

EAST WASHINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
October 2, 2006
MINUTES

East Washington Borough Council met in Regular Session on Monday, October 2, 2006, 6:00 p.m., with the following members and Borough officials present:

Sandra L. Phillips, President	Mark Pacilla, Mayor
Joanne K. Coyle, Vice-President	Jeffrey D. Bull
Blake E. McCandless	Milton J. Schuler (entered later)
Cary Jones, Solicitor	James Helicke, CEO
Heather Walsh, Secretary	Robert Redlinger, Chief of Police

Absent: Kelley Dickson, Robert Dickson

Also present: Karen Mansfield of the Observer-Reporter

President Sandra Phillips called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Blake McCandless and seconded by Joanne Coyle to approve the Minutes of September 18, 2006.

Vote: All ayes (4). Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

Motion made by Blake McCandless and seconded by Joanne Coyle to approve the current bills for payment.

Joanne Coyle asked about the corner lot loan payment of \$1,032.99 and how much time is left on the loan.

Borough Secretary stated that there is five more years left on the loan.

Vote on Bills: Three Ayes. One Abstention. Motion carried.

SECRETARY REPORT

Borough Secretary, Heather Walsh, distributed the current financial data.

Mrs. Walsh announced that there is to be a Washington County Planning Commission Greenways Plan meeting on Thursday, November 2, at the Washington Fairgrounds.

Mrs. Walsh announced that the Borough Planning Commission is having a meeting on Wednesday, October 11, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. to hear a request for usage by W & J College.

Mayor Pacilla asked that the meeting be rescheduled to Wednesday, October 4, at 6:00 p.m., and Mrs. Walsh will contact everyone to make that change.

The Borough Secretary presented the new Municipal Obligation figures for the uniform and non-uniform pension account. The 2007 Non-Uniform Pension amount is \$4,700.00; the 2007 Uniform Pension amount is \$49,000.00. These payments would be made in December of 2007. The Borough will receive aid from the State of Pa. to help with the cost.

After discussion, Mayor Pacilla suggested that the Borough contact a friend, Jason Kolar, and inquire if the Borough is headed in the right direction with the pension being administered by PMRS.

Councilperson Milt Schuler entered the meeting at this time.

STREET DEPARTMENT REPORT

Jeff Bull stated that Columbia Gas is replacing many natural gas pipelines within the Borough.

Mayor Pacilla stated that the Borough needs to make sure that the gas company replaces bricks, etc. in the areas that they work.

Mr. Bull stated that some branch chipping has been completed.

Mr. Bull stated that road crew employee, Keith Dean, has decided to go to school and will not be working more than part-time, if at all. This is effective immediately. He suggested the Borough get help from Labor Ready. He also suggested hiring someone to complete the drywall work at the Borough building.

Jeff Bull stated that some work will need to be done on the leaf box and salt spreader.

Mr. Bull suggested that residents be encouraged to put leaves in regular trash bags and place them, no more than ten at a time, out with their garbage.

Mr. Bull stated that he inquired about grants at the DCNR. There are none currently, but they may have one coming up that would be through PennDOT.

Joanne Coyle suggested that an ad for help be put in the newspaper since Keith can't work any longer.

Jeff Bull stated that they will discuss this in an Executive Session following the meeting.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Chief Robert Redlinger – No report.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT

CEO Jim Helicke presented the report.

Mr. Helicke stated Fayette Waste has decided to discontinue residential refuse pick-up within the Borough.

Jeff Bull stated that any residents inquiring about replacing Fayette should be directed to Rosner's.

Blake McCandless stated that there is a hearing on the Platt property tomorrow, October 3. He stated that the McCreight hearing has been rescheduled to November 15, 2006.

Mr. McCandless stated that a hearing will be set for two nuisance vehicles on Aylesworth.

Sandra Phillips asked about inspections and Mr. Helicke stated he does one a week. Mrs. Phillips asked how many have been done since the beginning of the year and Mr. Helicke stated that he would find out. He said that there are 104 properties in the Borough, and 400+ units and its difficult to get done in twelve hours a week.

Mrs. Phillips asked if the Faith Christian School has ever been inspected.

Mr. Helicke stated that the property can be inspected by the Borough regarding any ordinance violations. Labor and Industry is responsible for any other type of inspection.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Joanne Coyle – No report.

Milton Schuler – No report.

Blake McCandless – No report.

Jeff Bull stated that a newsletter could be sent out in October regarding chipping and leaf pickup. Also single-family rental properties could be notified that they are to be licensed and inspected by the Borough.

It was decided that this information would be put on the Borough Web Page.

Sandra Phillips stated that there is a Tri-County Borough Association meeting scheduled.

Mrs. Phillips stated that W & J College is appealing tax assessment on a property in the Borough.

ACTION ITEMS

Parking Trailers, Pods & Dumpsters

Sandra Phillips stated that she and Blake McCandless met regarding the pods and dumpsters and changes to the parking ordinance. Copies of their suggestions were distributed.

A discussion was held on the items to be considered.

Cary Jones stated that the parking ordinance is to be modified with regards to trailers, and then a new ordinance would be drafted to regulate pods and dumpsters.

Blake McCandless stated that reflective tape should be use instead of cones because cones may be stolen.

A discussion was held on regulating the length of time for a dumpster/pod permit and the charges. Council discussed the fines that would be imposed for non-compliance with the ordinance. Suggestions were made as to parking location of dumpsters and pods on streets.

Council will vote on the ordinance at the next meeting.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Park Pacilla stated that he recommends the Borough hire Patrick Lynch as a part-time police officer. He has interviewed Mr. Lynch and Chief Redlinger has interviewed him. They both recommend him for the position. Mr. Lynch currently works for the Sheriff's Department for the County of Washington.

Motion was made by Jeff Bull to hire Patrick Lynch as a part time officer. Motion did not receive a second.

Other Council members stated that they would like to meet Mr. Lynch before he is hired. Mr. Lynch would be invited to attend the next Council meeting.

Mayor Pacilla asked Council if it is time to consider the Borough having one garbage hauler. A discussion ensued on the issue.

Mayor Pacilla asked that Mr. Helicke inquire as to who owns the abandoned gas well on a property on Fairmont Avenue. The shed over the well is unsecured and it is a danger to the residents.

Mr. Helicke stated that he taped off the area around the shed with the well and sent a letter to the adjacent property owner to see if the well is on their property. Mr. Helicke will report on their response at the next meeting. A fence will be placed around the location.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Cary Jones stated that the statute of limitations has run out on any claim against the Borough that college student Bethany Almquist may have.

General Code

Motion was made by Jeff Bull and seconded by Blake McCandless to pay General Code the amount of \$10,550.00 for codifying the Borough ordinances up to 2006.

Vote: All Ayes. Motion carried unanimously.

Trick or Treat

Motion was made by Jeff Bull and seconded by Milton Schuler to set the Borough Trick or Treat for Tuesday, October 31, 2006, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Vote: All Ayes. Motion carried unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS

Council agreed that the Road Department would remove the sign along the Phelan's house in Coal Alley off of North Wade Avenue.

Motion was made by Jeff Bull and Blake McCandless to pay Road Department employee, Ron Miles, for 1333 hours at \$6.00 per hour, the total being \$7,998.00.

Vote: All Ayes. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

CDBG Grant

Motion was made by Jeff Bull and seconded by Blake McCandless to move forward with getting alleys paved by the City of Washington in return for the CDBG grant money that was given to the City this year.

NEW BUSINESS

Permit Parking Ordinance

Requirements for the Permits were discussed. It needs to be determined if the property owners get permits or if the renters get the permits by showing their lease. Also, the Code Enforcement Officer needs to determine the number of tenants.

Cary Jones stated that Council needs to designate the streets for permits. A permit fee needs to be established.

Council decided to revisit the Permit Parking Ordinance and vote at the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Blake McCandless and seconded by Joanne Coyle to adjourn the meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council went into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter.

Respectfully submitted,
Heather Walsh,
Borough Secretary