

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
Of the
BOROUGH OF CARNEGIE
NOVEMBER 9, 2009

President Sarsfield opened the meeting.

Councilman Catena accepted the resignation of Vera Freshwater and made a motion to appoint Richard D'Loss as new Council Member. Roll Call Vote: UNANIMOUS. MOTION CARRIED.

Council President Sarsfield swore in Richard D'Loss as Councilman to replace Vera Freshwater who resigned.

Roll Call

PRESENT: Councilwomen Demko, Covi, Councilmen Sarsfield, Catena, D'Loss, Mayor Freshwater, Chief Harbin, Manager Brady and Solicitor Lucas.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON MOTIONS

No public comment on MOTIONS.

President Sarsfield made a brief comment on the Carnegie Towers stating that he and Councilman Catena met with the new owners of Carnegie Towers and said that they have the best interest of the residents of the towers and all of ours at heart. They are installing the highest quality of surveillance equipment and doing background checks on every tenant in the building both financially and criminally. There have been tenants that have been removed since the new ownership has taken over. Mr. Sarsfield said he is looking for this building to be much improved since the new ownership has taken over. The liable rent for tenants living there has been increased which will inance the general population there. The Salvation Army and the Allegheny County's Support Team continue to provide programming for the tenants. The Council will continue to meet with the owners of the Towers on a regular basis and they will update Council, then Council can inform the residents of the progress.

ADMINISTRATION

MOTION by Ms.Covi to approve the October 12, 2009 Council Meeting Minutes. SECOND by Ms. Demko. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Ms.Covi to approve the November 2009 invoices. SECOND by Mrs. Demko. Roll Call Vote: UNANIMOUS

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CODE ENFORCEMENT

MOTION by Mr. D’Loss to approve a curb cut at 429 Robert Street. SECOND by Ms. Covi. MOTION CARRIED.

PUBLIC SAFETY

MOTION by Mr. Catena to Ordinance No. 2023, an Ordinance of the Borough of Carnegie creating a Handicapped Parking Space near 318 California Avenue. SECOND by Mrs. Demko. Roll Call Vote: Sarsfield –Yes, Catena-Yes, Demko-Yes, D’Loss-Yes, Covi-Abstained. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Mr. Catena to approve Ordinance No. 2318, amending the Borough Code of Ordinances, Chapter 15, Section 205, to impose a 2-hour parking limit restriction (Monday-Friday) between 8:00 AM and 4:00 PM) for all vehicles except those of 5th Avenue, between Doolittle Street and Margareta Street. SECOND by Ms. Covi. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Mr. Catena to allow the Carnegie Volunteer Fire Department to use eight (8) parking spaces for the annual sale of Christmas Trees in the West Main parking lot. SECOND by Mrs. Demko. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Mr. Catena to advertise Ordinance No. 2009-25, an Ordinance of the Borough of Carnegie creating a Handicapped Parking Space near 315 Justus Avenue. SECOND by Ms. Covi. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Mr. Catena to advertise Ordinance No. 2024 Ordinance of the Borough of Carnegie creating a handicapped parking space near 110 Hill Avenue. SECOND by Mrs. Demko. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Mr. Catena to advertise Ordinance No. 2024 an Ordinance of the Borough of Carnegie prohibiting parking on the Southside of Diamond Alley between 4th Street and 5th Street. SECOND by Mrs. Demko. MOTION CARRIED.

REPORTS

Borough Manager Brady said that the Borough has launched a Google group for the 3rd Street Streetscape Project and can be accessed and is opened to the public. She is asking residents to participate in different items that they would like to see on 3rd Street whether it be plantings or sidewalk reconstruction. Residents can get on the Carnegie Borough website and get on the Google group.

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Carnegie Borough has been in the media lately regarding the Sewage and the Borough has worked with a lot of residents and has collected \$90,000.00 in delinquent sewage this month which is outstanding for the Borough. Some of the residents have been set up on formalized payment plans where the Borough can expect payments from residents over a four month period or longer due to economic circumstances or medical reasons.

If any residents have any questions regarding this they can call the Borough Manager direct on extension 6 or on the extension 1800 line. Many residents are stating that they are not receiving call backs when leaving a message on the 1800 line but that line has been getting up to 50 voice mails a day. If a resident wants to find out their balance they can call the water company direct. The Borough Manager welcomes feedback from residents anytime.

SOLICITORS REPORT

No Solicitor's Report.

MAYOR'S REPORT

For the month of October there were 43 criminal arrests and/or citations, 95 traffic citations, 154 parking tickets and 169 complaints. Mayor Freshwater stated that whenever possible please shop in Carnegie and show your support for the businesses in town. Also, he wishes and salutes all of his fellow Veterans past and present this Wednesday on Veteran's Day. He also added that anyone who is fortunate enough to still have their mother's alive to please treat her with the love and respect she deserves and wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Maggie Forbes with the Andrew Carnegie Free Library and Music Hall commented on how the Library keeps getting better and better and how beautiful it looks with its new seats in the Music Hall and also she would like to see people come out for the production of The Titanic. She also commented that to see 253 hundred people fill the seats on a Sunday afternoon is a complete turn around then in the past. Statistically one half of the residents have library cards but every resident should have them. She stated that they need more increased Borough support to keep doing what they are doing so well.

Jack Kobistek from 252 Marshall Avenue commented that the Streetscape Project a great idea in Google but a lot of the residents in Carnegie do not own computers so he proposed that he would like to have a meeting with Council and the public at Phil's Gallery and talk about the Streetscape Project. Also he would like to have a

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comprehensive plan developed that includes cleaning up some of the property in Irishtown and façades on Main Street to make it a phase 1,2, and 3 and the Borough can raise additional money but feels the Borough needs to have a meeting on this so people can share their ideas. Mr. Kobistek said he will do whatever he can to get Phil's building to hold the meeting. Also,he mentioned in addition to the programs at Carnegie Towers, there are programs at the Carnegie Free Library which run an Outreach program with story time and craft time for the children and the Carlynton School District also has a Community tutoring Program open to every child in the district in the elementary school. He also complimented the Council and Borough Manager for all the work they have done with meeting with the owners of the Carnegie Towers and how the Council can build a better relationship with them then in the past.

Mr. Sarsfield congratulated Jack on becoming the new Mayor.

Mr. Sarsfield also stated that he and Mrs. Demko and Ms. Brady have attended seminars on putting together a comprehensive plan for the Borough and Council is moving ahead on that. He stated that the training will also help us to obtain some grants and funding. Council is also open for suggestions.

Mr. Kobistek said that this would be a little bit different than the comprehensive plan for the Borough. It would be more like a streets sink project where we already have some money in and have a written grant for that area and have a 1,2 or 3 phase on that especially Irishtown which is still recovering from the flood. They have to many vacant and nuisance properties down there any maybe Council can create something that will just piggyback off the streetscape then it can create a whole comprehensive plan for the Borough.

Mr. Sarsfield said that in doing the streetscape project the Council will be putting together the comprehensive plan.

Ms. Brady added that we are working with a group of Carnegie Mellon students on a few different projects in the Borough. Leigh White is working on vacant properties and strategic planning around investment on that end and the second group of students are working with Borough staff to analyze our information technology system to streamline and update and the third group is working on the streetscape project at no cost to the Borough but implementation may come with a cost which will be Council's decision. When Council has a final copy at the middle of December it will available for the public to review as well.

Mr. Kobistek said that he has worked with a lot of Carnegie Mellon students also but he thinks it is important to include the residents as well. Ms. Brady agreed. Mr. Sarsfield said that the Council had a Community meeting at Phil's place last October and Mr.

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Kobistek said he was also there along with Tim Murphy but since it was a while back and a lot of people have forgotten about it and their discussion about the telephone poles. Now it is about the roads and he would like to stay on top of it.

Ms. Covi asked Jack if he would keep her updated on what goes on at the fields since she can't get in the fields and they had a discussion at the Library about getting a ring since she loves being involved with the project.

Dan Morgado resident at the Carnegie Towers says the Towers has changed and it's like being in a different place altogether. The new owners are now professionals. He says there are now 3 armed police officers walking around the building every day. He has been living there for 24 years and has not seen the building in that great of shape. He hopes by spring it will become a whole new place.

Bob Veres from Huron Drive congratulated all the candidates that won on Tuesday and said that this is the best looking council he's seen since he's been in Carnegie.

Mr. Sarsfield commented that shortly he will be part of the Council in January.

Mayor Freshwater remarked to him "What was the matter with the last Council"?

Mr. Veres said everything with the exception of Emmett.

Mr. Veres gave an update on the fire on Huron Drive. He said one of his neighbors came to his house to inform him of a fire in the back woods of his house and about 200 residents were out there with hoses because the fire department hadn't come yet and the fire was spreading quickly. He said a couple of sheds burned and came about 90 feet of the residents homes and some of the flames were 50 feet high. He said seven different fire departments were there with around 80 to 100 firemen who did an excellent job of putting the fire out. He said the Salvation Army and Red Cross were there also along with ambulances and police departments. He congratulated all the neighbors for their response to the fire.

Steve Wilson said regarding Ordinance No. 2288 that says his water bill said that the sewer increase was due to a Federal/State mandate. He called Congressman Murphy's office but got no response. Solicitor Lucas said he would have to get back to him since he would have to go back to the meeting minutes from two years ago.

Mr. Sarsfield said the mandate is for us to do the sewer repairs and to keep our sewage system running. The Ordinance was not the mandate it was the Borough doing the storm sewer repairs. It was put in effect for the Borough to do the work.

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Solicitor Lucas said there is a consent agreement with Alcosan and that would mandate certain repairs to our sewer system and the increase would go for that.

Mrs. Brady said that the mandate he is referring to is from the Environmental Protection Agency that mandates Alcosan to do certain improvements to their flow into the system. As we flow into Alcosan we are under the same mandates to do sewer repairs, cameraing and repairs to our infrastructure. Ms. Brady will send him a copy of the overview.

Patty Wilson owner of 133 Wabash Avenue says that her husband Steve talked to Ms. Brady and she indicated that they were not good landlords. Mrs. Wilson said she has lived there for six years and she did take care of the property. When she started renting the house the water and sewage bills were separate. Then she said the Borough decided that the water company would collect the sewage also. The tenants of the property are responsible for all utilities and when her tenant moved out she found out they were delinquent on the sewage and she was threatened to have her water turned off. She stated that no other Boroughs in the area have this high a sewer rate.

Ms. Brady said she talked to her husband and apologized to her and told him since the building wasn't owner occupied she suggested that he pay the bill if he wishes, or we can lien the property or he can take the receipt to the Magistrate and go after the old tenant. He did not want to do that and the rates were raised prior to Ms. Brady working here. It was increased due to lack of collection and we have a crumbling infrastructure in Carnegie and have a lot of repairs to do. The rates had not been increased in years so instead of a slow increase which residents could absorb more it was increased to the 6.75 within a period of months in addition it wasn't increased on time so the residents were charged for back billing. She suggested that an upfront deposit be made to cover a few months of delinquent sewage should they leave you with that. She said for her to call the water company and have them set up an account where when the tenant leaves they bill you for the charges. The Borough can only provide her with the delinquent sewage if she wishes.

Solicitor Lucas said that when Carnegie raised these rates they set up a dwelling list and by paying that fee as a landlord, one of the services the Borough can provide is when the tenant moves out prior to the landlords obligation to return the deposit, the landlord can come to the Borough and they can tell the landlord what the sewage is and then can pay back sewage.

Mrs. Demko said that the water company told the Borough two years ago that we needed millions and millions of dollars to do these sewage repairs and we would have three years to do it.

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Mr. Sarsfield said that at the end of 2010 the Borough would be completed with the camera work and repairs which may allow the Borough to lower the rates a little but people have to realize that the Borough will still be required to do certain projects. Mr. Sarsfield said the Borough is trying to work together with each and everyone of the residents of Carnegie on this matter.

Mrs. Demko said when the sewage rates get this high the Borough has to pay these rates and people should be paying their sewage bill and not be letting it go for a year without paying it.

Mr. Catena agrees that it is not an easy situation but they are trying to do the best they can for now to collect the delinquent sewage that is owed to the Borough since over 500 people in Carnegie owe delinquent sewage and it isn't fair.

Solicitor Lucas stated that the Borough has approved a new computer program and that will allow the Borough to look into the real time sewage and it is in the process of being installed and this should alleviate some of the problems in collecting.

COUNCIL GOOD AND WELFARE

Councilman D'Loss stated that this years' election has had a must complete turnover in Council in the last two years and people have been saying to him that they have big expectations for change so Council has a lot to live up to.

Councilwoman Demko stated that at last month's meeting Mr. Shaughnessy commented about Morrow Avenue needing cleaned up. On Tuesday after the meeting night it was all done and beautiful and she wanted to thank commend the Public Works Department since they did a fantastic job with the little bit of help that they have.

Councilwoman Covi wanted to wish all Veterans a Happy Veterans Day and wished everyone a very Happy Thanksgiving and to remind everybody who has children that Santa Claus is coming to town on Saturday, November 28th at 12:00 noon at the Borough Building.

Councilman Catena stated that the meeting with Carnegie Towers was very productive with Mr. Bleier and Mr. Doeutch and were sincere about making the changes that they feel are needed to be made at the Towers. Also out of the six security measures that were part of the short term security that needed to be implemented almost all are complete except for the cameras which should be in this week. HUD has stopped all housing assistant payments to Mr. Bleier and Mr. Doeutch until they are approved by the Metro Atlanta office of HUD which means they are not receiving any payments from the Federal Government at this point which is part of the procedural closing. Mr. Catena feels that we are moving in the right direction with the Carnegie Towers and hopes it all

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works out. Also Mr. Catena congratulated his fellow running mate, Rich D'Loss who now is a member of Council and Bob Veres who will be joining Council in January and our new Mayor- Elect Jack Kobistek. He believes that this Council will work together to make a difference in Carnegie. Also he wishes a Happy Veterans Day and a Happy Thanksgiving Day to everyone.

Mr. Sarsfield extended a Happy Veteran's Day to his family members and a thank you to Chief Harbin, Mayor Freshwater and Mr. D'Loss for serving in the Marine Corp. He also wishes everyone a Happy Thanksgiving in these struggling times and if you know any families that are hard pressed, to share some of your dinner with them. He also stated that he and his family are fortunate to have it as nice as they do but through prayer he doesn't forget the less fortunate than he is. Also, he is very confident in the Carnegie Towers and says the people there also deserve a good life in the building. He also would like to see everybody in Carnegie when Santa comes to town. He thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and wished them all a Happy Thanksgiving.

President Sarsfield Adjourned the Meeting.

