

MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
Of the  
BOROUGH OF CARNEGIE  
SEPTEMBER 14, 2009

President Sarsfield opened the meeting.

**Roll Call**

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

President Sarsfield commented on the Carnegie Volunteer Fire Department where we are due to have a referendum on the November election ballot. The Council is planning to have 3 town hall meeting in the coming weeks. He encourages the residents to come to these meetings and voice their opinions on this subject. His also stated that Council will have the make the final decision either to increase taxes to maintain our fire department. He urges any resident to write or call their council members on this matter.

Joe Lucas explained how important it is for the public to attend these town hall meeting and voice their opinions on this matter so the council can act on this important issue in the proper way.

President Sarsfield stated that he and Councilman Catena have been meeting with members of the fire department and met with Chief Kandrac's this past Sunday morning to inform him of the referendum and the town hall meetings. He hopes at the end of the day the council makes the right and decision on this matter. Councilman Catena said that he struggled with this decision and will be one of the toughest decisions he will have to make since he would like to see the fire department stay and the council urges all residents to attend the 3 town hall meetings.

President Sarsfield asked if anyone in the audience would like to comment on any of the agenda items to please come forward and address those issues. Nobody had any comments on this issue. President Sarsfield also commented on the Arts and Heritage Festival and what a success it was due to Leigh White, Chairman of the festival. He asked her to come forward and talk a little about the festival.

Leigh White acknowledged all the people who made the festival another success this year. She also thanked the Carnegie Public Works Department for all their hard work all weekend. Also she thanked the Carnegie Police Department and especially Officer Cook who was her personal bodyguard for the weekend. She also thanked everyone who came and volunteered. Leigh gave out t-shirts to all the council members as a souvenir.

Gary Ritter commented that his wife took his picture at the festival since he was actually working so everyone would see it!

Councilwoman Covi commented that Leigh White is always open to suggestions to make the festival a success. She also commented that her phone has been ringing off the hook with comments and suggestions on the festival in the future. Leigh said that they are having a follow up meeting on September 30<sup>th</sup> at her office at 7:00 pm and anyone interested is welcome to come. President Sarsfield thanked Leigh and her committee once again for another successful festival.

### **ADMINISTRATION**

MOTION by Ms.Covi to approve the August 10, 2009 and August 26, 2009 Council Meeting Minutes. SECOND by Ms. Demko. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Ms. Covi to approve August invoices. SECOND by Mr. Catena. Roll Call Vote: unanimous.

MOTION by Ms. Covi to enter into contract with Educational Billing Services, LP for online collection of parking tickets, Landlord Tenant Fee and Business Privilege Tax at no cost to the Borough. SECOND by Ms. Demko. Roll Call Vote: unanimous.

Mr Catena commented that by doing this online it will make the Borough more efficient so that we do not have to waste resources doing some of these things. Ms. Catena said this is a step in the right direction and hopefully thanks to Whitney there will be many more.

Solicitor Lucas commented that paying online there will be a fee added on to the bill but it is a convenience to the public

Manager Brady commented that in a few weeks that there will be a pop-up on the Borough website where you can pay your parking tickets and will also track outstanding payments for the landlord/tenant fees weekly or monthly.

### **CODE ENFORCEMENT**

MOTION by Mr. Catena to approve curb cut at 534 Church Street and a lake not to exceed 36 feet. SECOND by Ms. Demko. MOTION CARRIED.

### **PUBLIC WORKS**

MOTION by Ms. Demko to enter into a Cooperation Agreement with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation for a Municipal Snow Agreement for the years 2009-2010, 2010-2011, 2011-2012, 2012-2013, and 2013-2015 at a variable rate determined by the season. SECOND by Ms. Covi. MOTION CARRIED. Roll Call Vote: unanimous.

President Sarsfield commented that this frees up our road department and the department of Transportation will maintain the state roads and bridges in the Borough and by entering into this agreement they can collect funding and then pay us for this service.

MOTION by Ms. Demko to approve the purchase of a 2010 Ford F-450 from Woltz & Wind Ford as identified in bids by Shacog amount not to exceed \$61,980.00 which must come from a \$25,000.00 grant by Char West COG and a \$36,980.00 loan from the capital fund to be paid back by a rate of \$8,311.20 for a per addendum for 5 years and includes a 4% interest rate. SECOND by Ms. Covi. Roll call vote: unanimous. MOTION CARRIED.

President Sarsfield explained that we were able to get a \$25,000.00 grant through COG to help us with this but the Chrysler truck was \$61,000.00 so we decided to take the money out of the capital fund but the majority of us said we just can't take money out of this fund and not replace it but we are going to replace it plus interest so we are going to have a solid capital fund.

### **PUBLIC SAFETY**

MOTION By Mr. Catena to permit the temporary closure of Washington Avenue between Williams Way and Lee Street on Friday, October 2, 2009 between 6:30 and 7:30 pm to accommodate the Carlynton High School Homecoming Parade. SECOND by Ms. Covi. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Mr. Catena to permit the closure of East/West Main Street from Broadway Street to Chartiers Street on Saturday, October 24, 2009 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm to accommodate the Halloween Promenade. Second by Ms. Demko. MOTION CARRIED.

### **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

MOTION by Ms. Demko to enact Resolution No. 2009-18 approving the acquisition and subsequent disposition of parcel 102-E-28 located on Flynn Avenue in Carnegie. Second by Ms. Catena. Roll call vote: unanimous. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Ms. Demko to approve the construction of the James Construction parking lot as recommended by ?. Roll Call Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIED.

### **REPORTS**

Manager Brady thanked Leigh White for all her tireless work on the festival. Also she is excited to streamline the Borough and council has been receptive to the idea of online parking and getting information out to the community and may even see an increase in parking ticket collections just by the convenience of someone paying at home at night so they don't have to stop at the Borough building to pay. Also, she said to keep in mind you can still pay parking tickets, landlord/tenant and business privilege tax at the Borough building or by mail.

Also, Manager Brady discussed the disposition of Flynn Avenue in Carnegie. The property is vacant and is going through the Allegheny County Vacant Property Recovery Program and it was a parcel not on the tax rolls but will be on the tax rolls thanks to the

Economic Program and if anyone is interested in this program to see her for the information.

The Solicitor had nothing to report. The Mayor's report, as provided by Chief Jeffrey Harbin, was summarized verbally. He stated that nobody likes to raise taxes even though it would be only one mil but if we do away with our fire department that we would have to contract with another fire department specifically Scott Township. He explained this service would not be free and every year the prices are going to go up so Carnegie would have to figure out how many mils per family this would be. Also, he stated that if a community doesn't have its own fire department that their homeowners will increase.

Ms. Demko and President Sarsfield said that it would be the rating of the fire department and also the location whether the homeowners would increase or not.

Mayor Freshwater said at least we know what the increase would be if we kept the fire department in Carnegie but would not know what the increase would be if we contracted it out.

President Sarsfield said that this is what the town hall meetings would be for and if we were to contract out right now that there would be no tax increase since there is enough existing funding in Carnegie and we would sign a minimum five year contract.

### **GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ashley Buckert, Second Avenue stated that on the corner of 4<sup>th</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue new stop signs were needed since they are faded and very hard to see and cars fly right through them. Also she knows how hard Pastor Andrew Clark had worked to build the Irishtown Park and the Police do a great job riding around there but the garbage is all over the place and needs cleaned up and also the baby swing are in need of repair and it seems teenagers seem to hang out there more then the younger kids.

President Sarsfield told her that someone will try to get the baby swing down and replace it. He will check with the Public Works Department.

Andrew Clark, 35 East Main Street asked if somebody could put security cameras at the Irishtown Park. Ms. Catena said that he has talked to a business owner by the park and said he is willing to run the electricity off of his building. Mr. Clark also stated that we have \$2,000.00 in the kitty for the park. Mr. Sarsfield asked the Chief if they can meet and make some phone calls regarding this matter.

Jack Kobistek, 252 Marshall Avenue, spoke about the tainted property ordinance where Heidelberg is tearing down their vacant properties and that is why it is important that there be a stipulation in our ordinance that these vacant properties don't become public nuisances then you would have some rights under the law. He suggested that this be revisited since we have a lot of vacant properties. Mr. Catena wanted to know exactly what it is that Heidelberg does with these vacant properties. Mr. Kobistek said that they

hold public meetings on public nuisance properties and they have certain categories in the paper that a property can fall under such as phlight damaged properties and some under other categories so when properties fall under these categories they can convince their ordinances appropriately. Mrs. Demko asked Mr. Kobistek how does Heidelberg know it's a nuisance property and Mr. Kobistek said didn't know the details but he would like to sit down and talk to them about it and he suggested that our community should do the same. Mrs. Demko asked what was their reason for it to be a nuisance property and Mr. Kobistek said it was a flood damaged vacant property. The nuisances ordinance should be reinforced by our Police Department and Mrs. Demko assured him that they are. President Sarsfield said that these are two separate issues one being a vacant property and the other is a disorderly location but it won't go into effect until November and the disorderly location does not apply to the vacant property. It only applies to somebody that lives there.

A vendor at the Arts and Heritage Festival wanted to thank Leigh, Jackie and Bernadette and special recognition to Marcella McGrogan and Dan Burns who were very helpful to him. The only problem he had was that his booth was located on the bridge and there was a lack of traffic there and the inflatable toys were so big that you could not see that they were on the bridge and it brought business way down for him. He would have sold three times more than he did if he was more visible to the public. He mentioned to the inflatable vendors to move to the side but they couldn't. The people that did see his booth said they liked it. Ms. Covi said that she spoke with him regarding this and that he was cut off and she promised him to talk about it. Ms. Covi said the bridge was empty all weekend long and thought it looked terrible. They suggested that the inflatables be moved on the bridge and the vendors more visible on the mall were the children's games were. Ms. Covi said she promised him she will work on this for next year and was glad that he would come back next year as a vendor as others said they would not be back again next year. Ms. Covi said they should shift things around next year. She also indicated that the music next to the children's games be moved next year. Leigh White said that space is an issue every year and that more vendors could be near the Historical Society. The vendor ended by saying that we should be proud of running such a great festival and he appreciated the opportunity of being there.

Dan Burns commented on the planter signs for the festival and didn't like the idea that they were placed in the planters and made the mainstream look bad. President Sarsfield said by doing this there were trying to get the message out. Dan Burns also advised if anyone was interested in helping out at next years Independence Day celebration to contact him and give him any construction criticism since he needs a lot of help with that.

Manager Brady stated that she saw a sign in her community of Brentwood advertising the Arts & Heritage Festival for Carnegie.

Leo Adamo said when the new team gets on Council he will be up and about!

## **COUNCIL GOOD AND WELFARE**

Ms. Covi wanted to thank everyone who came to the festival and purchased tickets at the Carnegie Childrens Event Booth. Also she stated that this Wednesday, September 16<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 pm there is a program at Carlynton High School to welcome home Sgt. Richard Lawrence from Iraq. He was the one who drove the Palidyn Motor that saved lives during the Flood. He has been in Iraq for a year and there is a program to welcome him home. Ms. Covi invited all his friends and everyone else to attend and show their appreciation and support in welcoming Sgt. Lawrence home.

Mr. Catena stated that every year the festival gets bigger and better and thanked Leigh White, Jackie Wetzell, Andrew Clark, Marcella McGrogran, Dan Burns, Rick and Tom Snyder and all that worked and thanked the Chief and police department and the Public Works Department for all there help.

President Sarsfield thanked the professionalism of the Police Department and is proud to have Chief Harbin as our Chief. This Thursday, September 17<sup>th</sup> is the five year anniversary of Hurrican Ivan and the Borough is having a service at 7:30 pm at the Borough building amplitheater. All are welcome to attend. Also on September 27<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 to 1:00 pm at Baby Faces Restaurant there will be a pancake breakfast for Heather Sherba, a victim at the LA Fitness shooting to cover hospital expenses. President Sarsfield is getting a campaign to put a ban on high capacity Magazin. Also, on September 19<sup>th</sup> we will host "Movies at the Park" at Carnegie Park at 8:30 pm. He hopes they will get a couple movies in before the cold weather approaches. He stated that it will be a family oriented fun movie for kids. Finally, President Sarsfield wished his wife a happy anniversary this Wednesday, September 16<sup>th</sup>. He just lost his mother this past March and his wife lost her father on September 8<sup>th</sup> but he said love endures all and without a supportive wife he doesn't think he would be able to be hear month after month. Also, he is looking forward to seeing everyone at the town hall meetings and that anyone can e-mail him with any suggestions or concerns regarding the fire department.

ADJOURNED by President Sarsfield.

