

BOROUGH OF CANONSBURG
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
NOVEMBER 8, 2010

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Milio9to at 7:00 P.M.

II. MOMENT OF SILENCE:

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

IV. ROLL CALL:

Present:

Richard Russo, Paul Sharkady, Joseph Graff, Allen J. Williams, Joseph Milioto, Patricia Romano, Fran Coleman, and George Coleman

Others Present:

Borough Manager Terry Hazlett, Engineer Harvey Treschow, Attorney Patrick Derrico, Mayor David H. Rhome, and Police Chief R. T. Bell

Absent:

Michael Kazmarski

V. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:

A. The following presentations were made by Mayor Rhome:

1. Patrolman Louis Bailey – Certificate of Merit for his professionalism and meritorious conduct after being dispatched to a fire on June 5, 2010 at 215 East College Street when he made forcible entry into the apartment's locked upstairs room where he found a mother and infant perched on a second floor window ledge. Officer Bailey rescued the pair from the apartment after covering the infant's face with a wet towel. His quick actions rescued a mother and child from a burning apartment before the Fire Department arrived to put out the fire. This Certificate was presented on behalf of the Police Chief, President of Council, and the Mayor.
(Applause)
2. Gabriella Gardner (and her family) – Certificate/Award For quick thinking in identifying location of a fire at a residence at 227 Hooks Lane. She took fast action by notifying her father, who made every effort to put the fire out. The Fire Department was called to put out the hot spots and de-

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terminated that the fire was suspicious in nature. Due to Garbiella's efforts, the fire was contained, and a large party, of 40 people, that was being held in the garage of the house were kept safe from harm and the structure saved.

This Award was presented by the Fire Chief, Borough Council, and the Mayor.

(Applause)

B. Hayes Design Group

Mr. Milioto turned this portion of the meeting over to Mr. Sharkady, Chairman of the Building Committee, who explained that the committee has concluded that the design presented by Hayes Design Group would be the best option at this time regarding the outcome of the Borough Building.

Presentation of the feasibility study was made by Mr. Mark Dwayne of the Hayes Design Group. He stated that they had been hired by the Borough to do the study to see how the first and second floors of the building that are being vacated by the Library could be best utilized by the Borough to accommodate some of its current needs. He said they met with the Building Committee to discuss the needs and then put together the 8 ½ x 11 handout – Programming Statement of Needs – which includes the Police Department, Borough Administration, government offices, music museum, and possibly having some additional rental space for the Tax Office, the Sewer Authority, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Main Street Manager's Office, etc. (Feedback and information had been obtained from the various departments.)

Mr. Dwayne also reviewed the 11 x 17 pre-plans and explained how they came up with this plan.

Council representatives were given the opportunity to ask questions after the presentation.

Discussion was held.

Mr. Sharkady informed Council that the plans are preliminary and there's probably a lot of work to be done on this. The plans can

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be changed. However, a study must be done for the Borough to get the grant. The plan will be presented to the people from whom the Borough is seeking the grant in January.

Mr. Hazlett explained that some time in January after the presentation to the County Board, the Commissioners will give tentative approval to the plans they want to go forward to DCED. The DCED will make its approval in July, and if approved, the money should be available around September. (This grant is from Local Share money.)

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

A. Mr. Sam Amorose expressed the following concerns:

1. Whether taxes are being raised again by 1 mil.
Mr. Milioto replied that the tentative proposal is before Council this evening.
2. If new radios were purchased for the Police Department and if there is a maintenance contract.
Mr. Milioto informed Mr. Amorose that, up until now, they haven't been purchased, but there are proposals to buy them.
Chief Bell explained that new radios usually come with a 2 or 3 year warranty; a maintenance contract is not needed.
3. If \$175,000 has been budgeted for the Engineer, and asked Mr. Treschow if he is certified.
Mr. Treschow replied that his company is certified.
4. How much has the Engineer spent this year?
Mr. Treschow informed Mr Amorose that \$55,000 was budgeted for this year, and \$39,000 has been spent.
5. Why the amount being budgeted is \$175,000 and what the purpose is.
Mr. Treschow informed Mr. Amorose that the budget he presented is less than the budget requested this year. A \$100,000 grant has been requested for the Flood

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Protection Grant, which is a 2/3, 1/3 matching grant. If Canonsburg gets the grant, they will be reimbursed two-thirds, which would be \$67,000.

6. What the Engineer's fee is and what it entails.
Mr. Treschow replied that his monthly fee is \$300 for attending two Council meetings, preparing reports, and conferring almost daily with Mr. Hazlett or other Borough representatives about things that are going on in Canonsburg.
7. If the firemen are holding a shindig in Seven Springs.
Mayor Rhome advised Mr. Amorose to speak with the Fire Chief or the President of the Fire Department.
Mr. Amorose said the firemen do a good job, but he can't understand why anything would be held in Seven Springs when we have a number of halls here. He asked how they can justify spending \$20,000 and raising the taxes by a mil.
Mr. Williams explained that the Fire Department has its own budget. The Borough gives them the same 3 mils every year.
8. Asked what the national average is for police officers per 1,000 residents.
Mr. Milioto replied that it would probably depend upon the town. There isn't a law on the books that he is aware of that restricts minimum or maximum.
Mr. Amorose stated that the national average is one police officer for each 1,000 residents. Canonsburg's population is 8,500, and we have 15 police officers.
9. Asked Mr. Williams if he made a statement that the seniors in town are not intelligent.
Mr. Williams informed him that during a discussion of having people going door-to-door to solicit business

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from people, his statement was that this was not acceptable because we have senior citizens, and in the demographics of our town, there are some people who are not intelligent and should not be susceptible to that. A Council member misinterpreted this while repeating it and said that he called senior citizens not intelligent.

10. In reference to Mr. Amorose's statement that Council is raising taxes 1 mil again, Mr. Russo stated that the taxes have not been raised for 3 years. He also mentioned that Mr. Amorose came before Council last year and commended them for not raising taxes.

Mr. Amorose said he gives credit where credit is due.

11. Asked Mr. Russo if he made the statement, if seniors can go to the casino, they can afford the \$13.

Mr. Russo informed him he did not say this. He invited Mr. Amorose to come to the budget workshops next year.

12. Questioned spending \$22,000 for a study.

Mr. Milioto explained that a study is required to apply for the grant.

13. Felt that the one mil can be cut from the budget.

Mr. Amorose ended by asking Council not to raise the taxes even one mil.

- B. Attorney Lane Turturice, of Washington, was asked by his client, Jim Bauer, who owns property at 114 Murdock Street, to ask for Council's assistance, much like they have done for his neighbor. The houses on the street are pretty old, and many of them are built on top of a 20 inch storm water pipe. He said that Mr. Treshow has all the background on this pipe, which is deteriorated and is causing a substantial amount of property damage to his client's foundation and basement, etc.

Attorney Turturice asked Council to consider doing something similar to what they have done for Mr. Bauer's neighbor, Mr. Brown, wherein Council was able to assist him with some dam-

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ages he sustained, as well as some remedial work. Mr. Bauer has owned the property for 3 years, has completely gutted the home, and is trying to return it to the tax rolls. He stated that Mr. Bauer is looking for some type of sleeving system so that the pipe will not collapse underneath the house, and there will be a free flow of water. This issue is a problem of marketability, whether it is owned by Mr. Bauer or someone else.

In addition, as a result of the collapsed line over a number of years, the concrete basement floor, which is approximately 500 sq. ft., is heaved up in most places.

Attorney Turturice asked Council to please take this into consideration.

Mr. Milioto said that this is the first time Council is hearing about this situation, and it will be turned over to Mr. Hazlett, Mr. Treschow, and Mr. Derrico.

Attorney Turturice has been consulting with them and felt that the issue is now beyond them at this point, and they will need some insight from Council as to what they might be willing to do for Mr. Bauer.

- C. Mr. Dave White, of 566 Tannehill Street, telephone number 724-745-5284, approached Council about the codes and ordinances posted on the web site and asked Council to update them, as they are not current.

Mr. Hazlett was familiar with what Mr. White was requesting. He said the ordinance concerns the size of political signs. This was changed by the Zoning Board a year or two ago. It has been updated on the home page. At this point, Mr. Hazlett is not able to change what is on the web site from his office, but the web site provider is being changed, and that will be part of the redesign. Mr. Hazlett stated that everyone who called about the signs was given the correct information.

- D. Mr. David G. Bober, of 1031 Fifth Street, telephone number 724-745-6268, asked Council to take a hard look at decreasing

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the size of the police force, an action that he feels would be ridiculous. With the Republican victory in Harrisburg, the first thing they fired on was the LCB. Mr. Bober works for the LCB across the street. He suggested that Council listen to what they are saying: More booze available at more times. Mr. Bober said that no one needs to buy booze at 7 o'clock in the morning or at midnight. He said that Chief Bell deals with these types of problems all the time.

- E. Mr. Mark Delsignore, of 70 Interstate Alley, Claysville, PA 15323, asked Council about the ordinances and laws that have been changed concerning the definition of a family. He said that the old definition basically says that it can be a group of people not related by blood, adoption or marriage, as long as they are living together and sharing a household. The new ordinance actually states about living in a group living arrangement with supervision. Mr. Bober asked what is considered supervision.

Mr. Milioto said that Council can not discuss what happened at the Zoning Board meeting the other evening.

Mr. Delsignore said he didn't want to discuss that; all he wants to know is what the definition of a family is and the new one.

Attorney Derrico offered to meet at his office (in either Canonsburg or Washington) with Mr. Delsignore to discuss this.

VII. VOTING ITEMS:

- A. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Williams motioned to approve the October 11, 2010 Regular Meeting Minutes of Canonsburg Borough Council.

Mr. Graff seconded the motion.

The motion was passed unanimously.

- B. Motion – Tentative Approval of 2011 Borough Budget

Mr. Graff motioned for tentative approval of the 2011 Canonsburg Borough Budget of \$4,362,842, with a General Purposes Tax of 30 mils, a Special Road Fund of 2 mils, a Debt Service of 2.33 mils

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and a Special Fire Department Equipment Fund of 3 mils, for a total of 37.33 mils, representing a one-mil increase from 2010.

Mr. Russo seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL ON THE MOTION:

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|-------------------|--------|
| Richard Russo | Yes |
| Paul Sharkady | No |
| Joseph Graff | Yes |
| Allen J. Williams | Yes |
| Patricia Romano | Yes |
| Fran Coleman | Yes |
| George Coleman | No |
| Michael Kazmarski | Absent |
| Joseph Milioto | Yes |

RESULTS OF THE MOTION: Six Yes, Two No, One Absent.

Motion carried.

C. Motion – Tentative Approval – 2011 Canonsburg-Houston Joint Authority Budget

Mr. Graff motioned for tentative approval of the 2011 Canonsburg-Houston Joint Authority Budget of \$1,653,659.

Mr. Russo seconded the motion.

Remarks: Mr. Russo stated that there is no sewer rate increase. He commented that the Authority's Engineer is excluded from the Operations Budget but is included in the Authority's Budget. Another item he mentioned that the Authority is still maintaining an adequate Surplus Account. At the end of 2011 they expect it to be \$744,000. As of the 2011 budget, no commitment is made for the rebuild of the plant. They are going to do an optimization that will increase the flow from 5 million to 6 million, which should take care of most of the new development around here. Mr. Russo has looked at the Budget, and his recommendation is that Council pass this Budget.

ROLL CALL ON THE MOTION:

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| Michael Kazmarski | Absent |
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|-------------------|-----|
| George Coleman | No |
| Fran Coleman | Yes |
| Patricia Romano | Yes |
| Allen J. Williams | Yes |
| Joseph Graff | Yes |
| Paul Sharkady | No |
| Richard Russo | Yes |
| Joseph Milioto | Yes |

RESULTS OF THE MOTION: Six Yes, Two No, One Absent.
Motion carried.

D. Motion – Engineer’s Report

Mr. Graff motioned to accept the November 1, 2010 Engineer’s Report.

Mr. Williams seconded the motion.

The motion was passed unanimously

E. Motion – Manager’s Report

Mr. Graff motioned to accept the November 1, 2010 Borough Manager’s Report.

Mr. Williams seconded the motion.

The motion was passed unanimously.

VIII. FINANCE REPORT:

A. Presentation of Bills for Approval – Richard Russo

Mr. Russo motioned to approve the bills, which includes the following:

1. General Fund
2. Waste Water Plant Operations
3. Garbage Service
4. Fireman Allocation
5. I & I
6. Capital Projects

Mr. Coleman seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL ON THE MOTION:

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| Richard Russo | Yes |
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| | |
|-------------------|--------|
| Paul Sharkady | Yes |
| Joseph Graff | Yes |
| Allen J. Williams | Yes |
| Patricia Romano | Yes |
| Fran Coleman | Yes |
| George Coleman | Yes |
| Michael Kazmarski | Absent |
| Joseph Milioto | Yes |

RESULTS OF THE MOTION: Eight Yes, Zero No, One Absent.
Motion carried.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

There was none.

X. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Bond Issue – Brought up by Mr. Russo

Mr. Russo informed Council that Ms. Lesnock and he were presented with a proposal from PNC to refinance two bond issues – one for the roads that were done in 2003, and one for an issue that was done in 2002. The one time savings would be \$83,000 depending on what happens to the rates between now and when paperwork can be submitted to do the refinance. PNC's proposal is not to refinance it as a new bond issue but as a bank note. Mr. Russo recommended accepting the proposal and have PNC take the next step and provide Council with exact figures and date as to when they want to do the financing. The maturity date, payments, and principal amount to be paid off would remain the same, but there will be a reduction in the interest rate.

Discussion was held.

All of Council agreed to move forward on this matter.

B. Committee Reports

1. Public Safety – Joseph Graff

Mr. Graff reported that the Fire Department responded to 10 calls in October, 2010. Total damages were zero.

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XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

The Executive Session, which was requested by Mr. Williams, began at 8:30 P.M.

No action was taken pertaining to the Executive Session.

XII. ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Williams motioned to adjourn.

Mr. Coleman seconded the motion.

The motion was passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:00 P.M.

Mary A. Solomon

ATTACHMENTS:

None