

Orwigsburg Borough Council
Meeting Minutes
September 13, 2017

Orwigsburg Borough Council met on Wednesday, September 13, 2017 in Council Chambers. President Touchinsky called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

In attendance were: President Buddy Touchinsky, Vice President Susan Murphy. Councilors: Brian Baldwin, Paul Bedway, Angie Hoptak-Solga and Michele Rudloff. Mayor Barry Berger; Solicitor Paul Datte; Planning Consultant Chris Bentz; Borough Manager Robert Williams and Borough Secretary Sherry Edwards.

Visitors: Olivia Rudloff of 108 Station Rd; Bill Knecht of 204 S Warren St; Kevin Fanelli of 1 Field of Dreams, Pottsville; Janis McGowen of South Schuylkill News; Police Chief Koury.

President Touchinsky asked for a moment of silence for the passing of Dennis Schaeffer of Schaeffer's Harley Davidson and Ken Ferraiolo of Wellers Chimney Sweeps.

Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the August 2, 2017 and August 9, 2017 meetings as presented was made by Michele Rudloff, second by Sue Murphy. Unanimous.

Treasurer's Report

The July 2017 Treasurer's report was presented to Council.

Tax Collector's Report

The August 2017 Tax Collector's report was presented to Council as follows:

Real Estate	\$	851.31
Per Capita	\$	119.80
Occupation	\$	29.56

A motion to exonerate the Tax Collector from collecting Occupation Tax on Tax Exoneration list #8 was made by Michele Rudloff, second by Sue Murphy. Unanimous.

Building Permits for August 2017:

0 – New Permits

8 – Renovation Permits issued at \$252,992.00 total value

Public Comment

Bill Knecht asked to elaborate on the building permits for renovations of \$252,992.00
Residential addition – 955 Elizabeth Dr - \$234,546.00

Old Business

Solicitors Report:

Solicitor Datte gave the following update:

Proposed Ordinance Updates/Revisions

- Advertisements have been scheduled
- Hearing scheduled for October 11, 2017 at 7:15
- Present for adoption on October 11, 2017 at 7:30
- P & Z reviewed the suggested revisions by the County Planning Commission

Pine Creek Retirement Community

- Nothing to report

Blue Mountain Retirement Community

- Zoning Appeal has been fully briefed and waiting for a court decision

Villas of Orwigsburg

- Nothing to report

Sopko/SCMA

- Took action last month on eminent domain
- Currently working on language on the indemnification agreement with SCMA

New Business

Franklin Street Apartments

Kevin Fanelli, President of L & K Construction is requesting the borough release the security bond on the Franklin Street Apartments

Three items to be resolved:

- Evergreen tree height needed to be 6'
- Vinyl Fence for trash enclosure
- Missing light post

Chris Bentz confirmed all items have been resolved.

Kevin submitted a \$3000.00 check for the required 18-month maintenance bond for street restoration along the curb line. Currently going through final approval for occupancy permits.

A motion to approve the release of final security based on recommendation from borough engineer along with securing the 18-month maintenance bond of \$3,000.00 was made by Paul Bedway, second by Brian Baldwin. Unanimous.

Committee Reports

Recreation & Health

A motion to adopt Resolution #2017-16 authorizing Benesch Engineering to submit a Grant Application to PA DCED for Veterans Community Memorial Hall in the amount of \$50,000 with a \$50,000 match from the Veterans Memorial Task Forces. Grant application fee not to exceed \$1500.00 was made by Sue Murphy, second by Paul Bedway. Brian Baldwin abstained due to his employment with Benesch Engineering. Motion passed.

Streets, Lights & Buildings

A motion to adopt Resolution #2017 – 17 authorizing Benesch Engineering to submit a Keystone Communities Downtown Improvement District Planning Grant to PA DCED for New Sidewalks, Curbs, and Streetscape. The amount of the Planning Grant to be \$25,000 with a \$25,000 Borough match from Capitol Improvement Fund. Grant application fee not to exceed \$1500.00 was made by Angie Hoptak-Solga, second by Paul Bedway. Brian Baldwin abstained due to his employment with Benesch Engineering. Motion passed.

A motion to authorize the construction of a “Little Free Library” at Bicentennial Park under the direction and guidance of the Schuylkill county Reading Council (SCR) and SCRC President Kathy M. Miller was made by Brian Baldwin second by Michele Rudloff. Unanimous

Personnel & Negotiations

In an effort to address the Borough’s employee turnover rate, provide a more consistent/qualified workforce to our community, and establish a reasonable and marketable salary structure, a motion was made to establish our Full Time, Heavy Equipment Qualified, Utility Employee hourly salary at \$18.00 per hour, and Streets Supervisor salary at \$23.00 per hour effective immediately. The salary adjustment will be funded through the Water and Sewer fund accounts. Motion was made by Michele Rudloff, second by Brian Baldwin. Unanimous.

Michele requested obtaining pay rates on office staff for other municipality’s for our next meeting.

Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement System

2018 Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO)

State Aid \$59,492.00, Borough's Obligation \$35,582.00 Totaling \$95,174.00

Police Department Report

Chief Koury reviewed the following report:

Mayor Berger read a Thank You note the Department received addressed to Officer Noecker for an incident he handled on Friday, August 4th. (Thank you note is attached to these minutes)

Chief John Koury responded to the subject that was brought up at last weeks meeting regarding installing GPS tracking devices on the police cars – he invited Council to ride along with the police officers, night shift or day shift for 8 hours, preferably a Thursday, Friday or Saturday night.

Councilor Rudloff experienced a ride a long a few years ago and highly recommends all Councilors participate.

Chief Koury asked for approval to start background investigations on two candidates, if we are awarded the COPS grant the new officer will start in January 2018. If we are not awarded the grant Council stated we would hire this year.

A motion to authorize Chief Koury to start background investigation on two candidates from the Civil Service list was made by Michele Rudloff, second by Paul Bedway. Unanimous.

Chief Koury reported on a theft at Heisers Hardware Store 2 Saturdays ago, reported four days later on a Wednesday. Video surveillance was obtained and the following day the person was identified. Charges are being filed, individual is in rehab at this time but a warrant will be issued.

Nothing to report on Shakey's gun shop.

Chief Koury informed Council that Unit #126 is 5 ½ years old and has over 138,000 miles logged, over the past two weeks 4 quarts of oil was used in the car. He obtained a quote from Kovatch Ford – SUV, all-wheel drive, outfitted with video system, computer system, lights and signed agreement before September 30th - \$47,600. After September 30th - \$49,700.

Bob noted funding would be a three-year loan through Hidden River Credit Union.

A motion to authorize the Police Dept. to place an order with Kovatch Ford for a new 2018 SUV at a cost of \$47,600 to be financed with a three-year loan was made by Michele Rudloff, second by Paul Bedway. Unanimous.

Fire Department Report - none

Planning & Zoning Commission

No Scheduled September Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting.

Municipal Authority

The next Municipal Authority meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 16, 2017, 1:00 PM in Council Chambers at Orwigsburg Borough Hall.

Zoning Hearing Board

No Scheduled Zoning Hearing Board Meeting

COG

Councilor Murphy noted the next COG meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 21, 2017, 7:00 PM in Council Chambers at Orwigsburg Borough Hall.

OBPA (Orwigsburg Business & Professional Association)

A Night of Chili & Chills will be held on Saturday, October 28, 2017 from 5:30 pm -10:00 pm at Veterans Memorial Hall.

Community Events

The annual Halloween Parade is scheduled for Wednesday, October 25, 2017 at 7:00 pm – Rain date October 26, 2017

Trick or Treat is scheduled for Tuesday, October 31, 2017 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Correspondence - None

Bills

Motion to approve and ratify the accounts payable for General, Water, Sewer, Sanitation, COG, 2015 Bond, Capitol Improvement, and Grant was made by Michele Rudloff, second by Brian Baldwin. Unanimous.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry M. Edwards
Borough Secretary