

Regular Meeting

July 7, 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 Ray M. Yothers
Vice President Andrew C. Schlosser	Jr. Councillor Andrew Espenlaub
Councillor Ned D. Leight	Mayor John R. Reynolds
Councillor D. Jeffrey Gross	Solicitor Charlotte Hunsberger
Councillor Brian Goshow	Borough Manager P. Michael Coll
Councillor Katherine M. Grubb	Public Works Director Steven R. Coll
Councillor Jonathan C. Gardenier	Police Chief Charles A. Quinn, Sr.

The Invocation was given by Vice President Andrew C. Schlosser, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Consideration was given to the minutes of the June 2, 2008 regular Borough Council Meeting. Councillor Jonathan Gardenier requested a correction and clarification with respect to the Souderton High School Redevelopment plan. Councillor Gardenier stated he is in favor of maintaining the original high school building and its façade, which should be a mandatory requirement in the redevelopment plan. Councillor Gardenier also favors the incorporation of a residential buffer across from existing residential neighborhoods along East Chestnut Street.

A motion was made by Councillor Andrew C. Schlosser, and seconded by Councillor Jonathan Gardenier, to approve the minutes of the June 7, 2008 regular Borough Council Meeting, as amended. The motion was approved.

There was no correspondence.

Mayor John R. Reynolds commented on the fire at Zwingli United Church of Christ a few weeks ago. The Perseverance Volunteer Fire Company of Souderton fought the fire throughout the night. Within moments of their arrival, the education and office wings were fully involved and so the fire fighters concentrated their efforts on saving the Sanctuary, at great risk to themselves. The Sanctuary sustained heavy smoke and water damage, but was left standing. In our “what’s in it for me world”, it is easy to become cynical about our society. But in the early morning hours of June 20th the selfless acts of hundreds of volunteers from sixteen different fire companies, the tireless work of the volunteers of the North Penn Goodwill Service, who’s sole purpose was to support those firefighters, reminds us that we are indeed blessed to be living in a very giving and caring community. Our thanks goes out to all those who helped fight this fire and to all those who volunteer in service to their community.

Councillor Jonathan Gardenier questioned Chief Quinn as to what type of police vehicle he will be recommending for this budget year. Chief Quinn requested to defer this discussion until the work session.

Solicitor Report for the month of June, 2008 was distributed. They researched and prepared a memorandum in regard to regulating the demolition of buildings. They prepared a memorandum on the maintenance and use of private alleys. They had a meeting with the Borough Manager and prepared an Approval Resolution for the development of the property at 121 Main Street. They satisfied one sidewalk lien.

Councillor Gardenier questioned whether the Code Enforcement Officer made any progress with having property owners addressing certain visibility concerns at the intersections of Fourth Street and Central Avenue and Second Street and East Chestnut Street. The Borough Manager confirmed that letters have been sent to both property owners.

Councillor Ray Yothers inquired on the status of construction activities planned for the new Main Street parking lot. Public Works Director Steven Coll noted that the planned work is proceeding as scheduled and the lot will be opened for public use on July 14th.

Councillor Gardenier expressed appreciation to Steven Coll for addressing the problems in the front yard of the Smith property on East Chestnut Street. Steven Coll noted that there is still an active storm drain culvert that is running through this front yard. The culvert pipe is badly deteriorated and

additional work will have to be considered.

Councillor Brian Goshow expressed concern with the growing amount of trash in the Community Park, probable attributable to the heavy use by the YMCA Day Camp. Steven Coll will take measures to place additional trash containers in the park.

Borough Manager Michael Coll reported that he distributed copies of the revised draft overlay district in reference to the Souderton high School redevelopment project. Copies were also distributed to the School District. A third revised sketch plan for the Lawn Avenue Park and Playground was also circulated to Borough Council. The revised plan calls for the installation of a small pavilion and additional landscaping in the grass area originally planned for an in-line skating rink. The in-line skating rink may be better suited close to the Indian Valley Boys and Girls Club building. Playground equipment has been delivered and crews will begin installing the equipment based on this new plan. Agenda items for consideration this evening, include a Resolution commemorating retired police officer Donald Fr; a Resolution formally approving the land development application and renovations to the property at 121 N Main Street, the applicant and his legal counsel are in attendance; two resolutions as requested by Main Streets Manager Pam Coleman, the first approving a DCED grant and the second is authorizing the preparation and submission of a grant application under the Anchor Building program, specifically for the Broad Theater project; an Ordinance amending the parking requirements in the Zoning Ordinance for multifamily and mixed use buildings, the Montgomery County Planning Commission has forwarded comments on this proposal supporting the increased parking requirement for multifamily dwellings, but not supporting the proposed change for mixed use buildings in the core business district; bids for the traffic signal project at Reliance Road and Main Street will be reviewed, but no formal recommendation has been made; lastly, a motion has been prepared to formally approve the 2007 General Purpose Financial Statements.

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

GENERAL FUND

AT&T	\$34.75	Comcast Cable	\$42.95
Detlan Equipment, Inc.	3,745.50	Federal Express Corporation	26.06
Lansdale Police Department	150.00	MetLife	217.63
MetLife	2,514.30	PECO Energy	14.32
Potty Queen	284.00	The Home Depot	88.15
Adcock	378.96	Bergey's, Inc.	574.44
Chest-Mont Disposal, Inc.	260.71	Daniel L. Beardsley LTD	66.00
Donna Weising	25.00	Farm & Home Oil Co.	2,169.08
Fire Protection Services Inc.	625.50	Fromm Electric Supply Corporation	40.06
Harold Hunsicker	175.00	Marc F. Lipkin, D.M.D., P.C.	129.00
Markey Paper & Packaging, Inc.	109.46	Montgomery Newspaper	542.21
Moyer & Son, Inc.	3,071.74	NetCarrier Telecom, Inc.	482.56
Nextel Communications	182.49	Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery	597.32
PA Municipal Retirement System	4,460.30	PA Municipal Retirement System	977.23
Pennsylvania One Call System	41.60	PPL Electric Utilities	8,145.71
State Workers Insurance Fund	3,797.50	Trout Brothers, Inc.	285.00
Trumbauers Lawn & Rec, Inc.	231.81	Univest Visa	38.48
Univest Visa	1,874.50	Ven-Mar Sales, Inc.	424.69
Verizon	184.97	Weaver and Reckner Dental	100.00
Wisner Auto Trim Shop	140.00	Word Work, Inc.	757.25
Independence Blue Cross	16,546.78	Univar USA Inc.	2,116.35
Clemens Uniform Rental	149.97	Cope's Garage, Inc.	602.64
Farm & Home Oil Co.	1,274.25	Jaeger Electric Service, Inc.	563.82
Keystone Health Plan East	7,112.53	Landis Block & Concrete	66.15
Mark R. Corbman, D.D.S.	254.00	MetLife	2,514.30
MetLife	217.63	North American Benefits Company	874.10
Peter I. Psomiadis, D.M.D.	87.00	Richter Drafting/Office Supply	30.78
Saint Joseph University	2,100.00	Shelly Enterprises, Inc.	317.27
Shelly Enterprises, Inc.	60.09	Thomas A. Lawson	60.76
Thortex American, Inc.	660.00	Trumbauers Lawn & Rec, Inc.	35.25
U.S. Municipal Supply, Inc.	409.60	Unum Insurance Company	755.12
Badge Printer of America	444.75	Benner & White Construction Inc.	9,795.00

Christine Zucal	25.00	Cope's Garage, Inc.	1,660.39
Davidheiser's, Inc.	56.00	Kopp Equipment Sales	44.00
Maglocien	400.00	Nextel Communications	224.13
Richter Drafting/Office Supply	193.38	Shelly Enterprises, Inc.	17.63
Thomas A. Lawson	557.52	West Group	255.96
Total General Fund			\$88,488.38

SEWER FUND

Alderfer Glass Co.	36.50	Boro of Souderton Sewer Capital	100,000.00
The PA State University	125.00	Bergey's Electric, Inc.	61.74
Comcast Cable	42.95	JWC Environmental	268.52
MetLife	105.28	North Penn Water Authority	101.60
PPL Electric Utilities	11,985.01	Altek Business Systems, Inc.	59.55
Daniel L Beardsley LTD	28.20	Drummond American Corporation	787.32
Essex Service corporation	2,367.52	Farm Bureau Garage, Inc.	830.98
Franc Environmental, Inc.	1,656.25	Fromm Electric Supply Corporation	13.86
Hach Company	477.42	Hajoca Corporation	466.32
Hart Mechanical contractor	1,057.00	J.P. Mascaro & Sons	8,548.02
K & A SRVS, Inc.	437.50	Lawson Products Inc.	426.68
Markey Paper & Packaging, Inc.	164.83	Moyer & Son, Inc.	493.18
Nelson Wire Rope Corporation	118.49	NetCarrier Telecom, Inc.	211.12
PPL Electric Utilities	955.68	Richter Drafting/Office Supply	90.07
Siemens Water Technologies	1,668.33	State Workers Insurance Fund	1,627.50
Suburban Water Testing Labs	122.00	Thomas Scientific	1,316.00
Verizon	61.75	EPWPCOA	200.00
Independence Blue Cross	207.65	Independence Blue Cross	4,585.80
Independence Blue Cross	107.74	Cintas First Aid & Safety	34.10
Clemens Uniform Rental	287.17	Essex Service Corporation	2,301.67
Freedom System Corporation	4,484.57	Keystone Health Plan East	2,616.51
MetLife	105.28	Moyer's Outdoor Power Equipment	130.03
North American Benefits Company	306.08	Nyco Corporation	64.92
Precision Solutions, Inc.	180.15	Shelly Enterprises, Inc.	20.66
Thomas Scientific	1,302.39	Univar USA Inc.	2,592.55
Unum Insurance Company	244.17	Ven-Mar Sales, Inc.	364.18
Total Sewer Fund			\$156,847.79

CAPITAL RESERVE FUND

Boucher and James, Inc.	\$1,847.50	DePallo Design & Planning, LLC	\$8,425.00
Hunt Engineering Company	13,654.21	Kershaw Contracting	1,000.00
Univest National Bank	6,052.96	Univest National Bank	<u>1,838.96</u>
Total Capital Reserve Fund			\$32,818.63

LIQUID FUELS FUND

PPL Electric Utilities	\$274.75	Armour & Sons Electric, Inc.	\$4,674.43
Asphalt Industries, Inc.	29,580.00	PPL Electric Utilities	<u>282.27</u>
Total Liquid Fuels Fund			\$34,811.45

SANITARY SEWER CAPITAL FUND (PLGIT)

Bank of New York	\$57,355.94
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LIBRARY TAX FUND

Councillor Brian Goshow questioned the bill for Benner and White. The Borough Manager confirmed that this is for the repairs to the exterior of the Municipal Building as approved by Borough Council. Councillor Goshow noted other sections that should be repaired, suggesting that further consideration and estimates be obtained for consideration in subsequent budgets. A motion was made by Councillor Ray M. Yothers, seconded by Councillor D. Jeffrey Gross, to pay the bills for the month of June, 2008, as presented. The motion was approved.

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

Jennifer Joseph of the Caboose Grill, 2 W Broad Street, informed Borough Council that she was burglarized last Wednesday evening. Entry was made through a window and a nearly 300 pound safe was removed from the building. She expressed disappointment that no one noticed this crime taking place. Thankfully none was hurt, however, she is hoping that someone might have witnessed something and will come forward with information. Councillor Katherine Grubb noted that the establishment of a Neighborhood Watch Program for Main Street might be beneficial for businesses and property owners to watch out for one another.

Scott Houston, 7 E Reliance Road, spoke in opposition to the planned traffic signal project at reliance Road and Main Street. This signal project is based on a 22 hour traffic survey. He mentioned an article suggesting a movement away from traffic signals as a way of conserving gas. He requested that Borough Council keep him informed about this signal project, and requested that some potholes be filled along the 500 block of Main Street.

The first item of business was consideration of a Resolution commemorating retired police officer Donald A. Fry. Councillor Katherine Grubb, Chair of the Police Committee, read the proposed resolution into the record as follows:

RESOLUTION No 08-04

A RESOLUTION OF SOUDERTON BOROUGH COUNCIL IN
APPRECIATION TO DONALD A. FRY ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM
THE SOUDERTON POLICE DEPARTMENT.

WHEREAS, Donald A. Fry loyally served as a full time police officer with the Souderton Borough Police Department for the past 27 years; and

WHEREAS, since October 8, 1981 Officer Donald A. Fry has made significant contributions to the department and the community serving as patrolman, crime prevention officer, criminal investigator and Juvenile Officer; and

WHEREAS, Officer Fry participated in various continuing police training, education and recertification courses throughout his tenure, including advanced training in child abuse, drug interdiction and enforcement, homicide investigations, criminal law and in 1993 received a Bachelor of Arts Degree, Magna Cum Laude, in Criminal Justice; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his service as a police officer, Donald A. Fry has served the United States of America with honor as a Military Police Officer and Traffic Accident Investigator with the United States Army and furthered his service through the 1990's in the United States Army Reserves.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Souderton Borough Council extends sincere gratitude and appreciation to Donald A. Fry for his contribution, dedication and service in the promotion of the public health, safety and welfare of the residents of Souderton Borough and the surrounding community on the occasion of his retirement from the Souderton Police Department on April 11, 2008.

RESOLVED this 7th day of July, 2008

A motion was made by Councillor Katherine M. Grubb, and seconded by Councillor Andrew Schlosser, to approve Resolution No. 08-04, in appreciation to Donald A. Fry on his retirement from

the Souderton Police Department. Motion was approved.

Mayor John Reynolds presented Donald Fry with his service weapon and expressed appreciation for his twenty six years on service to the Borough of Souderton.

The next item of business was consideration of the resolution approving the land development plan for 121 Main Street. Borough Manager noted that owner David Halliday and his legal counsel are present in the audience. The proposed resolution formally approves the conversion of this building for up to 28 executive office suites with the stipulated conditions.

Councillor Jonathan Gardenier objected to the consideration of this matter. He stated that it was his feeling, which was also expressed by the Borough Engineer, that this property does not meet the parking requirements as set forth in the Zoning Ordinance. The Zoning Ordinance, as verified by the Borough Engineer, requires 41 off street parking spaces for the proposed use. Councillor Gardenier commented to date, the owner, David Halliday, has verified a total of 24 parking spaces. Given this continuing deficiency in parking, Borough Council does not have the authority to ignore this requirement and the matter should be referred to the Zoning Hearing Board.

Councillor Andrew Schlosser commented that the current parking ordinance was specifically crafted to provide Borough Council with the discretion to allow less parking in the commercial downtown core district than required. Councillor Schlosser pointed out that Borough Council does have the discretion to determine the appropriate amount of parking spaces required for a specific project and disagreed with the prior statement that the Borough is violating the Zoning Ordinance.

Borough Solicitor Charlotte Hunsberger confirmed that the proposed Approval Resolution is very specific to the proposed 28 executive office suites and other associated improvements to the site and the building. Any subsequent change in use would require the owner to seek approval from Borough Council.

Mayor John Reynolds commented that when this process began, the property at 121 N Main Street had a total of eight off street parking spaces. During the review process an additional sixteen parking spaces were obtained within a few hundred feet from a neighboring property owner that will be deed restricted specifically for the perpetual use of this property. Mayor Reynolds noted that this property will now have three times the number of spaces then it presently has.

Responding to a question raised by Councillor Katherine Grubb, Solicitor Charlotte Hunsberger clarified that the use of the parking lot referenced in paragraph 4 (e) of the proposed resolution refers to the parking area specifically on the property at 121 N Main Street.

Councillor Jonathan Gardenier expressed concern that specific language should be incorporated within the Zoning Ordinance to define an executive office suite. Solicitor Hunsberger commented that this document was specifically drafted to reference the actual building plans that have been reviewed; any change in these plans would require the applicant to return to Borough Council for additional review and approval. The applicant is bound to construct and use this building according to the plans that have been submitted and reviewed.

A motion was made by Councillor Ned Leight, seconded by Councillor Andrew C. Schlosser, to adopt Resolution No 08-05 approving and establishing certain conditions regarding the conversion of 121 N. Main Street into executive office suites.

Councillor Gardenier objected to consideration of the motion of Councillor Leight and countered with a motion, seconded by Katherine Grubb to table action on the proposed resolution regarding the conversion of 121 N Main Street until further clarification is provided from the Solicitor on necessary changes to the Borough Zoning Ordinance. Councillor Brian Goshaw commented that he agrees that an executive office suite should be defined in the Borough Zoning Ordinance. Councillor Gardenier commented that he does not feel that it would be a hardship on the applicant to wait, especially since he has owned this building since 2007. Borough Solicitor Charlotte Hunsberger stated that the current ordinances and guidelines that Borough Council is working under does allow and permits Borough Council to consider the proposed approving resolution. President John Young called for a vote on the motion of Councillor Gardenier to table action on the proposed resolution. The motion failed by a vote of 2 yeas to 6 nays, tabulated as follows:

Ned Leight- nay

John U. Young- nay

D. Jeffrey Gross- nay
Brian Goshow- nay
Andrew Schlosser- nay

Katherine Grubb- yea
Jonathan Gardenier- yea
Ray M. Yothers- nay

President John Young then called for a vote on the original motion made by Councillor Ned Leight and seconded by Councillor Andrew C. Schlosser, to adopt Resolution No 08-05 approving and establishing certain conditions regarding the conversion of 121 N. Main Street into executive office suites. The motion was approved by a vote of 6 yeas to 2 nays, tabulated as follows:

Ned Leight- yea
D. Jeffrey Gross- yea
Brian Goshow- yea
Andrew Schlosser- yea

John U. Young- yea
Katherine Grubb- nay
Jonathan Gardenier- nay
Ray M. Yothers- yea

A motion was made by Councillor D. Jeffrey Gross, and seconded by Councillor Andrew C. Schlosser, to approve Resolution No 08-06 authorizing the filing of a proposal for funds with the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development for the Streetscape planning project. The motion was approved.

A motion was made by Councillor D. Jeffrey Gross, and seconded by Councillor Andrew C. Schlosser, to approve Resolution No 08-07 authorizing submission of a grant application under the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development Anchor Building loan program for the Broad Theater project. The motion was approved.

A motion was made by Councillor Jonathan Gardenier, and seconded by Councillor Katherine M. Grubb, to adopt Ordinance No 08-680-03 amending the Souderton Borough Zoning Ordinance as previously amended by Ordinance no 07-672-08, by providing additional parking regulations for multifamily dwellings and mixed use structures. The motion was defeated by a vote of 3 yeas and 5 nays, tabulated as follows:

Ned Leight- nay
D. Jeffrey Gross- nay
Brian Goshow- yea
Andrew Schlosser- nay

John U. Young- nay
Katherine Grubb- yea
Jonathan Gardenier- yea
Ray M. Yothers- nay

Borough Manager Michael Coll distributed a tabulation of the bids received for the installation of a traffic signal at the intersection of Reliance Road and Main Street. The apparent low bidder is Armour and Sons Electric with a base bid of \$114,103.85. The cost of the signal will increase to \$122,528.85 if Borough Council elects to utilize the powder coated black poles in lieu of the standard galvanized pole. The cost does exceed the budget estimate of \$75,000 and Borough Council will discuss whether to proceed with the project and if so, how the additional funding will be raised. This matter will be scheduled for discussion at the July work sessions. Councillor Katherine Grubb extended an invitation to Scott Houston to attend the work sessions.

A motion was made by Councillor Jonathan C. Gardenier, and seconded by Councillor Andrew C. Schlosser, to approve the General Purpose Financial Statement for the Borough of Souderton for the year ending December 31, 2007 as prepared by Styer Associates, Certified Public Accountants. Motion was approved.

Councillor Brian Goshow questioned the status of the parking study that is being completed by Main Streets. Jeffrey Gross commented that they hope to complete the study by the end of August and suggested that Borough Council defer any action on parking issues until this project is completed. Councillor Schlosser noted that this study should also be shared with the Planning Commissions.

Councillor Gardenier noted that Borough Council should evaluate the current parking restrictions within the municipal parking lot off of West Chestnut Street. The current regulations do not seem to be enforced. We should either enforce the rules or repeal the restriction. Members suggested that this matter be referred to the work sessions.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

P. Michael Coll, Secretary

WORK SESSION MINUTES AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Works Work Session – Monday, July 14, 2008

Council Attendees: Mayor John Reynolds, Jeffrey Gross, Katherine Grubb, Jonathan Gardenier, Ray Yothers and Edward Hunsicker.

Staff Attendees: Borough Manager Michael Coll.

1. Sanitation Committee

- a) The June Discharge Monitoring Report was filed with one exception to permit limitations, regarding the instantaneous maximum concentration of Ammonia (N). The reading was reported at 12.1 mg/l, compared to the limit of 3.6 mg/l. Chief Operator Sal DeSimone started up the second blower unit for additional aeration and the level promptly dropped below the limit within 24 hours. All monthly averages were well within permit limits. Attached is a report from Chief Operator Sal DeSimone outlining the performance of the plant and associated maintenance activities.
- b) We have recently been contacted by sales representatives adding additional incentives to pursue the proposed sludge drying unit. We have scheduled another meeting between the sales representatives and engineer Fred Ciottoni at 2:00 pm on August 11th.
- c) Special Legal Counsel, Steve Miano, and DEP legal counsel completed the settlement agreement on the Borough's appeal of the NPDES permit. Phosphorus limits have been rolled back to original levels of 1.0 mg/l during summer months and 2.0 mg/l in winter. The original draft reduced the phosphorus limit to 0.24 mg/l. A new revised NPDES permit has been processed and implemented, which will run through September of 2011.

Borough Council should understand that this action is a “temporary reprieve” as EPA and DEP continue in establishing TMDL studies for the streams within the entire watershed area of southeastern Pennsylvania. Regulators recently released the Indian Creek TMDL study that recommends a phosphorus limit of 0.04 mg/l. This particular study directly affects the Telford Waste Water Treatment Plant, along with Franconia Township and Lower Salford Township. The Skippack Creek TMDL Study was formally rescinded by the regulators, but they suggest that a similar study can be expected in another year.

Letters have been sent to Congressman Dent, Senator Specter, Senator Casey, Governor Rendell, Representative Godshall and Senator McIlhinney expressing our concern over the push to implement the TMDL limits on waste water treatment plants and on MS4 dischargers. This week's paper has an article about Franconia and lower Salford teaming up to appeal the Indian Creek TMDL.

2. Highway Committee

- a) Crews serviced 60 brush collection requests for the month, which required nearly three days to complete. Brush collection has been running very heavy throughout the year. We recently experienced a problem with a collection in an alley off of Lawn Avenue. Chipping is rather dirty and the dust and debris from chipping apparently flew into a neighboring backyard pool. We have difficulty getting the equipment into many of the alleys and run the risk of creating nuisance complaints with other neighbors. For this reason we will begin specifically requiring all brush to be pulled out to the street for collection. This will help to avoid creating conflicts with neighboring properties and will aid the crew by having the residents pull the pile of brush apart to speed up the collection. Many times residents just pile up brush in their rear yards for

months prior to calling for a collection. It takes quite an effort to pull some of these piles apart.

- b) Considerable discussion was held on the matter of the traffic signal project at Main Street and Reliance Road. Councillor Jonathan Gardenier specifically commented that he opposed moving forward on the signal project, especially since the impact on Wile Avenue and Reliance Road was not fully studied or anticipated. The funding allocation in the Police Budget should not be used towards the additional cost for the signal. Other Council members suggested looking at the Capital reserve Fund to provide the necessary additional funding for the signal. Other members indicated a preference towards the black powder coated poles in lieu of the standard galvanized poles.

3. Sidewalk Committee

- a) The Borough Engineer has surveyed and is working on completing plans for the construction of curb and sidewalk along West Cherry Lane between Mifflin Street and Penn Avenue. In particular, the Borough has funding in escrow to complete the construction of curb and sidewalk for the corner property at Mifflin Street and Cherry Lane. Copies of the plan and letters will be sent to all property owners within the block advising them of the requirement to plan for the construction of curb and sidewalk.
- b) Kise, Straw and Kolodner, along with Hunt Engineering will present preliminary sketch plans for the streetscape planning project to the Souderton Planning Commission on Wednesday, July 16th.

4. Recreation Committee

- a) Borough forces are in the process of installing the modular playground equipment at the Lawn Avenue Park. A revised sketch plan was developed to install a pavilion and additional landscaping in the area of the park originally designated for an in-line skating rink. The skate rink, if desired, might be better placed in the multi-purpose field closer to the Boys and Girls Club building along with or combined with an outdoor basketball court. Committee members seemed to prefer the pavilion over the skate rink for this final phase. We will move forward with implementation of the revised plan.
- b) Wade Associates will present a preliminary draft report to members of Borough Council on Thursday, July 24th. A copy of the draft report will be circulated to Borough Council for review and comment.

5. Property Committee

- a) No new items were discussed.

Administrative Work Session – Monday, July 21, 2008

Council Attendees: Mayor John Reynolds, John Young, Jeffrey Gross, Brian Goshow, Andrew Schlosser, Katherine Grubb, Jonathan Gardenier, Ray Yothers and Edward Hunsicker.

Staff Attendees: Police Chief Charles Quinn and Borough Manager Michael Coll.

1. Police Committee

- a) Considerable discussion was held by members of Borough Council on the matter of the traffic signal at Main Street and Reliance Road. Scott Houston of 7 E. Reliance Road was also present at the work session. Mr. Houston has expressed concern and opposition to the proposed project.

At the request of Councillor Jonathan Gardenier, Chief Quinn distributed a survey compiled by Officer Thomas Lawson summarizing accident history at Reliance Road and Main Street with a

comparison to the signalized intersection at Broad and Main Streets.

A lengthy discussion continued on the issues of need, financing, alternatives to the signal and whether to utilize powder coated black poles in lieu of the standard galvanized pole. The recent memorandum from Borough Solicitor Robert Bricker was also summarized and discussed. Members also reviewed previous information about installing a round about or circle at this intersection.

Borough Council appears to remain divided on whether to pursue the signal project. A motion will be considered at the August 4th meeting to either accept or reject the bids for the traffic signal project. If the majority opinion is to proceed with the signal, members of Borough Council must then consider whether to use the standard galvanized poles or the powder coated black poles.

Councillor Jonathan Gardenier noted that Borough Council should not be satisfied with simply tabling the project. If the consensus favors to reject the bids, then Borough Council should pursue consideration to restrict both approaches of Reliance Road as right turn only, to protect against liability until a more permanent solution is reached. The Borough Manager was instructed to ascertain what traffic studies would be required to institute this restriction in lieu of the signal.

- b) A total of 10 applications were received for the entry level police officer position. Two of the ten applicants are requesting veteran's preference. All ten applicants will take the written test on Tuesday, July 29th at 6:00 pm in the Council Chambers. The written test will account for 40% of the total score. The oral examination will be administered by Chief David Mettin in August. The Civil Service Commission may be able to certify a list of candidates by the end of August for consideration by Borough Council.
- c) Committee members discussed moving forward with the appointment of a Sergeant for the Police Department. The testing was completed back in February. An executive session was requested for the August 4th Borough Council Agenda to discuss this appointment with all members of Borough Council. (At the conclusion of the work session, members of Borough Council continued further discussion on this appointment in an executive session. Chief Quinn and the Borough Manager were excluded from this discussion)
- d) A motion was approved by Borough Council to restrict parking on the south side of W. Walnut Street, between Main Street and Wile Avenue, for a 90 day trial period. At the request of Mayor Reynolds this restriction was not posted, given recent comments by a resident. The matter of posting was again discussed, with the general consensus supporting posting the street for the stipulated 90 day trial period. A letter will be sent to all residents prior to posting, which will probably be scheduled the first week in August. A supplemental opinion survey will be sent out at the conclusion of 60 days to ascertain whether to continue with the restriction.
- e) Considerable discussion was held concerning the purchase of a new police car. An allocation of \$37,000 has been earmarked in the General Fund Budget for this purchase. Chief Quinn provided a summary sheet for a Ford Crown Victoria, Chevrolet Impala and Dodge Charger, all of which are available under state contract. Committee members narrowed the field between the Chevrolet Impala and the Dodge Charger, with a slight edge of opinion towards the Chevrolet Impala. A motion will be prepared for consideration at the August 4th Borough Council meeting to approve the purchase of the Chevrolet Impala.
- f) We will continue efforts to petition PennDOT to permit lowering the speed limit on all state roads to 25 mph. State roads include Harleysville Pike, Main Street, W. Broad Street, East Broad Street and County Line Road.
- g) A recommendation was made to consider restricting parking on Main Street in front of the Emerald Apartments at Main Street and Green Street. There are only two designated parking spaces in front of this building. Parking creates a significant visibility issue for cars pulling onto Main Street from Green Street. Committee members supported consideration of this restriction for a 90 day trial period at the August 4th Borough Council meeting.
- h) Chief Dickinson of Safe City Solutions has confirmed that the first Police Management Study work session with members of Borough Council has been scheduled for Wednesday, August 6,

2008 beginning at 4:00 pm in the Conference Room of the Souderton Municipal Building.

- i) Chief Quinn advised members of a proposal from Univest Grand Prix organizers to modify the race course within the Borough. The modification would create a smaller “inner-circle along Second Street. Borough Council members felt that the proposed revised course would isolate too much of the Borough, will remove previous detour routes and will isolate the Souderton Fire Company, requiring them to relocate trucks and personnel.
- j) Committee members approved related expenses to send Officer Thomas Lawson and Detective Kelly to various training seminars. Chief Quinn will also be attending the annual FOP training conference.

2. Administrative Committee

- a) Committee members will need to begin negotiations with the Souderton Police Officers for a new collective bargaining agreement to become effective January 1, 2009. The police officers desire to begin negotiations as early as next week.
- b) Chief Quinn and other members of the police department desire to open a Public Safety 457 Deferred Compensation plan through ICMA-RC Services. This plan will be an alternate to the Borough’s current deferred compensation plan for the voluntary benefit of the police officers, with no municipal obligation. Borough Council must endorse this plan by Resolution, which will be prepared for consideration at the August 4th meeting.

3. Development Committee

- a) The Souderton Planning Commission reviewed a conceptual sketch plan for Mark Cornwall of Tattoo marks to connect their rear parking area to the new municipal parking lot. The draft plan illustrated up to 9 parking spaces. Planning Commission members suggested that the Borough should intervene to see if cooperation from the former Hillside Tavern can be obtained, which may yield a better design.
- b) The Montgomery County Planning Commission continues to work on a revised C-2 Limited Commercial Zoning District ordinance. The Planning Commission is suggesting that the new C-2 District be extended along Main Street to Reliance Road. The modification will also affect the current C-2 District that runs along East Broad Street to School Lane. Part of this work also includes language and regulation regarding demolition permits.
- c) Jerry Nugent, Director of the Montgomery County Industrial Development Authority was present at the May 15th meeting of the High School redevelopment project and outlined some of the benefits in considering certain economic benefits through the creation of an economic redevelopment district(s). The most common form of benefit is tax increment financing programs; however, other grant programs may be contingent on this designation.

DePallo Design and Planning prepared a map showing potential economic redevelopment districts in the Borough. The Montgomery County Redevelopment Authority has expressed interest in working with Souderton Borough and may assist the Borough in the formal creation of the redevelopment districts.

Another meeting with Jerry Nugent has been scheduled for Thursday, August 7th at 8:30 am at the Souderton Municipal Building to further discuss this partnership.

- d) Members of Borough Council discussed the next steps in pursuing modifications to the parking regulations in the Zoning Ordinance. A suggestion was made to defer further consideration until the Main Streets organization completes their parking study.

4. Finance Committee

- a) Borough Council adopted the ordinance enacting the Local Services Tax effective January 1, 2009. The motion also designated Berkheimer to serve as the tax collector. We are in the process of completing the administrative procedures for this tax, and have found that a few

additional Resolutions are necessary, which will be presented for formal consideration at the August 4th meeting.