

**BOROUGH OF EAST WASHINGTON
COUNCIL MEETING
December 17, 2007**

MINUTES

Council of the Borough of East Washington met in Regular Session on Monday, December 17, 2007, at 6:00 p.m., with the following Members and Borough Officials present:

- Mark A. A. Pacilla, Mayor of the Borough of East Washington
- Blake E. McCandless, Borough Council President
- Joanne K. Coyle, Borough Council Vice-President
- Jeffrey D. Bull
- Marilyn A. Posner
- Milton J. Schuler
- Robert G. Dickson
- Cary Jones, Solicitor for the Borough of East Washington
- Heather Walsh, Borough Secretary
- James A. Helicke, Code Enforcement Officer
- Mark Connors, Constable

Also present: Ken Weiss, property owner of 105 Christman Avenue

Absent: Councilperson Kelley L. Dickson; Robert W. Redlinger, Borough Chief of Police

Council President, Blake E. McCandless, called the Council Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Milton J. Schuler and seconded by Marilyn A. Posner to approve the Minutes of the November 19, 2007, Borough of East Washington Council Meeting.

Vote: All Ayes. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by Milton J. Schuler and seconded by Marilyn A. Posner to approve the Minutes of the November 30, 2007, Borough of East Washington Special Meeting of Council.

Solicitor Cary Jones stated that the word “correction” in reference to the waste hauling ordinance should be changed to “amendments.”

Vote: All Ayes. Motion to approve November 30, 2007, Special Meeting minutes with the above change made carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

Motion made by Robert G. Dickson and seconded by Joanne K. Coyle to approve the current bills for payment.

Councilman Jeffrey D. Bull stated that he would like to include the following bills:

Ray Marker	\$300.00	Chains for Truck
Bull International	\$3,703.00	Leaf Machine Repairs
Custom Door Systems	\$1,879.00	Municipal Bldg. Doors
Brian Johnson Contracting	\$7,918.49	Chestnut St. Drop Repairs
Judson Wiley	\$1,735.00	Cement
Johnson Door Contracting	\$1,098.00	Garage Door

Vote: Six (6) Ayes. Motion to approve current bills and the listed additions carried unanimously.

COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE MEMBERS

Ken Weiss is owner of 105 Christman Avenue, a rental unit. With regards to the new waste hauling ordinance requirements, Mr. Weiss stated that one of his two units is presently vacant. He would like Council to consider an exemption for small rental unit owners whose units are vacant for large parts of a year and are not producing any refuse.

Marilyn Posner stated that Council could consider exemptions or refunds on a special case basis. The property owners would have to keep Council apprised of the status of their properties.

SECRETARY REPORT

Borough Secretary Heather Walsh distributed the financial reports.

STREET DEPARTMENT REPORT

Jeffrey D. Bull stated that the Borough Street Department leaf machine is fixed and will be finishing collecting the leaves.

Marilyn A. Posner stated that the new garbage hauler will take leaves in any type of bag.

Joanne K. Coyle asked Mr. Bull who is in charge of snow plowing at the Beau Street Park-n-Ride.

Jeffrey D Bull stated that the Borough Street Department is responsible for plowing the Park-n-Ride.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

No report.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT

Code Enforcement Officer James A. Helicke stated that there is a zoning issue with a property at 150 Penn Street in the Borough. The renter of the property, Scott Novak, is using the building as a halfway house, and seven non-related individuals are residing there. This is not a permitted use according to the Borough of East Washington Zoning Ordinance. The owner of the property, Robert Loranger, lives out of state. York Realty is the agent for the property.

Mr. Helicke stated that he has written a citation for violating the Borough's zoning ordinance and for not having an occupancy permit. This will go before the Magistrate in January 2008.

Cary Jones stated that there might be a license needed for the type of business that is being conducted at the location. He suggested possible further action in the Washington County Court of Common Pleas. Mr. Helicke will work with Mr. Jones on this and report back at the next meeting.

Marilyn A. Posner asked Mr. Helicke about the problems with trash pickup from the dumpsters at Jefferson Village.

James A. Helicke stated that he has sent a letter to LOBOS Management about the situation. The letter included suggestions on some solutions for the problems.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Council Vice-President Joanne K. Coyle stated that there is a Borough savings account at Washington Federal called the "Playground Account." As discussed at the last meeting, Mrs. Coyle was able to change the names on the authorized list of signers to match members of the current Council. Three members of Council will be able to sign for withdrawals from this account. The savings account was established to Mrs. Coyle made a withdrawal of \$467 to repay to the Budget 2007 playground for some additional expenses this year.

Mrs. Coyle stated that she and some other members of Council have been in touch about a list of items to apply to the Washington County Redevelopment Authority Local Share Account. The list includes: assistance in the purchase of a new dump truck, a new pick-up truck, a police car, a police department database, and a Thayer Street Playground pavilion.

Marilyn A. Posner stated that the information pamphlets regarding the new garbage pickup procedures have been sent to the Borough residents.

Mrs. Posner stated that there is a procedure that borough residents should follow for disposing of used medical syringes. Borough residents are to place the used syringes into empty plastic detergent bottles and tape them closed at the top. This will ensure safety for the trash hauling employees.

Mrs. Posner stated that Council should consider for the future a day for recycling large and unusual items like computers. The new hauler, Allied Waste, will take from residents one large item per week.

Robert G. Dickson clarified for the record that, under the new borough waste hauling ordinance, rental owners of five or more units per building could choose their own hauler. Buildings with units of four or fewer would be billed by the Borough per unit, and the garbage would be picked up by Allied Waste.

Jeffrey D. Bull stated that he has quotes of \$3,500 or \$1,198 for replacing the traffic light sensor at the intersection of Wade Avenues and East Beau Street.

Motion was made by Jeffrey D. Bull and seconded by Robert G. Dickson to purchase a sensor pad for \$1,198 from Traffic Control Systems for the intersection of East Beau Street and Wade Avenues.

Vote: All Ayes. Motion carried unanimously.

Jeffrey D. Bull stated that there should be a resolution to the situation of the Chambers Alley runoff into the property of James Craig, 443 East Beau Street. Mr. Bull thinks an engineer should review the alley and make suggestions.

Robert G. Dickson suggested that the gutter along the alley should be reopened and the Borough should maintain its right-of-way.

Jeffrey D. Bull suggested a meeting between the parties involved, and trying to come to a resolution as soon as possible.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Borough Mayor Mark A. Pacilla stated that he has volunteers from Washington & Jefferson College that will assist Councilperson Kelley L. Dickson with the 2010 Census. This should start to be organized in February.

Mayor Pacilla stated that there is construction debris remaining after work done at the corner of Sherman Avenue and East Chestnut Street.

ACTION ITEMS

Resolution for Washington Local Share Account

Motion was made by Robert G. Dickson and seconded by Milton J. Schuler to Approve the Adoption of a Resolution to Apply to the Washington County Redevelopment Authority for the Local Share Account for the following: assistance in the purchase of a new dump truck, a new pick-up truck, a police car, a police department database, and a Thayer Street Playground pavilion.

Vote: All Ayes. Motion carried unanimously.

Waste Haulers Ordinance

Solicitor Cary Jones stated that the new Borough Waste Hauler's Ordinance has been amended and was advertised, and is now ready for adoption.

Motion was made by Marilyn A. Posner and seconded by Joanne K. Coyle to adopt an Ordinance to provide for collection of solid waste and recyclables by the Borough of East Washington and collection of fees by the Borough for contracting this service and enforcement thereof.

Vote: All Ayes. Motion carried unanimously.

TEC Snow Plowing

Motion was made by Jeffrey D. Bull and seconded by Joanne K. Coyle to accept the bid of \$55 per hour from TEC for assistance in 2008 Winter snow plowing for the Borough.

Vote: All Ayes. Motion carried unanimously.

Audit 2007

Motion was made by Robert G. Dickson and seconded by Milton J. Schuler to accept the proposal and bid price of \$2,500 from Martin Ware, CPA/Clark & Company to conduct an audit of the Borough's financial data for the Year 2007.

Vote: All Ayes. Motion carried unanimously.

Budget and Tax Levy Ordinance

Solicitor Cary Jones stated that the 2008 Budget has been advertised and is ready to adopt.

Motion was made by Robert G. Dickson and seconded by Marilyn A. Posner to adopt the Budget 2008 and the Borough Tax Levy Ordinance 497 setting the tax rate for the Borough in 2008 at 28 mills.

Vote: All Ayes. Motion carried unanimously.

Animal Noise Ordinance

Motion was made by Robert G. Dickson and seconded by Milton J. Schuler to adopt a Borough Animal Noise Ordinance to include at time limit of fifteen (15) minutes of noise. If convicted of this ordinance violation, there would be a fine of \$500 or ninety (90) days in jail.

Vote: All Ayes. Motion carried unanimously.

The ordinance will be advertised to be adopted at the next regular council meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Real Estate Tax Collector

Blake E. McCandless stated that one resume was received in response to advertisement for Borough Real Estate Tax Collector.

NEW BUSINESS

Reorganization Meeting

Council will hold its biennial Reorganization Meeting on Monday, January 7, 2008, at 6:00 p.m.

Council will consider Washington Federal Savings to be the Borough depository at the Reorganization Meeting.

PSAB Elected Officials Training Seminar

Marilyn A. Posner stated that she would like to attend the PSAB newly elected officials training seminar February 1 & 2, 2008 at the Holiday Inn, Meadow Lands, Pa.

Motion was made by Jeffrey D. Bull and seconded by Robert G. Dickson to provide reimbursement of \$150 per person for any council members who would choose to attend the PSAB newly elected officials training seminar.

Vote: All Ayes. Motion carried unanimously.

Milton J. Schuler

Council President Blake E. McCandless thanked appointed member of Council, Milton J. Schuler, for his service to the Borough. The other members of Council and the Mayor offered their appreciation of his duty to the Borough for the past year.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Robert G. Dickson and seconded by Marilyn A. Posner to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

**THE NEXT MEETING OF THE BOROUGH OF EAST WASHINGTON
FOR REORGANIZATION WILL TAKE PLACE
ON MONDAY, JANUARY 7, 2008, AT 6:00 PM**

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Walsh,
Borough Secretary