

**MINUTES
LANGHORNE MANOR BOROUGH COUNCIL
MEETING OF AUGUST 2, 2005**

1. CALL TO ORDER - The meeting of Langhorne Manor Borough was called to order in the Langhorne Manor Borough Hall, 618 Hulmeville Avenue, Langhorne, Pennsylvania, on Tuesday, August 2, 2005, at 8:09 P.M. Eastern Standard Time by Maryann Barnes, President.

At this point in the meeting Mayor Farmer led us in the "Pledge of Allegiance."

PERSONS PRESENT – Maryann Barnes, President; Stephen Galazin; Sharon Gimpel; William McTigue, Vice President; Steven Yourtee; Francis Farmer, Mayor; Loretta M. Luff, Secretary/Treasurer and Thomas J. Profy III, Solicitor.

PERSON ABSENT Robert Byrne and Nicholas Pizzola

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES –Mrs. Barnes entertained a motion to approve the minutes of July 5, 2005 Borough council meeting.

Motion was made by Mr. Yourtee and seconded by Mr. McTigue to approve the July 5, 2005 minutes as amended. No objections were presented. Mr. Galazin abstained. Motion carried.

3. POLICE REPORT – Mayor Farmer gave the police report for July 2005.

4. COMMENTS FROM RESIDENTS & VISITORS:

Mrs. Barnes introduced Chief Frank Farry, Ryan Marte, and Gary Wiley from Langhorne Middletown Fire Company who presented a trophy to the Borough for their support of the parade and celebration for their 175th anniversary. Program books were also passed out to council members

Denise Reid and Claudette Dalton inquired as to the status of the stop sign being installed southbound on Station at Elm Avenues. Mayor Farmer replied that he had not received a report from the police department.

Mr. Ed Hanisco asked if he could have a copy of the letter from the police chief pertaining to the stop signs at Park Avenue and Pine Street. Mayor Farmer replied that he had left a copy in Ms. Gimpel's mail slot next door at the office. Mr. Hanisco inquired about the speed humps and when would they be installed. Mayor Farmer replied that the police department only makes recommendations. Council has the final word as to what will or will not be approved.

Mr. Bob Rosencrans inquired as to the sewer assessment being lowered. Mrs. Barnes replied that a letter would be sent out to the residents explaining the lowering of the quarterly amount from \$200.00 to \$125.00.

Mr. McTigue explained how council came up with the amount they did in order to lower the quarterly amount to be reflected in the bill the residents will receive in October. Mr. Rosencrans feels that he is still going to be billed in excess of what the Borough needs to maintain the system.

Mr. Profy explained what is involved in maintaining the sewer system. Mr. Rosencrans replied that he still feels the residents are paying too much for sewers. Ms. Sandy Harris asked how the Borough is billed for sewers. She was told that it is done on a quarterly basis.

Ms. Krista Conkle spoke on the work that PennDot did along the 200 and 300 block of Hulmeville Avenue. She reminded council that the work that was done was never meant to be a solution to the problem. Ms. Conkle stated that the residents along Hulmeville Avenue want to have pipes along the side of the road to aid in draining the water. She stated that this work along the roadway could prevent ice from forming on the road during the winter.

Ms. Conkle resented Mr. Galazin questioning PennDot as to the roadwork they were doing. Because of Mr. Galazin questioning the workers, they stopped the work until Cal Morrison from PennDot returned from vacation. Ms. Conkle feels that this kind of action could jeopardize our relationship with PennDot.

Ms. Conkle stated that PennDot informed her that this kind of roadwork should be done on a regular basis. She states that Penn Dot would be resurfacing some areas on Hulmeville Ave.

Mr. Galazin addressed Ms. Conkle's remarks. He spoke of the conversation he had with PennDot and he asked if this work on the 200 and 300 block of Hulmeville Ave was going to help with the water problem. The foreman replied no. Mr. Galazin stated that he did not stop PennDot from working. He asked them what they were doing and if it would help the water problem and the PennDot workers were the ones who decided to leave.

Mr. Yourtee stated that he spoke to two different sources from PennDot and that as a result of Mr. Galazins complaints/concerns PennDot workers packed up and left. Mr. Yourtee feels that council should be grateful that PennDot came out to try to correct the drainage problem along Hulmeville Ave.

Mr. Norbert Aicher spoke on the swimming pool being constructed next door to him at 320 Hill Ave. His concern is that more water will be getting into his basement as they started construction on the pool and a seepage pit. Mr. Aicher wanted to know if a permit had been issued. Mr. Bush replied that they do not have a permit and he was not aware until now that they had started excavation. Mr. Bush also stated that he would stop the construction tomorrow until the permit is issued and will get back to Mr. Aicher on the status of this project.

Ms. Betty Linington stated that she has seen an improvement in the Langhorne Manor Police being more visible in the Gillam Avenue area. She commended Officer Hotham for inquiring after they had a 911 call for an emergency at her house.

5. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**-Mrs. Barnes had no report from the Planning Commission. Mrs. Barnes received brochures from Penn State titled "Fresh from Bucks County Farms". All council members received a copy.

Mr. Byrne-Absent, no report.

Mrs. Luff reported two lights were out in the Borough; one on Fairview Ave, pole #149 and one in the 300 block of Prospect Avenue.

Ms. Gimpel reported that she is still gathering information for insurance purposes and she hopes to report on it at the September council meeting.

Ms. Gimpel reported under the Shade Tree Commission there will not be sixteen properties identified. There is one on Hulmeville and Comly Avenues that needs to trim up a holly tree. There are two houses on Elm and Hulmeville Aves and one on Hulmeville and Prospect Avenues. Ms. Gimpel spoke with the two property owners at Elm and Hulmeville Aves and explained to them what had to be done. Both property owners had trimmed.

Ms. Gimpel would like to meet with Mr. Bush and get more information on how the sight triangle works and where it is in the ordinances. She will then go and talk to the four property owners in person prior to sending them a letter from the zoning officer. If this doesn't work a letter will then go out to the four property owners from the zoning officer.

Ms. Gimpel asked if the article "Planting The Right Tree In The Right Place" from the Bucks County Planning Commission planning progress brochure could be added to the Shade Tree Commission page on the website.

Mr. Galazin asked Ms. Gimpel what she had done in obtaining information on getting grants for work to be done at the Borough Hall or listed as historical. Ms. Gimpel replied that she was not able to work on grants as she had been working on financial statements.

Mr. Galazin replied that he had contacts for trying to obtain grants and he thinks that historical status should be looked into, as that would change how things are done.

Mrs. Beth Bartnikowski spoke again on the process of historic preservation and renovation through the use of a historic consultant who can help formulate a plan of action for gaining historic designation and Borough Hall renovations.

Mr. McTigue reported that BFI has changed its name to Allied Waste and will be painting their trucks blue. He also spoke on the PA Turnpike/Interstate 95 interchange project, which will be done in two phases. Phase one includes building a high-speed interchange that will connect Pa Turnpike and Interstate 95 in Bucks County. Phase two is building an additional bridge over the Delaware River parallel to the existing turnpike bridge.

Mr. McTigue spoke on the speed humps on Pine Street and he referred to Doylestown Borough's design with a cost of \$5,000.00 to \$8,000.00. Mr. McTigue stated that a typical speed hump for our roads could cost \$4,000.00 to \$5,000.00. He stated that funding would come out of the Highway Aid Fund which is tax dollars we get from the state that they collect on fuels; our share is approximately \$20,000.00 a year. Road repairs and snow removal come out of this fund also.

Mr. McTigue referred to the document from the Federal Highway administration, which is the basis for statues and regulations, that various state DOT's use. One thing that was made clear is that stop signs are not to be used for speed control.

Mr. McTigue does not feel that the Borough has the funds for installing speed humps even though he prefers the speed humps over stop signs for Pine Street. Mr. McTigue stated that a proposal should be obtained based on the sketch from Doylestown Borough.

Mr. Hanisco asked the Borough council members if they were in favor of or against stop signs at Park Avenue and Pine Street. He stated that they are willing to pay to have a speed hump installed. Mr. McTigue stated that he is willing to have himself and a couple of council members sit down and discuss what they are willing to pay.

Mayor Farmer asked Mr. Hanisco to ask Borough Council to spend the money for a traffic engineering study for the whole Borough. Mr. Hanisco replied that council would spend thousands of dollars that they don't have for a traffic engineering study when a stop sign would cost \$200.00.

Mayor Farmer stated to put a stop sign up legally you must first have a traffic engineering study done. Mr. Yourtee stated that a traffic study could be done with one's own police department.

Mr. Profy referred to the police recommendations that a stop sign was not necessary.

Mr. Yourtee stated that a traffic study by the police department is only a recommendation and Council could or could not follow that recommendation. The proper procedure for adopting an ordinance for a sign is advertisement.

Mr. Profy replied that the only thing council can do this evening is to authorize the advertisement for the preparation and passing of the ordinance. Jeff Schauder stated that Chief Bumm has never monitored the traffic on Pine Street.

Mr. Yourtee feels a speed hump is a better means of controlling the traffic speed than a stop sign. His proposal at the July 5, 2005 council meeting was for a ten feet wide and six inches high speed hump at a cost of \$1,869.99 for the first speed hump and about \$500.00 for each additional ones from Langhorne Paving Company.

Mrs. Barnes asked Mr. Profy the procedure for getting stop signs at Pine Street and Park Ave. Mr. Profy stated that you need authorization for the preparation to advertise the ordinance.

Motion was made by Mr. McTigue and seconded by Mr. Yourtee to advertise the ordinance for stop signs at Station and Elm Avenues, Hill and Elm Avenues and Pine Street and Park Avenue. Ms. Gimpel abstained. Motion carried.

Mr. Yourtee spoke on the graffiti that has appeared on the rental property at the corner of Highland and Hulmeville Avenues, Hulmeville Avenue bridge overpass, railroad bridge on Hulmeville Ave and the bridge columns on the Hulmeville Ave overpass. Mr. Yourtee feels that our police department should be made aware of this problem so they can patrol the area in the evenings.

There was discussion about the kids who are hanging out in the woods in the 200-300 block of Hulmeville Avenue last at night.

Mr. Yourtee reported that Comly Avenue would not be paved. Penn Dot will try to get Hulmeville Ave on the list for 2006.

Mr. Yourtee reported that there is no reason to flush the pipes along the 200-300 block of Hulmeville Avenue until an area is created in the woods for the water to flow. In order for those pipes to flow, a contractor will have to be hired to grade the areas for the out flow areas. This is what the Borough requested from the Pennsylvania Environmental Council to consider for the retrofit storm water Management. That meeting is tentatively scheduled for August 10, 2005 for the inspection of Hill and Hulmeville Avenues.

Ms. Conkle stated that two pipes out of the four pipes located on Hulmeville Ave need flushing.

Mr. Yourtee asked when the new police car would be arriving.

Mrs. Barnes replied that Mayor Farmer stated that he had no report this evening.

Mrs. Barnes, Mr. Galazin and Ms. Conkle would like to be informed by Mr. Yourtee as to the date and time of the on-site inspection with the Pennsylvania Environmental Council.

MAYOR'S REPORT –Mayor Farmer did not have a report.

6. **SOLICITOR'S REPORT**-Mr. Profy stated that the Langhorne Manor Borough Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance Amendment was advertised to conform to the provisions of the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance of the Borough with the provisions of Langhorne Manor Borough, Delaware River South Watershed Act 167, Storm water Management Ordinance adopted March 1, 2005 and Langhorne Manor Borough, Neshaminy Creek Watershed Storm water Management Ordinance date March 1, 2005.

Motion was made by Mr. McTigue and seconded by Mr. Yourtee to adopt ordinance # 2005-004 as presented by Mr. Profy. No objections were presented. Motion carried.

7. **INSPECTOR'S REPORT**-Mr. Bush gave the inspector's report for the month of July 2005.

8. **CORRESPONDENCE**-No correspondence.

9. **APPROVAL OF THE BILL AND TREASURER REPORT**-Mrs. Barnes stated that all Council members had received a copy of the bill list for payment. She asked if there were any questions or discussions.

Mr. McTigue inquired about check # 4305 for Brooks Construction who did repair work to the roof at 618 Hulmeville Avenue in the amount of \$1,950.00 and check # 4318 for Legal Lawn and Maintenance in the amount of \$670.00. Mr. Yourtee replied that was for remulching that was done after the reception for Gerry Seader on July 5, 2005. Mr. Yourtee thinks that a bid package should be put together for the outdoor maintenance of 616 and 618 Hulmeville Avenue for 2006.

Mr. Yourtee feels that this work should have been done prior to July 5, 2005. Mrs. Barnes told Mr. Yourtee to put a bid package together.

Motion was made by Mr. McTigue and seconded by Mr. Yourtee to approve the bill list as presented. No objections were presented. Motion carried.

Mrs. Barnes entertained a motion to approve the Treasurer's report as presented.

Mayor Farmer inquired about the real estate transfer taxes from the sale of Brighton at Lakeside and does the council have plans for the excess funds.

Mr. Yourtee asked when the new police car would be delivered.

Mayor Farmer replied that it had not been ordered. He has to clarify a few things. He is not happy with what has come up so far.

Ms. Gimpel asked if the excess funds could be looked at when they prepare the next budget.

Mayor Farmer replied that he is not asking for an answer this evening. He wants council to consider what they are going to do with the funds.

Mrs. Barnes stated that there are some capital projects that were being considered; one being work that needs to be done on the Borough Hall building.

Mayor Farmer feels that the money should be used for painting and pointing of the Borough Hall and removal of the partition of the office area in Borough Hall. Mayor Farmer feels this money should be put into an account to be used for repairs to 618 Hulmeville Avenue.

Motion was made by Mr. McTigue and seconded by Ms. Gimpel to approve the Treasurer's report with the correction to #411-10 for \$1,000.00 as of July 31, 2005. No objections were presented. Motion carried.

Mrs. Luff stated that there are ongoing problems with the sharp copier and she will have three proposals for the September 6, 2005 council meeting.

Mr. Profy asked as to where new stop signs were to be located, so they can be advertised;
North & South on Hill Avenue at Elm Avenue
North & South on Station Avenue at Elm Avenue
South on Pine Street at Park Avenue
North on Pine Street at Park Avenue

Mr. Bush reported that he received an application for a minor sub-division at Bellevue and Comly Avenues.

10. **SECOND MEETING** - Mrs. Barnes stated that there is a second meeting scheduled for Tuesday August 16, 2005. At this time, there are no items for the agenda for the meeting. Motion was made by Mr. Pizzola and seconded by Mr. Byrne to dispense with the second meeting. No objections were presented. Motion carried.

11. **ADJOURNMENT** - Mrs. Barnes entertained a motion to adjourn. Mr. Yourtee asked if there hadn't been a motion to purchase the police car as presented on the proposal presented by Mayor Farmer.

Mayor Farmer replied that the proposal did not state whether it was a six cylinder or an eight cylinder vehicle. He found out later that it was a six cylinder and an eight cylinder would cost about \$3,000 more and that amount is not in the budget. Mr. Yourtee replied that it would require a change in the motion.

Mayor Farmer asked if there was \$3,000 available. There was no response by Council to Mayor Farmer's question.

Mr. Bush stated that he had two items he would like to discuss with Council. First Mr. Bush said that he met with Senator Tomlinson's staff about the grant for stormwater improvements to Hulmeville Avenue and it was their recommendation that the Borough offer to pay at least 10% of the amount of the grant to show a partnership with the state on this project. The state usually looks more favorable on a project in which the municipality partners in the cost. They said that they get more requests for grants than they have money to fund them with, and this would certainly help to get greater consideration. Mr. Bush asked Council if they would be willing to fund 10% of the cost of this project, so he could get back to Senator Tomlinson's staff to complete the grant application.

Mr. Profy stated that council could authorize the preparation of the grant for \$140,000.00 for stormwater improvement on Hulmeville Avenue with the Borough agreeing to fund 10% of the cost.

Motion was made by Mr. Galazin and seconded by Mr. McTigue for the preparation of the grant for stormwater improvements on Hulmeville Avenue for \$140,000.00, with the Borough agreeing to fund 10% of the cost. No objections were presented. Motion carried.

Mr. Bush then stated that several years ago he presented to Council that he felt that the Philadelphia Biblical University Buildings, Brighton at Lakeside Building, and Langhorne Gardens Nursing Home Buildings should be inspected once a year for code violations, life safety standards,

and any work done without permits, which was not inspected. The Council agreed, he and Mr. Profy met and Mr. Profy drafted an ordinance for approval. This ordinance for whatever reason was not adopted. Recently, when he met with officials from Philadelphia Biblical University and their Architect to go over code requirements for their takeover of Brighton at Lakeside to convert to dormitories, he was shocked at the conditions of the life safety systems in the building were and the condition they were in. About six months ago a fire damaged the building that was caused by wiring to a HVAC unit, which was not up to code and was installed without a permit or inspection. All of the surrounding municipalities as well as most PA municipalities in the state has their Code Enforcement Officer inspect all non-residential buildings, once a year for this purpose. Mr. Bush stated that he feels strongly that this should be done on a yearly basis to protect everyone involved.

After discussion by Council, Mr. Profy stated that he would look up the proposed ordinance, meet with Mr. Bush and review and update it and have a draft for Council to discuss at the October meeting.

Motion was made by Mr. McTigue and seconded by Mr. Yourtee to adjourn. No objections were presented. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 10:20 p.m.

The next meeting will be Tuesday September 6, 2005 at 8:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Loretta M. Luff
Secretary/Treasurer
Langhorne Manor Borough