

MINUTES
LANGHORNE MANOR BOROUGH COUNCIL
MEETING OF AUGUST 1, 2006

1. CALL TO ORDER - The meeting of Langhorne Manor Borough was called to order in the Langhorne Manor Borough Hall, 618 Hulmeville Avenue, Langhorne, Pennsylvania, on Tuesday August 1, 2006, at 8:04 P.M. Eastern Standard Time by William McTigue, President.

At this point in the meeting Mayor Farmer led us in the "Pledge of Allegiance."

PERSONS PRESENT –Donna Cianci; William McTigue, President; Nicholas Pizzola; Steven Yourtee; Francis Farmer, Mayor; Loretta M. Luff, Secretary/Treasurer and Thomas J. Profy IV, Solicitor.

PERSON ABSENT – Maryann Barnes, Vice President; Stephen Galazin; Sharon Gimpel and Thomas J. Profy III

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Motion was made by Mr. Yourtee and seconded by Mrs. Cianci to approve the minutes of July 5, 2006 as amended. No objections were presented. Motion carried.

3. POLICE REPORT – Mayor Farmer gave the police report for the month of July, 2006.

Ms. Gimpel entered the meeting at 8:08 P.M.

4. COMMENTS FROM RESIDENTS & VISITORS – Mr. McTigue reviewed the three-minute time limit for visitors and residents comments. Stating that each commenter will be granted another minute, if necessary.

Ms. Jane Boyle (308 Gillam Avenue) inquired as to the status of the handicap parking spaces that are to be located at 616 and 618 Hulmeville Avenue. Mr. Yourtee replied that we have signs and it is a matter of finding the location for them and installing them. Ms. Boyle asked if the signs would be installed prior to the November election. Mr. Yourtee replied that he thinks so.

Ms. Boyle inquired as to the replacement of the storm drain located near her property on Hulmeville Avenue. Mr. McTigue said that there has been no change, stating that the Borough received an estimate of \$30,000.00 is unchanged. He said that the prospect of land being developed in that area that would incorporate this project remains uncertain and will remain so until the sewer moratorium is lifted.

Ms. Boyle read a letter addressed to Langhorne Manor Council from Betty Linington and herself pertaining to a tree that fell in the 300 block of Hulmeville Avenue, thanking Patrolman Joe Schuck for his help in getting the fallen tree removed from the roadway. The letter was given to Mayor Farmer to give to Officer Schuck, so that he knew how his help was appreciated.

Mr. William Abbott (803 Hulmeville Avenue) spoke on the automobiles and motorcycles speeding on Hulmeville Avenue. He also stated that there are a lot of concrete trucks, dump trucks and tractor trailers using Hulmeville Avenue, and he wants to know what can be done to correct these problems. Mayor Farmer replied that the speed display board that is used by the Boroughs was vandalized and is in the process of being repaired. Mayor Farmer stated that our police department would be able to set-up speed traps along Hulmeville Avenue.

Mr. McTigue stated that Council would contact PennDOT to see if the bridge over the railroad between Comly Avenue and Business Route 1 is properly posted.

Ms. Betty Linington (308 Gillam Avenue) spoke on the condition of the trees at the corner of Station and Gillam Avenues, and the vine hanging down at the overpass at Highland Avenue, stating that something should be done to correct these problems.

Mr. John Swenson, Borough Engineer from Carroll Engineering, gave an update on the goal to identify the problem for the excessive flow in the sewer system, and referred to the short and long-term plans developed by Carroll Engineering. He still thinks that the short-term plan will address the problems. Bucks County Water & Sewer Authority (BCW&SA) has completed all of the clean-out work that Carroll Engineering recommended with respect to repairs. The sump pump inspections were done except for five. Three were not inspected and two homeowners would not allow them to enter their homes, so the sump pumps could not be inspected to be sure they are not hooked to the sewer system.

Mr. Swenson reported that seven manholes were repaired, and he recommended that four manholes be lined with a plastic liner, stating that BCW&SA has a contractor that does this kind of work for the system. Mr. Swenson stated that the manhole project is 90-percent completed, and he noted that out of the twelve communities that share the Neshaminy interceptor, eleven are on full moratorium and one is on limited moratorium

. Mr. Swenson recommended that a meter be placed on the pump station. He reported on three options a) a gravity sewer meter at a cost of \$4,500.00, includes installation, processing of the data and removal of the meter; b) a strap on meter, which is more costly; the least costly option is a pump runtime meter, which would be \$2,000.00 for installation and set-up, and \$25.00 per month fee to access the data from a Web site. He will be getting more information on the meters to recommend which one would be cost effective.

Mr. Yourtee asked what the Borough has to do to get the moratorium lifted. Mr. Swenson replied that it would be reviewed in December 2006 or sooner because of the work the Borough has completed.

Ms. Gimpel asked what the cost would be for a liner for a manhole. Mr. Swenson replied approximately \$500.00.

Mr. Steven McCaffery (200 West Fairview Avenue) is asking to be able to put an addition, with a three-car garage onto his house. He wants to remove and rebuild the backroom and add a three-car garage and restore the porch.

After discussion on what Mr. McCaffery plans to do, Mr. McTigue stated that Council is to decide if they want to take a position either for or against Mr. McCaffery's plans or defer it to the Zoning Hearing Board.

Motion was made by Mr. Pizzola and seconded by Mr. Yourtee to defer it to the Zoning Hearing Board. No objections were presented. Motion carried.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS – Mrs. Barnes – absent.

Mrs. Cianci reported two street lights are out, pole #176 on Highland Avenue and pole #9345 at Hulmeville and Highland Avenues, and she would arrange for their repairs

Ms. Gimpel reported a tree on the 500 block of Station Avenue was down due to the storm.

Ms. Gimpel reported that she had met with the insurance agent pertaining to the tree that fell on the Borough office at 616 Hulmeville Avenue and pictures were taken of the tree on top of the building.

On July 26, 2006, Ms. Gimpel met with the insurance adjuster and he took measurements and went over the damage to 616 Hulmeville Avenue. On July 31, 2006, she faxed the adjuster a copy of the estimates to repair. They will be meeting on August 2, 2006 to see if the figures are within reason and how soon the repairs can be done. She has to get a copy of the tree removal bill for the adjuster.

Ms. Gimpel reported that the sewer committee met and they decided that they wanted to meet with Carroll Engineering to review the sewer proposal usage bill.

Ms. Gimpel said that she received a call from a resident on Manor Avenue, who is pleased with the replacement of the "No Parking" sign.

Mr. McTigue stated that the insurance adjuster said that the tree falling on the Borough office was an act of God and asked whether the neighbor's (whose tree it belongs to) insurance company is not going to pay or will our insurance company will pay and subrogated. Ms. Gimpel replied that our insurance company would not likely subrogate the claim.

Ms. Gimpel stated that she expects an answer from our insurance adjuster on Wednesday, August 2, 2006 whether our repair estimate is within reason for the amount of work to be completed on the Borough office.

Mr. Galazin – absent.

Mr. McTigue spoke on the placement of safety signs. He addressed Mrs. Patchet (203 Prospect Avenue) pertaining to a new speed limit sign on her property that was not previously there, and it is an eyesore to her and she would like it moved between her property and her neighbor's.

Mr. Yourtee explained how he and Mr. McTigue decided on the placement of the safety signs. Mr. Yourtee told Mrs. Patchet that the evening they marked the area where the sign was to be placed, there was someone in the front yard at 203 Prospect Avenue, and that this occurred two weeks prior to the sign being installed. Mrs. Patchet stated that Mr. Yourtee is correct, but they had no idea signs were being installed. Mr. Yourtee stated if the Borough moved signs that residents can see looking out their windows, there would be an expensive bill. There were two or three residents that inquired as to the sign placement on their properties, and Mr. Yourtee went out and accommodated them the best that he could. Mr. Yourtee referred to phone messages and emails he received from Mrs. Patchet stating that they were making the Borough look like sign city. They took out about 200 signs and installed about 150 new signs.

Ms. Gimpel stated that if Borough does move Mrs. Patchet's signs and if there are other residents that feel the same way, the Borough could face additional costs. Mrs. Patchet stated that she is willing to contribute to the moving of the signs that are bothering her.

Mr. McTigue stated that regardless what action is or is not taken this evening, when additional information becomes available pertaining to the cost of moving the sign, for the contractor to come back out and what the actual cost is and if the cost is to be passed on to the resident.

Mr. Pizzola stated that he has no problem with moving Mrs. Patchet's signs, as long as she contributes to the cost, that way if another resident complains about a sign on their property, a precedent has been established for them to contribute to the moving of the sign also.

Mr. McTigue stated that they would take under consideration at the September Council meeting how the moving of the sign on Mrs. Patchet's property would be handled.

Mr. Yourtee stated that there is only one sign on Mrs. Patchet's property, the other sign is on her neighbor's across the street and that sign should not be considered since that resident has not personally complained about the sign on their property.

Mr. Pizzola asked Mrs. Patchet if she could get permission from her neighbor across from her house to move that sign also. Mrs. Patchet replied, "Yes". Mr. Pizzola feels that Council should work with Mrs. Patchet.

Mr. McTigue told Mrs. Patchet that he will try and get more information and address the issue at the September 5, 2006 meeting.

Mr. McTigue referred to the issue that Ms. Linington brought up concerning the condition of the trees throughout the Borough. Mr. McTigue referred to the over growth of brush obstruction in front of the safety signs and also there are trees hanging over the roadway within the 14-foot clearance recommended by the fire department. Every property owner is responsible for maintaining the trees and shrubs on their property. Mr. McTigue would like to get a quote for the September meeting from a

tree service as to the cost it would be to have the over hanging trees within the 14-foot limitation of the roadway and brush around safety signs removed.

Mr. Yourtee feels that it should be stated that due to the installation of the new signs, this will be a one-time project. Mr. McTigue stated that the Borough has the legal right to do trimming in the right of way. A newsletter should go out to the residents informing them of the plans to trim the overhanging trees in the roadway and the brush around the safety signs and that this is a one-time project and then it will be the resident's responsibility.

Mr. Yourtee would like to see this project completed in September as schools will be starting and the low trees could come in contact with the tops of the school buses and also before the leaves drop.

Mr. McTigue stated that the trash contract will expire on December 31, 2006, and the bid documents will be prepared for distribution in September. We will have bids by October, which gives Council enough time to re-bid if necessary.

Mr. McTigue reported that there was confusion as to who should have handled the tree that came down on the Borough office at 616 Hulmeville Avenue. Mr. Yourtee is the outside maintenance, and he will include, under that title, exterior building repairs.

Mr. Pizzola reported that he has made contact with U.S. Municipal Supply, so when he has repairs to make on safety signs, he is aware as to how to handle the problem.

Mr. McTigue stated that there are old black and white cast aluminum street signs that are separated and are ready for distribution. Mr. McTigue would like to form a sub-committee to prepare ideas on how to handle the distribution of the street signs. There are 19 black and white and 40 to 50 green and white street signs.

Mr. Yourtee reported that he separated the black and white street signs and David Silcox separated the green and white signs. He also told Mr. Pizzola about the inventory of safety signs stored in the police garage and also in back of the parking lot, some two-foot stubs and extra poles. Mr. Pizzola will need nuts and bolts to attach the signs to the poles.

Mr. Yourtee – No report.

6. SOLICITOR'S REPORT – Mr. Profy stated that he had two resolutions for adoption. The first resolution is for establishing filing fees and escrows for applications and appeals to the Borough's Zoning Hearing Board. The other resolution is a resolution for establishing filing fees and escrows for minor sub-division plans, major sub-division plans, land development plans and zoning changes. The existing fee schedule for sub-division and land development application was amended in 1993 and the resolution concerning filing fees and application for appeals to the Zoning Hearing Board is also dated 1993. The filing fees in both new resolutions are based on comparisons as to what other municipalities are charging and also based upon the review of the historical cost the Borough has incurred in both land development and minor sub-division matters and also in terms of applications and appeals to the Borough's Zoning Hearing Board. Both resolutions are ready for adoption this evening. Mr. Profy

explained that ordinances must be advertised prior to adoption and resolutions do not need to be advertised prior to adoption.

It was stated that none of the Council members had received copies of the two resolutions for review. Mrs. Luff will mail copies of the resolution to the Council members so they can be adopted at the September Council meeting.

Mr. Profy stated that the other issue to be discussed concerns the Verizon Cable Service Franchise. Authorization is needed to prepare for publication two separate ordinances; one is for Langhorne Manor Borough Verizon Cable Service Franchise Ordinance and the Langhorne Manor Borough Rights of Way Ordinance.

After a discussion of the Consortium that Langhorne Manor Borough joined pertaining to the Verizon Cable Franchise, it was explained that for Verizon to be able to install their equipment, Council has to give them the ability to do that. Borough Council is not going to limit the installation of such equipment to just Verizon. None of the Council had received copies of the two resolutions and it was agreed that copies would be mailed to them and the ordinances would be discussed at the September Council meeting.

7. MAYOR'S REPORT – Mayor Farmer reported that there were three speed checks on the access road at Hill Avenue. On June 23, there were 64 vehicles clocked doing an average speed of 51.8 miles per hour; on July 14 – 44 vehicles clocked – maximum speed was 54 miles per hour, average speed of 43 miles per hour; on July 15 – 78 vehicles clocked, 53 miles per hour – maximum speed with an average speed of 36 miles per hour. The time of the speed check on July 14 was 5:35 pm. Mayor Farmer was not aware of the number of tickets that had been written.

8. INSPECTOR'S REPORT –Mr. Bush gave the Inspector's report for the month of July 2006.

Mr. Bush addressed the survey that had been done by Pickering, Corts & Summerson on the storm water piping on Highland Avenue and he will be meeting with them to go over the engineering for this project.

Mr. Bush reported that he had spoken to Andy Warren concerning the ownership of Highland Avenue, the overpass, Gillam Avenue, and the Access Roads. Mr. Warren suggested that Mr. Bush call the Deputy Secretary and explain the situation to her. Mr. Bush will try to contact the Deputy Secretary.

9. CORRESPONDENCE –A fax had been received from Middletown Township pertaining to the potholes on East Highland Avenue.

10. APPROVAL OF BILLS & TREASURER'S FOR PAYMENT – Mr. McTigue stated that all Council members had received a copy of the bill list for payment. He asked if there were any questions or discussions. There were two bills added to the bill list for payment, William McTigue, \$ 123.99 for the tarp that was used on the Borough office building that had been damaged from the storm in July, and Winter's Best for \$ 452.22 for July and August payments

Motion was made by Mr. Yourtee and seconded by Mrs. Cianci to approve the bill list as amended. No objections were presented. Motion carried.

After a discussion on the Treasurer's report a motion was made by Mr. Yourtee and seconded by Mr. Pizzola to table the Treasurer's report. No objections were presented. Motion carried.

11. SECOND MEETING – Mr. McTigue stated that a second meeting will be held on Tuesday August 15, 2006, to review the report from the Preservation Committee pertaining to the repairs and work that is needed to be done on the Borough Hall.

Mr. Yourtee asked Mr. McTigue how the situation of Mr. Galazin not attending Council meeting is going to be handled. Mr. McTigue stated that he presented all information that he has on this situation. After a discussion of the situation Mr. McTigue stated that he would try and contact Mr. Galazin to see what his intentions are.

12. ADJOURNMENT – Mr. McTigue entertained a motion to adjourn this meeting. Motion was made by Ms. Gimpel and seconded by Mrs. Cianci to adjourn this meeting. No objections were presented. Motion carried. This meeting was adjourned at 10:02 P.M.

The next meeting will be Tuesday August 15, 2006 at 8:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Loretta M. Luff
Secretary/Treasurer
Langhorne Manor Borough