

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
Of the
BOROUGH OF CARNEGIE
FEBRUARY 8, 2010

President Sarsfield opened the meeting with a moment of silence.

Pledge of Alligience.

Roll Call

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

No Public Comments on the Agenda.

ADMINISTRATION

MOTION by Mr. Catena to approve the Minutes of January 11, 2010 meeting with amendments. SECOND by Ms. Covi. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Mr. Catena to approve the bill list for February, 2010. SECOND by Ms. Demko. MOTON CARRIED. Roll Call Vote: UNANIMOUS.

MOTION by Mr. Catena to hire John Restich as a full time Operator at a pay rate not to exceed \$22.38 per hour with benefits. SECOND by Ms. Demko. MOTION CARRIED. Roll Call Vote: UNANIMOUS.

Ms. Demko commented that the Council hired John Restich as a part-time employee in June, 2009 and he has been working without benefits and a low pay scale. He is also a mechanic.

MOTION by Mr. Catena to approve IT upgrades in an amount not to exceed \$4,200.00. SECOND by Ms. Demko. Roll Call Vote: UNANIMOUS. MOTION CARRIED.

Mr. Catena moves to establish the tax collectors compensation for 2010 at \$3,000.00 per year plus payment of the tax collectors premium for her Fidelity Bond. SECOND by Ms. Covi. Roll Call Vote: UNANIMOUS. MOTION CARRIED.

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PUBLIC WORKS

MOTION by Ms. Demko to advertise Ordinance Number 2335, An Ordinance of the Borough of Carnegie reducing the delinquent sewage fee from 10% per month to 1.5% per month. SECOND by Ms. Covi . Roll Call Vote: UNANIMOUS. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Ms. Demko to ratify the Advertisement of the 2010 Pavement Maintenance Program. SECOND by Ms. Covi. MOTION CARRIED.

PUBLIC SAFETY

MOTION by Ms. Covi to approve Borough Ordinance 2334, An Ordinance of the Borough of Carnegie creating a Handicapped Parking Space near 340 Academy Street. SECOND by Ms. Demko. MOTION CARRIED.

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Mr. Sarsfied commented the Allegheny County was the first to declare the entire town an emergency disaster area. Part of that was that if the Borough need be they could hire an outside contractor to assist the Borough with work and receive some compensation back. So it was important that Council made sure the roads were taken care of. He also said on Saturday he contacted the Mayor who did an excellent job as leader of our town and that is why it was very important that Council enact that and put it as a motion.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Ms. Brady congratulated the Public Works Department for all their effort over the weekend. Also she stated that Council is passing to advertise to reduce the sewage fees and this is the second step that the Council has taken to accommodate the residents of Carnegie to pay their sewage bills and reducing the late fees that are assessed on the delinquent sewage charges. Ms. Brady just wanted to update everybody knowing that the money is coming in and has collected over \$200,000.00 in the delinquent sewage and in the next six weeks the remainder will be paid to the Borough.

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SOLICITOR'S REPORT

No comment.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Kobistek talked about the emergency declaration on February 6th and that we had over 21 inches of snow fall in our Borough and was one of the higher amounts in Allegheny County. The Borough established warming centers at the Borough Building and the Fire Department that day and thanked the Chief for all of his help and Councilman Sarsfield and all of Council for their team effort during the storm. He wanted to give a special thanks to Assistant Fire Chief Scott since the Fire Department worked around the clock to help the residents out. He also thanked Public Works Department for staying on top of the issue and staying in contact with everyone.

Mayor Kobistek said there were 32 criminal arrest/citations, 95 traffic violations, 96 parking tickets issues and 970 complaints and self initiated controls. Mayor Kobistek wanted to bring up the issue of dogs and that people are not taking care of or securing their dogs. The Mayor said we need Ordinances established in this Borough where people need to get licenses for their dogs and don't leave your dogs out in this cold weather. Also he said to take extra care of your dogs if they are vicious so that they are out of the Public and also don't forget that we have an Ordinance for residents to pickup after their dogs.

Mayor Kobistek said on the Disruptive Conduct Reports that the Borough had something successful to report and that was the third strike that was implemented by our Police Department and by Terry Roma our Code Enforcement Officer and the disruptive person was evicted from his apartment in our Borough and was very satisfactory to our residents.

Mayor Kobistek reported other DCR's in the Borough. One first offense on Fifth Avenue, One first offense on Dickman Street and a second offense on Chestnut Street And a second offense on Mountain Drive. He stated that he has the full addresses for anyone that wants them. He said that these reports are to protect the neighborhoods and if anyone notices any disruptive behavior from tenants or anybody in the Borough to please report it and the Police will respond immediately.

The Mayor also mentioned that the Chief, Ms. Brady and himself has met with the owners of Carnegie Towers and he showed them the security cameras throughout the facility monitoring the towers stairways and front door. The owners also increased their efforts on background checks and to show how effective this has been in the month of January this year we have only had 80 complaints at the facility and last year there were

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175 complaints. The Mayor wanted to give a special thanks to the Chief and Vice President Catena who has made this a special effort on his part and President Sarsfield who has done a great job in working with the Chief and the District Attorney on this.

Mayor Kobistek also has spoken to residents regarding the Carnegie Towers and they have noticed the difference themselves.

Mayor Kobistek wanted to talk about Officer Dax, our patrol Dog. He has been doing a great job. He and Officer Quattro have been helping out with a drug sweep down at the County Jail with other Police dogs and other Officers around the area and have been out visiting Senior Citizens Centers and Schools and out on patrol every once in a while. He stated that Officer Dax and Officer Quattro have been a great addition to the Department. He said the Chief and himself have been taking advantage of looking into technology on residential crime reporting to make sure we can provide the best access to the residence.

Mayor Kobistek said also Council and himself had attended a workshop meeting on the Comprehensive Plan and was a very good workshop and Council is moving in the right direction and he is proud to work with them. Also, the Façade program is underway and is expanded this year and if anyone is interested they can get an application on the CCDC website. Lastly the Mayor mentioned some of the events going on in the area. One being that the Library is opening up their Thomas Espy, the Great Army of the Republic Room this weekend and he will have Maggie Forbes talk about it. It will also be featured on On Q Tuesday evening. Also the Third Street Gallery is having a Mardi Gras weekend and will be featuring Mardi Gras exhibits. Also a former Carlynton student and Pitt graduate Michael Walter will be featuring his art work at the Barco Wall Library from February 12th through May 28th with an opening reception on February 12th between 5-8 pm. Also on February 15th at Carlynton High School is "Tied to the Arts" artwork by Carlynton students in the gym and is free to the public.

Mayor Kobistek reminded everyone about the 5K Walk/Run Race in April and anyone interested in running can get an application on the Carnegie Borough Website. Also, there will be no school tomorrow for the Carlynton students due to the weather.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Maggie Forbes, Executive Director of the Andrew Carnegie Free Library stated that we have a National Treasure in the Civil War Room at the Library. She also added that since they started to restore the building it has been documented that it is the most intact Post in the country. The room has been locked up and neglected for 50 years and it is opening on the 201st birthday of Abraham Lincoln on February 12th. She commented on the

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spectacular coverage of the Room in the Signal Item, Pittsburgh Post Gazette, Tribune Review and the Washington Observer and on TV tomorrow night. She is inviting everyone to come to the Library's \$50.00 reception on Friday evening and on Saturday it is free and open to the public.

Mr. Sarsfield commented that he appreciates all the hard work Maggie Forbes does for the Library and how far the Library has come since she has been there.

Tom Misuraca from 236 Scenic Hill Drive from the Highlands wanted to know about parking restrictions where Scenic Hill meets Cathedral Court. Mr. Sarsfield told him he spoke with Debbie Pallin who has the same service and he, the Chief and the former Mayor met with the Condominium Board at the Highlands and suggested to them that they make a recommendation and the Council could prohibit parking wherever they like, but Council is not going to spend money on No Parking signs and then start issuing citations and then residents coming down to the Borough to say they were only parking there for ten minutes so if Council is going to do this, it is going to be enforced.

The Chief said he is familiar with the Ordinance and understands what the resident is saying but to take care of the situation will take an additional Ordinance. That is where they left it with the Board of Directors at the Highlands. The Chief suggests that he meet with the Condominium Board of Directors. Mr. Sarsfield said he didn't want to legislate an action for just one person and then the other residents be unhappy. Mr. Misuraca thanked the Council for hearing him and making the recommendation.

Lisa Barber from Justus Avenue just wanted to comment on the Public Works Department for doing a great job on the roads and didn't realize how much work they do.

Ms. Covi commented that she has friends that live out of Carnegie but work in Carnegie coming from Bellvue and Southside and called her to let her know that the streets are better here then anywhere else. Ms. Covi would also like Beechwood Avenue repaved since it has a lot of potholes.

Maggie Forbes also commented that the Public Works Department has done a fabulous job with the snow removal.

Ms. Sarsfield said that Council could pursue Congressman Murphy and look at it as a tie-in with the Library for some kind of funding.

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COUNCIL GOOD AND WELFARE

Mr. Veres congratulated Mayor Kobistek on the 17 e-mails he received over the weekend and he did a great job on coordinating everything on the snow removal. He wanted to compliment the Public Works Department considering the equipment they have the time allotted and they always come through for us.

Mr. Veres said Council has been working for 3 weeks on empty properties where they can put a parking lot in or have contacted the owners to find out how they can work with them to reduce some of the prices here in the Borough. He also added how the Council is working together and is a pleasure to discuss things and get things accomplished. He said it all makes it worthwhile why they ran for office.

Mr. D'Loss commented on the Espy Post and it puts Carnegie on the map nationally. He said the pictures on the Post Gazette Website were incredible. He said researchers are coming from all over the country to Carnegie to study the room and it's context. He said it was an incredible asset to Carnegie and congratulated Maggie Forbes.

Mr D'Loss also stated that last week at the State Democratic Committee our State Representative, Wayne Fontana he was one of the sponsors of a Resolution to endorse a House Bill called the Family Business Health Care Security Act. He said some of the leaders in State have decided to move forward and do something about it for the people of Pennsylvania. He congratulated Senator Fontana for the work he has done on this.

Sue Demko wanted to congratulate some of the Carlynton elementary and Junior High students competed in the annual science competition at the Carnegie Science Center on January 19, 2010. She said out of the 4th and 5th grade division they came in Third place and in the 6th, 7th and 8th grade division they placed Second. Ms. Demko also congratulated Montana Trombetta who won the Allegheny WPIAL wrestling tournament two weeks ago in Fox Chapel. He was the youngest Carlynton wrestler to come in first place.

Ms. Covi wanted the acknowledge and thank the Chief of Police and all of the Officers, the Carnegie Fire Department and all of Council and all of the Public Works Department including Supervisor Keith Hatcher for all their hard work this weekend. Ms. Covi commented that she was stuck in her house all weekend without electricity.

Ms. Covi also mentioned that Congressman Jack Murtha has passed away this afternoon and that he was a great leader, statesman, patriot, humanaterian and friend to many. She said his family and people of his district should be proud of all that he has done since we

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owe him so much. She hoped everyone without power will get it soon and everyone stay safe. She also wished everyone a Happy Valentine's Day.

Pat Catena said that garbage collection has been suspended this week and to not put out your garbage. He also thanked the Chief, Police, Volunteer Fire Department, Rescue Bureau, Public Works Department and Mayor. He stated after we get through this round of weather the Council will look at what ways we make a critical incident evaluation and see what ways we can improve on it for the next time.

Mr. Sarsfield said that the Junior Council Person, Annie Jones was absent.

Mr. Sarsfield said this was just another one of the challenges that Carnegie was faced with and that a team effort has lead us through and had been successful thanks to our Police Department, Public Works Department and Fire Department who all worked well together. He said the Council is working on a Master Plan in the Borough and putting together a mission statement for the Borough and looking at some Ordinances to be more effective and enforcing. Also they are beginning their Vacant Property Registration and this will be strictly enforced and working closely with our CDCC and our IDA Board and looking into issues that affect our residents on Run Street and putting together a broader street paving project and how to fund things. He said they are going to have another meeting in three weeks and then post updates on our Website. He stated that he is happy with all of his colleagues since they are all responsible for their committees and report back with the progress that is being made.

Mr. Sarsfield also added that a year from now we are going to see a lot of positive changes in the Borough and people will want to make Carnegie their home and be proud of this town as he does.

Ms. Covi also commented that she was also born and raised in Carnegie as her parents were before her and she has compassion for this town. She said she has put many hours into meetings and she reassured Leo Adamo that she discussed Cubbage Hill for an hour or more and she will fight for everyone in the Borough as she has done in the past for her street.

Mr. Sarsfield wished everyone a Happy Valentine's Day.

Mr. Sarsfield asked for motion to adjourn the meeting.

Mr. Catena MOTION and Ms. Covi SECOND to adjourn meeting.

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