

Finance Committee

May 19, 2008

6:00 PM

Chairperson: Mark Helbling

Council Chambers

Minutes

In Attendance:

Linda Woshner, Member
Paul Cusick, Treasurer

Connie Flasher, DAS
Dave Gillingham Member

Mark Helbling was excused.

Linda Woshner called the Committee meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.

Citizen Comments:

- ❖ Mr. Garrison from 37 Greenough Avenue spoke to the Committee about his water being shut off for a sewage delinquency.
 - There was discussion by the Committee.
 - The Committee made a motion to enter the Garrison's into a payment agreement for their delinquent sewage.

Citizen Communications:

- ❖ The Committee reviewed a letter that was submitted from Ms. Miranda a resident from Grant Avenue.
 - Ms. Miranda explained in her letter that she is having issues with P.A.M.S. in the collection of her wage tax.
 - There was discussion by the Committee.
 - The Committee made a motion to send a letter to Ms. Miranda to explain that P.A.M.S. is acting in accordance with Ordinance 1337.
- ❖ The Committee reviewed a letter that was submitted by Ms. Diana Forsythe from Florence Avenue.
 - Ms. Forsythe explained that she is having issues with a penalty that she was charged for her wage tax.
 - The Committee reviewed the enclosed information and discussed the situation.
 - The Committee made a motion to send a letter to Ms. Forsythe to explain that P.A.M.S. is acting in accordance with Ordinance 1337.
- ❖ The Committee reviewed a request from Ms. Maureen Purvis from 183 – 185 N. Jackson Avenue to have the penalty and interest removed from her sewage account.
 - The Committee reviewed her request and made a motion to write Ms. Purvis a letter stating that she was amply notified of the delinquencies therefore the Committee would not authorize those charged from being exonerated.
- ❖ The Committee reviewed a letter from Mr. Brian Niklaus, an owner of various properties in Bellevue.
 - Mr. Niklaus in his letter explains that he was having issues with PAMS with the payment of his sewage and where the current and delinquent bills were being mailed.
 - There was discussion by the Committee.
 - The Committee stated that they will take into account the concerns that Mr. Niklaus has brought to their attention when receiving proposals.
 - There was discussion by the Committee about how P.A.M.S. notifies our property owners of delinquencies.

- There was discussion by the Committee about how P.A.M.S. gets the new property owner information.

Treasurer's Report:

- ❖ The Treasurer reviewed his cash flow and bond reports.
- ❖ There was discussion by the Committee about the status of the funds.
- ❖ Mrs. Woshner questioned if RAD money is received for Bayne Park.
 - The Treasurer stated that we get money for the Library but not for the Park.
 - The DAS stated that grants are being requested for the Library but not for the park.

DAS report to the Committee on financial related matters, activities, and events:**Other Agenda Items:**

- ❖ There was discussion by the Committee about the collection of taxes and sewage.
 - There was discussion by the Committee about various companies that collect these.
- ❖ Mrs. Woshner stated that she has contacted the Solicitor about the Classic Chevrolet leasing proposal.
 - She stated that the Solicitor is going to talk to his appraiser to see about the rental costs for this piece of property.
 - There was discussion by the Committee about what the Borough uses the cinder lot for.

New Business:

- ❖ The DAS stated that she had been brought to her attention about properties that are very delinquent for Real Estate Taxes.
 - She stated that she wanted to find out whether the Borough would be interested in Sheriff selling this property.
 - The Committee stated that they would be interested in sheriff selling the property.
 - Mrs. Woshner questioned if the School District can be contacted to see if they want to share the costs of sheriff selling this property.
 - The DAS stated that another property, 323 Taylor Avenue could also be sheriff sold.
 - The DAS explained the situation to the Committee.
 - She explained that a person is squatting at the property but not paying the Real Estate taxes.
 - The Committee made a motion to have the DAS look into what the costs would be to Sheriff Sell these properties.
 - The Committee requested to talk to Northgate to see if they would be willing to share the costs.
 - The DAS gave a list of all of the properties that owed money for back taxes to the Committee.
- ❖ Mr. Gillingham stated that there is a property on Madison Avenue where the house is rotting away.
 - The DAS stated that it could be posted as a dangerous structure.
 - The DAS stated that she is looking into help for paying to demolish the blighted properties around the Borough because the Borough is not going to have the money to pay for it all.
 - Mrs. Woshner stated that the Borough should be addressing what to do with these properties prior to them getting to this point.
- ❖ Mr. Gillingham stated that he went to a town meeting and he has talked to Dan Onorato where he was informed that the bidding for the bridge to Pittsburgh would be starting in 2009.
 - He stated that the Borough should look into the re-routing of the buses.

Executive Session:

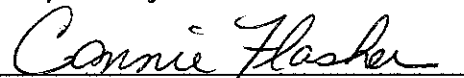
- ❖ There was an Executive Session to discuss various Personnel issues.
 - There was no decision made as a result of the discussion during the Executive Session.

Citizen Comments:

- ❖ Nothing at this time.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

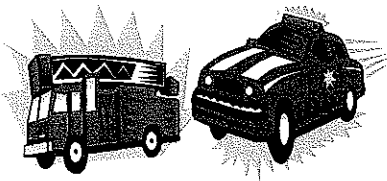


Connie Flasher

Secretary

Motions to be made:

1. **Motion to enter into a payment agreement with Sean and Mary Garrison for the amount owed to the Borough for delinquent sewage.**



Public Safety Committee

May 20, 2008

6:00 PM

Chairperson:

Council Chambers

Minutes

In Attendance:

Jerry Walter, Chairperson
Jane Braunlich, Member
Michael Kutschbach, Member
Jack Davin, Visitor

Mayor George Doscher
Matthew Sentner, Police Chief
Connie Flasher, DAS
Mike Lutz, CEO

Glen Pritchard, Fire Chief is absent.

Jerry Walter called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Citizens:

- ❖ Ms. Smith a business owner in Bellevue stated it was brought to her attention that the Ordinance that establishes Sidewalk Sales permit displays needs to be looked at and possibly suspended for June 21st.
 - Ms. Smith explained what the Ordinance entails.
 - She stated that she has been told that unless some action is taken by the Council to suspend this Ordinance in essence the Borough would be in violation of there own Ordinance.
 - Mr. Walter questioned what happens during the regular sidewalk sale days.
 - The CEO stated that the Chamber of Commerce is exempt of this Ordinance.
 - The Mayor questioned if the suspension of this Ordinance is done by Council or by the Mayor.
 - The Committee stated that it is by Council.
 - Ms. Smith stated that the Ordinance could be reworded to include this event since they are not apart of the Chamber of Commerce.
 - Mr. Walter made a motion that was seconded to suspend Ordinance 03-12 for June 21, 2008 in order to have the sidewalk sale for the "Summer Solstice Spectacular" event.
- ❖ Ms. Smith explained to the Committee that she has registered and invited individuals to come to have a car cruise.
 - She stated that her intention is to take over Bayne Avenue to have the car cruise.
 - Mr. Walter questioned if Hawley Avenue would be closed off.
 - Ms. Smith stated it would be for just for Sunday night for the street dance.
 - There was discussion about whether there would be an issue with blocking off the street.
 - She stated that 10am to 4pm will the scheduled time for the car cruise.
 - She stated that the crafters are scheduled to be in the parking lot from 8am to 6pm.

Mayor:

- ❖ Mayor Doscher stated that he would like to have a Civil Service test given to replace a Police Officer.
 - Mr. Walter stated that he feels that he would not like to replace an employee until they see what the budget looks like.
 - Mr. Kutschbach stated that at the last budget meeting Council discussed replacing \$133,000 for the Fire Department vehicle fund as well as the DPW would like to replace a person.
 - He stated that he does not know how to replace someone in the Police Department when the Borough is in a budget crisis.

- Mayor Doscher stated that he believes we are not in a crisis as Mr. Kutschbach states.
- He stated that he feels that this list would be necessary in the case that an officer leaves or someone gets injured.
- Mr. Walter stated that it would be positive to have a test to have a list of replacement officers if they are needed.
- He stated that they don't want to be in the situation where they are down a few officers and have no backup to replace them.
- There was discussion as to how much it would cost.
- There was discussion about whether or not to have a list compiled.
- Ms. Braunlich questioned why a list would be started if there were no intention of hiring an officer.
- Mr. Walter questioned if there is money in the budget for the advertisement.
- The DAS stated that she would have to check because she does not know.
- Mr. Walter stated that he would like to have the cost to advertise for this position and then to make a motion at the next meeting.
- There was discussion about the hiring process and what are the duties of the Civil Service Commission.
- The DAS stated that she has talked to Mr. Nemeth and they can review the advertisement for a Police Department Officer position; find out where it is to be advertised and the costs for the advertisement prior to it being advertised.
- Mr. Walter questioned if the police Contract coincidences with the Personnel Code.
- The DAS stated that Personnel Code does not have a specific job description for a Police Officer like the Fire Department job description therefore it should not be an issue.
- There was discussion about what the Police Office job description states in the Personnel Code.
- The DAS stated that the Personnel Code would have to be reviewed to confirm there are no discrepancies with what is reflected in the contract and adopt an Ordinance to amend it if there is.

Fire Department:

- ❖ Jack Davin from the Fire Department stated that rear axel of the Pumper Truck needs to be fixed.
 - There was discussion about why this needs to be fixed.
 - Mr. Walter made a motion to purchase a rear axel for the Pumper Truck at a cost not to exceed \$5,500.
- ❖ Mr. Walter stated that he wanted to start the discussion about whether it would be better to have a paid Fire Department Chief rather than a volunteer chief.
 - He stated that this possibly could open the door to more communication and control with the Borough.
 - There was discussion as to why it was previously changed from a Paid Chief to a Volunteer Chief.
 - Mr. Davin stated that if this is something that they want to do it should be done carefully to not damage the relationship between the paid drivers and the volunteers.
- ❖ Mayor Doscher questioned when the renovations to the Fire Department would be completed.
 - Mr. Davin stated that he is unsure since there are so many entities involved in the process at this point.
- ❖ There was discussion by the Committee about possibly merging services with the other northern municipalities.

Police Department:

- ❖ Chief Matthew Sentner requested for the purchase of two portable radios with a cost not to exceed \$2,000.
 - Mr. Kutschbach seconded by Mr. Walter made a motion to purchase two portable radios at a cost not to exceed \$2,000 as replacements.
- ❖ Chief Sentner stated that he would like to discuss the purchasing of a Police car at the next Public Safety Meeting.
 - He stated he still needs to do research to see the benefits of leasing rather than purchasing the vehicles.
 - Mr. Walter questioned about the possibility of having an unmarked car.
 - Chief Sentner stated that this can also be looked at.
 - There was discussion about how many cars the Police Department has and what the years of those cars are.
 - He stated that he just wanted to make the Committee aware that he wanted to discuss this further at the next Public Safety Committee meeting.
 - The DAS asked if a new car was budgeted for this year.
 - There was discussion by the Committee about where the money from the car that was budgeted for the previous year went.

Code Enforcement:

- ❖ The CEO stated that he has talked to Unis, a demolition company about demolishing houses on Sheridan Avenue and Grant Avenue.
 - He stated that the owner of the Sheridan house had an disagreement with him and that Unis walked off the site.
 - Mr. Walter stated that he asked Unis to see if they would mind working with the DPW employees.
 - Mr. Walter further explained that they would be willing to reduce the cost for demolishing these buildings.
 - The CEO stated that he will contact him again to get clarification.
 - He stated that he does not have anything in writing in his office confirming the pricing that Mr. Walter is quoting.
 - There was discussion by the Committee about demolition companies and their pricing.
 - The CEO stated that they are having a problem with the Grant Avenue property because its internal structure is falling down.
 - There was discussion about the safety concerns with this property.
 - The CEO stated that he will notify the Solicitor to lien the property for the costs to make the structure safe.
 - Mr. Walter seconded by Mrs. Braunlich made a motion to tear down Grant Avenue property with a cost not to exceed \$9,000.
- ❖ The DAS stated that she had explained to the Finance Committee the last evening that the Wadlow properties owe a lot of money for back taxes.
 - She stated that she has spoken to the Solicitor about getting the costs to sheriff selling these properties.
 - She further explained how there is another property on Taylor Avenue that the Wadlow son is living there but without a legal agreement with the owner, who is dead.
 - She stated that she would like to see about sheriff selling this property as well.
 - There was discussion by the Committee.

- There was discussion about whether the property manager is in contact with the owner, Mrs. Wadlow about the fact that the property taxes are not being paid and her property is about to be sheriff sold.
- There was discussion by the Committee about who is collecting the rent and why the taxes are not being paid.
- There was discussion about whether legal action can be taken against the electrician that had done the work at the Wadlow property for jumping the electric.
- The Committee stated that they would like to have the Solicitor send letters to the owner and the management company to notify them of these back taxes that are owed.

Administration:

- ❖ Nothing at this time.

Council Members:

- ❖ Mrs. Braunlich questioned what company the Borough uses if a residents car is damaged or is towed.
 - Chief Sentner stated that it is Mike Joyce's Towing company and explained how the process works and how the resident would get their vehicle.
 - Mrs. Braunlich stated that she has concerns about people calling here and the dispatchers not knowing where their car is being towed.
 - There was discussion about whether the residents are able to use their own towing service.
 - Chief Sentner gave the Committee the reasons that the Borough would authorize the towing of a resident's vehicle.

Old Business:

- ❖ Nothing at this time.

New Business:

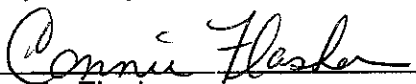
- ❖ Nothing at this time.

Citizens:

- ❖ Ms. Smith explained further to the Committee about amending the Section of the Ordinance to allow for goods to be on the sidewalk for the "Summer Solstice Spectacular" event.
 - Ms. Smith explained to the Committee about how Chief Sentner will be a card cut out and there will be an event where residents will have to find him at various stores.
 - Ms. Smith further explained to the Committee the various events that will be held.
 - There was discussion by the Committee about whether a few streets will be able to be closed down to allow for a bike ride after the bike decoration contest that will be held at Bayne Park.
 - The Committee stated that they will look into whether this will be able to be done.

The meeting was adjourned at _____ p.m.

Respectfully Submitted



Connie Flasher
Secretary

Motions to be made:

- 1. Motion to suspend Ordinance 03-12 for June 21, 2008 in order to have the sidewalk sale for the "Summer Solstice Spectacular" event.**
- 2. Motion to purchase a rear axel for the Pumper Truck at a cost not to exceed \$5,500.**
- 3. Motion to purchase two portable radios at a cost not to exceed \$2,000 as replacements.**
- 4. Motion to tear down Grant Avenue property with a cost not to exceed \$9,000.**