

**BOROUGH OF CHURCHILL  
2300 WILLIAM PENN HIGHWAY  
PITTSBURGH, PA 15235**

Minutes of Meeting

November 12, 2013

The regular monthly meeting of the Borough of Churchill was held in the Municipal Building on Tuesday, November 12, 2013 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 include Mrs. Pantlik, Messrs. Lepidi, Kline, Jurewicz, Dworin and Ms McAbee (late arrival 8:25pm). Also present were Mayor McKenna, Police Chief Park, and Donna Perry. Mr. Duerring was absent.

MINUTES – There was a motion made by Mr. Lepidi and seconded by Mrs. Pantlik that the minutes of the Regular Meeting held October 8, 2013 be approved as previously presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

MAYOR – Mr. Lepidi questioned Chief Park about an incident that occurred in Blackridge on Halloween night. The Chief replied that a group of people were asked to leave.

There was a motion by Mr. Jurewicz and seconded by Mr. Dworin to accept the report. The motion was unanimously approved.

MANAGER & FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORTS – Mr. Robinson stated the Fire Department responded to 21 alarms for the month of October and the year-to-date total is 161. There were many accidents on the Parkway, but there were no significant alarms within the Borough. The Fire Department had a busy month with participation in the high school homecoming parade, the Race for Pace, talks at Beulah pre-school, and they were out patrolling on Halloween night. October was fire prevention month.

On the Manager's side, he reported we had our first snowfall last night.

Leaf pick-up will be extended for an extra Monday through November 18. After this date, any bags of leaves will be collected by the road crew.

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

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REAL ESTATE TAX COLLECTOR – Mr. Robinson reported that the taxes collected at face for the month of October were \$18,210.78 plus penalties of \$625.60 for a total of \$18,836.38. The balance collectable is \$48,755.

TREASURER’S REPORT – Mr. Robinson read the following report for the month of October, 2013. It showed the following:

<u>CHECKING ACCOUNT</u>	<u>BEGINNING BANK BALANCE</u>	<u>RECEIPTS</u>	<u>O/S CHECKS AND DISBURSEMENTS</u>	<u>ENDING CASH BALANCES</u>
REGULAR ACCOUNT	862,131.55	506,781.24	827,651.39	541,261.40
CAPITAL RES. ACCT.	158,511.73	6.73	-0-	158,518.46
ROAD & HIGHWAY	123,426.93	5.20	-0-	123,432.13
SEWAGE AGENCY	64,089.18	206,527.52	167,357.56	103,259.14
SPECIAL ACCT.	12,377.71	400.31	425.00	12,353.02
POLICE PENSION FUND	-0-	189,274.75	189,274.75	-0-
EMPL. PENSION FUND	-0-	35,113.36	35,113.36	-0-
WELFARE BENEFIT	1,210.73	-0-	-0-	1,210.73
EMPL. SEC. 457 D.C.P.	-0-	2,500.00	2,500.00	-0-

There was a motion by Mr. Lepidi, seconded by Mrs. Pantlik and unanimously approved by Voice Vote to accept the Tax Collector’s Report and Treasurer’s Report for the month of October 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 \$32,643.14 for the month of October.

Deed Transfer Tax collection totaled \$7,736.36 for the month of October.

Jordan Tax Service collected \$3,919.13 in delinquent Real Estate Taxes.

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There was a motion by Mr. Dworin, seconded by Mr. Jurewicz and unanimously approved that the reports be filed.

LISTEN TO VISITORS – Mrs. Penny McKenna of 24 Holland Drive stated she works at the voting polls and informed that some of the residents who were recently voting addressed the problems that deer are causing. She urged them to come to the Council meeting to voice their concerns.

She thanked the outgoing Council Members and the newly elected officials for all their work.

Kevin Collins of 307 Homer Drive, a newly elected member of Council who will be taking office in January, stated he is looking forward to serving.

Moni Wesner of 3844 Henley Drive thanked Mr. Jurewicz for keeping his campaign promise to bring recycling to Churchill.

She had two suggestions. The first was to educate the residents on how to discard of cardboard boxes.

Secondly, she talked about the former Citizen of the Year award. She has two neighbors on Burnaby Drive that she would like to nominate for this type of award, Linda Taylor and Penny Strauss, who have faithfully kept the feral cat problem under control by capturing them and doing what was necessary to have them neutered and getting them adopted. Mayor McKenna said the award was presented through the former Progress Newspaper and is no longer in existence.

Mrs. Wesner also discussed the unsightly property across the street from her that has been under renovation for two years. She asked what has been done to monitor the progress. Mr. Ferry said he drives past this house everyday and the Borough is doing everything it can within legal limits.

Mr. Rick Banas of 324 Homer Drive stated there is a drug problem that exists on his street. He said many neighbors are also aware of the problem, but are afraid to come forward. Chief Park informed the Police Department is aware of the problem and have had extra patrols in the area. Arrests were made last month and Churchill will continue to watch the situation. The case is in the hands of the Drug Enforcement Agency.

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2014 POLICE PENSION CONTRIBUTION RATE – There was a motion by Mr. Kline, seconded by Mr. Jurewicz and unanimously approved by Roll Call Vote for the adoption of Resolution 4283 to set the 2014 Police Pension contribution rate at 5%.

FIRST READING OF THE 2014 PROPOSED BUDGET – Mr. Lepidi read the first reading of the Proposed 2014 Budget. It showed anticipated revenues of \$2,342,682 and expenditures of \$2,414,452. Mr. Ferry discussed the assessment reduction of the Westinghouse property which created a significant loss of real estate tax revenue for the Borough. The proposed budget includes a one mil rate increase from 4.23 to 5.23. Council has also included a reduction of one police officer from the force.

Mr. Lepidi noted that even with a one officer reduction, the Borough still has a police force of nine officers for a Borough with a population of 3,000 people. He commented that looking at the ratio comparison it is high. We would still be providing one officer on each shift and two officers at peak times. This would still maintain the Resource Officer at the high school for which the Borough receives compensation. We are dealing with a shrinking tax base with the reduction of commercial property. One long term benefit of reducing the police force is that the savings will grow in the future since termination expenses such as the unemployment compensation benefit will only be for one year. Also, pension benefit contributions will be reduced in the long-term.

As an opposing view, Mr. Jurewicz stated it's one thing to look at police and population, but we have to look at the number of homes we have and the miles of road the police have to patrol. Perhaps the residents would be willing to pay a little more to have more security than we possibly need. All issues are being considered by Council.

Mr. Lepidi further noted that in addition to a possible millage increase, residents currently have two additional fees including the sewer surcharge and garbage fees.

FIRST READING OF THE 2014 SEWER BUDGET – Mr. Lepidi read the 2014 Sewer Budget. It showed anticipated revenue of \$825,560 and expenditures of \$796,510. He also informed that a letter was received from Alcosan regarding their rates increases. Residents will be assessed a 17% increase in 2014 and 11% each year thereafter through 2017.

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ADVERTISE THE 2014 PROPOSED BUDGET IS AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION – There was a motion by Mr. Lepidi, seconded by Ms. McAbee and unanimously approved by Roll Call Vote that the 2014 Proposed Budget will be available for inspection at the Municipal Building.

ADVERTISE INTENT TO ADOPT AN ORDINANCE TO SET THE 2014 MILLAGE RATE – There was a motion by Mr. Lepidi, seconded by Mr. Pantlik and unanimously approved by Roll Call Vote to advertise the intent to adopt an ordinance to set the 2014 millage rate.

SUMMARY OF THE WORKSHOP MEETING MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2014 – Mr. Ferry stated that Council will continue to gather information to formulate the 2014 budget. We had a meeting with the Police Chief.

Council had a request from a resident to install a stop sign on Churchill Road at Rose Drive. This is a County road. The biggest problem appears to be cars speeding and the police have been monitoring this area. If we were to install a stop sign, a study would have to be done to present to the County at an approximate cost of \$2,500. The outcome of the study would be looking at accidents occurring at this site, which we don't feel would be supported. The resident at this home appears to be having an issue with motorists speeding, coupled with blind spots coming out of the driveway. We could investigate a possible alternative to this situation, but Council doesn't feel installing a stop sign will resolve this matter.

Solicitor Robb gave an update on Churchill Valley Country Club. Zokaites, the group that bought the PNC mortgage, has been given possession of the Country Club. They were directed to winterize it and maintain it. They were also given the right to file a motion to sell it.

PAY THE BILLS – Mr. Robinson read the bills for the month and they totaled \$210,367.18. There was a motion by Mr. Dworin, seconded by Ms. McAbee and unanimously approved by Roll Call Vote for the adoption of Resolution No. 4284 to pay the bills.

AROUND THE TABLE – Mr. Jurewicz assured that the listing of property maintenance issues/violations are monitored regularly.

He belatedly congratulated and thanked Police Chief Park and Assistant Chief Kujava for their years of service to the Borough.

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He thanked E-loop, Mr. Robinson and Mr. Zatlin for the electronic recycling event that was recently held.

A belated thank you was extended to Dr. Hilary Tindle for the first health series talk that we held about being optimistic. The second health talk series, Eat Like a Mediterranean, is scheduled for November 23 at the Forest Hills Lodge. A Giant Eagle dietician will be the speaker.

He thanked everyone that participated in the recent election race and congratulated the newly elected officials.

Mr. Dworin congratulated the successful election candidates.

With regard to property maintenance issues, he stated there had been discussion about reviewing and possibly updating the current building code ordinance. He would like to see Council proceed with the progression on this matter.

Mr. Dworin addressed the house on Homer Drive with the drug issue. He volunteered, and was sure other Council Members would oblige, to talk to some of the residents who are reluctant or are afraid to call the police when they believe there is illegal activity occurring. It is important to report this at the time it is occurring.

He commented that as budget preparation is done, it is a balancing act and difficult choices have to be made. Whatever tough choices are made, the entire process is done with the best interests of the Borough.

Lastly, he favors the idea of a Citizen of the Year award and would like to pursue this further.

Mayor McKenna reported that Chief Park had a head-on collision with a deer on Churchill Road.

He thanked all the individuals who ran for Council and stated it was refreshing to see so many candidates in the race.

Dave Riehl, an unsuccessful Council candidate, was in the audience and the Mayor encouraged him to stay involved.

Mrs. McAbee thanked everyone who participated in the recent election.

She apologized for being late this evening since she had a conflict with another meeting that was held downtown and had a note of information for everyone. With regard to your tax dollars, it was divulged that the Allegheny County Public Defender's Office only had one supervisor

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for 45 attorneys and some of the Public Defender's were showing up in court intoxicated. They now have three supervisors and are in the process of cleaning up the office.

Mr. Lepidi welcomed all the newly elected officials. He further commended them on their efforts throughout the year for attending Workshop and Business Meetings. He also included Mr. Riehl in this group. He felt this was the most up-to-speed group Council has had in a long time, especially since there are so many brand new members.

On the sewage issue, he attended the Three Rivers Wet Weather conference in October. This is a non-profit group that watches over and advises municipalities. Allegheny County Executive Mr. Fitzgerald addressed the group and stated this is a very serious problem. We have up to 40 days per year where the rivers are too polluted to safely swim. There was a triathlon event that was held and several of the swimmers became sick from the water. There is simply too much storm water that infiltrates the system. The solution is not easy or inexpensive.

While this was Mr. Ferry's next to last meeting, he thanked Mr. Ferry for all his years of service on Council. He was especially thankful for all his involvement with the pension matters.

Mr. Ferry congratulated all the candidates.

ADJOURN – A motion was made and duly seconded to adjourn until Monday, December 9, 2013.

CRAIG A. ROBINSON  
BOROUGH SECRETARY