

**MINUTES**  
**FOUNTAIN HILL BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**December 1, 2008**  
**7:00 P. M.**

President Rapp called the meeting to order. Pledge of Allegiance followed. Attendance as follows: Mr. Rapp, Mr. Blatt, Jr., Ms. Halleman, Ms. Gifford, Mr. Capuano, Mr. Trotter, Jr., and Mr. Grotenhuis. Others: Mayor Ned Fink, Mr. Donald Lipson, Esquire, Solicitor; Sook Choi, Finance Director; Barbara Merkle, Acting Executive Secretary; Chief of Police Timothy Stephens; Mr. Gus Entler, Public Works Supervisor; Don Sabo, Fire Marshall; Annemarie Jordan, Library Representative; Mr. Joseph Gatta, Zoning Officer; Mr. Robert Erland, St. Luke's Hospital Liaison; Bethlehem Press.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

On a Motion by Mr. Trotter and seconded by Mr. Capuano, the minutes of the November 3, 2008 Regular Council meeting were approved by unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Blatt advised of a correction to be made in the minutes of November 19, 2008. He advised that his comment was incorrectly stated. His statement should have read "Mr. Blatt was concerned that there may not be enough money in the sewer fund for the increase in 2009". The correction has been duly noted and corrected. On a Motion by Mr. Capuano and seconded by Mr. Trotter, the minutes of the November 19, 2008 Special Meeting, were approved by unanimous voice vote.

President Rapp stated that the former Mayor, Stephen Repasch was at the meeting and had some business to conduct at the meeting. Mr. Repasch took the floor and stated that the American Legion, Post 406, had their annual Veterans Day Dinner and the annual Community Service Award was bestowed to the Borough of Fountain Hill and St. Luke's Hospital which were sponsors of the 5YK Run. Senator Lisa Boscola was the speaker at the dinner and she presented to the Borough of Fountain Hill and to St. Luke's Hospital Proclamations from the State Senate. Mr. Repasch turned the floor over to Bernie Gillen, a Bacchanalia committee member. Mr. Gillen presented the Borough a \$5000.00 check for the Borough Playground.

**PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**

No comments.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Fink read the police reports. Mayor Fink read the police crime report for the month of November, 2008, pointing out the changes from the previous year monthly report. Total Crimes: 34 versus 33, an increase of 1. Part I Offenses: 11 versus 13, a decrease of 2. Part II Offenses: 23 versus 20, an increase of 3. Mayor Fink stated that the report was prepared and submitted by Investigator Matthew Schrey. Mayor Fink read the fines and

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tickets collected during the month of November 2008 totaling \$1,315.00. Mayor Fink reported that District Judge Anthony Rapp collected \$3874.53 in vehicle codes violations and fines.

## **EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT**

A motion was made by Mr. Trotter to adopt Ordinance 739-Tax Ordinance FY 2009. The motion was seconded by Ms. Gifford and passed by unanimous voice vote.

A motion was made by Mr. Blatt to adopt the 2009 Proposed Budget. The motion was seconded by Ms. Halleman and passed by unanimous voice vote. Solicitor Lipson stated that the Budget must be available for inspection for 10 days. The 2009 Budget will be available in the Borough for a ten day inspection period.

A motion was made by Mr. Capuano on the second reading of PMRS- Ordinance 748. The motion was seconded by Mr. Trotter and passed by unanimous voice vote.

A motion was made by Ms. Gifford for the second reading of the removal of the handicap sign at 1241 Russell Avenue-Ordinance 749. The motion was seconded by Mr. Grotenhuis and passed by unanimous voice vote.

A motion was made by Ms. Halleman for a curb cut at 1136 Russell Avenue. The motion was seconded by Mr. Capuano and passed by unanimous voice vote.

A motion was made to move forward with the lobby security cameras by Mr. Capuano. The motion was seconded by Mr. Trotter. President Rapp stated that the price for the cameras is \$3991.23. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

A motion was made by Ms. Gifford for a curb cut at 1402 Broadway, actually the curb cut is on Smiley Avenue. The motion was seconded by Mr. Grotenhuis and passed by unanimous voice vote.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

None

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Rapp stated that the Borough received a \$15,600.00 check from Lehigh County to pay off the Community Development Block Grant for the curb cut project. The grant is now closed.

The Safe Street Grant Application from Lehigh County has been filled out. The Borough has applied for \$50,000 for a new officer to be hired. The County will pay for the officer for the next three years. Council needs to vote to move forward with the grant application. Mr. Trotter made a motion to move forward with the grant application. The motion was seconded by Ms. Halleman. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote. A

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discussion ensued between Council Members and Chief Stephens. Chief Stephens explained the hours and duties of the new police officer.

## **SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

Attorney Lipson stated that the Dodson Street property is moving along. A survey will be done on the property. The property will be 2 different lots and must be presented to the Zoning Board.

## **FINANCE COMMITTEE'S REPORT**

Mr. Trotter, Jr. made some comments regarding the 2009 budget and said the budget is tight.

Mr. Trotter, Jr. read the Bills Payables for November 2008, for all of the funds: General Fund-\$209,591.64; Sewer Fund-\$48,648.27; Health & Sanitation Fund-\$42,268.13; Liquid Fuels Fund-\$30,000.

Mr. Trotter, Jr. moved to accept the list of Bills Payables as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Capuano. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

## **PUBLIC WORK'S COMMITTEE REPORT**

Mr. Capuano read the November 2008 report submitted by Mr. Entler. Mr. Capuano read the hours worked by the crew on the various activities listed for the month, total hours-575. Mr. Capuano explained the various tasks associated with the labor hours. Mr. Capuano also recognized the Public Works Department for the fine job that they did collecting leaves. Mr. Capuano asked Council if they would approve the hire of another Public Works employee. The Department is short one employee. Council had no objections to moving forward and advertising to hire a new Public Works employee.

## **POLICE COMMITTEE'S REPORT**

Chief Stephens advised that in January 2009 CODY training will start in the Police Department. The training will take place in the Police Department.

## **HOUSE COMMITTEE'S REPORT**

No Report

## **FIRE COMMITTEE'S REPORT**

President Rapp introduced Don Sabo as the new Borough Fire Chief, effective January 1, 2009.

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Mr. Grotenhuis would like to have a Fire Committee meeting set up and have the meeting held at the Fire House.

## **RECREATION COMMITTEE'S REPORT**

Ms. Gifford stated that the annual Christmas Tree Lighting will be held on Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 4:00PM. The Borough is going to hold its annual light contest and 3 prizes will be awarded.

## **HEALTH & SANITATION COMMITTEE**

Ms. Halleman read the Sewer and Health & Sanitation report for the month of November 2008, as follows: Garbage Current- \$7,463.84; Garbage Delinquent-\$1053.44; Recycling Containers-\$0; Grant Recycling-\$0. Total Garbage collections-\$8,517.28. Sewer Residential; Current \$8,349.30; Sewer Residential Delinquent- \$455.52; Commercial Current-\$0; Commercial Delinquent-\$1,111.74; Salisbury-\$816.53; Star Village Sewer Assessments-\$198.46; St. Luke's Hospital Pump House Reimbursement-\$13,000.00. Total Sewer collections-\$23,931.55. Grand Total-\$32,448.83.

Ms. Halleman voiced her concern regarding the amount of delinquent garbage and sewer. A discussion ensued among Council Members regarding the amount of delinquent garbage and sewer amounts and how the delinquents should be handled.

## **SPECIAL OR SELECT COMMITTEES**

NONE

## **SECOND PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**

Mr. Francis Blonar of 1136 Russell Avenue brought up the sink hole that is in front of his house. He wanted to know if Public Works inspected the sink hole. Public Works Supervisor Gus Entler advised Mr. Blonar of his findings and Mr. Capuano pointed out that Mr. Blonar directly contacted Hanover Engineering and they came out and inspected the street and a sink hole was not found.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Mr. Capuano and seconded by Ms. Gifford the meeting was adjourned. The time was 7:50 PM.