

**LAWRENCEVILLE BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 02, 2004**

CALL TO ORDER

President Marian Russell called the Regular Meeting of the Lawrenceville Borough Council to order at 7:00 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Council Members:

Mildred Bliss
Melvin Davis
William Dincher
Edward Lockhart
Alan Losey
Marian Russell

Chief of Police:

Walter Beach

Mayor:

Bryce Taft

Visitors:

Tony Short
Karen Flynn
Pete Titlow
Donna Blend

Judy Kenyon
Al Beach
Tom Rotsell

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of January 12, 2004 were approved as presented with a few changes: The Finance and Grant Writing Committee will be called Grant Writing Committee as there is already a Finance Committee. Also, Public Works: Streets should read Bill Dincher will continue to look for available grants however, there is no money available at the present time it would be long range.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

Tony Short spoke about the condition of the streets, the waste of time patching the streets and voiced his complaint for being ticketed for not clearing his sidewalk. There was a review of the major overhaul State Street needs and what is planned for this year. Marian explained the ordinance for the snow removal was not new and has been on the books for years.

Karen Flynn spoke of SDS not picking up her neighbor's trash. The contract with SDS will be up for renewal this spring and Marian asked the secretary to keep a list of any complaints.

Also there are several street signs knocked down and Al Beach will take care of them.

COMMUNICATIONS

Marian spoke to Burt Hunt, Penn Valley Publisher, pertaining to the recodification. They want to get this finalized and need to know changes are still needed. Marian asked the

secretary to set up a meeting with the people who have worked on this project in the past before having another meeting with Penn's Valley, as they will not meet with us unless our solicitor is present.

Burrows Hearing- Bill Dincher and Walt Beach will attend the meeting set for February 4, 2004 and testify what was seen last summer.

Mayor Taft stated he took pictures of several properties that were in violation and the film got lost at the processors.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Al Losey made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Bill Dincher. All members present voted yea.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Additional bills to be paid: AT&T \$97.39, Leigh Brundage 89.60 2/3 usage of heat, PAMS 31.16, Deats 595.00 to be paid from Liquid Fuels, Lawrence Mansfield 375.00 retainer fee for Zoning Hearing, PSAB 18.00 guide to grants. Total additional cost \$1206.15. Bill Dincher made a motion to pay the bills with the additions, seconded by Al Losey.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Taft read the police report.

There was a discussion on plowing sidewalks with trucks; Mayor Taft stated it was a state law that you cannot use a truck to plow the sidewalk. Marian requested the Fire & Police Committee meet and come up with guidelines for plowing streets with various vehicles. Al Losey will participate in the meeting, as there is only one committee member available at this present time.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Library

None

B. Building Enforcement/Zoning Officer

None

C. Public Works: Streets

We are over budget already for snow plowing of the streets. Al Losey will speak to Jody Fisher asking him not to put all the snow right on the corners but to continue pushing the snow down the street as it will smooth out. There have been complaints about the amounts of snow pushed on the corners.

D. Public Works: Dykes

None

E. Building

Council discussed the building plans with Peter Titlow, who drew up the plans for the new borough office building. It was discussed and decided that the committee will meet with Pete instead of full council for modifications.

F. Recreation

There was a discussion on purchasing equipment for the parks. Melvin will put an order together.

G. Public Safety: Fire and Police

None

H. Personnel and Appointment

Al Losey made a motion to accept John Ripic's resignation, seconded by Bill Dincher. All members present voted yea.

Mildred Bliss made a motion to nominate Robert Abel to replace John Ripic, seconded by Melvin Davis. All members present voted yea.

Karen Flynn is still looking for some volunteers for the Planning Commission and it is noted that council members can take part in both.

I. Finance

Mildred Bliss made a motion to adopt Ordinance #217 setting the tax levy rate at 4.558 for the year 2004, seconded by Ed Lockhart.

Bill Dincher discussed why he felt the rate was not high enough, if the rate was set at 4.867 mils the increase could be used to pay down debt on the loan needed for the new building. Marian felt we wouldn't be able to pay down any debt if the taxes were too high and residents didn't pay their taxes.

Roll call vote is noted with all members present voting yea, except Bill Dincher voting no.

Bill Dincher made a motion to hire Rudy Van der Hiel as the borough solicitor, seconded by Mildred Bliss. Roll call vote is noted with all members present voting yea, except Marian Russell voting no. A letter will be sent to Attorney Stokes releasing him from representing Lawrenceville Borough.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Calvary UMC issue- Mildred Bliss felt it was time to take this off the agenda as it has nothing to do with the borough, it is between Walt and the church. Walt stated differently and said it has everything to do with the borough council; he has no issue with the church. The issue is with borough council and their failure to act on the ordinances and laws they have on the books today and had on the books the day the permit was brought to council and approved by someone who should not have

approved it and allowed to proceed by council after they were informed in writing and verbally. Several times Walt had requested a written response on the issues he raised almost two years ago and has not received anything to date. Bill Dincher agreed this will not be resolved in a council meeting and the secretary was told to omit this from future agendas by Marian Russell.

Multi Municipal Zoning Grant- Melvin Davis and Bill Dincher continue to attend the meetings for the Lower Tioga River Valley Regional Planning Commission. Marian asked that they keep council up to date on the progress. The meetings are open to the public. Another person is needed to represent the borough so we have a voice in the voting. The grant is on hold but is something that might still come together in the future.

Shared Municipal Service Program- Marian read the letter from Shawn Forrest stating the one time fee of \$250 will be waived if we join the program prior to April 9, 2004. Al Losey made a motion we join Mansfield, seconded by Bill Dincher. Roll call vote is noted with all members present voting yea.

Recodification- This was discussed earlier in the meeting.

Calvary UMC sidewalk- a letter was sent giving the church the date of April 19, 2004 to have the sidewalk completed.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1 Parente Randolph 2003 audit agreement. The cost will be \$2700 plus out of pocket costs. Mildred Bliss made a motion to accept the agreement, seconded by Al Losey. All members were in favor of agreement.
- 2 Public Officials Liability- Al Losey made a motion to accept the sexual harassment policy that is needed to renew the insurance, seconded by Bill Dincher. All members present voted yea.
- 3 Reappointment of Larry Barnes- Mildred Bliss made a motion to reappoint Larry Barnes as a member of the Lawrenceville Borough Authority Board, seconded by Melvin Davis. All members present voted yea.
- 4 Water Usage- An agreement was sought on how to approach the Authority on the issue of filling swimming pools for non- borough residents. The fire dept delivers the water for a donation but the Authority does not receive payment for the usage. Bill Dincher feels the Authority needs to know this water should be paid for. Walt stated he has brought this issue to the attention of the Authority Board several times and there has been no change; the amount last year was in the thousands that it cost the residents to fill pools outside the borough. Tom requested he know the fee that the authority will charge well in advance.
- 5 Fire Dept- There was a discussion between Tom Rotsell and the council in regards to rumors in the community: 2004 tax rate increase, the new fire station, and the new borough building. Karen Flynn mentioned the need for better communication between the borough and the residents. Ken Windows expressed his disappointment over the differences with the borough and the fire dept. Tom

requested for the fire dept to be notified, before the meeting, when we discuss anything pertaining to the fire dept.

ADJOURNMENT

Al Losey made a motion to adjourn at 10:05 PM, seconded by Mildred Bliss.

Minutes were taken and prepared by:

Darcy Wood

Secretary