

BOROUGH OF SUGARCREEK COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

February 2, 2011

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Council President Linda Turner opened the meeting at 7:00 pm, welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted there will be no hurtful or hateful speech allowed.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE (American Flag)

Council President Turner led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. MOMENT OF SILENCE

A moment of silence was observed.

IV. ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

Present at the meeting were Council members Linda Turner, Bogan Goughler, Larry Baughman, Robert Resinger and Howard Barger. Also present were Chief Carlson, Dick Phillips and Brian Spaid. Harold Bloomgren and Penny Peterson were not present. Officer Deeter was excused.

V. DISTRIBUTION OF AGENDA

VI. COUNCIL CHANGES TO AGENDA

VII. COMMISSION/COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Planning Commission

1. John McClelland reported that the Planning Commission had met to discuss the zoning requests for Allegheny Toyota and Frank Heller.

VIII. STAFF REPORTS

A. Engineer

1. Mr. Sporer reported that Martin Hill Road will be closed on February 14, 2011 and Shingledecker's Welding will begin to work on replacing the bridge on February 15, 2011.
2. Motion by Bogan Goughler, being duly seconded by Larry Baughman to approve payment of Invoice No. 1, made payable to Northwest Engineering, in the amount of \$1,785.64 and submitted for reimbursement in the amount of \$1,696.36, for the Martin Hill Road Bridge Project. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Maintenance Foreman:

1. Mr. Phillips presented Council with a written report on the various jobs the Maintenance Dept. has been working on since the last council meeting.

C. Police Chief:

1. Chief Carlson presented Council with a report for the month of January 2011 for the Police Department.

D. Administrator/Special Projects:

1. Mr. Sporer stated himself and Paul Geer will be meeting with the Maintenance Department's Union Representative on February 22, 2011 to discuss the preliminary stages of negotiating for the new contract.
2. The parts for the traffic light at the Rt. 8 entrance to K – Mart have been ordered and a local installer will install/repair the light.
3. Mr. Sporer explained that Citizen Bank has stopped paying interest on the account the Borough has with them. First United National Bank with pay 0.75% interest on the account (approximately \$100.00 per month).
4. Motion by Robert Resinger, being duly seconded by Bogan Goughler to approve May & Company to perform the Annual Audit for the Borough for year ended 2010, not to exceed \$3,400.00 and to be issued no later than June 30, 2011. Motion carried unanimously.
5. Motion by Larry Baughman, being duly seconded by Howard Barger to approve the purchase of an Iomega StorCenter NAS & Western Digital USB Hard Drive Backup, through Computer Support, at a cost of \$933.00. Motion carried unanimously.
6. Motion by Bogan Goughler, being duly seconded by Howard Barger to approve the purchase of an HP ProBook 4520s Notebook, with a one (1) year warranty and Microsoft Office PKC, through Computer Support, at a cost of \$999.00. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Motion by Robert Resinger, being duly seconded by Bogan Goughler to close the Sugarcreek Village Sewer account at Citizen Bank, in the amount of \$163,513.69 and open a new account at First United National Bank. Motion carried unanimously.
- E. Zoning Officer:
 1. No report.
- F. CDBG Administrator:
 1. Chief Carlson reported that Ms. Peterson is currently looking into grant money that could be used for the improvements/repairs and the inspection for the Front Street Playground.
- G. Solicitor:
 1. No report

IX. COUNCIL REPORTS

X. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (*limited to 3 minutes each*)

- A. Sally Huff present Council with a letter in regards to her displeasure to the water rate increase to the 417 – area. Ms. Huff questioned if the rate increase could be spread out across all Borough residents? Mr. Sporer stated that the Borough owns the lines, therefore has a loan for the 417 – area and purchases water from the General Authority. When the General Authority increased the rates 21%, the Borough had to increase the rates as well.
- B. Ron Huff expressed his displeasure with the 417 – water rate increase and believes it is unfair, especially since there are several people living on fixed incomes.
- C. Karen Dailey questioned why the entire water rate increased and not just the portion of the \$65.00 (water rate) that goes specifically towards the cost of just the water? Mr. Sporer stated the increase was done by the General Authority and the Borough increased rates the same percentage. All residents were increased the same percentage. Mr. Spaid and Mr. Sporer stated the water fund for the 417 – area is currently operating in the negative on a monthly basis and that is why the increase was done on the entire water bill (\$65.00) and is only being paid by the 275 residents on that water system.
- D. Denny Dailey stated he would have liked to have received a courtesy letter stating the rate increase and the reasoning behind it. Mr. Dailey also questioned the breakdown of the water rate and how much money goes to the maintenance of the lines, the loan portion, the actual cost of the water, etc.? Mr. Sporer stated the rate increase was on the first 5,000 gallons (allowed at the base rate) & not on the on the overages. Mr. Sporer said he will meet with anyone who wants to come in and get an explanation of the rate increase.
- E. John Kernic questioned if all the residents on the 417 – water system are hooked up and/or paying? And are there any grants available to help pay on the loan? Mr. Spaid stated he and the Borough are in the process of sending notification to those approximate ten (10) residents not hooked up requiring their connection. Also, only two (2) residents are not hooked up and not paying the monthly bill. Mr. Sporer stated he spoke with Sen. White's office in regards to any grant money available and it does not appear to be favorable.
- F. Jim Melhuish stated he was upset with the increase and not in favor of the water & sewer system from the beginning. Mr. Melhuish also expressed his disapproval of the Borough and why does Cranberry Township have lower rates than the Borough? Mr. Spaid stated the water system was optional and the sewer system was mandated by DEP and the Borough Council at that time chose to install both water and sewer systems.
- G. Peggy Stroupe asked Council to reconsider the minimum use of 5,000 gallons at the base rate of \$65.00. Could they lower the cost for those who use only 1,000 – 2,000 gallons per month?
- H. Sally Huff questioned if there was any money left over? She thought there was approximately \$500,000 not used for this project. Mr. Sporer stated there is no money left over.
- I. Linda Hartman stated she has two (2) lots that are worthless and there were supposed to be water and sewer connections and grinder pumps provided and they were not. Ms. Hartman stated there was grant money used to fund the Sugarcreek Village Sewer Project and the sewer costs are much lower.

XI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Motion by Larry Baughman, being duly seconded by Robert Resinger approve the minutes of the January 19, 2011 Council Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

XII. FINANCIAL REPORTS

A. Motion by Bogan Goughler, being duly seconded by Howard Barger to approve the payment of bills/issuance of checks as presented by the Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

XIII. OLD BUSINESS

XIV. NEW BUSINESS

XV. CORRESPONDENCE

XVI. BOARD OF APPEALS

XVII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council recessed at 8:15 pm for an executive session to discuss personnel and legal issues which, if conducted in public, would violate a lawful privilege of information or confidentiality protected by the law and any action to follow. The meeting was reconvened at 8:55 pm.

XVIII. NEW BUSINESS (Con't.)

XIX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Joseph Sporer, Borough Manager

Linda Turner, Council President