

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

**Minutes of Meeting**

**December 13, 2011**

The regular monthly meeting of the Borough of Churchill was held in the Municipal Building on Tuesday, December 13, 2011 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 Mrs. Mozer, Ms. McAbee, Messrs. Lepidi, Farrell, Kline and Dworin. Also present were Mayor McKenna, Robert W. Goehring and Police Chief Park.

**WORKSHOP MINUTES** – There was a motion made by Mr. Kline and seconded by Mr. Dworin that the minutes of the Workshop Meeting held November 7, 2011 be approved as previously presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

**REGULAR MINUTES** – There was a motion by Ms. McAbee and seconded by Mrs. Mozer that the minutes of the Regular Meeting held November 8, 2011 be approved as previously presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

**MAYOR PROCLAMATIONS** – Mr. Ferry diverted from the regular order of business to honor two of our Councilpersons that will be ending their terms at the end of the year. They are Mr. Richard Farrell who has served more than thirty years, with a few lapses in that time, plus Mrs. Sheila Mozer who will be completing her first term. Both have worked diligently for the community and he thanked them for their service to the community.

Mayor McKenna read individual proclamations to Mr. Farrell and Mrs. Mozer.

Mr. Farrell wanted to extend a thank you to some people and he wanted to recall some of the nice, non-political things in the Borough. He recognized the beauty of the Churchill Commons lots that were created by the Mayor and his volunteers at little cost to the community. He thanked Sheila Mozer and Bob Ferry for organizing the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration. They have worked hard to instill pride and a sense of community in the Borough. He thanked the voters for the opportunity to serve. He further thanked the office staff of Sandy and Donna for all their efforts and always being so helpful whenever he needed anything. He stated that Craig Robinson is doing a great job as Borough Manager. He noted that Ralph Zatlin was always helpful and you could find him traveling the Borough to make sure everything was in order. He always appreciated the advice and service of the Borough Solicitor, Bob Goehring. He recognized Chief Park as

December 13, 2011

always being professional, tough but fair, and always dedicated to the Police Department. He also recognized the efforts of the Fire Department. He and his family had to have their service a few times throughout the years and he appreciated the fact they were there in his time of need. He thanked and appreciated Bob Ferry's leadership as Council President and wished well to all his fellow councilmen. He said he always found his time on Council as interesting, challenging, and rewarding. Last, but not least, he thanked his wife for her support during the time he served.

Mrs. Mozer thanked everyone who has volunteered to make Churchill the special community it is. Those volunteers would include the firemen, Council, all members who helped plan the 75th Anniversary celebration, volunteers that help make Bullock Pens Park a nice area to visit, and the Recreation Board members. She recognized the Book Club members. This group has established itself as a continuing means for people to come together. She has been involved in politics since a junior in college. She said she attended the late president, John F. Kennedy's inauguration, and recalled his words as a motto to live by "ask not what your country can do for you - ask what you can do for your country". She was glad to have had the opportunity to serve the community.

SECOND READING – 2012 PROPOSED BUDGET – Mr. Ferry announced that the regular meeting would be recessed to hold a Public Hearing on the proposed 2012 Budget.

PUBLIC HEARING

Mr. Farrell read the proposed 2012 Budget Statement. The amounts appropriated for various functions were as follows:

<b>A.</b>	<b><u>NET ANNUAL REVENUES</u></b>	
	1. Real Estate Tax – Current Prior and Liened	1,340,591
	2. Earned Income Tax	460,000
	3. Real Estate Transfer Tax	25,000
	4. Local Services Tax	50,000
	5. Misc. Sources (Fines, Permits, Interest, Etc.)	163,050
	6. Liquid Fuels Tax Reimbursement (State)	69,525
	7. Grants, Gifts, Transfers, Contributions	<u>200,836</u>
	<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>2,309,002</b>
<b>B.</b>	<b><u>EXPENDITURES</u></b>	
	1. Payroll	1,024,683
	2. Employee Fringe Benefits	520,971
	3. Compensation – (Auditors, Tax Collectors)	8,500

4. Debt Service	11,000
5. Operating Expenses & Supplies	156,125
6. Garbage & Rubbish Collection	251,645
7. Snow & Ice Control	100,000
8. Maintenance – Streets, Sewers, Building, Cars, Parks, Radios, Traffic Signals	175,270
9. Professional Services	47,500
10. Rentals – Sewers, Hydrants, Street Lights	20,400
11. Police Cars & Equipment; Fire Truck	0
12. Contributions – Fire Co., Ambulance, COG	15,500
13. Capital Outlays (One-Time)	<u>143,000</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	2,474,594
EXCESS EXPENDITURES OVER REVENUE	(165,592)

Mr. Farrell stated the deficit would be covered by the cash carryover from 2011.

Mr. Ferry stated the budget reflects no millage increase. He explained the funds that comprise our operating budget. He also noted that the previously read budget had reduced the police force by one, but the budget that will be acted upon tonight reinstated the police force back to ten members.

Mr. Lepidi stated that our tax base has been flat lined for the past five years. Our revenues are almost totally dependent upon the real estate tax and earned income tax collection. He said we have to be very careful in controlling our expenditures now and in the future.

Mr. Kline felt the budget doesn't go far enough to control health care costs and noted that the employees do not contribute to the cost.

There was a contingent of people that included students, faculty and a school board member from the Woodland Hills School District who spoke in favor of keeping Officer Stephen Shaulis as the Resource Officer at the High School.

Mr. DiPerna of Branning Road stated he was at the meeting on behalf of the Republican Committee to offer comments about the budget. First, however, he offered the Republican Committee's congratulations and admiration to Mrs. Mozer and Mr. Farrell for their years of community service.

He requested that Council use the budget format of account numbers that is outlined in the Pa Borough Code. He also stated with a substantial surplus of approximately \$450,000 that streets in the borough need paved, specifically his street of Branning, plus Holland, Hampstead and Marbury. He also suggested changing the composition of the police force by hiring young, temporary police as our older men retire.

He further suggested that there should be a line item in the budget for the Recreation Board and Mr. Ferry did advise him that there is a budget line item.

December 13, 2011

2012 BUDGET ADOPTION – There was a motion by Mr. Dworin and seconded by Mr. Farrell for the adoption of Resolution No. 4217 to approve the 2012 budget. Roll Call Vote was as follows: Mozer-Yes, McAbee-Yes, Dworin-Yes, Kline-No, Farrell-Yes, Lepidi-No and Ferry-Yes. The budget was passed by majority vote.

TAX LEVY ORDINANCE – There was a motion by Mr. Farrell, seconded by Mrs. Mozer and unanimously approved by Roll Call Vote for the adoption of Ordinance No. 714 setting the 2012 millage rate at 5.75.

END OF PUBLIC HEARING

RE-OPEN REGULAR MEETING – Mr. Ferry declared the regular meeting reconvened for business.

MAYOR – There was a motion by Mr. Lepidi, seconded by Mrs. Mozer to accept the report. The motion was unanimously approved.

MANAGER & FIRE DEPARTMENT – There was a motion by Mr. Lepidi, seconded by Ms. McAbee and unanimously and unanimously approved by Voice Vote that the reports be accepted and filed as presented.

TREASURER’S REPORT – Mr. Robinson read the following report for the month of November, 2011. 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	780,283.84	310,938.47	362,893.88	728,328.43
CAPITAL RES. ACCT.	158,285.08	13.01	-0-	158,298.09
ROAD & HIGHWAY	141,805.97	11.58	-0-	141,817.55
SEWAGE AGENCY FUND	20,954.85	58,400.12	63,014.87	16,340.10
SPECIAL ACCOUNT	14,330.92	60.77	30.00	14,361.69

POLICE PENSION FUND	3,226.65	3,382.55	6,609.20	-0-
EMPL. PENSION FUND	840.76	840.76	1,681.52	-0-
WELFARE BENEFIT	490.73	-0-	-0-	490.73
EMPL. SEC. 457 D.C.P.	-0-	1,850.00	1,850.00	-0-

December 13, 2011

**REAL ESTATE TAX COLLECTOR** – Mr. Robinson reported that the amount of real estate taxes at face for the month of November was \$3,751.31, plus penalties of \$375.14 for a total of \$4,126.45. The balance collectable is \$38,983.28.

There was a motion by Mr. Lepidi, seconded by Mr. Farrell and unanimously approved by Voice Vote to accept the Tax Collector’s Report and Treasurer’s Report for the month of November 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, Pennsylvania Municipal Service Co., reported the collection of \$39,030.65 for the month of November.

Deed Transfer Tax collection totaled \$31,533.17 for the month of November.

Jordan Tax Service collected delinquent real tax in the amount of \$2,013.98 for the month of November.

There was a motion by Mrs. Mozer, seconded by Mr. Kline and unanimously approved that the reports be filed.

**LISTEN TO VISITORS** – Mr. Mozer of Forest Drive stated he was there to honor both his wife and Mr. Farrell for their years of service. He stated he was always impressed on how well Council has worked together. He was also there to support the Police Department.

He stated that he disagreed with Mr. Lepidi that taxes are a bad thing. He said they aren’t bad and this is what provides us with a safe place to live, safe roads to drive on, safe water to drink, and hopefully clean air. He stated he would be willing to pay a higher millage rate if it meant an improvement in the quality of life in our community.

Mr. DiPerna of Branning Road, once again on behalf of the Republican Committee, requested that the minutes of the meeting be placed on the website as soon as possible after the meeting, along with the agenda.

**ADVERTISE 2012 MEETING DATES** – There was a motion by Ms. McAbee, seconded by Mr. Dworin and unanimously approved by Roll Call Vote to authorize the Borough Secretary to advertise the 2012 meeting dates.

**December 13, 2011**

**RE-APPOINT TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION** – There was a motion by Mr. Kline, seconded by Mr. Farrell and unanimously approved by Roll Call Vote for the adoption of Resolution No. 4218 to re-appoint Megan Harmon to the Planning Commission for a five-year term to end December 31, 2016.

**RE-APPOINT 1<sup>ST</sup> DEPUTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR** – There was a motion by Mrs. Mozer, seconded by Mr. Dworin and unanimously approved by Roll Call Vote for the adoption of Resolution No. 4219 to re-appoint Ralph Zatlin as the 1<sup>st</sup> Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator for a two-year term to end December 31, 2013.

**RE-APPOINT EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR** – There was a motion by Mrs. Mozer, seconded by Ms. McAbee and unanimously approved by Roll Call Vote for the adoption of Resolution No. 4220 to re-appoint Roch Kujava as an Emergency Management Coordinator for a two-year term to end December 31, 2013.

**APPROVE A TAX ANTICIPATION NOTE** – There was a motion by Mr. Dworin, seconded by Ms. McAbee and unanimously approved by Roll Call Vote for the adoption of Resolution No. 4221 for the borrowing of a tax anticipation note.

**PAY THE BILLS** – Mr. Robinson read the bills for the month and they totaled \$634,251.57. There was a motion by Mrs. Mozer, seconded by Mr. Lepidi and unanimously approved by Roll Call Vote for the adoption of Resolution No. 4222 to pay the bills.

**AROUND THE TABLE** – Mrs. Mozer stated her time on Council has been a learning experience and she has really enjoyed it, even at times when there have philosophical differences.

Mayor McKenna thanked Mrs. Mozer and Mr. Farrell for their service. He stated he didn't think there was more of an A-political council than Churchill. Everyone has always worked well together.

Ms. McAbee suggested we have the listen to visitors segment at the end of the meeting so they wouldn't leave right after they make their comments.

**December 13, 2011**

Mr. Dworin thanked Mrs. Mozer and Mr. Farrell for their service. He also concurred with the fact of how well Council works together considering some stories he has heard about other Councils and the bickering that happens. He also wished everyone happy holidays.

Mr. Kline thanked Mrs. Mozer and Mr. Farrell for their service as well. It was actually Mr. Farrell that encouraged him to serve on Council.

In a rare occasion that the Mayor actually gets to vote, Mr. Farrell thanked him for his tie-breaking vote many years ago that re-elected him Council President.

Mr. Robinson thanked of all of his staff members, including the road crew for their past year of service. He also informed that after ten years of being Fire Chief he has stepped down and Ralph Zatlin is the new Fire Chief. He thanked Council for their support and congratulated Mrs. Mozer and Mr. Farrell for all their years of service.

In the absence of his father, Robert W. Goehring, Rob Goehring thanked Mrs. Mozer and Mr. Farrell for all their years of service. He always compliments you on how well the Borough operates.

Mr. Lepidi stated he plans to retire from his job next year and would like to stay in Churchill. He stated as you look around at various boroughs what drives them down is when taxes increase and the people that can afford to move do so and you get a steady deterioration in the community. He clarified Mr. Mozer's comment about him saying taxes are a bad thing. He never said they are bad stated. He did say that the power to tax is the power to forcibly take money from people. The people have no choice after Council votes. Taxes can be a good thing when they're in balance. We are a shrinking borough and our tax base is flat. We will have to make tough decisions and have things in balance. We need

**to negotiate a good police contract and employees have to share in the burden of increased costs, namely health care.**

**He wanted to thank Mrs. Mozer and Mr. Farrell for all of their time to make this community a better place. They are truly public servants.**

**Mr. Ferry also thanked Mrs. Mozer and Mr. Farrell for their service.**

**He stated he appreciates the civility of everyone voicing their opinions and being able to make good decisions.**

**ADJOURN – Mr. Ferry adjourned the meeting.**

**CRAIG A. ROBINSON  
BOROUGH SECRETARY**