

Orwigsburg Borough Council
Meeting Minutes
February 8, 2017

Orwigsburg Borough Council met on Wednesday, February 8, 2017 in Council Chambers. President Buddy Touchinsky called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

In attendance: President Buddy Touchinsky, Vice President Susan Murphy. Councilors: Angie Hoptak-Solga, Brian Baldwin, Paul Bedway, Darle Cresswell; Mayor Barry Berger. Solicitor Paul Datte, Borough Manager Robert Williams and Borough Secretary Sherry Edwards.

Visitors: Bill Knecht of 204 S Warren St; Darin Brensinger of 102 Station Rd; Chief Stan Brozana; Sgt. John Koury; Tanner Noecker of 940 Albert Dr; Janis McGowen of South Schuylkill News.

President Touchinsky noted Councilor Rudloff is not here tonight due to her mother in law passing away late last week, our thoughts and prayers are with Michele and her family.

A motion to approve the minutes of the January 4, 2017 and January 11, 2017 meetings as presented was made by Susan Murphy, second by Michele Rudloff. Unanimous.

The December 2016 Treasurer's report was presented to Council.

The Final Report for 2016 Tax Collector's report was presented to Council as follows:

	<u>December final</u>
Real Estate	\$937.10
Per Capita	\$187.00
Occupation	\$ 55.00

A motion to exonerate the Tax Collector from collecting Occupation Tax on Tax Exoneration Final List of 2016 was made by Susan Murphy, second by Brian Baldwin. Unanimous.

Building Permits for January 2017:

- 0 – New Permits issued at \$00.00 total value
- 1 – Renovation permits issued at \$100.00 total value

Public Comment:

Darin Brensinger of 102 Station Rd was present on behalf of Boy Scouts/Boys to inquire on the status of his request regarding utilizing an acre of borough land behind the Orwigsburg Center.

Bob responded we have an agreement from the Solicitor to stop in tomorrow for a copy of the agreement and also, we'll need an insurance certificate.

Old Business

Bob noted the following items will be discussed in Executive Session at the end of the meeting.

- Pine Creek Retirement Community
- Blue Mountain Retirement Community
- The Villas
- Sopkos

Bill Knecht asked for an update on the Blue Mountain Retirement Community Appeal.

Solicitor Datte responded:

- Both the Borough and the Applicant filed briefs
- Applicant had 10 days to file a reply brief – they elected not to file a reply brief
- Zoning Hearing Board has 45 days to render a decision at a public meeting – public notice will be advertised

Committee Reports

Personnel & Negotiations

A motion to hire Police Candidate Tanner Noecker from the Civil Service Eligibility List, contingent upon a complete and successful Medical & Psychological Examination, and a full and complete Background Investigation, as reviewed and approved by both the Police Chief and Borough Manager, with a start date of March 01, 2017, or soon thereafter was made by Brian Baldwin, second by Darle Cresswell. Unanimous.

A motion to revise and update the Police Officer Performance Evaluation form as indicated and recommended by the Civil Service Commission and the Borough Police Chief was made by Brian Baldwin, second by Susan Murphy. Unanimous.

Finance

A motion to transfer \$10,000 from Capital Outlay to Vehicle Expense in the General Fund as indicated and recommended by the Borough Bookkeeper was made by Paul Bedway, second by Susan Murphy. Unanimous.

Water, Sewer, & Sanitation

A motion to revise and update the Water & Sewer Fees as indicated and recommended by Entech Engineering was made by Brian Baldwin, second by Darle Cresswell. Unanimous.

A motion to revise and update the Sewage Enforcement & Permit Fees as indicated and recommended by ARRO Engineering was made by Brian Baldwin, second by Paul Bedway. Unanimous.

A motion to revise and update the following Borough Fee Schedule:

- Parking Fines to \$25.00 & \$50.00 as recommended by the Chief of Police
- Dumpster Fee to \$20.00 for a 2-week period
- Peddlers Permit to \$25.00 day, \$100.00 week, & \$200.00 month
- Research Work to \$20.00 per hour
- Range Fee to \$50.00 per year

Motion was made by Brian Baldwin, second by Susan Murphy. Unanimous.

Streets, Lights, & Building

A motion designating the month of April 2017 as “Pennsylvania 811 Safe Digging Month” and to encourage all excavators and residents to Dial 811 at least 3 business days before digging in an effort to “Know What’s Below” was made by Brian Baldwin, second by Darle Cresswell. Unanimous.

New Business - None

COG

Councilor Murphy noted the next COG meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 16, 2017 at 7 PM in Council Chambers.

Fire

Chief Hardinger submitted the following report:

	<u>2016 Final</u>	<u>January 2017</u>
Structure Fire	8	1
Vehicle Accident-Gen'l Clean up	15	0
Vehicle Accident with Injuries	18	0
Vehicle Rescue – Extrication	3	0
Search	2	0

False Alarm	57	5
Technical Rescue	2	0
Vehicle Fire	3	0
Brush / Rubbish Fire	3	0
Haz Mat (fuel spill)	8	2
EMS Assist	14	3
Standby in Station	1	0
Electrical Fire	3	0
Service Calls	32	0
Helicopter Landing Zone	6	1
Fire Other	0	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	175	13

Police

Mayor Berger and Bob have been in conversation regarding the upcoming weather event: They have come to the conclusion that we'll wait and see whether it's necessary to declare an emergency and if they do it will be the new snow emergency route. Full time police staffing tonight and the borough crew will coordinate with the police department.

Sergeant Koury reviewed calls for the month of January:

- 169 for the month of January
- 3 drug stop
- 2 retail thefts – Liquor store & Heisers Hardware
- 1 Identity theft
- 1 Burglary
- Public drunkenness at the Coffee Shop
- Gun incident and drug involvement on Ridge Rd – a picture of the gun involved was shown to Council – 2 troopers, 2 officers from Penn State and 2 officers from Schuylkill Haven responded for back up.

Correspondence –

The Borough received a letter from Rick and Tammy Freiler of Kimmels Church Rd asking that Kimmels Road be placed on the borough's street list for repairs due to the road's deteriorating condition.

Bills

A motion to approve and ratify the Accounts Payable for General, Water, Sewer, Sanitation, State, Grant and Credit Union accounts was made by Susan Murphy, second by Darle Cresswell. Unanimous.

At 7:55 pm President Touchinsky called an Executive Session to discuss current litigation.

At 8:45 pm the Executive Session ended and the regular meeting continued.

Brian Baldwin questioned the status of the bleachers in Veterans Memorial Hall- Bob noted he will have more information after a scheduled meeting with the County Commissioners on March 1, 2017. Bob stated that various community groups are currently donating money for the new bleachers and the County Commissioners may possibly utilize Marcella Shale funds in an effort to purchase new bleachers.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry M. Edwards
Borough Secretary