

**MINUTES
LANGHORNE MANOR BOROUGH COUNCIL
MEETING OF FEBRUARY 17, 2009**

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, February 17, 2009 at 8:02 P.M. Eastern Time by William McTigue, President.

At this point in the meeting Mr. Badgley led us in the "Pledge of Allegiance."

PERSONS PRESENT – David Badgley; Maryann Barnes, Vice President; Donna Cianci; Sharon Gimpel; William McTigue, President; Nicholas Pizzola; Steven Yourtee; Loretta M. Luff, Secretary/Treasurer.

PERSON ABSENT – Thomas J. Profy *III*, Solicitor

2. COMMENTS FROM RESIDENTS & VISITORS- Mr. William Abbott (803 Hulmeville Avenue) stated that so many times when there is a problem in the Manor, the State Police investigates it and he wonders where our police are. Mr. McTigue replied that our police are not full time and things happen when our officers are not on the schedule and that is when the State Police respond.

Mrs. Abbott also referred to the police activity that is not published in the Courier. Mr. McTigue replied that for sometime it has been a policy matter that the Police Chief has taken a position on and maybe the new Mayor can review this issue. Mayor Farmer had always supported the Chief on this issue.

Ms. Jane Boyle (308 Gillam Avenue) stated that she did not know that it was up to the Chief of Police of Langhorne Manor Borough to dictate whether or not something should be put in the Courier, when the Chief of Police does not even live in the Manor. Ms. Boyle stated, that you mean it is up to the Manor's Chief of Police, that we pay with our tax payers money, that he is allowed to dictate whether or not something can or can not be put in the Courier. She knew that it has been stated that the Courier could not always reach somebody in the police station as they are always on the road or they are not on duty. Mrs. Barnes stated that this is part of the problem. Ms. Boyle stated that the Borough has a Secretary that the report could be given to and the Courier could call her during her working hours.

Mr. McTigue replied that as far as the chief dictating anything to anybody, which is not the case. Mr. McTigue stated that he did not say dictate, he said it was at the chief's discretion and he choose not to report it to the Courier and it was also Mayor Farmer's choice to accept that advice from the chief, and the chief is not dictating anything and they also choose to accept the chief's advice. Council can go back to Chief Bumm and ask him what his opinion is, pertaining to publishing or not publishing the police information in the Courier. If it makes sense, Council will go along with his response or if it doesn't, Council will tell him that a different position will be taken and it is to be advertised.

Ms. Boyle stated that maybe she used the wrong word when using dictate and she disagrees with it being the chiefs' decision and she feels that the residents should be made aware of what is going on in the Manor.

Mrs. Lois Abbott (803 Hulmeville Avenue) stated that if the chief has a good rational reason why the police information should not be in the Courier, then the chief should address the residents and explain his reasons. She feels that this is suppression of the news. Mrs. Abbott feels that the residents would be more aware of what is going on in the Manor if they new there were any problems.

Mr. Profy entered the meeting at 8:12 p.m.

Mrs. Abbott stated that she read in the January minutes that the State Police did not have an incident report for the guide rails that had been damaged in January. She was driving by the accident and the State Police and Middletown Township police were both there at the accident.

Mr. Yourtee replied that he had left a voice mail for Chief Bumm and he reported that there was no report anywhere of the incident. Mr. Yourtee stated that he would follow up on this incident of the damaged guard rail on Gillam Avenue.

Mr. McTigue stated that at this time Council would continue to interview for the vacancy of Mayor. Mr. Marrazzo and Mr. Hanisco had been interviewed at the February 3, 2009 Council Meeting and a letter of interest had been received this morning from Mr. Robert Byrne (206 Elm Avenue). Mr. Byrne was asked why he didn't previously continue on Council. Mr. Byrne replied that his children were getting involved in a lot of sports and he felt it was important that he put them first, they are still in sports, but it is more manageable and he gave the running for Mayor a lot of thought, and he will be able to give one hundred percent to the office of Mayor. He was asked what he would do different with the police department, Mr. Byrne replied that he would want to be more involved with Chief Bumm and get answers to the residents problems. Mr. Byrne was asked about his thoughts on regionalization of the police department. Mr. Byrne stated that he had tried to follow it in the newspaper; he feels that if it is good for our community then he would be in favor of it, but personally he likes the way our police department is at the present time, but as Mayor he would have to go along with Council's decision. Mr. Byrne was asked if he was willing to run for a four year term for Mayor in the May election, Mr. Byrne replied yes. Mr. Byrne stated that he thought about his credentials of having served on Council and also serving on the police committee and he has an idea of what Mayor Farmer did pertaining to the police department. Mr. Byrne was asked what areas would he address first, he replied that he would like to see something done about putting the police information in the Courier. He would like to see more police patrols on the street. He was asked about his golfing on Tuesday nights and will he always be at the Council meetings, Mr. Byrne replied absolutely.

Mr. McTigue entertained a motion to fill the vacancy of Mayor. Motion was made by Mrs. Barnes and seconded by Mr. Pizzola to nominate Mr. Byrne to fill the vacancy of Mayor of Langhorne Manor Borough. Voting in favor of Mr. Byrne was Mr. Pizzola, Mrs. Cianci, Mr. Badgley, Mr. McTigue and Mrs. Barnes. Opposed were Ms. Gimpel and Mr. Yourtee. Motion carried.

Mr. Byrne is to be sworn in by District Justice Baranowski tomorrow.

Mrs. Barnes and Mr. McTigue thanked Mr. Marrazzo and Mr. Hanisco for coming out and running for the vacancy of Mayor.

3. COMMITTEE REPORTS – Mrs. Barnes stated that a Planning Commission meeting pertaining to 629 Bellevue Avenue is scheduled for February 26, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. and this meeting had been advertised.

Mrs. Barnes stated that a letter had gone to the homeowner at 308 Hill Avenue where the homeowner had filled in the storm drain with concrete.

Mr. Profy reported that he had received a phone call from the homeowner's son and the property is for sale, the Borough is to get an estimate as to the cost of removing the concrete and restoring the storm drain to its original state, and the amount of the estimate will be escrowed from the proceeds of the sale of the property, and the money will be used to correct the situation.

Mr. Profy stated that Mario Cannales from Pickering Courts and Summerson will take a look at the storm drain and get an estimate for the work to be done. Mr. Peet is to be advised that if any party inquires about the property at 308 Hill Ave, they are to be informed that there will be no Use and Occupancy permit issued, till the storm drain issue is corrected.

Mr. Badgley had no report.

Mrs. Cianci reported that a light on pole # 84540 on Hill Avenue is out and the light in front of 505 Hulmeville Avenue is out again. Mrs. Cianci announced that she would not be running for Borough Council in the May election due to personal reasons.

Ms. Gimpel had no report for the Shade Tree Commission or insurance issues. Ms. Gimpel reported that she had been working with the Borough Auditors for the past couple weekends getting the 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008 DCED reports finished, and hopefully everything will be filed by the end of March.

Mr. McTigue thanked Ms. Gimpel for all the time and help she has given, to get this job completed.

Mr. Yourtee stated that an arm on a light pole on Station Avenue between Elm and Comly Avenues was broken and the pole was split, he saw the light on the ground. Mrs. Cianci stated that she would check on it in the morning.

Mr. McTigue stated that Allied Waste and Republic Service announced that they have completed their merger and they will be known as Republic Services, Inc.

Mr. McTigue read a letter addressed to Chief Bumm, dated December 29, 2008 from Howard Cloud, Project Coordinator, Police Liaison Project thanking him for his time and assistance during the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency Monitoring visit. The visit provided valuable information on how juveniles are being handled by the Langhorne Manor Borough Police Department. The letter states that the Langhorne Manor Police Department appears to be in compliance with the

core protection identified with the JJDP Act of 2002. He commends the chief for his hard work and dedication to ensuring that juveniles are being handled in a manner consistent with the federal requirements.

Mr. McTigue reported that he would get two dates for leaf pick-up in the spring, one before April 12, 2009 and one after Easter. He will also schedule the bulk pick-up date for Saturday, May 16, 2009, and the Community Sale will be Saturday May 9, 2009.

Mr. Pizzola reported that the year end w2 forms filing was done. Also two stop signs that had been knocked over, had been replaced.

Mr. Yourtee had put together a bid package with the help of Mr. Profy and it is being distributed to some asphalt companies for the paving and pothole repairs that are to be done through out 2009. He has received one bid, and he will open them at the March 3, 2009 Council meeting.

Mr. Yourtee reported that the people who are sledding on the hill at the overpass on Hulmeville Avenue are sitting on the new guide rail and Council may want to take a position on this as the guide rail could get damaged.

Mr. Yourtee reported that a window frame in Borough Hall was broken during the last wind storm and it probably will not be able to be repaired. He sent an e-mail to Mrs. Bartnikowski and Mr. Bush to see if they know of anyone who is involved in repairs of Historical buildings. It has been temporarily fixed for the present time.

Mr. Yourtee stated that he had contacted Middletown Township pertaining to fixing our potholes on the Access Roads on an emergency basis. They have agreed to do the patch work and they will send the bill to the Borough. Mr. Yourtee saw that they had already patched the potholes on the Access Roads and on Highland Avenue

Mr. Yourtee asked if the Borough Council could subscribe to the Advance newspaper since we advertise special meetings, vacancies on Borough Council etc in that paper. Motion was made by Mr. Yourtee and seconded by Mrs. Barnes to subscribe to the Advance Newspaper. No objections were presented. Motion carried.

4. SOLICITOR'S REPORT – Mr. Profy referred to the Bucks County Planning Commission report on the Preliminary Plan of Land Development for Wielehowski property located at 629 Bellevue Avenue. Mr. Profy wants Council to be aware of # 4 on page # 2-Impervious surface and proposed improvements-The impervious surface ratio is shown as just under 35 percent maximum allowed. The plan indicated a 24-foot-wide driveway and five 10-foot by 20-foot parking stalls (in addition to the three garage spaces) to serve the three-unit conversion. We note that these proposed impervious improvements are somewhat excessive to accommodate the proposed residential use. Reducing the amount of impervious surfaces on the lot will not only improve drainage, but will also help preserve the residential nature of the site and neighborhood. Therefore, we recommend that borough officials consider modifying the paving provisions to reduce the amount of unnecessary impervious surface for this use.

They suggest that both smaller parking stall size and driveway width be considered. A 9-foot by 18-foot parking stall would be adequate to accommodate on-lot residential parking and decrease the overall impervious surface by 100 square feet. A driveway width of 16 or 18 feet maximum, would reduce 1,000 square feet or more of paving, and would be sufficient to provide convenient two-way access and adequate parking back up area.

Mr. Profy recommended that Council approve the smaller parking stalls and driveway width.

Mr. Yourtee stated that he agrees with the smaller driveway width, but he feels that the 100 square feet of savings by reducing the size of the parking stalls would depend on the alignment of the parking stalls, that extra foot could be needed for turning, entering or exiting a parking stall.

The reduced size of the driveway and parking stalls was accepted by Borough Council.

5. **CORRESPONDENCE** – There was no correspondence
6. **APPROVAL OF TREASURER’S REPORT** – Mr. McTigue stated that the January Treasurer’s report would be reviewed at the March 3, 2009 Council meeting.
7. **ADJOURNMENT** – Mr. McTigue entertained a motion to adjourn this meeting. Motion was made by Mrs. Barnes and seconded by Mr. Pizzola to adjourn this meeting. No objections were presented. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:05 P.M.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, March 3, 2009 at 8:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Loretta M. Luff
Secretary/Treasure
Langhorne Manor Borough