

Regular Meeting

December 1, 2008

The Regular Meeting of the Souderton Borough Council was called to order by President John U. 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 Schlosser	Mayor John R. Reynolds
Councillor Ned D. Leight	Junior Councillor Daniel Yocum
Councillor D. Jeffrey Gross	Solicitor Robert G. Bricker
Councillor Brian Goshow	Borough Manager P. Michael Coll
Councillor Katherine M. Grubb	Public Works Director Steven R. Coll
Councillor Jonathan Gardenier	Chief Charles A. Quinn, Sr.
Councillor Richard Halbom (appointed during the meeting)	

The Invocation was given by Borough Manager P. Michael Coll, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Consideration was given to the minutes of the November 10, 2008 regular Borough Council Meeting and the November, 2008 Borough Council work sessions. Since the minutes were just presented this evening, Councillor Jonathan Gardenier requested that formal consideration of the minutes be deferred until the January Borough Council meeting to provide more time for the members to review them. The request to defer was accepted.

There was no correspondence.

Mayor John Reynolds reminded everyone of the annual Holiday Parade, this year marks the 50th anniversary of this parade, which will be held on Saturday, December 6, 2008 beginning at 11:00 am.

Police Chief Charles Quinn stated that the November Police report will be distributed later in the month. The Chief distributed copies of a new Policies and Procedure Manual to members of Borough Council.

The Borough Solicitor's Report for the month of November was distributed to members of Borough Council. The Solicitor researched and prepared a memorandum on the policy and procedure for placing a referendum on an election ballot. They researched and prepared a memorandum on the process for placing a candidate on the primary ballot. The Borough Solicitor also had several telephone conversations and reviewed correspondence regarding the extension of sanitary sewer service to a property on Cherry Lane in Hilltown Township. They prepared and filed a lien against the property located at 177 South Front Street for delinquent sewer service fees.

Councillor Jonathan Gardenier questioned the Borough Solicitor if there is anyway to place a question on the ballot reflecting funding for recreation. The Solicitor replied that the Borough Code provides for certain ballot questions relating to the imposition of a specific tax for particular purposes such as Ambulance, Fire service and an additional tax for Open Space or Debt Service, but there is no provision for a question relating to certain spending within the General Fund.

Public Works Director Steven Coll reported on the progress of leaf collection. Crews will be working on the east side of the Borough this week and will work throughout the month as needed.

Borough Manager Michael Coll briefly reviewed the agenda items scheduled for consideration this evening. The first item of business is the appointment of a Borough Councillor to fill the vacancy of former Councillor Ray Yothers. The Borough received bids to construct the connector ramp behind 121 N Main Street to the new Main Street municipal parking lot. The project attracted a number of bids, with the low bid submitted by Ettore Ventresca & Sons of Warrington, at a price of \$62,466.00. Eighty percent of the construction costs will be reimbursed by the Montgomery County Revitalization Grant program. The third item is consideration of the collective bargaining agreement with the Souderton police Officers effective January 1, 2009. A draft copy of the agreement was circulated to members of the negotiation committee and the police representatives for review. The agreement was not formally signed by the police officers as of tonight's meeting, as requested by the negotiating committee members. Borough Council may prefer to table action on this agreement. Councillor Gardenier questioned if drug testing was included in the agreement. The Borough Manager confirmed

that this language was inserted in the first section of the agreement. Reference to the provisions of the Heart and Lung Act has been included under the Workers Compensation section of the agreement. The next item is consideration of a joint compost agreement between members of the Northern Montgomery County Recycling Commission and the Barnside Farm Compost Facility in Lower Salford Township. There is no mandate to use this facility but it will be available for use by the member municipalities and their residents to dispose of leaf waste and brush, particularly during off times when municipal collections are not available. Formal consideration is scheduled to approve another three year planning assistance contract with the Montgomery County Planning Commission. One of their major tasks will be the completion of the mandated new Revitalization Plan for the Borough to remain eligible for future revitalization grant applications. The next item is authorization to advertise a Special Borough Council meeting for Monday, December 8, 2008 to further discuss the conceptual plan presented by Metro Development Company for the redevelopment of the Souderton High School property. The last item for consideration is formal notification to the North Penn YMCA of the Borough's desire to renegotiate the existing lease concerning the operation of the Souderton Community Swimming Pool.

Consideration was given to paying the bills for the month of November, 2008.

GENERAL FUND

AT&T	\$6.94	Boro of Souderton Capital Reserve	\$20,716.27
Ches-Mont Disposal, Inc.	334.65	Clemens Uniform Rental	129.30
Comcast Cable	42.95	Coronado's Pool Plastering	3.00
David A. Freed	130.00	Gouldey Welding & Fabrication	601.75
Landis Block & Concrete	92.05	M & M Stone Co.	506.97
Nextel Communications	288.00	North Penn Water Authority	23.83
PA Municipal Retirement System	4,296.24	PA Municipal Retirement System	1,102.95
PECO Energy	33.46	Potty Queen	78.00
PPL Electric Utilities	218.39	Trumbauers Lawn & Rec, Inc.	834.13
Weaver and Reckner Dental	694.00	AT&T	32.54
Bergey's, Inc.	413.51	C & S Lawn and Landscape Inc.	6,405.00
Clemens Uniform Rental	141.75	Comcast Cable	60.36
Cope's Garage, Inc.	260.75	Daniel L. Beardsley LTD	66.00
David A. Freed	89.99	Detlan Equipment, Inc.	76.99
Dr. Larry J. Geller	124.00	Freedom Systems Corporation	590.62
Independence Blue Cross	16,546.78	Keystone Health Plan East	5,550.36
Lansdale Police Department	150.00	Letterco	586.84
MetLife	217.63	MetLife	1,675.84
Michael C. Boraski, D.M.D.	126.00	Montgomery Publishing	75.41
Motorola	3,202.25	Moyer & Son, Inc.	3,484.08
North American Benefits	966.33	Oldcastle Lawn & Garden North	480.00
Pennsylvania One Call System	29.90	Petty Cash Fund	307.01
Plasterer Equipment Co., Inc.	53.53	PPL Electric Utilities	8,336.33
Propet Distributors, Inc.	58.75	Richard A Mellor	6,630.50
Richter Drafting/Office Supply	209.15	Shelly Enterprises, Inc.	16.01
Souderton-Telford Main Streets	11,250.00	Telford Press Printers	325.00
Trout Brothers, Inc.	2,742.88	Unum Insurance Company	755.12
Word Work, Inc.	1,543.75	Verizon	178.50
Weaver & Reckner Dental Assoc	280.33		
		Total General Fund	\$104,172.67

SEWER FUND

Boro of Souderton Sewer Capital Fd	\$60,000.00	Chest-Mont Disposal, Inc.	\$92.00
Clemens Uniform Rental	206.61	Comcast Cable	42.95
Deltronics Corporation	3,168.89	Drummond American Company	423.96
Graphic Controls LLC	249.68	J.P. Mascaro & Sons	4,481.64
Mid Atlantic Pump & Equipment	907.00	North Penn Water Authority	110.75
Postmaster, Telford/Souderton	865.22	PPL Electric Utilities	332.37
Thomas Scientific	53.50	West Generator Service	847.86
Bergey's Electric, Inc.	38.20	Fisher Scientific	147.54
H. Keith Koehler	96.00	Hart Mechanical Contractors	7,825.47

Independence Blue Cross	107.74	J.P. Mascaro & Sons	6,011.13
Keystone Health Plan East	3,143.68	Maryland Biochemical Company	716.90
MetLife	82.21	Moyer & Son, Inc.	291.34
North American Benefits	339.83	North Penn Water Authority	50.00
PPL Electric Utilities	15.85	S P Solutions	123.36
Siemens Water Technologies	3,345.17	Suburban Water Testing	135.00
Telford Press Printers	968.15	Univar USA Inc.	3,730.85
Unum Insurance Company	198.28	Verizon	54.80
Independence Blue Cross	4,585.80	Richter Drafting/Office Supply	15.33
Total Sewer Fund			\$103,805.06

CAPITAL RESERVE FUND

Highway Materials, Inc.	\$233.05	Landis Block & Concrete	\$39.75
Univest National Bank	6,052.96	Univest National Bank	1,912.26
Wade Associates	1,500.00		
Total Capital Reserve Fund			\$9,738.02

LIQUID FUELS FUND

Armour & Sons Electric	\$190.00	Armour & Sons Electric	\$27,391.50
Kelly-Creswell Company	1,406.00	M & M Stone Co.	127.50
Naceville Materials	234.23	PPL Electric Utilities	176.36
Shelly Enterprises, Inc.	17.81	Hajoca Corporation	1,109.50
PPL Electric Utilities	409.29	The Sherwin Williams Company	96.55
Total Liquid Fuels Fund			\$31,158.74

SANITARY SEWER CAPITAL FUND (PLGIT)

Bank of New York	\$57,355.94	M & M Stone Co.	\$17,917.08
Total Sanitary Capital Fund			75,273.02

LAND DEVELOPMENT ESCROW

Trout Brothers, Inc.	\$4,903.75
----------------------	------------

Councillor Brian Goshow questioned the line item in the sewer fund for Hart Mechanical bills. Borough Manager Mike Coll stated it was for pump repairs and emancipator repairs at the Reliance Road pump station pump to be rebuilt.

A motion was made by Councillor Ned D. Leight, seconded by Councillor Andrew Schlosser, to pay the bills for the month of November, 2008, as presented. The motion was approved.

There was no public comment.

The first item of business was the appointment to Souderton Borough Council. A motion was made by Councillor Katherine Grubb, and seconded by Councillor J. Edward Hunsicker, Jr., to appoint Richard Halbom, 49 N Fourth Street, to fill the vacancy of Councillor Ray Yothers, as a representative of Ward 2, through December 31, 2009. Motion was approved.

Mayor John R. Reynolds administered the oath of office to Richard Halbom and he took his seat on Borough Council to assist in deliberating the remaining agenda items.

Borough Manager Michael Coll reported on the results of the bids for the connector ramp project, which is a subcomponent of the Main Street parking lot project. A total of eleven sealed bids were received and opened at a public hearing on Monday, November 24, 2008. The bids were tabulated and reviewed by the Borough Engineer as follows:

Ettore Ventresca & Sons, Inc.	\$62,466.00
Gateway Project Management	\$67,993.50
Couzins, Incorporated	\$71,119.45
Louis F. Biase Landscaping	\$74,389.01

McCarthy Masonry & Concrete	\$84,205.00
F. A. Rohrbach	\$94,158.00
Ply-Mar Construction	\$96,242.00
Alfero Company	\$98,251.00
Derstine Company	\$100,560.00
Giovannone, Incorporated	\$113,384.00
Ramos & Associates	\$151,943.00

Councillor Brian Goshow questioned the wide range between the low bid and the highest bidder and whether the Borough was satisfied with the qualifications of the low bidder. The Borough Manager noted that the budget anticipated a cost of nearly, \$90,000 for the project. Both the Borough and the Boucher and James have worked with Ettore Ventresca on prior projects. The project site presents a number of challenges to the contractors which, along with anticipated weather conditions, are probably the cause for the wide range of bid prices.

A motion was made by Councillor Jonathan Gardenier, and seconded by Councillor Andrew Schlosser, to award the bid for the 121 N Main Street Connector Ramp project to Ettore Ventresca & Sons, Inc. of Warrington, Pennsylvania at a contract price of \$62,466.00. The motion was approved.

A motion was made by Councillor Katherine Grubb, and seconded by Councillor Jonathan Gardenier, to approve a three year collective bargaining agreement with the Souderton Police Officers through December 31, 2011. The motion was approved.

Councillor Edward Hunsicker, who represents Souderton Borough on the Northern Montgomery County Recycling Commission, reviewed the proposed Compost Agreement between the members of the Recycling Commission and the Barnside Farm Compost Facility.

A motion was made by Councillor J. Edward Hunsicker, Jr., and seconded by Councillor D. Jeffrey Gross, to approve a compost agreement between Barnside Farm Compost Facility and the Northern Montgomery County Recycling Commission. Motion was approved.

A motion was made by Councillor J. Edward Hunsicker, Jr., and seconded by Councillor Andrew Schlosser, to approve a Planning Assistance Contract with the Montgomery County Planning Commission through December 31, 2011. Motion was approved.

A motion was made by Councillor Ned D. Leight, and seconded by Councillor Jeffrey Gross, to authorize the advertisement of a Special Borough Council Meeting on Monday, December 8, 2008 beginning at 7:00 pm to discuss the cursory review of the conceptual plan for redevelopment of the Souderton High School property. The motion was approved by a vote of 8 yeas to 1 nay, the descending vote cast by Councillor Jonathan Gardenier.

Councillor Jonathan Gardenier commented that the current lease agreement with the North Penn YMCA to operate the Souderton Community Pool requires a six month notification period prior to any revision or termination. There are certain provisions within this agreement that should be reconsidered for the 2009 season and a new lease agreement will have to be considered if the Borough moves forward with renovations to the pool. In particular, a provision should be implemented under the current agreement to allow the Borough to collect an additional fee with the membership sales in 2009 to help offset our expenses. Under the current lease all funds received through membership sales are paid directly to the YMCA.

After some discussion among the members of Borough Council, a motion was made by Councillor Jonathan Gardenier, with a second from Councillor Brian Goshow, to provide the North Penn YMCA with notice of the Borough's intention to terminate the current lease agreement regarding the operation of the Souderton Community Pool at the end of the 2009 pool season and to further seek an addendum to the current lease whereby the Borough would have the ability to add an additional fee to the membership rates for the 2009 season to help offset Souderton Borough expenses. The motion was approved.

Borough Manager Michael Coll briefly reviewed the final draft of the 2009 Budget. Following this presentation, a motion was made by Councillor Jonathan Gardenier, and seconded by Councillor Andrew Schlosser, to adopt Ordinance No 08-680-03 establishing the annual Budget of the Borough of Souderton for the 2009 calendar year. The motion was approved.

A motion was made by Councillor Jonathan Gardenier, and seconded by Councillor Andrew C. Schlosser, to adopt Ordinance No 08-681-04 setting the Real Estate Tax Rate for the 2009 calendar year and setting discounts and penalties on taxes. The motion was approved.

Councillor Katherine Grubb complemented the overall 2009 Budget and the manner in which it is presented. The Budget includes additional funding for road paving projects and the Borough has finally taken steps to implement a road improvement program. She further expressed concern with certain line items within the General Fund budget pertaining to recreation and pool expenses and the annual contribution to Souderton-Telford Main Streets.

Councillor Brian Goshow inquired about the status of the Reliance Road traffic signal. The Borough Manager replied all of the foundation work is complete and the contractor is waiting on the delivery of the poles and the controller unit.

Councillor Ned Leight questioned when Verizon Fios will be operational in the Borough. Councillor Gross commented that Verizon was bound under other agreements to extend service into more rural areas like Salford Township and West Rockhill Township by the end of this year. Verizon has since returned to Souderton Borough to resume construction of the system.

President John Young welcomed newly appointed Councillor Richard Halbom on board and assigned Councillor Halbom to serve as chairman of the Highway Committee, which was previously held by Ray Yothers. Councillor Richard Halbom expressed his appreciation to all the members of Borough Council for their support and also to Ray Yothers for his many years of service.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

P. Michael Coll, Secretary

WORK SESSION MINUTES AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Souderton Borough Council did not hold any work sessions during the month of December, 2008.