

MINUTES
LANGHORNE MANOR BOROUGH COUNCIL
MEETING OF DECEMBER 5, 2006

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 December 5, 2006, at 7:37 P.M. Eastern Standard Time by William McTigue, President, for the purpose of interviews for the vacancy on Borough council due to the resignation of Stephen Galazin on November 7, 2006.

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

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

PERSON ABSENT – Nicholas Pizzola.

There were no applications for the vacancy position on Borough council.

Mr. Profy explained that the vacancy remains before Borough Council through December 8, 2006 and thereafter before the Borough Vacancy Board for 15 days from the 8th of December. The Vacancy Board has until December 23, 2006 to fill the vacancy. The Vacancy Board’s obligation after December 23, 2006 is to file a Petition with the Court for an appointment. Mr. Profy suggested that there be a Vacancy Board Meeting between December 8, 2006 and December 23, 2006. The meeting could be held on Tuesday December 19, 2006, which is the scheduled date for a second meeting. Mr. John Gibbons is the Vacancy Board Chairperson and he will preside at the Vacancy Board Meeting.

Mayor Farmer asked if no one comes forward, what the procedure of the court is. Mr. Profy replied that there is no constitutional or statutory obligation to make an appointment absent an application, so the Council would continue to function with six Council members.

Mayor Farmer asked if Council could require an applicant for the Council vacancy to submit their resume by a certain time. Mr. Profy replied that council couldn’t require a resume by a certain time as a condition for consideration.

Mr. Profy recommended that Council authorize re-advertising for the vacancy on Council and adjourn this meeting and advertise the meeting to be held on December 19, 2006 at 8:00 P.M. as a Vacancy Board meeting. It is to be advertised in the Advance and the Bucks County Courier.

Motion was made by Mr. Yourtee and seconded by Mrs. Barnes to advertise the Vacancy Board meeting to be held on Tuesday December 19, 2006 at 8:00 P.M. No obligations were presented. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Mrs. Cianci and seconded by Mrs. Barnes to adjourn this meeting at 7:47 P.M. No objections were presented. Motion carried.

The regular Borough Council meeting opened at 7:48 P.M. for the purpose of reports only till 8:00 P.M.

2. COMMENTS FROM RESIDENTS & VISITORS – Ms. Linington (308 Gillam Avenue) wanted to know if there is any progress pertaining to the replacement of the stormwater drain located near her property. Mr. McTigue replied that there is no progress. Ms. Linington replied that Kevin Seifert, who purchased the lot on Hulmeville Avenue, was going to have his workmen and equipment install the pipes that were needed for replacing of the stormwater drain.

Mr. McTigue stated that he recalls that the work by Mr. Seifert was connected to the approval of his plans for the development of that lot. Mr. Bush stated that no plans had been submitted as Mr. Seifert is in no hurry to build at this time.

Ms. Linington stated that the corner of Elm and Hulmeville Avenues is very dangerous due to the sinking of the stormwater drain.

Ms. Linington stated the corner of Langhorne Avenue and Pine Street is dangerous as car and trucks are cutting the corner and running on the bank and the street sign poles will be damaged. She feels that something should be done to correct this problem.

Mr. McTigue asked Mr. Yourtee to work with a contractor to see what needs to be done to improve the corner of Langhorne Avenue and Pine Street.

Ms. Linington asked if volunteers could clean out the new storm drain that had been installed near the corner of Hulmeville and Gillam Avenues. Mr. McTigue stated that Mr. Yourtee would work on having the drain cleaned out.

Mr. Bush spoke on Pickering Corts and Summerson's recommendations on the inlets that need cleaning out and repair. Mr. Bush feels that the inlets should be cleaned out so they know what needs to be done to them. Mr. Yourtee is to make a list of the inlets that need cleaning out.

Ms. Conkle (217 Hulmeville Avenue) stated that Borough Council should have shown more support for Mr. Yourtee when it came to the placement of the street sign issue with Kevin Transue.

Mr. McTigue replied that when this issue started with Mr. Transue it was explained to him that Mr. Yourtee had taken on the sign project and Mr. McTigue had supported him. They had worked with the Borough Engineer as to the placement of the signs and it seemed that in the following months at the council meeting, Mr. Transue started making personal attacks which no one on Council was qualified to speak on and if he comes to another meeting again he will be told that his remarks are inappropriate

There was a discussion pertaining to the holes that were left after the old street and safety sign poles were removed. The only hole that had been brought to council's attention was the one located on Aicher's property on Hill Avenue and it should be addressed.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Motion was made by Mr. Yourtee and seconded by Ms. Gimpel to approve the minutes of November 8, 2006 as presented. No objections were presented. Motion carried.

Ms. Boyle (308 Gillam Avenue) spoke about the manhole in the 200 block of Prospect Avenue that is in need of repairs

Ms. Boyle stated that \$25,000.00 had been budgeted for service and maintenance of the sewers; as of November 30, 2006 not one cent of the budgeted money had been spent. The estimate for replacing the storm drain on Hulmeville Avenue was \$30,000.00. Ms. Boyle heard that the gutter work that Mr. Seifert is to do when he builds his house on Hulmeville Avenue does not include the stormwater drain near her property. She does not care what it is going to cost to replace the drain, as there is over \$700,000.00 in the sewer account.

4. POLICE REPORT – Mayor Farmer gave the police report for the month of November 2006. Mayor Farmer reported that Officer Gregg white would be out of work due to headaches resulting from the auto accident he had while on duty on June 2, 2006. Mayor Farmer reported that a letter had been sent to Paul Bertrand from Chief Bumm thanking him for the donation of office furniture for the police department.

Mr. Pizzola entered the meeting at 8:06 P.M.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS – Mrs. Barnes had no report for the Planning commission. Mrs. Barnes stated that she had received a phone call pertaining to a telephone pole laying along Bellevue Avenue from an accident on October 15, 2006; she wanted to know if the pole was the Borough's responsibility. Mr. Yourtee stated that the pole had been replaced and typically a crew comes along to pick up the old pole.

Mrs. Cianci reported a light is out at Hill and Highland Avenues; she will call and see why it is out again as she had reported it out in September 2006, also pole #9345 on Hulmeville Avenue and Highland Avenues is out and she had reported that one in September 2006.

Ms. Gimpel reported that all shade tree incidents had been reported to Mr. Bush that had pertained to the trees that had been planted.

Ms. Gimpel requested that the meetings following an election be held on the second Tuesday of the month instead of the Wednesday following the election.

Motion was made by Ms. Gimpel and seconded by Mr. Pizzola to change the meeting to the next Tuesday following an election. No objections were presented. Motion carried.

Mr. McTigue reported that the final leaf collection is on Saturday December 9, 2006.

Mr. Pizzola presented the General Fund Budget for 2007. Mr. Pizzola explained the changes that were made in the budget presented. Mr. Yourtee asked since we get free cable and internet service from Comcast and now Verizon is in the Borough couldn't we request free telephone service from them. Mr. Profy stated that borough council could explore the free telephone service.

After a discussion of the 2007 General Budget a Motion was made by Mrs. Barnes and seconded by Mr. Yourtee to approve the General Fund Budget. No objections were presented. Motion carried.

Mr. Profy stated that the tax is now called Emergency Municipal Services (EMS). Mr. Profy stated that one of the things to look into is if there can be exclusions for low wage earners for example our part time police officers. Mr. Profy will work on it and present the information at the next Borough council Meeting.

Mayor Farmer asked if Neshaminy School District decides to enforce the Earned Income Tax is it true that the school district will receive the half percent and the other half percent would be distributed among the Boroughs that participate. Mr. Profy stated that under Act One the Earned Income Tax goes exclusively to the school district. The Borough has the right to impose a separate Earned Income Tax up to one percent. Under Act One there is no credit for Earned Income Tax paid to other municipalities except the city of Philadelphia. Mayor Farmer asked if Langhorne Manor Borough imposes the Earned Income Tax, would Langhorne Manor Borough receive the money he presently pays for this tax. Mr. Profy replied no, the law has changed; you would have to pay in both areas.

Mr. Pizzola presented the Highway Aid Budget for 2007. Motion was made by Mrs. Barnes and seconded by Mrs. Cianci to approve the Highway Aid Budget for 2007 as presented. No objections were presented. Motion carried.

Mr. Pizzola presented the Sewer Fund Budget for 2007. Motion was made by Mr. Yourtee and seconded by Mrs. Barnes to approve the Sewer Fund Budget for 2007 as presented. Motion carried. Ms. Gimpel opposed.

Mr. Yourtee stated that he would like to explore the possibility of a contract to maintain our lights rather than pay as you go, as the light maintenance is way over budget for 2006. Mr. Bush spoke on the problems and expenses that Middletown Township has had since they went on a maintenance contract for repairs to their street lights.

Mr. McTigue read letter from the borough of Langhorne Manor Higher Education Health Authority where they approved payment of \$15,000.00 for the use of the facilities of the Borough and the administrative services provided by the Borough to the Authority from November 1, 2005 thru October 31, 2006. Mr. Profy reported that the closing date for the bond that Woods Services had applied for through the Higher Education Authority would be December 18, 2006.

Mr. McTigue read a letter from Carroll Engineering stating that there was no hydrogen sulfide (H₂S) corrosion, only the efflorescence previously observed at leaking manhole joints. No lining was warranted, but it is necessary to remove the efflorescence deposits prior to sealing manhole #35. Carroll Engineering recommended that Borough council approve the proposal from Infratech not to exceed \$4,500.00.

Motion was made by Mrs. Cianci and seconded by Mrs. Barnes to accept Carroll Engineering's recommendation to accept the proposal from Infratech not to exceed \$4,500.00. No objections were presented. Motion carried.

Mr. Yourtee reported that Kevin Seifert Inc. had submitted proof of Liability Insurance for snow plowing for 2006-07.

Mr. Yourtee would like to have volunteers during the winter help with the removal of the partition inside the Borough Hall. He also reported that a large limb had come down on Station Avenue and he helped to remove it from the roadway.

Mr. Pizzola spoke on an increase of our fire tax contribution for Langhorne-Middletown Fire Company to .75 mils; it is presently at .25 mils. Langhorne Manor Borough is the only municipality that contributes less than .75 mils. Presently Langhorne Manor Borough contributes approximately \$3,200.00. Mr. Pizzola and Ms. Gimpel feel that this should be put on a referendum so the residents could decide if the Fire Tax Contribution should be increased.

After much discussion pertaining to the Fire Tax increase and after Mr. Pizzola stated that he estimates an increase of approximately \$20.00 per homeowner, motion was made by Mr. McTigue and seconded by Mrs. Cianci to increase the Fire Tax contribution to .75 mils. No objections were presented. Motion carried.

6. SOLICITOR'S REPORT – Mr. Profy presented the Tax Ordinance for 2007. Motion was made by Mr. Pizzola and seconded by Mrs. Cianci to adopt the Tax Ordinance # 2006-05 as presented. No objections were presented. Motion carried.

Mr. Profy presented the Vehicle and Traffic Ordinance Amendment for approved stop signs through out Langhorne Manor Borough. Motion was made by Mr. Yourtee and seconded by Mrs. Barnes to adopt Vehicle and Traffic Ordinance Amendment # 2006-06 as presented. No objections were presented. Motion carried.

7. MAYOR'S REPORT – Mayor Farmer stated no report.

8. INSPECTOR'S REPORT –Mr. Bush gave the Inspector's report for the month of November 2006

9. CORRESPONDENCE –Mrs. Luff stated that she had received a call from the Commissioners Office requesting to be placed on our mailing list for our newsletter and they would also like to put a column in our newsletter. Mrs. Luff is to contact their office and get more information as to what would be involved pertaining to a column in our newsletter. Mr. McTigue

received a letter from Tree Vitalize, which is a partnership to restore tree cover in southeastern Pennsylvania; this information was given to Ms. Gimpel.

10. APPROVAL OF BILLS & TREASURER'S FOR PAYMENT – Mr. McTigue stated that all Council members had received a copy of the bill list for payment. He asked if there were any questions or discussions. Ms. Gimpel inquired about the negative balance in the McCaffrey escrow account. Mr. Profy replied that matter is still pending. Mr. Profy replied that he would return his check #4917 in the amount of \$1,603.40 till a deposit is made to that account After much discussion Mr. Profy is to write a letter to Mr. And Mrs. McCaffrey requesting additional funds be deposited into their escrow account.

Motion was made by Mr. Yourtee and seconded by Mrs. Cianci to approve the bill list as presented and hold check #4917 for Begley, Carlin & Mandio till additional funds are received for the McCaffrey escrow account. No objections were presented. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Ms. Gimpel and seconded by Mr. Yourtee to approve the October 2006 Treasurer's report that had been tabled. No objections were presented. Motion carried.

Ms. Gimpel would like \$50,000.00 transferred from the General Checking account to the General Savings account.

Motion was made by Mr. Yourtee and seconded by Mrs. Barnes to approve the November 2006 Treasurer's report as presented. No objections were presented. Motion carried.

11. SECOND MEETING – Mr. McTigue stated that a second meeting is scheduled for Tuesday December 19, 2006 at 8:00 P.M. for interviews for the vacancy on Borough Council.

12. ADJOURNMENT – Mr. McTigue entertained a motion to adjourn this meeting. Motion was made by Mrs. Barnes and seconded by Mrs. Cianci to adjourn this meeting. No objections were presented. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:33 P.M.

The next meeting will be Tuesday December 19, 2006 at 8:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Loretta M. Luff
Secretary/Treasurer
Langhorne Manor Borough