

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of Oakmont Borough Council was called to order at 7:30 PM by President Benusa.

ROLL CALL

Present: Messrs. Bland, Favo, Federici, Kennedy, Myers, Taliaferro and President Benusa, members of Council; Mayor Fescemyer; Solicitor Shoop; and, Roger A. Dunlap, Jr., Borough Manager and Ex-Officio Borough Secretary

Visitors: Steve Stock

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All those who were present and able stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

Dangerous Condition, 733 Plum Street

Steve Stock, 801 Plum Street, said that an overweight vehicle had been parked on the property next to him at 733 Plum Street for months, and that previous attempts on his part to bring this to the Borough's attention had failed. He described the vehicle as an old 10-ton box truck with expired plates. He described the truck as "just a plywood box with a couple of seats and a kerosene heater in it."

Mr. Stock said this problem was the same problem the property owner of 733 Plum Street had created on his property near the Hulton Bridge. He mentioned his fear of a fire starting and undesirables using the structure for drug dealing. Mr. Stock said he was a forensic engineer and saw this as a "situation waiting to happen."

Mayor Fescemyer said he would have his Chief of Police start looking into this tomorrow.

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT

Wade Lane Storm Sewer

Mr. Dunlap reported that he had received seven bids on the Wade Lane Storm Sewer Project, and that David G. Martin Company was the apparent low bidder at \$15,500. The bids are still being reviewed by Mr. Dunlap, who will get back to Council on a recommended course of action for the project.

Walgreens

Walgreens is asking that the Borough release their bond, submitted for the construction of the store. Mr. Dunlap said that once the Borough Engineer had inspected the building, and approved it for compliance with all Borough regulations, the bond would be released.

Borough Boards

Borough Manager Dunlap announced that the Borough was accepting applications from residents for positions on various Borough boards, committees or commissions.

911 Transition

The transition to the Allegheny County 911 dispatching service will take place on Friday, December 15, 2006. All pre-transition activities have been completed in anticipation of this move.

Library Rededication

Mr. Dunlap reported that the Oakmont Carnegie Library Rededication ceremonies had taken place on December 8 and 9, 2006 with respect to the Renovation Project. There are only punch list items remaining to be done – “some major, and some minor,” commented Mr. Dunlap.

PNC/Kacin Projects

The Planning Commission will be meeting on December 20 to take action on the application of PNC Bank, requesting approval to construct a new bank adjacent to the Walgreens on Allegheny Avenue, and to consider tentative approval on the Kacin development.

2007 Preliminary Budget

The 2007 Preliminary Budget has been approved and is available for public inspection at the Borough Office during normal business hours. There will be a Special Meeting on December 18, 2006 to adopt the final 2007 Borough Budget.

Leaf Collection

Leaf collecting will end this week, said Mr. Dunlap.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Chief DiSanti reviewed the highlights of his November 2006 Police Report for those present.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Shoop wished all those present a healthy and happy Christmas and New Year.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance, Personnel & Legal

Mr. Favo moved to approve Warrant List #11-02-2006, dated December 11, 2006, for payments drawn from the following Borough funds:

<i>Fund</i>	<i>Amount</i>
General Fund	\$77,943.67
Library Fund	\$17,868.46
Sewer Fund	\$21,970.53
Capital Fund	\$5,412.00
Centennial Foundation Fund	\$506.55
Highway Aid Fund	\$8,097.95

Mr. Kennedy seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Favo moved to approve Warrant List #12-01-2006, dated December 11, 2006, for payments drawn from the following Borough funds:

<i>Fund</i>	<i>Amount</i>
General Fund	\$338,307.94
Library Fund	\$7,834.14
Sewer Fund	\$38,578.24
Capital Fund	\$-0-
Centennial Foundation Fund	\$1,293.89
Highway Aid Fund	\$-0-

Mr. Taliaferro seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Public Safety

Death of Bud Thomas, OVFD

Mr. Kennedy announced the death of Oakmont Volunteer Fire Fighter Bud Thomas, who died last week.

911 Transition

The Emergency Management Committee met the previous week on the transition to the Allegheny County's 911 Dispatch System. All radios have been upgraded for the transition.

Planning, Zoning & Community Development

Hulton Road Traffic Signals/AVRR

Council Member Bland called for a public discussion on the installation of traffic signals on Hulton Road. He reviewed the history of the project to date, noting that there have been continuing problems, and that he had no idea anymore when the lights were scheduled for installation.

A cantilevered arm extending out over the intersections involved and presently holding railroad crossing signals, is owned by the Allegheny Valley Railroad (AVRR). This arm is the most logical place to install the traffic signals. Solicitor Shoop reported that AVRR, owner of the cantilevered arm and the railroad crossing, was asking for an agreement with the Borough that would include a \$71,000 fee up front, plus an annual fee based on cost of living increases, with the Borough accepting full responsibility for all maintenance of the crossing.

The Paradise Group agreed to pay the \$71,000 fee, but would not accept the annual fee or maintenance responsibilities. Mr. Shoop told the Paradise Group that the Borough would not accept these terms, and commented that this could result in a cancellation of traffic signal installation project. The Paradise Group is to consult further with their client, Walgreens, on this issue.

Mr. Bland said that he was in favor of these traffic signals, but that the process had become very frustrating because he felt they were being “held hostage” by the railroad. He noted that the Borough had never agreed to maintain the railroad crossing. He asked who people could contact for support.

Mr. Shoop suggested that people contact State Representative Frank Dermody. Mayor Fescemyer noted that there were other items in the proposed contract that would encumber the Borough even further.

Culture & Recreation

Library Board Meeting

Mr. Kennedy announced there would be a Library Board Meeting on December 13, 2006 at 6:30 PM.

Riverside Park Gas Well

He also said that Riverside Park was closed while gas well drilling there was in progress, and that Mr. Myers might have more to say about this project.

Library Rededication

Mayor Fescemyer said he was at the Library Rededication ceremony last Saturday and commented that it was “just awesome.” He said the Board had done a fantastic job on the project and that he was very impressed with the results.

Community Affairs

Mr. Myers said he was impressed with the Library project also, and that the Board had worked very hard throughout the project and should be commended.

December 11, 2006

Boulevard Project

He thanked the Boulevard Project Committee for their work during the year.

Sled Riding Trail

Mr. Myers also reported that the Key Club had helped prepare the sled riding trail at Falling Springs Run Park, and that it was now “ready for snow.”

Riverside Park Gas Well

Snyder Brothers, Inc. has begun work on the gas well at Riverside Park. All Park gates will be closed for the winter during construction. Drilling is to commence on December 12 or 13, from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM, for approximately six to seven days. They will begin fracking the well the first week of January.

Mr. Kennedy asked why the Park had to be closed, and a brief discussion followed on the pro’s and con’s of keeping the Park open during the oil well construction. It was agreed that the Park would remain closed during drilling activities.

PRESIDENT’S REMARKS

Noting that the website address had been printed incorrectly in the *Advance Leader* recently, President Benusa asked *Advance Leader* reporter Holly Usher to see that a correction was printed in the paper. Ms. Usher said that the correction had already appeared in the paper.

Mr. Benusa wished everyone a happy and prosperous holiday season.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct that evening, Mr. Kennedy offered a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Taliaferro seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Roger A. Dunlap, Jr., Borough Manager
and Ex-Officio Borough Secretary

Transcribed by: L. C. Jensen