

SELINGROVE BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2006 - 7:00 P.M.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Pres. C. Handlan, V. Pres. W. Reuning, C/P D. Anderson, C/P J. Herb, C/P W. Hetherington, C/P M. Inch

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: C/P D. Mengel

OTHERS PRESENT: Solicitor R. Cravitz; Mgr. J. Bickhart; Mayor P. Carroll; Police Chief T. Garlock; Borough Treasurer Sheri Badman; Borough Employees Corby Bowersox, Rick Kline and Gary Klingler; Borough Resident Joseph Siro

OTHERS ABSENT: None

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

Pres. Handlan called the meeting to order at 7:05 P.M. Mgr. Bickhart called the roll.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM PRIOR MEETINGS:

Junk Car Issue – C/P Hetherington asked when the ordinance regarding junk cars will be enforced. Mgr. Bickhart stated he has not had a chance to make up a list yet but he hopes to get to it this month.

AT 7:07 P.M. THE MEETING RECESSED TO A BUDGET WORK SESSION.

AT 9:25 P.M. THE MEETING RESUMED AFTER THE BUDGET WORK SESSION.

Revised Meeting Schedule for 2007 – C/P Anderson suggested revising some dates now so they will not have to be readvertised later. She requested the September meeting be held on Tuesday, September 4, 2007 rather than Monday, September 10. This change was agreed upon. C/P Anderson stated that on April 2 Passover begins at sundown and she suggested changing this meeting to Monday, April 9 in sensitivity to the Jewish people who live in the community. This change was also agreed upon. Mgr. Bickhart stated he has already changed January 1 to January 8 because of New Year's Day. Sheri stated she will have a new schedule for adoption at the December meeting. C/P Anderson clarified that there are two meetings in December. The second meeting is recessed from the first meeting and usually meets at 4:00 p.m. with a quorum for the sole purpose of final adoption of the budget.

Budget Discussion – Sheri stated she will make the changes and have the budget ready for a tentative adoption at the December 4 meeting. C/P Anderson asked if the budget is published and Mgr. Bickhart replied that it has to be in public view for two weeks. Mgr. Bickhart stated the Finance Committee had a discussion about not talking about mills because it is too confusing. Rather they will talk about a 5% increase in real estate taxes, which is what he encourages Council to tell people if they are asked about the increase. The equivalent millage to 13 mills goes to 9.8 so that is the starting point. The Borough is taking it to 10.3 which is a ½ mill increase, but that is too confusing. C/P Anderson asked what Council should say is the reason for raising taxes, because some new things are being done in terms of the police, but that is about it. Sheri stated the majority of the tax increase is for the police department. Mgr. Bickhart stated there have been significant reductions in health care. Council is spending those monies in addition to raised revenue in the amount of \$15,000. The significant increases in the budget have been in police protection. Everything else is pretty much maintaining the status quo in the budget. There is also no water or sewer increase. Mgr. Bickhart stated he will write a summary of the budget impact for the December meeting to be used as a press release. The press release will characterize each segment of the budget and each of the funds, pointing out that there is no sewer rate increase, no water rate increase, and no change in the recycling. C/P Anderson stated the new budget for the Shade Tree Commission is a plus but it does not impact on the tax increases.

PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE: C/P Anderson, Chairwoman

Employee Smoking Policy – C/P Anderson reported that the notice went out to the employees about the new policy. She stated she has not heard any comments yet. Mgr. Bickhart stated he has been investigating smoking cessation programs. The offer was made in the letter for the employees who are interested in a program. Evangelical Hospital will offer four evening sessions for \$60 per employee at the work site. He will also look into what the American Cancer Society might offer. The Borough's insurance carrier does not currently offer anything but Medicare is going to start adding smoking cessation classes for seniors as a benefit that they will pay for. The insurance industry usually follows what Medicare does. C/P Anderson recommends the patch, which worked for her after several other attempts. Pres. Handlan stated this is being done the right way, with sufficient time for the employees to adjust to the change and the offer of help if they want it.

NEW BUSINESS:

Library Information – Pres. Handlan stated that Council has an invitation to an opening reception of the Tree Fest of Children's Books sponsored by the Friends of the Selinsgrove Library on Friday, December 1 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. She stated this is a great event and encouraged everyone to attend the Tree Fest. She stated the Friends of the Library donate about \$15,000 a year to the library. The Snyder County Library Board is sponsoring a wine and music fest this Saturday from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at Shade Mountain Winery. Tickets are \$10; wine and cheese will be served.

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Attachments: None