

*New Stanton Borough Council meeting
November 15, 2007*

Council President Scott Sistek called to order the November 15, 2007 Council meeting of the Borough of New Stanton at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was held at the Municipal Building, 451 North Center Avenue, New Stanton, Pennsylvania. A Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance were recited.

Members present were Scott Sistek, Todd Bartlow, Wilbur Bussard, Jerry Ilgenfritz, James Mack, Thomas Theis, and Robert Quinn. Also present Mayor Joseph Kazan, and Code Enforcement Officer Michael Stack.

General Business

Proposed Budget

There was some discussion on a few of the budget items such as raises for employees, fuel, natural gas and the increase of insurance. Councilman Bussard said the only thing that I might have to add to it is our saw that we use for cutting the road is no longer any good and it cannot be repaired. It will be approximately \$1,500 to replace it. Councilman Mack said this is out of order but this would impact the budget for a savings of about \$9,000. I think the presentation should be made now. Some changes were made and the budget was recalculated. The total for the budget is \$646,700.00.

Councilman Mack said what I have is on the agenda later on but it will impact the budget by \$9,000 savings. There was some discussion between Councilman Mack and Councilman Bartlow. Councilman Mack said I would like to introduce Chuck who has a proposal for the Borough.

Mr. Kovac addressed Council about his proposal. I understand that there was an ad in the paper for a building inspector. Councilman Bussard and Councilman Bartlow said according to the minutes we were to go out for bids. A heated discussion ensued. Council President said the only situation I can see that could possibly happen here is if the motion that was made before is withdrawn and if you have a proposal and wish to present it then you can do so. Would you have a problem giving a proposal if the original motion was withdrawn? Councilman Bartlow said once again there is a new Council coming in and they might vote to go out for bid then; you are really hanging yourself out there. Mr. Kovac said with us so far you haven't spent any money and you made \$41,000.

Thomas Theis made a motion second by Wilbur Bussard to adopt and advertise the proposed budget. The motion carried.

Thomas Theis made a motion second by Todd Bartlow to adopt and advertise the proposed liquid fuels budget. The motion carried.

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Todd Bartlow made a motion second by James Mack to advertise the tax ordinance for 2008. The motion carried.

Wilbur Bussard made a motion second by Todd Bartlow to purchase playground equipment with grant money in the amount of \$4,480.00. The motion carried.

Councilman Theis said I did not see this on the bill list and it is for the boom arm mower from Sewickley Township. Ms. Hoffman said there was a manhole cover or something that was sheared off when they were mowing and it has not been repaired. I held that out until Council could discuss it as far as what you would like to do. Council President said we need to talk to them and see what they are going to do.

Wilbur Bussard made a motion second by Thomas Theis to approve the bills in the amount of \$12,157.31. The motion carried.

James Mack made a motion second by Wilbur Bussard to approve the minutes from the November 1, 2007 Council meeting with a minor correction. The motion carried with Jerry Ilgenfritz voting no.

Councilman Ilgenfritz said I recommend that we move this discussion on the appointment of a Solicitor to executive session. Councilman Bartlow said once again how could that happen because we were supposed to go out for bids for Solicitor; so how can we ask somebody questions we just went through the same thing. You can't interview somebody you didn't bid it. A heated discussion ensued.

Council President said the discussion on the appointment of the UCC Inspector; do we need to withdraw that? Council withdrew that from the agenda.

Audience Comment

Mr. Tom Smith asked if there was going to be a letter sent to the gentleman who was at the last meeting and used vulgar language. No member on Council past, present or future should have to sit there and put up with that.

Wilbur Bussard made a motion second by Todd Bartlow that the President of the Recreation Board be sent a letter asking him to conduct himself in a proper manner at Council meetings. The motion carried.

Mr. Paul Brittan from the Advisor said the concern is you have a teenage girl sitting there as your Junior Council Person and she has to listen to that stuff and there should be a concern that this young lady is not subjected to that and if somebody has to talk that way out the door. Councilman Mack said we made it up to her we sent her to a banquet. Mr. Brittan said that is not funny. Councilman Mack said I'm just kidding with you.

Agenda

Thomas Theis made a motion second by Jerry Ilgenfritz to renew our membership in Westmoreland Cleanways for \$25.00. The motion carried.

Council President said everyone received a copy of recycling from Westmoreland Cleanways. Ms. Hoffman said that is for any events that we want to have here. They are asking for any dates so that they can put it in their flyers to let the public know.

Thomas Theis made a motion second by James Mack to adopt Ordinance number 2007-222 the Local Services Tax. The motion carried.

Thomas Theis made a motion second by James Mack to acknowledge a vacation request by Anita Hoffman for December 18, 19, 20, 2007. The motion carried.

Thomas Theis made a motion second by Wilbur Bussard to acknowledge a vacation request by Mel Steele for November 26, 27, 2007. The motion carried.

Council President said on the 2008 calendar we have a couple of discrepancies. One is the first meeting is January. It will be January 7, 2008 and since the next meeting is scheduled for the third Thursday I was going to suggest that it be moved to January 24, 2008 and in May I would like to move the meeting from the May 15, to May 22, 2008. There was some discussion on the meeting dates.

Wilbur Bussard made a motion second by Todd Bartlow to advertise the meeting dates for 2008. The motion carried.

Reports

Mayor

Joseph Kazan

Mayor Kazan said I guess I should have asked this while Chuck was here but everything seems to be flying. What is the status of getting the Ryder Truck Garage back up and operating? Councilman Mack said they need to submit their plans to get their permits.

Mayor Kazan said the drainage that we put in on Broadview, apparently one of the frames for the grate broke and Mr. Kielbach said that his son purchased a new one and installed it and it cost him \$80.00 and he was wondering if his son could be reimbursed for it. Council President said that would set precedent for other residents to go out and purchase something and expect the Borough to reimburse them.

Council President said at Paintersville Road Mr. Hawley has had a number of situations over the years. I spoke to Wendy and Rachel at Penn DOT. Wendy had looked up some information that was done on Rt. 119 in Youngwood by the Sunoco. She

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is going to see if that is something that we could do on Paintersville Road. The Borough would have to assume the cost of this project.

Councilman Mack said occasionally you will be driving along and there is a sign that broadcast your speed. It might not be a bad idea to look at something like that to put on our roads. Council President said those are called speed trailers and can be used on State roads. Councilman Mack said somewhere by the old store that was on the corner of Shelton Avenue and Center Avenue.

President

Scott C. Sistik

Council President said I have a note from the Tax Collector and she is requesting that Borough Council take into consideration the purchase of a new monitor for her office. There was some discussion on the purchase of the monitor.

Wilbur Bussard made a motion second by Todd Bartlow to purchase a 17 inch flat screen monitor for the Tax Collectors office. The motion carried.

Code Enforcement Officer

Michael Stack

Mr. Stack said there was an illegal sign at the old Tee Pee Tim's sight and it was removed. I also had a guy call me about some maintenance issues at Pine Drive Apartments. I really couldn't find any serious violations. I sent out some violations notices on high grass and a notice on barking dogs on Edgewood Drive.

Streets-Roads-Buildings

Wilbur Bussard

Councilman Bussard said I received a call from Janie Ice about Shelton Drive and whether something was going to be done about it. I told her probably next year we could get that on the schedule.

Councilman Bussard said I contacted Larry Anthony about adding on to the gazebo and I told him we would keep his name on it and he has no problem with it, and also I asked Dean Clark who is the person who built the gazebo to see if he would advise and he is willing to do that.

Councilman Bussard said we received a letter from Columbia Gas asking us to let them know what roads are going to be done next year so that if they have any work to be done there they can do it before the road is fixed.

Councilman Bussard said Mel met with Mr. Cecil at Hunker about some work that needs to be done.

Councilman Bussard said the wheel that we use to measure the roads needs replaced. To replace it is \$159.00.

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Wilbur Bussard made a motion second by Thomas Theis to purchase the wheel plus the case for \$159.00. The motion carried.

Council President said Joe brought up about an Eagle Scout project; I was talking to Bill Hafer, Scout Leader contacted us about looking for some Eagle Scout projects. We may suggest Welcome Signs for the Borough and the other thing we talked about was bulletin boards. That is just a couple of ideas.

Park-Health-Sanitation-Safety

Robert Quinn

Councilman Quinn said Anita was looking into some new equipment for the Park, like benches, trash receptacles. We have recyclable grant money that can be used for these items. There was some discussion about the purchase of these items.

Wilbur Bussard made a motion second by Todd Bartlow to purchase 5 trash receptacles, 1 four seat game table, 2 eight foot recycled plastic benches, and the 3 grills would be paid out of Park money contingent upon them being on the COSTARS program. The motion carried.

Jerry Ilgenfritz made a motion to go into executive session at 9:25 p.m.

James Mack made a motion to come out of executive session at 10:02 p.m.

Jerry Ilgenfritz made a motion to hire James Michael as new Borough Solicitor with a start date of January 7, 2008 at the reorganization meeting.

Council President said you cannot do that; a Lame Duck Council cannot appoint a new Solicitor and bind a future Council with the appointment. Councilman Ilgenfritz said we will have to start him sooner then. Councilman Ilgenfritz said we have to address this issue of do we want to re-advertise that since it is in the minutes or do we want to withdraw it? If we re-advertise it, it will cost the Borough the same amount of money that they accused me of spending in the first place if they want to do it that way or do we want to withdraw it and not spend the money. Mayor Kazan said withdraw the motion and second and vote to advertise for bids. Councilman Ilgenfritz said lets withdraw it and save the town some money.

Robert Quinn made a motion second by James Mack to withdraw the motion that was voted upon September 20, 2007 for the Solicitor position. The motion carried.

Councilman Ilgenfritz said to vote him in for Solicitor we should give John a 30 day notice. Today is the 16th and the next meeting is on December 6, 2007 so he would start December 20th if we voted him in. Councilman Mack said it doesn't matter because it will go right back. Councilman Bartlow said that Councilman Mack said we found the best bid and it was not bid. Councilman Mack said we got the best hourly rate. Council President said in the bid process we always look that it is not only the lowest bid it is the

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lowest responsible bid. He is qualified but the expertise and the history that John has with this Borough. If we hire someone to replace John this gentleman is going to have to start from square one and look up all the records and cost the Borough more money in this one month or whatever number of days than he can save the Borough at a difference of a few dollars an hour. Councilman Ilgenfritz said how are things going to change if you don't change them. Councilman Mack said Wilbur wants the town his way and that's the way it is. Councilman Quinn said I like John but I don't have a problem hiring someone new. You guys are being closed minded about this. Mayor Kazan said do you guys realize what you are doing now I mean seriously. Councilman Quinn said we are just spinning our wheels because these guys are so closed minded. Mayor Kazan said no matter what you do now the first of the year it is going to revert back.

Robert Quinn made a motion second by Todd Bartlow to adjourn the meeting at 10:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Mary Ann Roll
Secretary