

Regular Meeting

November 5, 2007

The Regular Meeting of the Souderton Borough Council was called to order by President John Young at 7:30 p.m. Members of Borough Council present at the Meeting included the following:

President John U. Young	Councillor J. Edward Hunsicker, Jr.
Vice President Andrew C. Schlosser	Mayor John R. Reynolds
Councillor Brian Goshow	Junior Councillor Andrew Espenlaub
Councillor Katherine M. Grubb	Solicitor Robert G. Bricker
Councillor Roy J. Zeiher	Borough Manager P. Michael Coll
Councillor Ray M. Yothers	Public Works Director Steven R. Coll
Councillor Ned D. Leight	Police Chief Charles A. Quinn, Sr.
Councillor Philip Clemens	

The Invocation was given by Councillor J. Edward Hunsicker, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Consideration was given to the minutes of the October 1, 2007, Regular Borough Council Meeting. A motion was made by Councillor Katherine M. Grubb, seconded by Councillor Ray M. Yothers, to approve the minutes as prepared. The motion was approved.

Consideration was given to the minutes of the October 15, 2007, Special Borough Council Meeting. Andrew Schlosser questioned the wording of the second condition approving the conditional use application of Mark Cornwall. Andrew Schlosser suggested that the condition be phrased to read "that the owner of the subject property shall provide a means of ingress and egress to and from the parking lot on the subject property to the property line adjacent to the municipal parking lot and shall grant an easement to the Borough for the shared access drive at the rear of the subject property." A motion was made by Andrew C. Schlosser, seconded by J. Edward Hunsicker, Jr., to approve the minutes of the October 15, 2007 Special Borough Council Meeting as amended. The motion was approved.

Under correspondence, Borough Manager Michael Coll reported that he received a letter from Montgomery County Land Trust recognizing Souderton Borough for our membership in the Indian Valley Regional Planning Commission and the continued participation and support of Souderton Borough in promoting regional planning efforts. Correspondence was received from William Tierney, 62 Green Street, requesting information from the radar speed trailer and other police department documents. Police Committee Chair Katherine Grubb responded to this request by transmitting a form to complete and return to the Borough Office to formally request specific documents. This form has not been received to date.

Mayor John R. Reynolds reminded everyone to participate in Election Day tomorrow.

Police Chief Charles Quinn announced that the new Chevy Tahoe police vehicle was received last week and the department is working to complete the installation of radios and other equipment to place the vehicle into service in approximately two weeks.

Solicitor's Report for the month of October, 2007, included attending the conditional use hearing for Tattoo Marks for the property at 143 Main Street and drafted the opinion and decision for adoption by Borough Council. The Solicitor had a meeting with the Code Enforcement Officer, and also a telephone conversation about several properties which are receiving notices under the Property Maintenance Code.

Public Works Director Steven Coll reported that the final seeding at the Lawn Avenue Park was completed and recent rains helped to establish the lawn and plantings. Crews will begin paving work on Hillcrest Avenue tomorrow. Storm drainage and street light construction at the new Main Street parking lot is nearly complete. Couzins Contractors hopes to complete rough grading of the site by the end of the week. Trout Brothers provided the lowest quotation to complete the sidewalk along the parking lot and they are scheduled to begin this work shortly. Moyer & Son is working with the Borough to complete some additional work on the irrigation system for the Main Street Streetscape. The sidewalk is expected to be complete in time for the Holiday Parade. Steve Coll also noted that North Penn Water Authority is working on a water main replacement project on N Fourth Street, between Chestnut and Broad Streets. This work

should be completed in a few weeks.

President John Young inquired about the status of the Lawn Avenue Park playground equipment. Borough Manager Michael Coll reported that the current construction contract completed the fence enclosed area for the equipment, with Borough forces separately purchasing and installing the modular play structure. The Borough received a legislative initiative grant of \$25,000 towards the purchase of the equipment. Specifications will be developed to receive formal bids over the winter months for delivery of the equipment in early spring. Councillor Brian Goshow noted that some additional work should be done to improve the drainage around the playground area. Recent rain eroded some of the grading.

Borough Manager P. Michael Coll reported that he supplied information to Borough Council regarding a recommendation from the Northern Montgomery County Recycling Commission to amend the Waste Disposal and Recycling Ordinance with respect to leaf collection. The proposed revisions reflect specific State DEP policy with respect to the handling, collection and disposal of leaf waste. The proposed ordinance amendments will require some specific modifications to our curb side leaf collection program that Borough Council should review and understand prior to formally considering adoption of the amendments. The Commission has been facing challenges among its members with recycling of leaf waste, without jeopardizing eligibility of recycling performance grants for its members. We have received a very good response to the single hauler trash survey. The information is being summarized for review of Borough Council. Preliminary indications are that an overwhelming amount of residents prefer to opt out of the program and retain their own hauler. The promotion testing for the position of Sergeant will be conducted in mid January. Borough Council also received information from the Montgomery County Planning Commission to formally approve the Montgomery County Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan. The complete plan is available for review on the County website. There are no specific hazards identified in the plan pertaining to Souderton Borough; however, adoption of this plan is a prerequisite in the event the Borough should ever need to apply for disaster relief funds under FEMA. We have circulated two requests for proposals for planning and consulting services. The first project is planning for a master streetscape plan along Main Street and Broad Street. The second project is the development of a redevelopment plan for the Souderton High School property. The Streetscape project will be funded by a TCDI grant in the amount of \$100,000 and will help to prepare the Borough for an application for construction funding under the Hometown Streets program. RFP's for both projects are due by November 26, 2007.

There are three agenda items for consideration this evening. The first item is a request to designate a handicapped parking space in front of 409 E Broad Street. The next item is an appointment to the Souderton Industrial Development Authority, replacing Phil Clemens. John Young has volunteered to serve in this capacity. The remaining item will be a brief presentation of the proposed 2008 Municipal Budget.

President John Young inquired whether the School Board was informed of our desire to move forward with redevelopment planning for the High School property. Borough Manager confirmed that he sent a letter to Superintendent Dr. Charles Amuso, followed by a recent telephone conversation, informing him of our plans to hire a consultant to develop a redevelopment plan for the property. It appears that the process will work very well in achieving the goals of both Borough Council and the School Board.

Consideration was given to paying the bills for the month of October, 2007.

GENERAL FUND

Ches-Mont Disposal, Inc.	\$308.46	Laurel House	\$30.00
MetLife	3110.45	MetLife	240.70
North Penn Water Authority	268.55	PA Municipal Retirement System	86,043.00
PA Municipal Retirement System	80,370.00	Petty Cash Fund	149.80
PPL Electric Utilities	5,893.39	The Home Depot	95.46
Timothy S. Kelly	80.00	Trout Brothers, Inc.	3,018.75
Univest National Bank	1,838.96	Ven-Mar Sales, Inc.	853.72
AT&T	36.13	Bergey's, Inc.	300.00
Blooming Glen Quarry	70.04	Boucher and James, Inc.	18,292.48
Commonwealth Precast, Inc.	1,354.00	Cope's Garage, Inc.	531.50

Eric & Denise Ferretti	60.00	Farm & Home Oil Co.	322.19
Fretz Enterprises	36.08	Glasgow, Inc.	75.00
Landis Block & Concrete	134.85	Moyer & Son, Inc.	1,800.23
Naceville Materials	1,328.44	Nextel Communications	285.46
Norris Sales Company Inc.	629.20	PA Municipal Retirement System	655.40
PA Municipal Retirement System	2,767.83	PA Municipal Retirement System	754.29
PA Municipal Retirement System	3,097.91	PECO Energy	14.34
Pennsylvania One Call System	39.00	Potty Queen	275.00
PPL Electric Utilities	229.50	Richter Drafting/Office Supply	30.83
Shelly Enterprises, Inc.	14.12	Verizon	179.49
Warehouse Battery Outlet	190.00	Comcast Cable	42.95
MetLife	240.70	MetLife	3,110.45
Montg. Co. Planning Commission	4,563.00	NetCarrier Telecom, Inc.	469.78
Ply-Mar Construction Co., Inc.	88,380.00	Souderton-Telford Main Streets	11,250.00
Carl B. Stuart	1,500.00	Commonwealth Precast, Inc.	2,787.00
Country-Fair Cleaners	322.35	Federal Express Corp.	81.29
G.A. Peak	11,135.00	Gifford Brothers	4,500.00
Hajoca Corporation	21,464.72	Independence Blue Cross	14,919.92
Indian Creek Foundation	376.00	John T. Fretz Insurance Agency	9,399.65
Keystone Health Plan East	6,229.48	Kopp Equipment	283.00
Montgomery Newspaper	349.53	North American Benefits Company	813.64
PPL Electric Utilities	7,790.38	Radio Shack	64.96
The Home Depot	180.17	Univest Visa	217.64
Univest Visa	1,557.00	Unum Insurance Company	751.70
A & T Chevrolet, Inc.	30,989.00	Altek Business Systems, Inc.	242.70
Clemens Uniform Rental	134.13	Cole Information Services	308.95
Cope's Garage, Inc.	1,396.19	Dr. Larry J. Geller	116.00
Glasgow, Inc.	63.00	Highway Materials, Inc.	834.67
Jaeger Electric Service, Inc.	4,468.62	Lansdale Police Department	300.00
Marc F. Lipkin, D.M.D., P.C.	164.00	Markey Paper & Packaging, Inc.	181.72
Moyer & Son, Inc.	374.00	Outdoor country	135.95
Paper Direct, Inc.	56.93	Richter Drafting/Office Supply	104.47
SEPTA	400.00	Shelly Enterprises, Inc.	141.20
Univest National Bank	6,052.96	Word Work, Inc.	3,072.09
		Total General Fund	\$458,121.44

SEWER FUND

Ches-Mont Disposal, Inc.	\$84.80	MetLife	105.28
North Penn Water Authority	222.85	PA Municipal Retirement System	43,233.00
PPL Electric Utilities	9,481.64	Siemens Water Technologies	160.50
Stanley Heleniak, D.M.D.	1,222.00	Trout Brothers, Inc.	515.00
Borough of Souderton General Fund	46,875.00	C.J. Miller Vacuflo	11.33
Cintas Corporation	84.10	CPP Cal-Pacific Products	179.72
Hach Company	828.02	Hajoca Corporation	91.50
J.P. Mascaro & Sons	6,237.27	John T. Fretz Insurance Agency	5,811.45
Moyer & Son, Inc.	291.92	PPL Electric Utilities	541.73
QC Inc.	53.40	Richter Drafting/Office Supply	85.93
Suburban Water Testing Labs	38.00	Univar USA Inc.	1,810.80
Ven-Mar Sales, Inc.	713.43	Verizon	55.23
Young's	35.50	Comcast Cable	42.95
J.P. Mascaro & Sons	4,216.68	Lawson Products, Inc.	344.21
MetLife	105.28	NetCarrier Telecom, Inc.	208.75
Nyco Corporation	217.66	D & M Machine, Inc.	120.00
Gordon Bennett Painting	20,600.00	Hach Company	482.40
Independence Blue Cross	4,093.35	John T. Fretz Insurance Agency	5,692.35
Keystone Health Plan East	2,291.64	Maintenance Engineering LTD	259.23
North American Benefits Company	254.79	Unum Insurance Company	233.75

Wolf, Block, Schorr & Solis-Cohen	195.00	Young's	24.43
Bearings & Drives Unlimited	206.84	Clemens Uniform Rental	157.20
EPWPCOA, Inc.	200.00	H. Keith Koehler	52.00
Mobile Dredging & Pumping	10,010.63	Moyer's Outdoor Power Equipment	13.36
QC Inc.	84.20	Shelly Enterprises, Inc.	43.30
Siemens Water Technologies	2,173.10	Univar USA Inc.	3,440.80
		Total Sewer Fund	\$174,533.30

SANITARY SEWER CAPITAL FUND (PLGIT)

Scott A. Seifert	\$700.00	Trout Brothers, Inc.	\$165.00
Bank of New York (PENNVEST)	57,355.94	Bishop Wood Products	58.00
Daniel L. Beardsley LTD	2,775.00	P.K. Moyer & Sons, Inc.	17,265.25
		Total Sanitary Sewer Capital Fund	\$78,319.17

LIQUID FUELS FUND

Hajoca Corporation	\$82.82	Highway Materials, Inc.	\$153.86
PPL Electric Utilities	169.67	Shelly Enterprises	26.09
Letterco	25.00	PPL Electric Utilities	107.03
PPL Electric Utilities	273.22		
		Total Liquid Fuels Fund	\$837.69

A motion was made by Councillor Ned D. Leight, and seconded by Councillor Roy J. Zieher, to pay the bills for the month of October, 2007, as presented. The motion was approved.

President John U. Young opened the floor for public comment by Borough Residents and Property Owners.

Jonathan Gardenier, 127 N. Fourth Street, commended the Borough Manager for the development of the new 2008 budget format. It is much easier to follow the revenue sources for capital construction projects. Mr. Gardenier also commented on the status of the pool project and whether any analysis has been done to determine the economic benefits of revitalization activities completed to date.

Mary Montroy, 157 N Second Street, questioned the rather large jump in projected health care expenses. Borough Manager Michael Coll replied that the 2007 Budget initially anticipated an 18% increase, compared to the actual increase of 21%. The 2008 Budget had to first account for the higher than estimated premium increases and another 23% was added in anticipation of this year's renewal rates. The Borough continues to work with our insurance consultants to evaluate alternative programs to control cost increases.

President John Young then turned to the business portion of the agenda with the first item being approval of a handicapped parking space at 409 E. Broad Street.

A motion was made by Councillor Ned D. Leight, and seconded by Councillor Roy J. Zeiher, to approve the posting of a handicapped parking space in front of 409 E Broad Street for a ninety day trial period per Mayor's order. The motion was approved.

A motion was made by Councillor Philip Clemens, and seconded by Councillor J. Edward Hunsicker, Jr., to appoint John U. Young, 214 Highland Avenue, Souderton to serve a five year term on the Souderton Industrial Development Authority through August 4, 2012.

Borough Manager P. Michael Coll reviewed the proposed 2008 Municipal Budget. The General Fund Budget has been designated as the primary fund to account for recurring operation expenses for governmental activities. A new Capital reserve Fund has now been established to separately account for capital construction projects and major non-recurring activities. Grant revenue to support such activities will now be shown within the Capital Reserve Fund. Debt service expenses have also been transferred from the General Fund to the Capital Reserve Fund. The proposed budget recommends a 4% increase in the real estate tax rate to 4.25 mills, increasing the average annual real estate tax by \$22.50 for a property owner with an assessment

of \$150,000. The Special Library tax rate will remain the same. The 2008 Sewer Budget retains the same rate schedule. The Liquid Fuels Fund will finance the construction of a new traffic signal at Reliance Road and Main Street, supplemented with a \$50,000 legislative initiative grant. There is limited funding available for any significant road improvement program. Funding has been allocated towards oil and chip surface treatments. The Budget is available for public review and comment and we will have further discussions during the November work sessions.

Councillor Katherine Grubb questioned if the \$35,000 allocation for swimming pool maintenance was sufficient to address the revisions in the chlorination system. Borough Manager Michael Coll commented that he anticipates that we will be able to adapt existing pumps to the new system limiting capital outlays for new equipment.

Councillor Brian Goshow questioned how the various contributions to other non-profit agencies compared to the neighboring municipalities and whether the special library tax was consistent among the Indian Valley municipalities.

A motion was made by Councillor Roy J. Zeiher, and seconded by Councillor J. Edward Hunsicker, Jr., to authorize the advertisement of the 2008 Budget Ordinance and 2008 Real Estate Tax Ordinance for formal consideration at the December 3, 2007 regular Borough Council Meeting. The motion was approved.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:55p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

P. Michael Coll, Secretary