

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 C. 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	Police Chief Charles A. Quinn, Sr.
Councillor Richard Halbom	

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 9, 2009, Regular Borough Council Meeting and the November Borough Council Work Sessions. A motion was made by Councillor Andrew C. Schlosser, and seconded by Councillor Richard Halbom, to approve the minutes of November 9, 2009 Borough Council Meeting and the November Work Sessions as presented. The motion was approved.

There was no correspondence.

Mayor John Reynolds thanked the many volunteers and participants that made the dedication of the sculpture and the Holiday Parade on Saturday, December 5th a great success. Mayor Reynolds extended appreciation to two members of Borough Council who will be completing their tenures at the end of this year. The role of a Borough Councillor is not an easy task and quite often they are the front line of many constituent complaints. Councillor Katherine Grubb made a priority of listening to her constituents and was very quick to raise and discuss their concerns with members of Borough Council. Councillor Ed Hunsicker served on Borough Council for 20 years and he has been the voice of fiscal caution on Borough Council. He has always been concerned about the Borough and always understood that any money the Borough spends is money coming from the constituents pockets. Aside from twenty years on Borough Council, Ed Hunsicker has served as a member of the Perseverance Volunteer Fire Company for 50 years, served ten years in the Souderton Ambulance and fifteen years with the North Penn Goodwill Service.

President John Young expressed his appreciation to Katherine Grubb and Ed Hunsicker for their dedication and a job well done. President Young also noted that the Holiday Parade was great this year with many participants and spectators. The sculpture dedication was very well planned, which included presentations from Congressman Dent and Representative Robert Godshall.

The Borough Solicitor's report for the month of November was distributed to Borough Council. The Solicitor received approval from the state DCED for the borrowing for the Scholl property purchase. Settlement is scheduled for December 18, 2009. The Borough Solicitor met twice with the Police Chief concerning police personnel matters and prepared an administrative warning and notices for possible disciplinary action. A memorandum was also drafted regarding the placement of stop signs.

Borough Manager Michael Coll noted that this will be the last formal meeting of Borough Council for the year, no work sessions will be held during the month of December. The Borough Office will be closing at noon on both Christmas Eve, December 24th and on New Year's Eve, December 31st. The Borough Manager noted that the next meeting of Souderton Borough Council will be held on Monday, January 4, 2010. The meeting will begin with the administration of the oath of office to the newly elected Borough Council members and the Mayor will preside over the nomination and election of officers. The Borough Manager also reviewed the scheduled agenda items for consideration. The first item of business is the promotion of Officer Joseph Rudner from probationary to full time status. A motion has been prepared to authorize the preparation and advertisement of a new Police Pension Plan Ordinance and a new Non-Uniformed Employee Pension Plan Ordinance. The ordinances are necessary to reflect the transition from the Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement System to Borough sponsored and administered pension plans. The ordinances will be effective January 1, 2010. Motions have been prepared to formally adopt the 2010 Budget Ordinance and the 2010 Real Estate Tax Ordinance. An Executive Session has been requested to consult with the Borough Solicitor on personnel matters.

Councillor Katherine Grubb noted that she contacted Donald Centofante, Specialist, with the PennDOT Traffic Unit Studies Section concerning the multi-way stop intersection at South Front Street and Montgomery Avenue. The stop sign posting does not meet accident criteria and a stop ahead sign should have been installed in advance of the posted intersection. Elimination of street parking should be considered as a first step to address visibility concerns. A motion was made by Councillor Katherine Grubb and seconded by Councillor Jonathan Gardenier to remove the improperly erected stop signs at the corner of South Front Street and Montgomery Avenue. President John Young asked for a roll call vote on the motion as follows:

Councillor Jonathan Gardenier	Yea	Councillor Edward Hunsicker	Nay
Councillor Katherine Grubb	Yea	Councillor Richard Halbom	Nay
Councillor Andrew Schlosser	Yea	Councillor John Young	Nay
Councillor Brian Goshow	Yea	Councillor Ned Leight	Nay
Councillor Jeffrey Gross	Yea		

The motion to remove the stop signs at S. Front Street and Montgomery Avenue was approved by a vote of 5 yeas to 4 nays.

Councillor Jonathan Gardenier reported that Berkheimer will be asked to provide additional information to reconcile the discrepancy in actual Local Service Tax revenue compared to their initial estimates. Their initial estimate was \$150,000, which are more than 40% off. Their recent comments and explanation to the Borough Manager does not make much sense.

Councillor Jeffrey Gross commented that work continues on the plans for the swimming pool renovation project. The Committee may be meeting later in the month to discuss fund raising efforts.

Consideration was given to paying the bills for the month of November, 2009

GENERAL FUND

AT&T	\$20.95	Concrete Service Material	\$376.10
Independence Blue Cross	14,145.21	Keystone Health Plan East	5,777.22
National Fire Protection Association	1,417.50	PPL Electric Utilities	6,826.57
Univest Visa	594.00	Mellor Auto Electrics L.L.C.	140.00
Beacon Business Machines, Inc.	100.00	Comcast Cable	60.37
Country Fair Cleaners	359.25	Detlan Equipment, Inc.	1,043.40
Federal Express Corporation	131.46	Freedom Systems Corporation	281.25
Gerald W. Moyer	10.00	James C. Throop	10.00
Joseph J. Rudner, Jr.	20.00	Joseph P. Kelly, Jr.	20.00
Landis Block & Nyce Concrete	11.40	Lawson Products, Inc.	156.32
Mark R. Corbman, D.D.S.	250.00	Michael C. Boraski, D.M.D.	185.00
Montgomery County Treasurer	4,986.00	Moyer & Sons, Inc.	465.80
Nextel Communications	417.13	North American Benefits Co.	945.13
PABCO	59.00	QC Inc.	91.50
Shelly Enterprises, Inc.	343.45	Thomas A. Lawson	10.00
Unum Insurance Company	827.34	Ven-Mar Sales, Inc.	388.77
Wayne L. Black	10.00	Weaver and Reckner Dental	425.00
Weldon Auto Parts	54.32	William Powis	218.00
Word Work, Inc.	633.00		
		Total General Fund	\$41,810.44

SEWER FUND

Comcast Cable	\$42.95	Independence Blue Cross	\$207.65
Independence Blue Cross	3,838.17	Independence Blue Cross	113.10
Keystone Health Plan East	2,235.00	Lugene Moyer	66.20
Commonwealth Precast, Inc.	130.00	Deltronics Corporation	364.09
Freedom Systems Corp	281.25	North American Benefits Company	307.60
Nyco Corporation	10.73	Postmaster, Telford/Souderton	887.61
PPL Electric Utilities	13,320.66	The Home Depot	19.95
Unum Insurance company	246.75		
		Total Sewer Fund	\$22,071.71

CAPITAL RESERVE FUND

Univest National Bank	\$1,763.13	Univest National Bank	\$5,611.21
Univest Visa	608.70	Univest Visa	67.84
The Home Depot	116.04		
		Total Capital Reserve Fund	\$8,166.92

LIQUID FUELS FUND

PPL Electric Utilities	\$321.64	Sealmaster	\$881.91
Armour & Sons Electric, Inc.	780.00	Commonwealth Precast, Inc.	724.00
Fromm Electric Supply Corporation	4.62	Landis block/Nyce concrete	69.60
Letterco	75.00	PPL Electric Utilities	306.59
Shelly Enterprises, Inc.	37.19		
		Total Liquid Fuels Fund	\$3,200.55

SANITARY SEWER CAPITAL FUND

Hajoca Corporation	\$377.52		
		Total Sewer Capital Fund	\$377.52

A motion was made by Councillor Jonathan Gardenier, and seconded by Councillor Brian Goshow, to pay the bills for the month of November, 2009, as presented. The motion was approved.

President John U. Young opened the floor for public comment.

Ray Hopkins, 417 Wile Avenue commented on the proposed budget for 2010. The Borough seems to have a tendency to hold the line on taxes, only to push heavier tax rate increases in future years. A policy of smaller annual increases in the tax rate might be preferable. Mr. Hopkins also raised concern with the annual contribution of \$45,000 to Souderton-Telford Main Streets and how long this appropriation will continue.

Councillor Brian Goshow noted that he has questioned this continued appropriation in the past. Main Streets is moving towards finding other funding sources and this appropriation will continue to be annually reviewed. Borough Council held much discussion on the issue of tax rates and felt that a tax increase under these economic conditions was not appropriate, but more than likely will have to be considered in the 2011 budget.

Councillor Jonathan Gardenier also commented on various revenue and expenditure assumptions used in developing the 2010 budget and felt that the revenue side was rather conservative given the overall economy. Certain capital projects will not be pursued if grant funding is not guaranteed.

Councillor Edward Hunsicker noted that he had discussions with certain state representatives who expressed concern that certain state grants will be very slow in coming. The Borough must be very cautious and he does not feel that the Borough should take on the pool project at this time. The pool should remain closed and fenced until economic conditions improve.

There being no further public comment, President Young moved to the first item of business to formally promote Police Officer Joseph Rudner, Jr., from probationary to full-time status.

A motion was made by Councillor Katherine Grubb, and seconded by Councillor Richard Halbom, to approve the promotion of Police Officer Joseph J. Rudner, Jr., from probationary to full time status, retroactively effective to October 6, 2009. The motion was approved.

A motion was made Councillor Jonathan Gardenier, and seconded by Councillor Katherine Grubb, to authorize the advertisement of ordinances to establish and regulate a Police Pension Plan and a Non-Uniformed Pension Plan under the direction of Souderton Borough Council. Motion was approved.

A motion was made by Councillor Richard Halbom, and seconded by Councillor Andrew Schlosser, to adopt Ordinance No. 09-688-07 establishing the annual budget for the Borough of Souderton for the 2010 calendar year. The motion was approved by a vote of 8 yeas and 1 nay, with Councillor Katherine Grubb dissenting.

A motion was made by Councillor Jonathan Gardenier, and seconded by Councillor Jeffrey Gross, to adopt Ordinance No. 09-689-08 establishing the Real Estate Tax rates for the 2010 calendar year and further providing for certain discounts and penalties. The motion was approved.

A motion was made by Councillor Andrew Schlosser, and seconded by Councillor Ned D. Leight, to adjourn to Executive Session to consult with the Borough Solicitor on personnel matters. The motion was approved.

Borough Council adjourned to Executive Session at 8:30 pm and convened to public session at 9:15 pm and there being no further business, the meeting was promptly adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

P. Michael Coll, Secretary