call was an outdoor grill fire. There was a problem with the propane tank. Extra activities included participation in the high school homecoming parade and the Race for Pace.

The last leaf collection scheduled with Allied Waste is next Monday. However, if you anyone has more bags thereafter please call the Borough office to arrange a pick up.

There was a motion by Mr. Dworin, seconded by Mrs. Pantlik 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 \$11,375.83, plus penalties of \$873.85, for a total of \$12,249.68. The balance collectable is \$31,292.16.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Mr. Duerring read the following report for the month of October, 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>Nov. 13, 2012 ENDING CASH BALANCES</u>
REGULAR ACCOUNT	1,281,198.45	513,166.02	803,493.71	990,870.76
CAPITAL RES. ACCT.	158,408.19	11.43	0-	158,419.62
ROAD & HIGHWAY	100,249.55	13,134.44	26,627.98	86,756.01
SEWAGE AGENCY FUND	85,288.45	137,489.77	137,299.81	85,478.41
SPECIAL ACCOUNT	12,482.88	.54	-0-	12,483.42
POLICE PENSION FUND	3,187.41	164,407.92	167,595.33	-0-
EMPL. PENSION FUND	840.76	35,616.76	36,457.52	-0-
WELFARE BENEFIT	840.73	-0-	-0-	840.73
EMPL. SEC. 457 D.C.P.	-0-	1,850.00	1,850.00	-0-

There was a motion by Mr. Lepidi, seconded by Mr. Kline and unanimously approved by Voice Vote to accept the Treasurer's Report for the month of October 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 \$44,460.34 for the month of October.

Deed Transfer Tax collection totaled \$2,303.00 for the month of October.

Jordan Tax Service collected delinquent real estate taxes in the amount of \$6,027.98 for the month of October.

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

Mr. Lepidi informed that there has been a significant increase in earned income tax collection this year. We're not sure if this is attributable to higher earnings or improved tax collection methods.

**LISTEN TO VISITORS** – Mr. DiPerna of 1616 Branning Road requested a definition of the goal for recycling. Mr. Ferry stated the goal is to provide a service for collection. This is for people who want to recycle.

November 13, 2012

Dolores Patterson of the Churchill Mansions questioned how the recycling will be paid for. Mr. Ferry stated that since the Churchill Mansion residents don't use the garbage service they will not be charged for the service.

Chief Park thanked the Volunteer Fire Department for their assistance with the Race for Pace and also on Halloween.

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER - There was a motion by Mrs. Pantlik, seconded by Ms. McAbee and unanimously approved by Roll Call Vote for the adoption of Resolution No. 4245 to enter into a one-year agreement with Hoffman's Boarding Kennels, starting January 1, 2013, to provide animal control services at a fee of \$130 per month.

2013 POLICE PENSION CONTRIBUTION RATE - There was a motion by Mr. Kline, seconded by Mr. Jurewicz and unanimously approved by Roll Call Vote for the adoption of Resolution No. 4246 to set the 2013 police pension contribution rate at 5%.

FIRST READING OF 2013 BUDGET – Mr. Lepidi read the first reading of the Proposed 2013 Budget. It showed anticipated revenues of \$2,338,135 and expenditures of \$2,338,135.

He addressed some items that included the questionable assessed value for tax revenue. The Westinghouse property had an increase in value from \$22,500,000 to \$67,800,000. We know this figure will eventually decrease, but at this time we have to use the higher value in trying to determine the millage rate. The property recently sold for a little under \$1,000,000. The assessed value of the entire Borough went up substantially at 39%. The millage rate for 2013 is based on a rate of 4.32%. This is a substantial decrease from last year's rate of 5.75%.

He also explained that the cost of garbage collection, which was close to one mil, was removed from the budget and the fee will be directly billed to the resident.

Mr. Lepidi spoke about the sewer budget and stated the Consent Order mandate will continue into the next decade. He noted that the sewer budget will be adopted when the regular budget is adopted next month. The sewer surcharge will remain the same at \$3.50 per 1,000 gallons of water usage. Also, next month we will be able to outline the proposed schedule for advertising for bids, awarding the bids and an explanation of the work that will be done.

Mr. Ferry made some comments regarding the budget and said that we still have to obtain the final number from the County for the assessed valuation. We do have to remain revenue neutral. He also explained that the garbage fee was removed from the budget and will now be billed directly to the property owner. This is a mandatory fee. There are funds budgeted for road paving.

November 13, 2012

Mr. Duerring asked for an explanation of the garbage billing details. Mr. Ferry stated the billing should start at the beginning of the year. A letter will be sent to all the residents explaining the process. He further noted the next item on the agenda is to enter into an agreement with the hauler for billing services. The recycling service will not start until April 1 to allow sufficient time to educate the residents.

**ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT TO PROVIDE BILLING SERVICE FOR GARBAGE/RECYCLING –**

There was a motion by Mr. Jurewicz and seconded by Mrs. Pantlik to adopt Resolution No. 4247 to authorize the entering into an agreement between the Borough and Allied Waste, as the Borough's agent, for the billing and collection of municipal waste collection and disposal charges pursuant to the garbage bid and the agreement entered into by and between the Borough and Allied Waste in that regard. Mr. Lepidi questioned the amount for this service and questioned if this was a fee or a tax. Mr. Jurewicz stated this is a fee and each year a choice can be made to either put it back in the tax base or keep it as a fee. The first year total is \$14,592 which is \$.82 per unit, per month based on 1483 units. The remaining four years are priced at \$.84/unit, \$.87/unit, \$.89/unit and \$.91/unit. Roll Call Vote was as follows: Jurewicz – yes, Pantlik – yes, McAbee – no, Dworin – yes, Kline – no, Lepidi – no, and Ferry yes. Motion passed by majority vote.

**AUTHORIZE BOROUGH SECRETARY TO ADVERTISE THE INTENT TO AMEND THE GARBAGE ORDINANCE –**

There was a motion by Mr. Jurewicz, seconded by Mrs. Pantlik to authorize the Borough Secretary to advertise the intent to amend the garbage ordinance. Mr. Lepidi wanted it noted that this same motion was made last month for adoption tonight, but the ordinance is still not ready. Roll Call Vote was as follows: Jurewicz – yes, Pantlik – yes, McAbee – no, Dworin – yes, Kline – yes, Lepidi – yes and Ferry – yes. Motion passed by majority vote.

**ADVERTISE 2013 PROPOSED BUDGET INSPECTION –** There was a motion made by Mr. Dworin, seconded by Mr. Jurewicz and unanimously approved by Roll Call Vote to authorize the Borough Secretary to advertise that the 2013 Proposed Budget is available for inspection.

**ADVERTISE INTENT TO ADOPT AN ORDINANCE TO SET THE 2013 MILLAGE RATE –** There was a motion by Mr. Dworin, seconded by Mr. Jurewicz and unanimously approved by Roll Call Vote to advertise the intent to adopt an ordinance to set the 2013 millage rate.

November 13, 2012

**PAY THE BILLS** – Mr. Robinson read the bills for the month and they total \$211,730.62. There was a motion by Ms. McAbee, seconded by Mr. Dworin and unanimously approved by Roll Call Vote for the adoption of Resolution No. 4248 to pay the bills.

**AROUND THE TABLE** – Ms. McAbee informed that Alcosan will be sending EPA their plan to spend \$3,600,000,000 dollars to clean up the waterways in Allegheny County. The people of the County cannot pay this amount of money and the hope is that after EPA's review Alcosan is hoping to negotiate to reduce this amount to \$2,000,000,000. Even at the reduced amount it will still be a hardship since the average sewage bill will be \$150-300 per month. In addition, the Borough will be required to pay for sewer line repairs that are in sections of Forest Hills and North Braddock.

Mayor McKenna thanked the Police Department for traffic control and monitoring the parking situation for the Race-for-Pace event.

The Mayor reported at last month's meeting that Halloween would be held on the 31<sup>st</sup>. He said due to the projected "Hurricane Sandy" weather forecast it was changed to the following Saturday and he received some negative comments for changing the date.

He further stated the deer population is running wild in the Borough and that this is a serious problem. We did have some solutions in the past and felt Council should revisit this issue.

The Mayor also thanked Paul Gamrat of Thornberry Drive for his increased presence in the Borough. He did some work on the Stratford sign and worked on a landscaping project at Lewin Lane and Thornberry Drive.

Also, he received a note from Bill Henninger of Holland Road. He had a false alarm at his home when the smoke detectors went off. He thanked the Police and Fire Departments for responding and there was no one home. They contacted his daughter-in-law who lives on Churchill Road to unlock the house. He appreciated the fact that he lives in a borough whereby emergency responders know their residents.

Mr. Jurewicz thanked the Churchill Chargers for their involvement with the Race-for-Pace and also stated he enjoyed the Halloween party.

He acknowledged a communication deficit with the current website and work is in progress to have a functioning site.

On waste and recycling matters there is a nice green team education program planned. He requested if anyone is interested in participating to contact him.

Mrs. Pantlik stated she had information on upcoming Recreation Board events for anyone interested.

November 13, 2012

Mr. Lepidi stated he heard recycling was inaccurately categorized as a Democrat versus Republican issue and wanted to state it was not a partisan matter. It was not even a matter of recycling, but rather a matter of cost. He felt a user fee was the fairest way to assess a recycling cost for each household.

Mr. Ferry stated it is never easy to formulate a budget to provide basic services and felt the recycling cost was fair. Council will continue to work hard to provide all services.

ADJOURN – There was a motion duly made and seconded to adjourn the meeting until Monday, December 10, 2012 at 7:00 pm.

CRAIG A. ROBINSON  
SECRETARY