

SPRING CITY BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

APRIL 6TH, 2010 - 7:30 P.M.

President DiGuiseppe called the council meeting to order and led Council in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

The following members were present: Councilmen Beard, Burns, DiGuiseppe, Hays, Castor, Shaner, Mayor Weiss, Solicitor Romain, and Borough Administrator Rittenhouse.

Councilman Beard motioned to approve the minutes of the March 1st, 2010 council meeting. Councilman Burns seconded. Motion carried.

MAYOR:

Mayor Weiss reported the monthly vehicle maintenance consisted of a lube, oil filter, and oil change on the 2007 Ford.

The Mayor noted he spoke at the testimonial dinner for Clarence Hill at the Spring City Legion on March 15, 2010. He also attended the talent show at the Spring City Elementary School on March 24, 2010, and participated in the Mayor For Meals event with Mr. Rittenhouse on March 24, 2010.

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. An e-mail communication from Phillip Hunsberger asking the Borough where they are in the process of addressing the Act 537 Plan update and other related issues. He is offering to meet with Borough officials and lend his help on addressing these issues. He asked that the context of his e-mail be shared with council under communications.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

STREETS AND UTILITIES: Councilman Beard gave the following Streets Department Report for the month of March, 2010. **TRASH DISPOSAL** - 85.62 tons of refuse were hauled to the Lanchester Landfill in Honeybrook, PA by J.P. Mascaro & Sons from February 23, 2010 to March 20, 2010. Fourteen (14) bulk trash pickups were made during the month. **RECYCLING** - Seventeen pick-up truck loads of yard waste was picked up at curbside during the month and stored at our compost facility on Gay Street. Two (2) loads of scrap metal weighing approximately 1,540 pounds were transported to Phoenixville Scrap Company. **STREET WORK** - Patched potholes and repaired the street surfaces on the following streets: South Main Street, Cedar Street, Queen Street, Walnut Street, Gay Street, Heckle Avenue, Yost Avenue, Glass Avenue, Schoolhouse Alley, Plum Alley, and Airy Alley (used 4 ½ tons of material). Installed two handicap signs and posts as approved by Borough Council. Replaced two street posts and straightened eleven others. Cleaned stormwater inlets at various locations. **MAINTENANCE** - Cleaned the garage bays at the Borough Hall and the pole barn on Gay Street. Turned the leaf windrows at the Borough's Compost Site. Serviced the zero turn riding mower to ready for the spring and summer mowing season. Performed yard restoration at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Cut up and removed three large trees from the trail along River Front Park. Emptied the trash receptacles at all of the recreation areas. Applied fresh mulch at all of the playground areas. Hooked up all of the plumbing at the pool complex building. Reinstalled the tennis nets at the Brown Street Tennis Courts. Did minor repairs to the fence links at the tennis courts. Sanded and repainted the picnic tables, benches, and barbeque grills at the Brown Street Pool and Park area. Applied wood life on the pavilion at Brown Street Park.

SANITATION AND SURFACE WATER: Councilman Hays gave the following Wastewater report for the month of March, 2010. The average daily flow for the month of March, 2010 was 645,000 gallons per day. The peak flow for the month was recorded at 1,177,000 gallons on March 15th, 2010. These voluminous flows were the result of three days of rain with a total accumulation of 3.9 inches of rain which combined with already high flows that were attributed to the snow melt. During this event all available capacity of the equalization tank was used but a bypass did occur. The cumulative time for the bypass was 17 hours and 10 minutes with an approximate volume of 113,000 gallons. The plant operator verbally notified PA DEP on March 14th, 2010 and provided written notification on March 19th, 2010. The generator at the plant was repaired for a faulty turbo charger unit which was covered under our warranty. The replacement of the head shaft assembly in the primary clarifier tank was started on March 31st, 2010. The head shaft assembly in the secondary clarifier tank is tentatively scheduled for late April or early May. The draw down tests for our annual chapter 94 report was performed at all of our pump stations. All routine maintenance at the plant and the pump stations were performed during the month.

Councilman Hays reported the sewer committee met on March 11, 2010.

Councilman Hays offered an overview of where borough council left off with Telvil builders on January 4, with respect to the developer's offer to pay \$30,000 toward a 537 plan review/update. Hays stated that the last 537 plan amendment was written in 1994, for the purpose of extending public sewer near Ridge Avenue.

Administrator Rittenhouse offered the committee some background information on the Act 537 Plan process, as well as the plant's stated treatment capacity and correspondence with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

The Spring City Wastewater Treatment Plant is rated for 345,000 gallons per day (GPD). However, in most months, the actual average is over 400,000 GPD. No new development may be approved by the borough because Spring City lacks equivalent dwelling units (EDU's) to issue.

Note: One EDU equals roughly 350 gallons per household per day.

Administrator Rittenhouse also noted that DEP has not recently issued any violations to Spring City.

Councilman Castor discussed possible federal grants with the assistance of Congressman Jim Gerlach.

Discussion also included developers contributing to plant upgrades. The committee also talked about capital budgeting and sewer rates.

Administrator Rittenhouse said there is approximately \$50,000 to \$60,000 in outstanding sewer payments in the borough. President DiGuseppe said the Finance & Ordinance Committee has been looking at ways to increase collection, including a water shutoff policy.

Administrator Rittenhouse said liens have been issued, but Spring City cannot collect on these delinquent accounts until the sale of the property.

The meeting wrapped up without any concrete solutions or recommendations to council on Telvil's 537 plan offer.

Hays offered to bring to the next committee meeting wastewater rates in comparable boroughs throughout Chester County. These comparisons should assist in determining the fairness of current borough sewer rates.

The committee authorized Administrator Rittenhouse to advertise the meeting dates for the remainder of 2010. This legal notice appeared in the Pottstown Mercury on March 22, 2010. The sewer committee will meet on the second Thursday of each month, 6:30 p.m. with the next meeting being held on April 8.

POLICE:

President DiGuseppe read the police report for March, 2010 as follows: Complaints 189; burglary 1; theft 4; criminal mischief 5; traffic citations issued 20; criminal arrests 6; accidents 2; parking tickets issued 6. **Assisted other departments as follows:** East Vincent 9 times (2 disturbances, accident, assault, transport, traffic control, DUI, domestic, parking complaint); East Pikeland 2 times (vehicle stop, and suspicious person); East Coventry 2 times (alarm, and domestic); Montgomery County Sheriff (warrant service); Royersford 2 times (theft, and traffic control).

Other departments assisting Spring City were as follows: East Vincent 3 times (domestic, public drunkenness, and disturbance); Royersford 1 time (public drunkenness); East Pikeland 5 times (2 suspicious persons, brush fire, DOA, disturbance); East Coventry 2 times (DOA and suspicious person); West Vincent 2 times (suspicious person and disturbance). **Mileage traveled during the month of March:** Car 14-1 (2009 Dodge) 1,185 miles; Car 14-2 (2007 Ford) 1,595 miles which made a total of 2,780 miles. **Gas used during the month of March:** Car 14-1 (2009 Dodge) 129.1 gallons, Car 14-2 (2007 Ford) 142.4 gallons which made a total of 271.5 gallons of gas used during the month.

FINANCE & ORDINANCE:

President DiGuseppe reported the Finance & Ordinance committee met on March 23, 2010 and discussed a proposed Phoenixville Home grant application, a water shut off agreement for delinquent sewer accounts, and developing an official borough web site.

ZONING, HOUSING & PROPERTY:

Administrator Rittenhouse reported there were eight (8) building permits issued during the month of March, 2010. Steven Scott, 437 Queen Street, roof; Gloria Ross, 268 Chestnut Street, chimney reline; Nicole Coppola, 312 Pikeland Avenue, deck; Christopher Grumblatt, 500 New Street, roof; Heather Heim, 429 Bridge Street, fence; Jackie Russalkoff, 159 Hall Street, renovations; Jackie Russalkoff, 159 Hall Street, electrical; Jackie Russalkoff, 159 Hall Street, plumbing. Estimated cost of construction for the month of March, 2010 was \$32,600. Permit fees collected for the month of March, 2010 was \$605.25.

PLANNING:

Councilman Burns reported the Planning Commission met on March 17, 2010. Mr. Steve Kambic, of Phoenixville Homes, made an informal presentation to the Planning Commission on a proposed trail head development along the planned Schuylkill River Trail through the Borough. The development would consist of parking, trail access, access to borough property on the river, and program space within the existing Bard Center building. The Planning Commission expressed cautious interest in the project, with some reservations. Additional information is expected from Phoenixville Homes in the future.

LIBRARY:

Councilman Hays reported the Library Board met on March 16, 2010. With regret, the board accepted the resignation of Library Director, Suzanne Macaulay, effective April 16. Applications and resumes are being accepted for the next director.

The Library has several events over the next few months to celebrate its 100th Anniversary. On April 14, the Royersford VFW will host the Spring-Ford Historical Society. Refreshments will be served beginning at 7 p.m. The guest speaker is former library director Matilda Diemer.

On June 2, the library will host an open house between 3 and 7 p.m. Around 6 p.m., legislators are expected to present honorary citations to the library.

And finally, the board discussed the proposed new library facility at Wall and Brown Streets.

FINANCIAL REPORTS: (Posted)

APPROVAL OF REPORTS:

Councilman Burns motioned the committee reports be approved as presented. Councilman Hays seconded. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Christopher Grumblatt, 500 New Street, addressed council in regards to the community involvement of the Odd Fellows organization and also to seek support from Borough Council for the Spring City Community Pool which is being run by the Community Association of Spring City.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Time Extension Letter - Telvil Corporation

Councilman Burns motioned to accept the letter from Bryan Hunsberger of Telvil Corporation granting Borough Council a 120-day extension to the statutory review period decision date for his subdivision application, which would revise the decision date to August 8, 2010. Councilman Castor seconded. Motion carried.

2. Direction on the Bard Grant Application on Behalf of the Borough.

Councilman Burns provided information to council members in regards to Gruber Mills making an acquisition of some adjacent property for a parking area, and a trailhead project grant application.

A lengthy discussion was held on the procedural steps that need to be taken to apply for the trailhead project grant.

Councilman Hays motioned the Borough allow Councilman Burns or any other authorized individual to apply for the DCNR portal which allows access for various grant applications. Councilman Beard seconded. Motion carried.

Councilman Hays motioned to approve the submittal of a grant application for a trailhead project on Gruber Mills property in conjunction with Gruber Mills. Councilman Beard seconded. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Water Shut-Off Agreement for Delinquent Sewer Bills.

A standard shut-off agreement for delinquent sewer accounts from Pennsylvania American Water was briefly discussed by Council. This item will be reviewed by council members during

the month of April and be further discussed at the May Borough Council meeting.

2. Borough Website Development.

An ad hoc committee consisting of Jim Burns, Norm Castor, and Mike Hays was formed to further explore implementing an official Borough web site.

3. Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Councilman Beard motioned to adopt Resolution No. 2010-03 which adopts the Chester County Multi-jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan as the official plan for Spring City Borough. Councilman Castor seconded. Motion carried.

4. R. J. Burt Escrow Extension Request.

Councilman Burns motioned to grant a 90-day extension on the amount of time allowed R.J. Burt to post an escrow for his subdivision plan on North Penn Street, which will run through July 6, 2010. Councilman Hays seconded. Motion carried.

5. Vacancies - Elected Auditor and Civil Service Commission Member.

Councilman Burns motioned to appoint Pat Winner to serve as an elected auditor for Spring City Borough for an unexpired term through December 31, 2011. Councilman Shaner seconded. Motion carried.

Also, council was advised that we need someone to fill a vacancy on the Spring City Civil Service Commission for an unexpired term through July 31, 2014.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Councilman Burns asked about the start up work on East Bridge Street. It was noted that work is in progress.

Councilman Hays asked if the Code Enforcement Officer could take a look at 42 North Main Street for possible property code violations. This will be checked out as requested.

Councilman Beard questioned who would own the land or what type of agreement would be in place if municipal facilities were built on the parcels owned by Mr. McFarland on South Main Street. It was noted this would probably be a lease or rental basis.

READING OF THE PAYMENT OF THE BILLS:

GENERAL ACCOUNT: (OFFICE) PAW \$39.19; Action Data Services, Inc. \$1,756.91; Flexible Benefits Plans, Inc. \$1,807.52; Baer, Romain LLP \$1,392.00; H.A. Berkheimer, Inc. \$998.82; Susan W. Majka, Tax Collector \$12.78; PECO \$412.12; Wrigley's Office Supply \$107.39; AT&T \$44.09; Verizon \$71.67; T-Mobile \$45.30; Provident \$91.58; Staples \$67.95. **TOTAL:** \$6,847.32. (STREETS) J.P. Mascaro & Sons \$15,493.56; Oceanport, LLC \$3,705.80; Car Quest \$35.33; Hakun Construction \$890.00; Oehlert Bros. Inc. \$1,255.31; Chester County Solid Waste Authority \$4,709.10; Flexible Benefits Plans, Inc. \$3,553.80; PECO \$166.46; Airgas \$23.50; The Plow Shop \$654.45; Mowrey-Latshaw \$138.29; Wensel's Truck Repair \$1,412.60; Sanatoga Quarry \$244.65; H.A. Weigand, Inc. \$108.00; Provident \$36.74. **TOTAL:** \$32,427.59. (POLICE) New Street Auto Service \$104.82; Lexis Nexis \$133.20; Oehlert Bros. Inc. \$656.03; Flexible Benefits Plans, Inc. \$8,300.59, Crystal Springs \$29.53; Borough of Pottstown \$200.00; Zee Medical Service Company \$31.35; Staples \$113.43; Verizon \$226.98; PAW \$657.79; Genworth Financial \$118.00; Montgomery County Community College \$59.40; Nextel \$40.12; Provident \$111.10; Davidheiser's \$26.00. **TOTAL:** \$10,808.34.

SEWER ACCOUNT: M.J. Reider Associates, Inc. \$1,085.00; T & T/Lanco, Inc. \$650.00; PAW \$139.87; Oehlert Bros. Inc. \$618.61; Flexible Benefits Plans, Inc. \$2,650.04; Crystal Springs \$65.26; PECO \$2,336.28; Baer Romain, LP \$5,903.60; Levengood Septic Service \$585.00; Aqua Dynamic Systems, Inc. \$95.00; PA One Call System, Inc. \$6.75; EEMA \$3,835.15; Buckman's, Inc. \$492.26; AT&T \$28.39; Verizon \$154.14; A.J. Blosenski, Inc. \$500.00; J.C. Ehrlich Co., Inc. \$42.00; Provident \$28.11. **TOTAL:** \$19,215.46.

STREET LIGHTING FUND: PECO \$4,412.60. **TOTAL:** \$4,412.60.

BUILDING & PROPERTY FUND: Crystal Springs 4.20. **TOTAL:** \$4.20.

ENGINEERING FUND: Motley Associates, Inc. \$1,950.00. **TOTAL:** \$1,950.00.

PLANNING, ZONING & HOUSING FUND: Motley Associates, Inc. \$1,060.10; \$312.00. **TOTAL:** \$1,372.10.

CRP GRANT FUND: Baer Romain, LLP \$492.00. **TOTAL:** \$492.00.

PARK & RECREATION FUND: Colonial Garden Center, Inc. \$336.00. **TOTAL:** \$336.00.

Councilman Hays motioned the bills be approved for payment as read. Councilman Burns seconded. Motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

President DiGuseppe announced the following meetings are scheduled for April, 2010: **Sewer Committee,** Thursday, April 8, 2010, 6:30 p.m.; **Police Committee,** Thursday, April 15, 2010, 7:00 p.m.; **Planning Commission,** Wednesday, April 21, 2010, 7:00 p.m.; **Finance & Ordinance Committee,** Wednesday, April 28, 2010; 6:30 p.m.

President DiGuseppe stated there will be a five-minute recess and then council will go into executive session.

President DiGuseppe called the regularly scheduled council meeting back to order.

Councilman Burns motioned to authorize Solicitor Romain to enter into an agreement with the Spring City Library, one which states the Library will pay all Borough expenses and which specifies the Borough will be the petitioner on behalf of the Borough at the Orphans Court for a change of use at the two parcels on Brown & Wall Streets that are intended to be used by the Library. Councilman Castor seconded. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilman Beard motioned the meeting be adjourned as there was no further business to come before Borough Council. Councilman Shaner seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis Rittenhouse
Borough Administrator