

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of Oakmont Borough Council was called to order at 7:31 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: Paula Calabrese, Star Cherry, Brian Clinton, Chief David R. DiSanti, Sr., Les Leasure, Greg Macaluso, Stephanie Mann, Sue Martin, Karin Meising, Tom Meising, Melanie Mostel, Doug Myers, Matt Provenza, Bertha Shearer, Michael Skinner, Jim Trangle, Holly Usher and Chris Wilson

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

Meising Property – Matt Provenza, 24 Morris Street, asked for information concerning the Zoning Hearing on the Meising property at 25 Potomac. He also made note of a letter he had given Council on November 13, 2006 concerning the construction of additional garages on the Meising property, to which he had not yet received a reply. He asked Council to please get back to him on it.

Skateboard Park – High school students Chris Wilson, 648 Elm Way, and Star Cherry, 225 Eighth Street, said they had been to a Town Meeting held by Representative Frank Dermody to petition for an area for kids to skateboard. At the meeting, Mayor Fescemyer suggested they should come to a Council Meeting with their letter of request for the skateboard area.

It was agreed that Ms. Cherry and Mr. Wilson would be advised of the next Recreation Board meeting and present their request there.

Industrial Noise – Bertha Shearer, 39 Morris Street, addressed Council concerning the excessive noise at late hours coming from the new company on the former Textile Chemicals property, called Brenntag Northeast, Inc.

Mayor Fescemyer said Chief DiSanti had sent officers to speak to company representatives, who agreed to put mats down to decrease the noise.

President Benusa said a letter would be written to the company concerning the problem.

Meising Property – Tom Meising, 17 Potomac Street, came before Council to ask why there was “all this fuss” about him and his apartment buildings. He said the area in question at 25 Potomac Street was zoned R-3, which permits

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multi-units dwellings. He wanted to know why he received a Notice of Violation *after* his building was completed.

Solicitor Shoop advised Mr. Meising that he was before the wrong body, that he should go before the Zoning Hearing Board about this issue, rather than Council. Mr. Meising asked why he had to spend \$500 to go before the Zoning Hearing Board when he had already been issued a building permit for the building, and just to find out he was right all along.

Borough Manager Dunlap said Mr. Meising was in violation of the *Zoning Ordinance*, not the building code. Mr. Meising said the Borough had 45 days to object to his plans and that that time had passed.

Solicitor Shoop advised Mr. Meising that if he does not appeal his case before the Zoning Hearing Board, he could forfeit the chance to defend his actions.

Melanie Mostel, 43 Morris Street, asked when had adjacent property owners been notified of Mr. Meising's plan. Mr. Shoop explained that nothing had passed yet for neighbors to be notified about. Mr. Dunlap said that, should Mr. Meising decide to appeal his Notice of Violation or the fact that he was denied a building permit, Mr. Meising's hearing(s) would be advertised in the local paper and the property would be posted with a notification of the hearing.

President Benusa asked if there were any further public comments to be made. There were none.

MINUTES APPROVED

Mr. Taliaferro offered a motion to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 12, 2007, as circulated to the members of Borough Council.

Mr. Federici seconded the motion, but made note that Representative Jason Altmire had been referred to as a "Senator," rather than a Representative, and that his last name was spelled incorrectly.

Those present voted unanimously to accept the February 12, 2007 Minutes, with the aforementioned corrections made.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Police Report - Chief DiSanti reviewed the highlights of his February 2007 Police Report for those present.

Noise at Brenntag - Speaking to Mrs. Shearer, Chief DiSanti said he did speak to the company in question about the noise problem last week. He urged her to call the Station whenever she heard the noise, no matter what the hour, and he would dispatch an officer to the site. Chief DiSanti said he would send a patrol officer to the site tonight.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Shoop made note that the Kerr Museum's Third Annual Antique Show was being held that weekend, and said that all were welcome to attend.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance, Personnel & Legal

Mr. Favo moved to approve Warrant List #02-02-2007, dated March 12, 2007, for payments drawn from the following Borough funds:

<i>Fund</i>	<i>Amount</i>
General Fund	\$77,283.16
Library Fund	\$9,421.66
Sewer Fund	\$44,130.74
Capital Fund	\$-0-
Centennial Foundation Fund	\$11,879.69
Highway Aid Fund	\$6,230.43

Mr. Kennedy seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Favo moved to approve Warrant List #03-01-2007, dated March 12, 2007, for payments drawn from the following Borough funds:

<i>Fund</i>	<i>Amount</i>
General Fund	\$77,555.77
Library Fund	\$12,524.34
Sewer Fund	\$29,641.73
Capital Fund	\$-0-
Centennial Foundation Fund	\$2,888.44
Highway Aid Fund	\$5,635.99

Mr. Taliaferro seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Resolution Setting Time and Place for Tax Collector's Return – Mr. Favo offered Resolution No. R6-2007, and moved for its adoption, a resolution setting the time and place to accept the Return of the Tax Collector for 2006 Borough real estate taxes.

Mr. Kennedy seconded the motion, which passed.

President Benusa declared the resolution adopted. Recorded in Ordinance Book Volume 29, Page 101, as **Resolution No. R6-2007**.

Council Member Douglas E. Myers' Resignation - Mr. Favo offered a motion to accept the resignation of Council Member Douglas E. Myers, effective February 26, 2007.

Mr. Kennedy seconded the motion, which passed.

Mayor Fescemyer commended Mr. Myers for his service to the Borough, said he was sorry to see him leave and wished him the best.

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Mr. Federici wanted to thank Mr. Myers publicly for his years of service to the community, saying his efforts would be missed.

Solicitor Shoop said that people did not realize the amount of work Borough Council members do, citing Mr. Myers' work with the gas wells and the bridge in Satler Park as examples. He thanked Mr. Myers and said he was going to be missed.

Appointment – Cheryl Provenza Zentgraf – Mr. Kennedy offered a motion to appoint Cheryl Provenza Zentgraf to fill the opening on Council left by Mr. Myers' resignation until the end of the year.

Mr. Favo seconded the motion, which passed.

Resolution Approving Schedule of Salaries and Wages for 2007 – Mr. Favo moved to withdraw the resolution approving Borough salaries and wages for 2007 due to discrepancies.

Mr. Taliaferro seconded the motion.

Mr. Federici said he felt it was important to move this resolution along as soon as possible. President Benusa noted that Mr. Federici had not been present when this resolution was discussed that would have explained the delay. Council is asking for a comparison of the 2006 and 2007 schedule of salaries and wages, he said.

Mr. Federici noted that Borough Council had adopted the 2007 Budget with these salaries and wages in it.

All those present voted to withdraw the resolution approving Borough salaries and wages for 2007 due to discrepancies.

Public Safety

Lease-Purchase Agreement for Police Vehicles – Mr. Taliaferro offered a motion to accept the lease-purchase agreement with Ford Motor Credit Corporation for new police vehicles at a cost of \$26,590.38.

Mr. Bland seconded the motion.

President Benusa explained that this would help in the scheduling of replacement of police vehicles. He said that Mayor Fescemyer, Chief DiSanti and Mr. Dunlap had done an excellent job on this.

All those present voted to accept the lease-purchase agreement with Ford Motor Credit Corporation for new police vehicles at a cost of \$26,590.38.

Keefe Letter of Thanks – Council Member Taliaferro summarized a letter from Carnivore's bar owner John Keefe thanking the police for their work in uncovering a robbery hoax involving his bar.

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OFVD Call for Volunteers – Mr. Taliaferro reported that the Volunteer Fire Department was calling for volunteers of 21 years or older to be fire fighters. Anyone interested should contact Fire Chief Bill Peoples.

U.S. Open Golf Tournament – President Benusa thanked the Police and the Fire Department for their support with security at the upcoming U.S. Open at Oakmont Country Club.

Mr. Taliaferro asked for volunteers to man the Red Cross shelters at the Open.

Planning, Zoning & Community Development

Catanzaro/Singhose Subdivision – Prior to taking an action on this subdivision plan, Mr. Bland asked Mr. Dunlap for an overview of the plan. Mr. Dunlap said the plan had been reviewed by the Borough Engineer and the Planning Commission. The owners complied with the Engineer's request to move the property line over a foot so that the lots would comply with the *Subdivision Ordinance*. The Planning Commission has recommended approval, also.

Mr. Bland offered a motion to approve the Preliminary and Final Plans of the Catanzaro/Singhose Subdivision, located at 709 Delaware Avenue.

Mr. Favo seconded the motion, noting that the lot in question was originally two lots anyway. The motion passed.

Engineering & Public Works

ARB Restoration Project - Mr. Federici said he had attended a meeting that day for an update of the Allegheny River Boulevard Restoration Project, from Hulton Road to Porte Street.

Borough Engineer Michael Skinner gave a brief review of the project's status at Mr. Federici's request. Mr. Skinner noted that the time line may need to be extended a week or two, or authorizing work at night may have to be considered. He said, "I'm comfortable with the project as it stands right now."

Mr. Benusa asked Mr. Federici to get together with the Mayor and Mr. Taliaferro to coordinate traffic control once construction starts.

Mr. Skinner said they were looking at an April 30 start date and that both sides of the street would be closed. He estimated the work would take six-to-seven weeks to complete.

Mr. Dunlap said the contract would stipulate an April 30 start date, and that the Borough's Street Crew would be taking the old bricks up, which could possibly put the project ahead a week. He added that he would be preparing discussion points for Council as a result of the day's meeting.

Further discussion followed, with Mr. Federici explaining to those present what was being discussed. It was agreed that the businesses in the area should be notified and that a meeting should be scheduled to alert the Boulevard Committee about this project.

Culture & Recreation

Riverside Park Restoration/Gas Wells – Mr. Kennedy said the Park Crew started work on March 5. He also reported that gas well installation had left a “huge pile of mud” at the site which was restricting use of athletic areas in the Park.

Mr. Myers said there had been a water main break at the Park which made it impossible to move the mound of dirt. Mr. Kennedy said he felt that until the pile of dirt was removed, it would still be a detriment to all recreation programs at the Park.

Field House Upgrade Proposal – Mr. Kennedy reported on meetings he had with Todd Massack and Joe Rossi regarding upgrading the Park’s Field House.

He said that a resident named Lowery would be drawing up plans, and that he imagined the cost of update to be high. He felt the Borough should not be expected to pay the majority of costs for this project since it is the School using the facilities primarily. Currently, Messrs. Massack and Rossi are proposing that the Borough and the School each put up \$750 to cover design costs.

Recreation Board Meeting – Mr. Kennedy announced that the next meeting of the Recreation Board would be held on April 11 at 7:00 in the Municipal Building. He advised the students present that they could make their skateboard presentation at that time.

He added that Board member Dolly Provenza was looking for grants to upgrade the Riverside Park.

The Board is considering the hiring of a Park Program Director.

Library Restoration Project – Mr. Kennedy said that, based on the last Library Board Meeting minutes, there is still a punch list to complete on the restoration project.

Gas Well Update – Council asked Mr. Myers to give an update on the gas well installation at Riverside Park. Mr. Myers said he had talked to respective users of the Park and that most did not appear to have any major problems with the delay. The Riverview Athletic Association may have to go to Penn Hills Park for a time.

Various ways of restoring the fields were discussed. Mr. Myers said that “Mother Nature has to take its course” with regard to the planting of trees and grass around the area. He added that in the 16 days since the gas well has been in operation, the Borough has made \$1600.

Mr. Bland felt that Mr. Myers had done an excellent job in supervising the gas well installation at the Park, noting that the Borough would now have a recurring revenue stream from the well.

With regard to the Field House upgrade, Mr. Bland felt that various groups could find funding for the upgrade if it were important to them.

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Shade Tree Pruning/Removal Bids – Mr. Dunlap said the bids for the 2007 tree pruning and removals were due that Friday.

Community Affairs

Various other Borough projects were discussed including the new building inspector, improving community communications and code enforcement. No official action was taken on any of these matters at that time.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

President Benusa inquired into the publication deadlines to advertise meeting notices in the *Advance Leader*. The deadline for legal advertising is Monday Noon for publication on the following Wednesday.

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 9:18 PM.

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

Transcribed by: L. C. Jensen