

Minutes of a Meeting of the
Shippensburg Borough Council

February 17, 2009

The regular monthly meeting of the Shippensburg Borough Council was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Council President Andrea Lage. Those present: Geno Torri, Belvin Banks, Kathy Coy, Sandra Mailey, Mayor Bruce Hockersmith, Secretary William Wolfe, Assistant Secretary Grace Keiter, Solicitor Melissa Dively and Treasurer Edward S. Goodhart. The Invocation was given by Secretary Wolfe, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Lage welcomed Dr. Drager's class from Shippensburg University.

REPORTS

MAYOR

Police Guidelines

Mayor Bruce Hockersmith reported that the Standard Operating Guidelines for the police department are ready for adoption and will be on Council's next agenda.

BUDGET/FINANCE

President Andrea Lage stated that the Budget/Finance Committee will continue to meet to compare the actual 2008 expenditures with the 2009 budget figures.

PUBLIC WORKS/PROPERTY

Councilperson Kathy Coy reported that the Public Works/Property Committee had a "get organized" meeting this past Sunday. She commented on each of the Committee's projects.

Hatch House - The Committee has several ideas that it's currently working on.

Elm Street Project - Chris Gulotta has been contacted regarding the Elm Street Project.

Mayor Bruce Hockersmith stated that the Elm Street Advisory Board has been established and the application has been filed.

Community Center - Longhorn Dance Club's 6-month lease will soon be coming up for renewal and will be discussed.

Skate Park - Possibility of a location for a skate park will be discussed.

Hatch House - Committee would like to see Hatch House promoted and discussed approaching organizations and individuals to discuss the possibility of forming a tour of historical sites in Shippensburg, including the Hatch House.

BOROUGH MANAGER

Grants

Manager William Wolfe reported that the PennVest and H2O water grants have been filed on behalf of the Borough Authority. He stated that he'll be meeting with Don Lavine, of ARRO, regarding Wastewater Treatment Plant projects, including the sludge pad, rag filter, etc.

Council President Andrea Lage commented that the projects at the plant will cost \$800,000 to \$1,000,000.

BUSINESS

CONSIDERATION FOR APPROVAL MINUTES OF JANUARY 6 AND 20, 2009

Councilperson Belvin Banks moved to approve the minutes of January 6 and 20, 2009, as presented. Motion seconded by Councilperson Kathy Coy. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice President Joe Hockersmith arrived at 7:12 p.m.

CONSIDERATION TO ADVERTISE AN ORDINANCE TO ISSUE GUARANTEED WATER REVENUE NOTES, SERIES OF 2009, TO FUND THE ROXBURY ROAD PROJECT

President Andrea Lage requested the rest of the information regarding the water revenue notes.

Treasurer Edward S. Goodhart replied that the rest of the information has been provided to Borough Council over the past year. He explained that it's basically the Roxbury Road project and to "call" the 2003 water debt.

President Lage stated that she'd like to see the cost savings associated with retiring the existing debt, the projects and the amounts for those projects and the rate implications and cost implications for the Borough's guarantee of \$10 million rather than \$15 million.

Treasurer Goodhart explained that this is the Borough Authority's debt and they have approved, based on interest cost savings, the financing of their debt and the Authority is asking Borough Council to put a guarantee on the debt so that the lenders will treat the loan as a guaranteed revenue issue and give the Authority a better interest rate. Treasurer Goodhart assured Council that this guarantee is not committing the Borough to pay for anything.

President Lage replied that, even though it's a Borough Authority debt, by passing this ordinance, Council is saying that it will meet that debt out of the General Revenue Fund, if the Authority can't. She stated that if the Borough is going to guarantee that \$15 million, Council should at least see the relative documentation.

Vice President Joe Hockersmith didn't feel that Council has ever seen all of the paperwork on these guarantees.

Councilperson Geno Torri stated that Borough Council hasn't seen the actual cost of savings to the ratepayers.

Treasurer Goodhart asked if it's the consent of Council that it will not consider the resolution, the advertising of the resolution or its adoption without material from the Borough Authority.

President Lage replied that she's getting the sense that that's the will of Council.

Treasurer Goodhart pointed out that the resolution could be advertised and Council can examine the information prior to adoption.

Councilperson Torri stated that he doesn't want to go to the expense of advertising something that he hasn't seen.

Mayor Bruce Hockersmith asked Councilperson Torri if he plans to hold up this water project just because he wants to look at some figures, which aren't going to change one iota.

Councilperson Torri responded that Council has a sense of responsibility to just not advertise blindly.

Mayor Hockersmith pointed out that Borough Council has, over the years, approved and backed the bond issues.

Vice President Joe Hockersmith questioned how time sensitive is this issue.

Treasurer Goodhart stated that the Authority has to settle prior to March 27, 2009 because the bondholders have to be notified 30 days prior that the 2003 Series bonds are callable on May 1, 2009 and the money has to be on-hand to pay the bonds.

Following a brief discussion, Vice President Joe Hockersmith moved to advertise the ordinance for the Borough guarantee of a proposed Borough Authority debt and also with the understanding that the information that Council requested will be provided in their packets for the March 3, 2009 meeting. Motion seconded by Councilperson Sandra Mailey.

Treasurer Goodhart stated that he would have that information to Borough Council the beginning of next week.

The motion tied 3 to 3, with President Lage, Councilpersons Banks and Torri voting no.

Councilperson Geno Torri stated that the comment was made that Council has done this in the past. He further stated that Council has done a lot of things before and has had the habit of letting people walk in at 9:00 p.m. with requests, in the past. He felt that Borough Council needs to set the standard for the future and that all information is received in advance.

Mayor Hockersmith voted yes and the motion passed.

President Lage stated that the information need by March 3, 2009 is as follows:

- The projects and the amounts for those projects.
- An understanding of the savings and costs associated with retiring the existing debt.

- The rate implications and cost implications for the Borough's guarantee of \$10 million rather than \$15 million so Council can understand those ramifications.

CONSIDERATION FOR APPROVAL STANDARDS AND POLICY FOR HANGING SIGNS AND BANNERS ACROSS KING STREET

Borough Council reviewed the Standards and Policy for Signs and Banners Across Highways.

Mayor Bruce Hockersmith commented that the Chamber of Commerce reviewed these Standards and Policy and is in agreement.

Vice President Joe Hockersmith moved to approve the Standards and Policy for Hanging Signs and Banners. Motion seconded by Councilperson Belvin Banks.

Councilperson Geno Torri questioned liability coverage on the part of the organization who owns the banner.

Solicitor Melissa Dively stated if a requirement of indemnification can be included, then the Borough would be covered as a third party.

Vice President Hockersmith asked if the Corn Festival Committee would be opposed to something like that.

Earl Parshall, 23 Oak Lane, replied that the Corn Festival Committee has \$1 million in liability coverage.

Vice President Joe Hockersmith, the Maker, amended his motion to add an indemnification clause removing liability from the Borough. Councilperson Banks, the Secunder, was in agreement. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION FOR APPROVAL A REQUEST BY THE CORN FESTIVAL COMMITTEE FOR STREET CLOSINGS TO FACILITATE THE EVENT

Borough Council discussed a request for street closings to facilitate the Corn Festival.

Councilperson Kathy Coy moved to approve the street closings, as outlined in a letter dated February 3, 2009. Motion seconded by Councilperson Sandra Mailey. Motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION FOR APPROVAL THE TAX COLLECTOR'S REQUEST TO EXONERATE \$149.40 FOR PER CAPITA AND OCCUPATION TAXES FOR 2008

Council reviewed a list of exonerations for 2008, as requested by the tax collector.

Councilperson Kathy Coy moved to approve the tax collector's request for Per Capita and Occupation taxes for 2008, in the amount of \$149.40. Motion seconded by Councilperson Belvin Banks. Motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

President Andrea Lage called Council into executive session at 7:40 p.m. to discuss a contractual matter and a personnel matter.

Borough Council returned to regular session at 7:48 p.m., with no action being taken.

OTHER BUSINESS

CUMBERLAND/FRANKLIN BOROUGH ASSOCIATION

Mayor Bruce Hockersmith reported that the Cumberland/Franklin Boroughs' Association meeting will be held at the Antrim House, in Greencastle, on February 24, 2009. He stated that he will be unable to attend the meeting.

Councilpersons Kathy Coy and Sandra Mailey stated that they will attend the meeting.

BOROUGH BULLETIN

Councilperson Geno Torri questioned how often the Borough Bulletin comes out.

Assistant Secretary Grace Keiter replied twice a year.

Councilperson Torri stated that the Budget/Finance Committee previously requested a number of budget items for next Tuesday's meeting.

Secretary William Wolfe replied that information will be distributed to the Committee as soon as it's ready.

PARKING SPACE

Vice President Joe Hockersmith reported that the last parking space on South Queen Street, at its intersection with East Garfield Street, presents a safety issue to vehicles pulling off of Garfield Street. He requested that management review the situation.

KEYSTONE GIRLS STATE

President Andrea Lage informed Borough Council that the Keystone Girls State is seeking a councilperson and a mayor to speak at its assembly on June 21-27, 2009 at Shippensburg University. She asked anyone interested to contact her.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Councilperson Kathy Coy moved to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Councilperson Belvin Banks. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned, 7:54 p.m.