

Borough of Jefferson Hills
Special Meeting of Council
December 27, 2007

The special meeting of Council was called to order by President Militzer at 6:00 p.m. in the Municipal Center, 925 Old Clairton Road. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Mayor Green and Council Members King, Kulish, Militzer, Oskin, and Serapiglia answered to roll call. Solicitor Brimmeier arrived at 6:19 p.m. Engineer Omer, Police Chief Reagan, and Public Service Coordinator McVicker were absent. Council Members Cmar, Weir, and Manager Shepherd were on vacation.

Mr. Militzer presented a proclamation of the Borough Council and Mayor recognizing the achievement of the Thomas Jefferson High School Football Team as 2007 Division AAA State of Pennsylvania Football Champions to Sue Peterson, Principal of Thomas Jefferson High School and Coach Cherpak. Mr. Militzer announced Mr. Cherpak was voted Coach of the Year by the WPIAL.

Mr. King moved the minutes of regular meeting August 14, 2006 be approved, seconded by Mr. Militzer and carried on a 4-0-1 roll call vote. Council Members King, Kulish, Oskin and Militzer voted yes. Council Member Serapiglia abstained as he was absent from the meeting.

Dr. Kulish moved the minutes of discussion meeting September 6, 2006 be approved, seconded by Mr. King and carried unanimously.

Mr. King moved the minutes of discussion meeting October 4, 2006 be approved, seconded by Mr. Oskin and carried unanimously.

Dr. Kulish moved the minutes of regular meeting July 9, 2007 be approved, seconded by Mr. King and carried unanimously.

Mr. King moved the minutes of special meeting August 8, 2007 be approved, seconded by Mr. Oskin and carried unanimously.

Mr. King moved the minutes of regular meeting October 10, 2007 be approved, seconded by Dr. Kulish and carried unanimously.

Mr. Oskin moved the record of public hearing December 10, 2007 be approved, seconded by Mr. Militzer and carried on a 3-0-2 roll call vote. Council Members Oskin, Serapiglia and Militzer voted yes. Council Members King and Kulish abstained as they were absent from the meeting.

CITIZENS:

- A. Alan Caponi - 191 Meadowfield Lane - reported he received a certified letter yesterday from Chief Reagan and Mr. McVicker charging him \$750.00 for false alarms from his home alarm system dating back to 2003. He asked Chief Reagan earlier today why, since 2002 hadn't he received invoices before, and Chief Reagan replied he should have.

Ms. Brimmeier arrived.

Mr. Caponi stated he talked with six other residents who have had their security alarms go off accidentally, and none of them have ever received an invoice from the Borough. He

asked Council for an abatement of these charges. In response to Mr. Militzer's question, Mr. Caponi admitted he has been charged by the fire department for false fire alarms. Ms. Brimmeier explained if the Borough cannot establish that the proper procedure with accompanying paperwork was followed, she did not think the Borough could enforce the ordinance. Mr. Serapiglia suggested the Borough send letters to residents that have had issues with their security alarms, putting them on notice of future false alarm fee enforcement. Mrs. King, Police Secretary, advised 15-16 letters have been sent out over the years to residents because of false alarms, including one to Mr. Caponi in 2002. It was a courtesy letter, therefore, not sent certified. The letter was from the prior Police Chief stating he was reluctant to charge Mr. Caponi for the false alarms, but if they continued, he would be charged for future alarms. She advised in one day there were four false alarms at Mr. Caponi's residence. After the letter went to Mr. Caponi in 2002, the alarms dropped to 1-2 per year. Last week there were three false alarms in the same shift, dispatching the police to his residence each time. At that point, the police went to Mr. McVicker as he is the Code Enforcement Officer. Mr. Serapiglia asked why the letter was not on Official Borough letterhead and copied to the Mayor and Council. He stated Council needs to find out if Mr. McVicker has sent letters and charged other residents for false alarms, and if not, Mr. Caponi should be forgiven of his charges. At Mr. Serapiglia's request, Mrs. Mortle advised she would ask Mr. McVicker to provide copies of the letters sent to other residents on this issue. Dr. Kulish moved to exonerate the bill to Mr. Caponi and any other residents for false alarm fees until a consistent policy is established including a certified letter, seconded by Mr. Serapiglia and carried unanimously. Mr. Serapiglia requested the alarm fees collected, if any, be reported on Mr. McVicker's monthly cash report. Mr. Militzer requested Mr. McVicker include a copy of the ordinance to all residents who build new homes with security systems installed, and requested the newspaper reporters in the audience mention we will start enforcing the false fire alarm fee.

- B. Roger Meehan - 3413 Woodwind Drive - referred to a petition presented to Council signed by 32 residents requesting Council and the Mayor investigate the property formerly known as the Jefferson Swim and Tennis Club, located on property adjacent to their residences in Jefferson Estates. He reported the property has deteriorated, suffered vandalism, and is being used by people as a climate for drug and alcohol abuse. They requested the Borough require the owners to secure the premises or demolish it. His wife Margie will be the liaison between the residents and Council. Mayor Green advised Mr. McVicker has notified the owner of the property, and was told the problem is that the property between the swim club and the road into Jefferson Estates is owned by Frank Zokaites and he will not allow any equipment to cross his property. Mr. McVicker is to contact Margie Meehan with updates.

Ms. Brimmeier explained even though her memo to Council reported she would eat some of her costs to stay under the \$100,000 cap agreed upon, she was told by Mrs. Mortle that she and Sue Esworthy totaled her bills, distributed a breakdown to all officials, and the solicitor bills were under the cap. The Solicitor advised she incorrectly reported some work under the General Fund, when in fact it should have been reported under the Sewer Revenue and Sewer & Water Assessment Accounts. Ms. Brimmeier explained that filing fees, advertising fees, title searches, and mileage are costs and should not be included in the \$100,000 fee cap. Mr. King advised when he looks at what is deducted from the General Fund, her costs are deducted also, so he thought they should also be included in the cap. Ms. Brimmeier replied she does not charge for postage, copies or work done for the Economic Development Commission.

Mrs. Mortle requested an addendum to the bill list be approved from Adams & Foley for work done for the Civil Service Commission dated October for \$737.00.

Mr. Serapiglia asked Ms. Brimmeier if in 2008 she would be able to keep her fees under a \$90,000 cap, and she replied she thought so.

With the addition of the bill from Adams & Foley, Dr. Kulish moved the December bills be approved as follows: General Fund \$81,721.18, Sewer Revenue Acct. \$42,441.14, Escrow Acct. \$416.70, Highway Aid Fund \$24,520.36, and General Fund Contingency Acct. \$75,852.79, seconded by Mr. Oskin and carried unanimously.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Mr. Militzer welcomed Mr. King back after his extended illness.

Dr. Kulish thanked Council for 12 great years serving the Borough.

Ms. Brimmeier requested an executive session for litigation.

Mr. Militzer adjourned the meeting at 6:51 p.m. with an executive session to follow to discuss legal matters on motion by Mr. King, seconded by Mr. Oskin and carried unanimously.

Saundra J. Mortle
Secretary/Treasurer