

BOROUGH OF CHURCHILL  
2300 WILLIAM PENN HIGHWAY  
PITTSBURGH, PA 15235

Minutes of Meeting

October 9, 2012

The regular monthly meeting of the Borough of Churchill was held in the Municipal Building on Tuesday, October 9, 2012 and was called to order by Robert L. Ferry at 7:30 p.m. Mr. Ferry led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance. Members present included Ms. McAbee, Mrs. Pantlik, Messrs. Lepidi, Kline, Dworin and Jurewicz. Also present were Mayor McKenna, Robert W. Goehring, Police Chief Allen Park, Daniel R. Duerring and Donna Perry.

MINUTES – There was a motion made by Mr. Jurewicz and seconded by Mr. Dworin that the minutes of the Regular Meeting held September 11, 2012 be approved as previously presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

MAYOR – There was a motion by Mr. Dworin and seconded by Mrs. Pantlik to accept the report. The motion was unanimously approved.

MANAGER & FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORTS – Mr. Robinson stated we are getting ready for winter and had to order salt today. Because of the mild winter last season, we have to complete our minimum order requirement for the 2011-12 salt contracts. Also, there are a few sewer repairs that need to be done.

He also stated there was no Fire Department report received.

There was a motion by Mr. Lepidi, seconded by Mr. Kline and unanimously approved by Voice Vote that these reports be accepted and filed.

REAL ESTATE TAX COLLECTOR – Mr. Duerring reported that real estate taxes collected at face were \$5,229.29, plus penalties of \$425.93, for a total of \$5,655.22. The balance collectable is \$42,516.76.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Mr. Duerring read the following report for the month of September, 2012. It showed the following:

| <u>CHECKING<br/>ACCOUNT</u> | <u>BEGINNING<br/>BANK<br/>BALANCE</u> | <u>RECEIPTS</u> | <u>O/S CHECKS<br/>AND<br/>DISBURSEMENTS</u> | <u>ENDING<br/>CASH<br/>BALANCES</u> |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| REGULAR ACCOUNT             | 1,220,519.59                          | 626,568.68      | 570,264.71                                  | 1,276,823.56                        |
| CAPITAL RES. ACCT.          | 158,398.50                            | 9.69            | -0-   | 158,408.19                          |

|                       |            |            |            |            |
|-----------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| ROAD & HIGHWAY        | 200,655.21 | 100,425.20 | 200,830.86 | 100,249.55 |
| SEWAGE AGENCY FUND    | 87,019.56  | 296,251.26 | 297,982.37 | 85,288.45  |
| SPECIAL ACCOUNT       | 12,477.42  | 10.46      | 5.00       | 12,482.88  |
| POLICE PENSION FUND   | 3,294.26   | 3,187.41   | 6,481.67   | -0-        |
| EMPL. PENSION FUND    | 840.76     | 840.76     | 1,681.52   | -0-        |
| WELFARE BENEFIT       | 760.73     | 80.00      | -0-        | 840.73     |
| EMPL. SEC. 457 D.C.P. | -0-        | 1,850.00   | 1,850.00   | -0-        |

There was a motion by Mr. Lepidi, seconded by Ms. McAbee and unanimously approved by Voice Vote to accept the Treasurer's Report for the month of September and have it reproduced in the minutes.

**EARNED INCOME TAX**

**DEED TRANSFER**

**DELINQUENT REAL ESTATE TAX** – Mr. Robinson reported that the Earned Income Tax Collector had collections of \$73,167.70 for the month of September.

Deed Transfer Tax collection totaled \$2,924.21 for the month of September.

There was no delinquent real estate tax collected in the month of September.

There was a motion by Ms. McAbee, seconded by Mr. Lepidi and unanimously approved that the reports be filed.

**LISTEN TO VISITORS** – Mr. George Ratliff of 2314 Forest Drive discussed the fact that if the cost to recycle is more than the value of the material being recycled, this would have a negative impact on the environment.

Mr. Jim DiPerna of 1616 Branning Road stated he, along with members of the Republican Committee, is in favor of recycling on a voluntary basis as it now stands. He believed this meeting should have been an advertised special meeting since Council will be awarding a contract in excess of a million dollars. He further stated a recycling ordinance should be in effect before the acceptance of a recycling bid. Mr. DiPerna also spoke with the Department of Environmental Protection and there is no statute to require a community with a population under 5,000 to require mandatory recycling. He also stated 31% of the population is over the age of 62 and it would be a hardship on these individuals to handle the recycling containers.

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Mr. Goehring stated that Ordinance No. 638 was enacted in 1993 and it sets forth the parameters for garbage collection. It has a general empowerment clause indicating that the Council of the Borough of Churchill, and the proper officials thereof, are authorized to advertise from time to time for bids for the collection, removal and disposal of garbage and of rubbish; and in pursuance thereof, to enter into a contract or contracts with the successful bidder or bidders, under such terms and conditions as are deemed advantageous to the said Borough and otherwise to provide for the continuous collection, removal and disposal of both garbage and rubbish from the Borough, and is authorized by the Borough Code. It also includes the terms, definitions, and intent of the Allegheny County Solid Waste Management Plan of 1990. It was his opinion that there is sufficient general power under the prior ordinance to enact an ordinance which provides for the collection of recyclables, especially since it is not a mandatory provision. An amendment at some future date can be adopted to comply with acceptance of the bid.

Dolores Patterson of the Churchill condos stated they already pay for a private hauler. Additionally, their tax dollars pay for the cost of trash removal throughout the borough. She was concerned that the residents of this unit would be charged an extra fee. She was against recycling since it is not mandated. She did, however, extend her appreciation to Council for their hard work and effort and reminded them it was their duty to listen to everyone's comments.

Mike Hills has been a resident at 35 Garden Terrace for 15 years stated he was in favor of curbside recycling.

Ed Bober of 135 Fenwick Drive stated he conducted a telephone poll of some of his neighbors on Lewin Lane and Fenwick Drive and they already voluntarily recycle. One hundred percent of the residents he spoke with were against an unnecessary expense and felt the money could be spent on other needed items in the Borough.

Melanie Henninger of 32 Churchill Road for approximately three years was absolutely in favor of curbside recycling. She has two young children, both of whom through either television or school, have been educated to recycle. She realizes this program works for some, but not for others. She felt that being a proactive community by recycling is an attraction to draw younger people/families to move into the borough.

Sharon Pedrotti of 3816 Henley Drive stated she is in favor of curbside recycling. She has been voluntarily recycling for over 20 years and finds she has more in her recycling bin than the regular trash.

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Sue Keane of 1903 Hampstead Drive is also in favor of recycling and has been doing so for many years. She sees so much waste by neighbors putting out newspapers, cardboard and other recyclables that are taking up the landfill space.

Jan Peterson of 2303 Forest Drive has been a resident since 1966 and has been voluntarily recycling since the late '70's. She was involved with a recycling program called GRIP (Group for Recycling in Pittsburgh) and also through an organization that collected recyclables at the elementary school in Churchill. Currently she takes her recyclables to Construction Junction and would appreciate having recycling in the Borough.

Judy Schryer of Collins Road has lived in borough for 45 years and she agrees with everyone who is in favor of recycling. She stated she also composts her kitchen scraps and has only one bag, if that, of garbage to place at the curb each week. She urged everyone to live in today's world.

George Schryer, who lives with Judy (above), addressed the cost effectiveness aspect of a prior speaker. He believes the ultimate reduction of the amount of trash in the landfill would be a significant overall cost of savings to the Borough.

Mrs. Rebb of Beulah Road stated if recycling costs more it should be a great concern to the residents of the Borough and she said she is not in favor of it.

Milton Gottlieb of 2310 Marbury Road noted that being elderly and on fixed income were some of the reasons cited so as not to recycle. He stated he falls into both of these categories. He and his wife have recycled for as long as he can remember. He and his wife take huge amounts of plastic to Construction Junction and it is burdensome. He stated he is in favor of recycling.

Fran Ujhazy, 25 Garden Terrace, volunteers at the monthly Woodland Hills voluntary recycling site that collects tin, aluminum and glass. She is very much in favor of recycling.

Liz James of 33 Holland Road has been here for seven years. She takes her recyclables to Pittsburgh and Construction Junction. She strongly believes in recycling and it is her understanding the amount of money that will be spent to recycle is minimal.

Sheila Mozer of 2318 Forest Drive has been a resident since 1968. She mentioned a list of names of residents that were unable to attend the meeting, but were also in favor of recycling. She believes it is the right thing to do. She also felt that if a resident can haul a garbage can to the curb, they should be able to haul a recycling can that is on wheels to the curb. She urged Council to do the right thing and choose recycling.

Pete Barron of Garrick Drive was against recycling and said that he believed it won't make a difference in the landfills if Churchill recycles or not since the community is so small.

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Rich Seman of 2320 Forest Drive said he was in attendance at his first meeting on the recycling issue and not aware of any cost issues. However, he believes in the concept of recycling and noted that the people need to be educated on this matter.

Dan Duerring spoke as the Borough Treasurer. He has been involved for approximately ten years in this capacity and cannot remember a year during the budget preparation process that we were not aware of the assessed valuation of the Borough. The unknown value of the Westinghouse property, plus other properties that are under appeal such as the Blackridge Civic Association, makes it very difficult to anticipate real estate revenue income. He suggested extending the current garbage contract, if possible, for approximately six months to see what happens with the real estate tax values.

Dorothy Gold of 2603 Saybrook Drive moved to the borough about five years ago from the Squirrel Hill section of Pittsburgh where they did recycle. She believes in recycling.

Mrs. Ruka of 51 Churchill Road is in favor of recycling and she thinks it will save money in the long run and it is good for the environment.

Joan Gottlieb of 2310 Marbury Road stated she has been involved in the garbage issue for numerous years. She stated that regardless of the outcome on the recycling vote she is thrilled to see curbside recycling coming to Churchill. She commended the "Trash Committee" for their outstanding and professional job on this issue and believes everyone owes you a big vote of thanks.

Charlene McAbee of 2005 Garrick Drive is very much opposed to recycling until we see what happens with the real estate tax revenue.

AWARD GARBAGE CONTRACT - There was a motion by Mr. Dworin, on behalf of the recommendation of the Garbage/Rubbish Committee, to adopt Resolution No. 4243 in the amount of \$1,122,393.72 for garbage, rubbish and bi-weekly recycling for the 2013-2017 garbage contract to the lowest qualified bidder who was Greenridge Waste Services LLC dba Allied Waste of Scottdale. Seasonal leaf collection is also included based on the attached fee schedule. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Pantlik. Council then engaged in discussion.

Mr. Lepidi made a point of order first and believed that Council could not vote on this issue at this time. Our current ordinance does not cover this matter nor authorize this action. He referred to the second item on the agenda which is to advertise the intent to adopt new garbage ordinance. He believed that Council has their order or business backward.

Mr. Dworin referred to the recommendation of the Solicitor.

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Mr. Jurewicz discussed the aspect of garbage removal with regard to hauling. He stated it is simple mathematics. If you reduce the amount of garbage going into the landfill it reduces tipping and hauling fees. This will have an effect on our next contract. In addition to reducing landfill trash, the more tonnage we have of recycling material we mitigate our present hauling costs through performance grant money which can be significant.

Mr. Lepidi stated we currently pay \$217,000 a year and the cost for keeping our current method of garbage collection in the first year would be \$194,866 for a savings of over \$20,000. Over a five-year period the new contract to include recycling will cost \$100,000. He is in favor of recycling, but not with a cost for a curbside recycling program. He requested that the recommendation of the Garbage/Rubbish Committee that was presented at the Workshop Meeting last night become a part of the record.

Mr. Kline stated that he doesn't believe the motion addresses the concerns of our residents and some members of Council. His number one issue is that we should not pay for recycling. He believes there should be a "pay as you throw system".

Ms. McAbee read a list of residents who could not attend the meeting tonight, but were against recycling. She could not understand why this issue was not included in the latest newsletter. She stated the dollar savings to keep our current system could be used for many other needed expenditures. She felt that it is fiscally irresponsible to pass the motion.

Mrs. Pantlik stated we are already a recycling community. Most of us rake up our leaves and put them in paper bags to be turned in to compost and returned to us in the spring. Many residents take their recyclables to Construction Junction or to the monthly recyclable collection at the Woodland Hills Administration Building. Despite these efforts the amount of trash we sent to the landfill was 1,526 tons. That translates to 3,062,000 pounds of trash that we sent to the landfill last year. The Trash Committee tried to come up with a solution to lower our trash amount. There is decreasing landfill space and ultimately our cost will be higher in the future. She believes that recycling is the way to lower our costs.

Mr. Dworin stated the commitment he made when he ran for council was to make our community a better place. One of the items he listed on a handout at the voting polls was to bring curbside recycling to Churchill. He is not a huge environmentalist, but he does recycle. The reason he is going to vote in favor of recycling is because when the next garbage contract has a large increase because we are not recycling, he doesn't want the residents to be upset because we had a chance to lower our tipping fees by reducing our landfill tonnage. He also thanked Mrs. Pantlik and Mr. Jurewicz for all the homework they did on this issue.

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Mr. Lepidi wanted to address comments that were made about the prior five-year garbage contract that he voted on. The implication is that Council passed up an opportunity to recycle last time. The difference was almost the same at \$20,000/year. Council did save the Borough \$100,000 over five years and he still felt the right decision was made at that time.

Ms. McAbee wanted to clarify a statement she made about the senior citizens. She stated Churchill is the third oldest community in Allegheny County and we have a huge senior citizen population. Many residents came here last month and felt they were unable to deal with the large bins. She stated the average person in Churchill that makes \$60,000/year and is concerned about the many people who have much lower earnings. She is also concerned that police earn \$30-40 per hour with some earning near \$100,000/year and these costs are only going to escalate. She feels a lot of residents are squeezed to the maximum.

Mr. Ferry stated all points presented by Council are very valid points.

Mr. Ferry called for a Roll Call Vote to be taken by Mr. Robinson. Mr. Lepidi questioned if the vote is based on the costs listed on the recommendation of the Trash Committee as previously presented. Mr. Ferry confirmed that it was. McAbee-No, Dworin-Yes, Jurewicz-Yes, Pantlik-Yes, Kline-No, Lepidi-No and Ferry-Yes. Motion carried by majority vote.

Mr. Lepidi also requested the list providing the costs also be posted on the website.

AUTHORIZE BOROUGH SECRETARY TO ADVERTISE INTENT TO ADOPT AN ORDINANCE – There was a motion by Mr. Jurewicz, seconded by Mr. Dworin to authorize the Borough Secretary to advertise the intent to adopt a new garbage ordinance. Mr. Lepidi asked for some discussion. He stated he will vote on this because this matter should have been proposed first. Roll Call Vote was as follows: McAbee-No, Dworin-Yes, Jurewicz-Yes, Pantlik-Yes, Kline-Yes, Lepidi-Yes and Ferry-Yes. Motion carried by majority vote.

PAY THE BILLS – Mr. Robinson read the bills for the month and they totaled \$653,686.34. There was a motion by Ms. McAbee, seconded by Mr. Dworin and unanimously approved by Roll Call Vote to adopt Resolution No. 4244 to pay the bills.

AROUND THE TABLE – Ms. McAbee stated she is looking forward to the Halloween Party for the children and to the door-to-door trick or treating.

Mayor McKenna advised that Officer Akerley was injured at Woodland Hills High School after an altercation with a student. He received seven stitches above his eye, was off work for only three days and has returned to full duty.

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He informed Halloween will be observed on Wednesday, October 31 between the hours of 6-8 pm and hopefully the Police and Fire Departments will be out.

Mr. Dworin thanked everyone for their attendance. He stated that while all of Council does not always agree on an issue he values every opinion at the table.

He stated he is happy with the vote on the recycling issue and hopes that the folks that don't value recycling will find that it is not too cumbersome. In time he hopes these residents will find the value of it.

Mr. Jurewicz also thanked everyone in attendance and for their comments. He realizes that recycling is a very difficult issue and thanked Council for the spirited debate. He stated in the next phase we will be entering the logistics and education phase. While change is difficult and habits are hard to break, we think it will take an approximate six month adjustment. Recycling will not take effect on January 1. We will try our hardest to educate everyone.

Mrs. Pantlik talked about upcoming Recreation Board events. October includes their philanthropic event which this year is Race for Pace on Saturday, October 13. A photo contest began September 1 and will run until March 1, 2013. They are asking residents to submit photo or digital prints of the Borough. The children's Halloween Party is Saturday, October 20 between 2-4 pm in the Yagle Room. A Senior Outreach Program will be conducted on Tuesday, October 30 between 2-4 pm at the Municipal Building.

Mr. Kline also thanked everyone for coming. While Mr. Kline stated he is in favor of recycling he was not pleased with the plan and believed all concerns were not addressed.

Mr. Lepidi thanked everyone for coming and expressing their concerns. He wanted to make some comments and did not want anyone on Council to take them personally. He doesn't believe there was a good process followed on the recycling issue. He also thought the Committee was not objective and open-minded. Through the whole decision-making process he requested if it could be proved that recycling would not have a cost to our taxpayers and he would vote for it. He stated he has always been in favor of the pay as you throw process. He felt that Council should have been given more notice from the Committee of what the intended vote was going to be.

Mr. Ferry stated this was not an easy issue from both sides. He stated he sees it as an environmental need and a responsibility of the community. He is excited about having the service and it will cost money. Over time as the recycling amount increases the cost will decrease for garbage removal. He felt recycling is a good service at a reasonable cost and, yes, as a government we do tax people for the service we provide. Controversial issues have been decided in the past such as getting rid of the deer. Many people were against it and didn't want their money



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spent on it, but it was done. We felt it was needed and what was best for the community. We feel recycling will make the Borough a stronger community. He expressed sorrow that everyone was not pleased with the decision.

ADJOURN – There was a motion duly made and seconded to adjourn the meeting until Monday, November 12, 2012 at 7:00 pm.

CRAIG A. ROBINSON  
SECRETARY