

MUNICIPALITY OF BETHEL PARK

MINUTES OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Date: May 14, 2012

Time: 7:30 P.M.

Location: Municipal Building

1. Roll Call

Present: Council Members Allen, Dixon, Gibbons, Hannan, Harrison, McLean, Moury and O'Brien

Absent: Council Member Pape

Also Present: Mayor Morton; William Spagnol, Manager; Robert McTiernan, Solicitor; Judith Miller, Assistant Manager; Police Chief John Mackey; Gerard Duke, Municipal Planner; Mark Romito, Finance Director; Mike Smith, Environmental Engineer; Jean Statler, Municipal Engineer

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Flag Ceremony performed by Boy Scouts Troop 215, Monkey Patrol.

3. Chair Announcement

Executive Session of Council was conducted on Monday, May 14, 2012 to discuss Police personnel and contractual issues.

Reports of Officials

4. Librarian's Report

Library Director, Christine McIntosh, stated that the Bethel Park Public Library provides services to inform, inspire and enrich the community.

She informed Council that the fish are doing wonderfully, as well as the frogs and goldfish in the Children's department.

She then announced the current fundraising events. The Library's annual fund raising gala will be on Friday, May 25, 2012 from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. The Gala will be held at the Community Center and the theme is Monte Carlo. Tickets are \$25 each which include appetizers, beverages, and some gambling

tokens. There will be a Silent Auction, 50-50 and basket raffles. Also, the library has a Christmas in July daily raffle with one number for the entire month based on the Pennsylvania Daily 3-digit number drawn at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$10 each and are available at the library, at the Gala and will also be sold at Giant Eagle the weekend after the Gala. All fundraising proceeds support the programs and services of the library.

Ms. McIntosh then spoke about a hot topic in mainstream media, the book entitled 50 Shades of Grey by E.L. James. It is a work of fiction about a man and woman in a relationship that includes a high sexual context. The library does own this title, as well as other erotic fiction and contemporary titles from classics, to meet patron demands. She then recited the collection development policy, which can be seen on the Library website and spoke of the publishers of this book as well as the library's Bill of Rights and the Freedom to Read Statement as adopted by the American Library Association. This book is at the top of the New York Times and other best seller's lists and is very main stream. She mentioned that the number of erotic fiction titles in our library is a small percentage of the 110,000 volumes that are available to you at the public library.

For more information on this policy or any of the programs and services offered by the Library, visit website at www.bethelparklibrary.org

5. Police Chief's Report

Police Chief John Mackey reported that the April 28th Drug Take Back Program was a huge success. The next event should take place this coming October.

Chief then thanked Walmart for the \$1,000 grant for the purpose of upgrading the Child Identification Program.

He then reported that Bethel Park and several surrounding community have experience thefts from automobiles. The cars were not broken into, they were left unlocked. He said that the Police made an arrest and recovered most of the stolen property, not only in Bethel Park, but for the neighboring communities. Chief urged residents to lock their cars to avoid this situation.

The Police Department is looking for ordinance violations. The biggest issues with ordinance violations are junk vehicles, high grass and high weeds. Warning notices are sent out and if the problem is not taken care of, a citation will follow. Residents can go on the website to read about ordinance violations.

Chief then announced that Police Memorial Week began on Sunday, May 13. Blue ribbons are available to place on your antennas or door handle. He then gave a the history of Police Memorial Week stating that this honors police officers who lost their lives in the line of duty, and mentioned two fallen Bethel Park officers, Joseph Chmelynski in March 1948 and Detective Lynn Sutter in March 1987.

Mr. Harrison said he has received calls on the Baptist/Broughton Road Project traffic controls, particularly on Jordon. He asked Chief to update us on the controls.

Chief replied that construction is always a mixed bag and people are inconvenienced. He said he has not received a lot of complaints, although there are complaints out there. The project is going to last two or three years, but the traffic seems to be doing well. There are some new restrictions in the area as far as left turns onto Jordan, and it's a time restriction. They are clearly posted and sign can be confusing, but for the safety of the construction workers, he asked residents to please slow down in the areas and pay attention to signs.

Mr. Moury asked Chief to have patrols do some monitoring of the new signs.

Mr. Harrison said he gets calls from people, and although they are happy that in a couple of years they will have an improved intersection, but in the meantime they are suffering a bit more.

Chief Mackey said he will send patrol to the area.

Mr. Dixon said that he gets complaints about the construction zone from people that live on Broughton because the traffic is so heavy. It is an unending stream of traffic through the single-lane in the construction zone and people cannot get in or out of their driveways safely. He asked that if you see someone trying to get out of their driveway, please be kind enough to let them out.

6. Fire Chief's Report

Second Captain Rob Uselman announced that the fire department's newest apparatus has been placed in service last week. It is a 75 foot ladder/pumper. This allows them to do more with less. The truck is at the Clifton Station and he invites the residents to stop in to see it if you are in the area.

Captain Uselman then gave the Chief's report for the month of April.

Mr. Harrison reminded everyone that the volunteer fire company relies on donations as well as our EMS service. Both are excellent services and we ought to make sure we support them fully.

7. Mayor's Report

The Mayor announced the 90+ Club birthdays for May.

Mayor Morton thanked Lowes for their generous donation of flowers to the Municipality. Mayor picked up four truckloads of flowers which were planted throughout the community by Public Works, including the Municipal Building, the Community Center, Miners Memorial Park as well as other locations in Bethel Park. He read a thank you letter sent by Manager William Spagnol to the manager of Lowes.

Mayor Morton then recognized EMS week and presented a proclamation to Phil Vargo, who was in attendance with five members of staff. EMS week is from May 20-26. Mayor mentioned that he recently received a letter of thanks from a Bethel Park family praising the first responders, including the Police Department, for their timely and expert care.

Mr. Vargo introduced the staff in attendance: Alan Jackson, Joe Armbruster, Eric Crist, Kevin Trickenger and David, a University of Pittsburgh paramedic student. He encourages residents to learn more about EMS, take CPR classes, life saving first aid, learn how to use an AED and consider subscribing to the service. He said that there are certain traffic lights that can be triggered to turn green for an emergency vehicle to pass through quickly.

Mr. Moury said that as the traffic signals are being updated, this technology is being included at major intersections.

Mayor Morton introduced Josie Gorges. Josie is a third grade student at William Penn. Josie's hoop shoot journey began as a second grader when she won the local Elks Hoop Shoot competition at the Community Center. This year, Josie placed 4th nationally after winning the local, district and state competitions. She is the first Bethel Park student to proceed to the National finals. Mayor read and presented her with a proclamation and congratulated her on her accomplishment. Josie thanked the Elks, her school and her gym teacher for helping with her on her journey.

Mr. Moury asked Rick Raeder to say a few words. Mr. Raeder said he a member of the Veterans' Memorial Committee. He said on Saturday, May 19, there will be a clean up at the memorial plaza and if there are any high students that need community service, please come. The Mayor will fill out your form. Also, he will be selling the Veterans' Memorial bags. The bags are \$5 each, and will be available before and after the Memorial Day Ceremony at the Municipal Building and at the Community Center on May 28. All the proceeds go to the Veterans' Memorial.

8. Approval of Minutes

Regular Council Meeting Minutes of April 9, 2012.

Motion by Mr. Allen and seconded by Mrs. Gibbons to approve the Regular Council Meeting Minutes of April 9, 2012. Motion Carried 8 – 0. Council Member Pape absent.

9. Bills and Payrolls

Motion by Mr. Allen and seconded by Mrs. Gibbons to approve the Bills and Payrolls for the Municipality per Bill List #051412 in the amount of \$1,006,877.07. Motion Carried 8 - 0. Council Member Pape absent.

10. Residents' Comments (non-agenda items only)

Requested Verbatim by Council Member John Pape

Mr. Dino Bello said:

“My name is Dino Bello. I live in Bethel Park on Altherton Drive. I want to make my comments on the tax increase in Bethel Park. I wrote this out, I sent this out to you people before, but I’ve got to read it to you. My wife, Kay, bless her soul, would say, Dino, be strong, be honest, do your homework, and always, always, always do the right thing. Folks, you know we know your view, please consider ours. We both must bury the hatchet as this is given to you in a helpful spirit of which this should be taken. If you go ahead and raise the millage after you know the Million Three is there, it would not be fair the homeowners of Bethel Park. We now know that the tax increase by the county reassessment in itself is a huge tax increase which make Bethel Park increase not necessary. For our seniors and young families in Bethel Park who are doing their best just to get by, we need to keep the millage as it is. After the Civil War when President Lincoln was shot and killed, one of the Generals said, according to Harper’s Magazine, a great and wonderful paper, the war is over. We no longer need a divided nation of North versus South, father versus son, neighbor versus neighbor, friend versus friend. Peace and harmony must return. We must work together to build a new and stronger nation. If saving Bethel Park is your goal, then all goals have been met. As President Roosevelt said, we have nothing to fear but fear itself. And our seniors need not to loose their homes. We have many more notarized signatures than we needed on the Bethel Park petitions and this confirms that we absolutely need to work together to build a new and better Bethel Park. We all should take the high road. Then everyone has a win-win situation. God bless America. God bless Bethel Park. Thank you.”

Bill Vizza, 7061 Lawrence Drive, spoke about the Broughton/Baptist Road project. He said that if it is a permanent situation to close off Locust Road, the residents would like to be heard on that issue. No notification was given on the closing and he described the ongoing adventures. There are problems and for every problem there are solutions. He asked if Council is willing to sit and talk with the residents to hear their concerns, solutions and issues. The biggest problem is the speeding on Broughton Road. He asked Mayor Morton for the proper procedure and policy for a resident to call a Councilman with a problem because calls were made and received no return call.

Mayor Morton said he would be shocked if he heard phone calls were going unanswered. He said he knows he is guilty of missing a call from time to time himself. On a regular basis, they should be answered.

Mr. Vizza asked if there was another way to communicate with Council.

Mr. Moury apologized and said they have been talking about the Locust issue at meetings. He said he knows no notification was given to the residents. He asked if he would leave his name, address and phone number and Council will get back to him.

Mr. Vizza presented Council with a petition opposing the permanent closure of Locust Road.

Traci Kessler, 7095 Lawrence Road. She asked if the construction is what brought on the closing of Locust Road. She said many residents, students and seniors that walk up Locust that have to cross over and the situation is dangerous. In addition, there is speeding. She asked about the right turn only rumor from Paxton. She said the residents have solutions and would like to talk to Council about them. She is not complaining as much about the traffic, but mostly the speeding.

Mr. Moury said the construction had a big influence the closing and that a meeting will be set up in the next two weeks. The neighborhood will be notified.

Alvin Douglas, 7006 Kevin Drive. Mr. Douglas talked about his use of Locust Road and that he hopes the closing is not permanent. His other concern is number of stop signs on Horning and Jordan. He feels they are excessive.

Jerry Fox, 288 Horning Road. Mr. Fox spoke about the closing of Locust Road. Another issue is narrowness of Jordan Road with cars parked on it. He said he has an outlet sign in front of his house that he would like removed.

Scott Graham, 7045 Lawrence Road. He spoke about the closing on Locust and feels it will cause more problems. It is adding to the traffic on Jordan and no where to walk. It is inconveniencing people who live on Kevin and Lawrence. He thinks a three-way stop sign would slow traffic down enough where it would be safe for people to cross. He wants to know what the reasons were for Locust to be closed.

Mr. Harrison suggested that these residents get a list of the people together that would be interested in the meeting or appoint a spokesman so we can notify them of the meeting.

Mr. Moury said we could use our reverse 911 service or hand-deliver a flyer to the residents who are directly impacted.

Beth Welsh, 7012 Kevin Drive. She said she would like to see Locust reopened. If it cannot be reopened, then an opening in the guardrail would help as well as traffic control devices put in place on Broughton. Walkers who go to Shop 'n Save find it dangerous. She also is not in favor of the right turn only from Paxton Drive.

Requested Verbatim by Council Member John Pape

Steve Bronco, 5962 Irishtown Road said:

“Steve Bronco, 5962 Irishtown Road, Bethel Park, PA. I would like to speak about the tax increases we’re going through right. It is very disparaging that people came with concerns about Locust and you are all gung-ho to meet with

them. For how many times I've been up here to irritate you guys, and I don't want to do that. I want you all to understand that. As Dino very eloquently said, we need to come to a happy medium here. County taxes have gone up. Our local taxes are going to go up. School taxes are going to go up now, they are going to continue to go up for years to come. People should be aware of that. We have an opportunity here to set a precedent for once. We have to think outside the box. We have ways. I've called you guys out to call me and I've never heard from you guys. I've given you my phone number right here and you've never called me. But Locust has an issue and you're ready to jump on them. I find that very hypocritical. You know, I really do. It is disparaging. I'm a resident, ok, I've come to you, I've offered solutions and you stuck a (unintelligible) in my back. That's not very nice. Ok. Again, Dino, you know, he's got a lot of ideas there and he cares about what's happening here. We have to look to the future. I brought my daughter here today so she can see how government works. And it's important that she see that at her age because ten years from now it's going to be so much more difficult for us. I am concerned and we need to come to a solution. Ok. You guys are empowered, you're paid by the Municipality. You're paid employees. You need to hear what we're saying, ok. I am not asking a lot, I'm asking you to sit down with me, you've never done it. So be it. That's fine. But I still think you have an opportunity now before you enact that tax increase. Think about what is going to happen. I mean, everyone knows that school taxes are going to sky rocket. If anyone says no, please tell me now because I know they are going to go up. And they are going to go up the next year, and year afterwards. We have to stem the blood flow here. We have an opportunity to make a difference. You have the funds available to you, all you got to do is cut a few things and it's in there, it's in there. Mr. O'Brien I'll use Miners field again. I actually had to pay the guy to come up with me, he's a friend of mine, I had him go up and look at it. It doesn't need to be done. They said, Steve, you got ten years left on it. Just patch what you need to do and reseal it. My question to Council, how much maintenance have we done on that field itself? In that parking lot. Can anyone, Mr. Moury, would you take this task and tell me. How much preventative maintenance have we done since we installed it?"

Mr. Moury said:

"We've done crack sealing, and you what, let me speak. Well, you go ahead and finish. I guess some of the answers to some of your questions. This goes back to December and I don't want to rehash for everybody here. We had an opportunity for everybody to speak and come and present your ideas in January. This has been an ongoing thing since last August. We hear a lot of, let's meet, let's do this, let's do that. We have had several meetings and we gave the public, gave you, an opportunity to come and you chose not to do that. A couple of things you suggested, the front loader, let's just agree we're going to disagree. You know people that looked at that, you look at the parking lot. You know what, let's just agree to disagree on the parking lot. Purchasing of trucks, let's agree to disagree that we think...."

Mr. Bronco said:

“Did you go ahead and purchase those trucks?”

Mr. Moury said:

“Council unanimously tonight in the Caucus Room, we are going to approve one new dump truck and three new cars.”

Mr. Bronco said:

“Do you understand what a waste of money it is, Mr. Moury?”

Mr. Moury said:

“I’m not here to argue with you. We may disagree...”

Mr. Bronco said:

“Ok, but let me ask you this. “

Mr. Moury said:

“Conclude your comments.”

Mr. Bronco said:

“Ok. I’d like you guys to go back. There are people here who agree with what I am saying. We are wasting money. You have an opportunity, Mr. Moury.”

Mr. Moury said:

“Are you finished?”

Mr. Bronco said:

“I guess I am.”

Mr. Moury said:

“Thank you.”

Mr. Harrison said:

“Mr. Moury. We the public, and I consider myself the public here, was advised via a story in the Almanac that if the tax petition committee is successful in turning over the March ordinance for the real estate tax, that we would revert to the November tax which was 34.4. I’d like to ask Mr. McTiernan if he, in fact, did you make that legal ruling?”

Mr. McTiernan said:

“Well, I didn’t make any official ruling, in fact, I looked at the petition which speaks directly to the ordinance that reduced the millage which was passed at the end of the year. So, that’s the way it was framed, as repealing the ordinance to reduce the previous increase. I think in terms of removing the existing increase is problematic. “

Mr. Harrison said:

“Let’s see. When we passed the March ordinance, that doesn’t void the November ordinance? Is that true?”

Mr. McTiernan said:

“That’s because the way it was framed, which says amendment to the previous ordinance. The ordinance that raised taxes to .75% was passed, granted, because of a lot of things that took place with respect to revenue, and expectations on the County reassessment, Council was able to say, we don’t need that high of an increase, so we amended the tax ordinance to reduce it to a .25 increase. I think it was possible to do that because of certain events that happened with the county and the revenue, so I looked at the petition, the way it’s framed as a repeal of the amending ordinance which would reduce the increase. That’s what it says within the framework of the ordinance.”

Mr. Harrison said:

“We pay you to give us the legal interpretations. I didn’t interpret anything associated with the recent affidavit that talked about repealing or rescinding or whatever. It addressed rescinding the March ordinance. So, just make sure, although you didn’t apparently make an official judgment or didn’t send us a letter, is that true? You are saying, that, in fact, it’s your legal opinion that if the tax petition committee is successful in getting the required number of signatures relative to the March ordinance, then I guess, and I am speculating now, that Council could rescind that ordinance and the November ordinance would be effect. Am I interpreting what you said correctly?”

Mr. McTiernan said:

“That is what the petition says. To rescind the amending ordinance that reduced the increase. And that is framed by the committee.”

Mr. Harrison said:

“Well, I’ll read it, I didn’t see any words about amending in the March ordinance, but I’ll, I would like to suggest, in fact, I would like to make a Motion to put this all to bed that Council direct that an ordinance be prepared to return the real estate tax to the 2011 value, 2.18, I believe the number is, and that that ordinance be advertised to be acted on at the next Monday night meeting which is the committee meeting and because to do that requires a special meeting, I’m saying on the record that if Council approves such an ordinance, and Council advertises a

special meeting, and Council approves that ordinance at the special meeting, I personally will pay the cost for the advertising. Thank you very much. That is a motion I would like.”

Mr. Moury said:

“There is a motion on the floor. Is there a second? Hearing a lack of a second, the Motion fails. I’ll ask Mr. McTiernan a little clearer here. Based on the tax petition committee, the most recent one that has been submitted, that it’s against the millage rate, it’s not actually against the increase, it’s against the millage rate established at 2.43. That’s the rate they’re challenging. Correct?”

Mr. McTiernan said:

“That’s what it says.”

Mr. Moury said:

“So if they are successful in getting the signatures, the question whether or not we want to leave the 2.43 mill tax rate will go to the November referendum. And if the public votes in favor of repealing that, then we would revert back to the 2.93 millage which is where it was on the November ordinance. Is that correct?”

Mr. McTiernan said:

“That’s the way I read it, that’s the way the petition is drafted by the committee.”

Mr. Moury said:

“OK. There’s two separate ordinances. Whatever they say, it doesn’t matter. The ordinance in March we passed supersedes the November ordinance. Correct?”

Mr. McTiernan said:

“Yes. That is the way it was drafted to read, I didn’t bring it with me, what is says it amends that ordinance to adjust the millage rate.”

Mr. Harrison said:

“Let me ask Mr. McTiernan one additional question. Could this Council have acted in such a manner that the November ordinance is rescinded, it’s off the book, do you know what I am saying? We passed an ordinance in November to increase the tax 34.4. Then we passed another ordinance in March at a new rate which was one-third of that. Just for future reference, once an ordinance is on the book, can we remove it?”

Mr. McTiernan said:

“Well, again, just speaking off the cuff. I think what is problematic about that is the Home Rule Charter requires a millage ordinance to be in place before the beginning of the fiscal year. If you simply repealed your millage ordinance without any replacement ordinance and failed with sufficient votes, you’d actually have no millage in place. So I think what Council did, I mean this is what I thought was prudent myself as well, is to produce an ordinance that adjusted the rate down so you have an ordinance in place, then in terms of the Home Rule Charter, then it was amended because of unanticipated revenues to reduce that millage. You never want a situation when you have a budget in place with no millage rates. So, what Council did was very sensible that way.”

Mr. Harrison said:

“I’ll just mention that in parallel with the petition committee, I sort of running a personal Don Harrison campaign and I’m calling it CLAMP DOWN. CLAMP stand for Council Lied And Misled the Public. And I wrote a letter to the Almanac which they published edited so if anybody is interested in the original letter I wrote, there’s copies over on the table. Thank you very much.”

Mr. Moury said:

“I’ll just respond. Mr. Harrison is very quick to point out what everybody else did, but yet he forgets what actually happened. You are entitled to your opinion, but you are not entitled to changing the facts. And Don, that’s what you’re doing, that’s what your letter stated. And if you’re going to talk about lying, you have lied to the public and let me read his letter. The Municipal staff and Council announced in January 2012 that late year 2011 tax income and Municipal expenditure savings provided sufficient monies so that the necessary 2012 Municipal services could be maintained at the 2011 level. That, in fact, is a lie. Staff never, ever said that. Staff, as a matter of fact, Mr. Harrison chastised them. They thought for the long term stability of the community that we should have let the tax rate a little bit higher. There is a lot of uncertainties out there. So, Mr. Harrison, if you are going to put something up there, you should make sure it’s true because you know it’s not. We can get a copy of the meeting, we can get a copy of the memos that went out. That is a lie and to try to deceive the public and scare the public is simply typical Don Harrison in recent years. To talk a little bit about the tax increase, it wasn’t an easy thing to do. We had a lot of discussion, we had a lot debate, we had that resident come to the microphone tonight on some of the decisions that we made. People may not always agree with us but we try to do the right thing. We don’t buy new vehicles because we like to have nice, shiny new vehicles. We have a plan with our dump trucks that we replace every 10 to 12 years. When the dump trucks go down and your streets don’t get plowed, we’re the one responsible for that. So we do have a plan in place, as we do with the police cars. And I think it’s ironic with Mr. Harrison that the committee recommended four things, four areas to cut the budget. One was the trucks as Mr. Harrison was identifying tonight that he voted to support. Number two was the grass cutting contract. It’s a \$100,000 contract that the majority of this Council voted down, but yet Don voted yes. If we look at the history of what he has done, he doesn’t want to vote for the revenues, but yet he wants to vote and pay for

everything we put in the budget. It's not the first time it's happened. Don has been referred to me by a member of this community, and I won't mention his name, as revenues and ribbons. He's never there to vote for the revenues, but he's always there to cut the ribbons. I think it's a sad thing that Mr. Harrison does. We made a lot of tough decisions. I can list you everything that Don suggested we cut from the 2012 budget. There's nothing there. He wants to start all this rhetoric. As I said in the letter that the Almanac published for me, it's his campaign centerpiece for next year. It's not about what he does, it's what everybody did wrong. While Don lives in the past, we try to plan for the future. People may not always agree with everything we do. We didn't raise taxes because it's easy to do. And one of the residents brought up about the reassessments, and I'll just assure you, the reassessments have absolutely nothing to do with the 2012 budget. It was changed. Initially it was, but it has nothing to do with the budget. We're going to be mandated by law for the 2013 budget, depending if the legislation isn't changed and the whole thing is thrown out, and that is still going to be controlled by Harrisburg, the judge ruled that they are going to delay the implementation until 2013. We can only take a 5% cap which means we can only raise taxes by 5% next year so we can't take a windfall on what's going to happen with the reassessment. The reassessments have nothing to do with the 2012 budget, nor the millage we collect. And since Mr. Harrison likes a lot of rhetoric about, we don't need to raise taxes, yet he gives us no plans. We've had meetings. It's been since August of last year. He comes with nothing other than let's go back and look. We would have meeting after meeting for Don to sit there and say nothing? We cut pay phone, I mean we got into the nitty gritty and cut some things that staff probably wasn't overly happy with. The grass cutting. We don't know, we are hoping we can do it and staff's going to do every attempt to do it, but it's going to be a challenge for us. We have eliminated positions. It's been in the Police, Public Works, it's been in our staff. We're a smaller government than we were ten years ago. Our staff for Public Works is at the breaking point for snow removal. That's where we designed our community to be around."

Audience:

"What I don't understand, everybody gets three minutes and you use seven to ramble on and on and on."

Mr. Moury said:

"Thank you very much, sir."

Mr. Allen said:

"You're out of order."

Audience:

"And so are you."

Mr. Allen said:

“Have a good evening.”

Mr. Moury said:

“So, if you look at the revenues through the end of April, and maybe Don hasn’t done this because it doesn’t fit his story, our revenue collection as the majority of Council said for months, it was told by our staff, our revenue collection is down \$196,000 versus prior year. We’re down 7.4%. Our biggest issue is the earned income tax, down 6.95% and that’s primarily done because of the new tax collection systems. Some of us realized this. We knew there was going to be a two-to-three month delay on collections this year. We’ll catch up next year, but, we are going to be hurting. So, there is a lot of tough decisions made. It wasn’t easy. The increase is actually, I think the average \$116,000 house, \$29 per year. We all pay it here. It wasn’t an easy thing to do but some of us have really done our due diligence on what we want. We listen to the community and what the expectations are. Thank you.”

Mr. Harrison said:

“I just want to say that I think the tax petition committee had a very successful signature campaign, made a mistake by not submitting it. But I continue to allege that this staff and this Council misled the public based on their report of the November-December income and led everybody to believe, including this Councilman, that there was sufficient funds to maintain the essential services at the 2011 level with the income that we had. So I just wanted to let the record know that regardless of Mr. Moury says, I continue to allege that Council lied and misled the public on the fact that they expected the November tax increase to be rescinded.”

Mr. O’Brien said:

“In that money, Mr. Harrison, you know there was one-time monies. Monies that only show up once a year. And you know you can’t balance the budget on one-time monies. Council weighted all the information. Weighed all the public comments. Weighed it all and made their decision. Recently, I was at a meeting at the Industrial Park and on the agenda that night was a guest speaker and it was announced the Voice of Reason, Don Harrison. Well, Mr. Harrison didn’t show up for his speech. I was really waiting for your wisdom. I’ll give you a reason, a million reasons why you’re not the voice of reason. I have such respect for you, but I really don’t understand where you’re coming from. You want to lower it again and then you vote for everything that we discuss that could possibly keep you there. And these are the things that are real money. Miners parking lot, the truck, three police cars, grass cutting and the front loader. How can you want to continue to reduce the budget, and continue to vote for buying these things? We know we need them, but if you really believe in your passion, then you would stand firm, but you don’t. You can’t have it both ways.”

Mr. Bello said:

“That’s not a million reasons.”

Mr. Allen said:

“Excuse me.”

Mr. Bello said:

“I have to go to the bathroom.”

Mr. O’Brien said:

“Now, you have to understand one thing also. The three people that are now speaking here, on the tax increase, are not advocates anymore. They are candidates. So, they’ve already announced, in a few years, that they are going to run for seats on the Council. Well, one is sitting. So don’t allow things to just sway away a little bit. Understand the real motives and things. This Council did some diligence to listen....”

Mr. Bello said:

“You can fool some of the people some of the time, all the people all of the time...”

Mr. Allen said:

“Excuse me.”

Mr. Bello said:

“I’m out of here.”

Mr. O’Brien said:

“Their numbers are numbers. I thought we put this issue away but we didn’t, and I don’t think it’s going away. I thought Council did a very good job of listening, setting up meetings, talking rationally, talking intelligently. But, we are chasing windmills. We’re chasing demons, we’re chasing ghosts. Thank you, Mr. Moury.”

GENERAL POLICY AND FINANCE

11. Citizens’ Comments – General Policy and Finance
12. Appointment – Building and Fire Code Appeals Board

Motion by Mr. Hannan and seconded by Mr. Allen to appoint Joseph P. Niedermeyer to the Building and Fire Code Appeals Board for a term to expire on December 31, 2014. Motion Carried 8 – 0. Council Member Pape absent.

13. Appointment – Municipal Authority

Motion by Mr. Hannan and seconded by Mr. Allen to appoint Mike Dunleavy, Jr. to fulfill a vacancy on the Municipal Authority for a term to expire on December 31, 2013. Motion Carried 8 – 0. Council Member Pape absent.

14. Appointment – Board of Parks, Recreation and Leisure Services

Motion by Mr. Hannan and seconded by Mr. Allen to appoint Barbara Valalik to fulfill a vacancy on the Board of Parks, Recreation and Leisure Services for a term to expire on December 31, 2013. Motion Carried 8 – 0. Council Member Pape absent.

Mr. Moury said that the Bond refinancing for the Municipal Authority was completed approximately two weeks ago. Based on the financial stability of the Municipality, we received a Double-A bond rating which means we were not required to go out and get insurance on the bond. That garnered us an additional \$30,000-\$35,000. Overall, we recouped \$223,000 that is specifically for Municipal Authority Capital Projects. Even though we guarantee, it's the Authority's bond money so the proceeds go back to the Municipal Authority.

PLANNING AND ZONING ITEMS

15. Citizens' Comments – Planning and Zoning Items

16. Ordinance – Fire Loss

Motion by Mr. Dixon and seconded by Mr. Hannan to approve the Ordinance that is in compliance with the Pennsylvania Fire Insurance Escrow Act which requires insurance companies, in case of fire losses, to transfer insurance proceeds to the Municipality as a security to insure the proper repairing, securing or removal of fire damaged buildings. Motion Carried 8 – 0. Council Member Pape absent.

Mr. Harrison asked for the appropriate staff member to embellish a bit on this ordinance. He said he thinks it is good news for the Municipality.

Mr. Duke said that this is a State act that came in 1994. We are following up with the documentation. What happens is if there is a case of a fire, the insurance companies are to provide us a security against the property in that if there are any liens on the property, we are to get the liens and also they are to put up security in order to repair and damage that we may have to do to make the building safe for the public. This is to try to prevent arson by someone collecting the money and leaving the Municipality holding the bag.

HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE ITEMS

17. Health, Safety and Welfare Items

None

PUBLIC WORKS AND MAINTENANCE ITEMS

18. Public Works and Maintenance Items

None

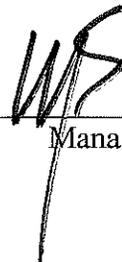
Mr. O'Brien mentioned the upcoming Memorial Day. He said that the 3 x 5 flags currently on the Plaza are displaying the Merchant Marine flag. May is Merchant Marine month. In June, it will be Army; in July it will be the American flag in honor of the Nation's birthday; in August it will be the Coast Guard; September will be Air Force; October will be Navy; November will be Marines. This will give Veterans an opportunity for their branch of service to come down and take pictures with their family and friends. The remainder of the year, all service flags will fly along with the American flag. The Memorial Day Celebration is Monday, May 28 beginning at 7:30 a.m., followed by the parade. Mr. O'Brien then asked Mr. McLean to speak about the ceremony and festivities.

Mr. McLean said that as mentioned back in the Fall, the committee located the family of Charles Michael Swaim, a Bethel Park man who died in Vietnam. Mr. Swaim and his family were neighbors of the McLean family. The Swaim family was located, and his two surviving sisters, as well as a fellow Marine who served with him will be attending the ceremony. Mr. McLean will take the Swaim sisters on a tour of Bethel Park, which is the only town in which they have memories of living with their brother. Mr. McLean then said that it is even a greater pleasure that his father, Judge McLean, will speak at the ceremony. This will be another fitting chapter in the Forgotten Heroes effort that Mr. O'Brien has done so much to bring about by identifying and adding another deserving veteran to our memorial and give him the proper recognition. He then thanked Mr. O'Brien for the guidance on how to get through this.

Mr. O'Brien, on behalf of the Veterans' Memorial Committee, thanked Mr. McLean, Ms. Miller and Matt Smith for all their efforts.

19. Adjournment

Motion and second to adjourn at 9:00 p.m.



Manager