

**LAWRENCEVILLE BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 04, 2003**

CALL TO ORDER

President Marian Russell called the Regular meeting of the Lawrenceville Borough Council to order at 6:58 P.M. 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

Secretary:

Darcy Wood

Mayor:

Bryce Taft

Visitors:

Koleen Short
Howard Six
Mansel O'Dell
Bill Shoup
Matt Sottolano
Donna Blend

Karen Flynn
Steve Flynn
Kim Robinson
Mark Everett
Sarah Moser

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of July 07, 2003 were approved as presented.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

Koleen Short questioned why her and her husband were being singled out as they got a letter from the borough with an ordinance, Article C Transient Retail Business, pertaining to a car they had for sale in the driveway. In checking with other residents that also had cars for sale, they did not receive a letter. Marian stated they were not being singled out but as a complaint comes into the office, a letter is sent out. Marian also stated if you know of an unregistered car or item for sale, you can report them. In order to sell anything, you have to buy a rummage sale permit for \$2 and it is good for three (3) days, twice a year. There was a lengthy conversation on whether this pertained to registered vehicles as well. It was stated that Article C does not stipulate vehicles, but it does state merchandise. Walt explained that merchandise includes anything being sold on your property; he has cited people for cars and merchandise and they were found guilty.

Mansel O'Dell voiced a complaint in regards to Marian coming on his property and questioning whether or not the car he was selling was registered.

Tom Rotsell questioned if the ordinance has changed as several years ago when there were complaints about this same thing, they were told there was nothing that could be done.

In another issue, Koleen told of another letter she received stating they had (10) days to get a permit for alterations on property they bought. Her husband Tim came into the office and spoke to the secretary explaining why he felt they did not need a permit as they went smaller in the alterations that were being done and felt they were within Boca code. The secretary said she would talk to the code enforcer and have it checked out, they never heard back from the secretary so they assumed everything was ok. A month later at a meeting between council members and the fire dept, their name and property got brought up. Koleen wanted to know why no one ever got back to her and why their name was brought up out of forum at another meeting.

Mansel brought up that Article C is vague and seems to be up to the discretion of whoever is on the board at the time and it needs to be defined, brought up to a vote to the council and people of the town. Marian agreed that the ordinance needed to be done over. Mansel will rewrite a revision to Article C for consideration of the council next month.

Bill Dincher reminded council the Pennsylvania Borough Code states it is the duty of the mayor to see that the codes are enforced.

Mark Everett & Matt Sottolano- gave a presentation on behalf of the school about a grant they are receiving for fitness equipment and the only cost to the school will be the flooring. They contacted the Taber Foundation and were assured that they could provide the funding for the cost but it had to be funneled through a borough. They requested we apply for a grant for \$5100 for the flooring for this project. They are hoping to be able to offer the equipment to the community for use in the 2004. Al Losey made a motion to make application to the Taber Foundation for grant money that we would then turn over to Williamson High School Athletic Dept for the flooring for the new fitness center, seconded by Bill Dincher. Motion carried by roll call vote with all members present voting yea.

Bill Shoup- initiated a discussion on the Burrows property, the condition of the property and why the complaint was started four years ago. Also, Mr. Shoup questioned why council permits open operation of a garbage transfer station within the borough. According to Mr. Shoup that is what Bryce has at his home and after a brief discussion on this problem Bryce agreed to move the dumpster out of the borough.

Mayor Taft suggested something be done with State Street, which he named "River Street" because of the lack of drainage. He voiced a complaint about the

unending problem of trying to keep his property clean from mud that gets splashed on his house, lawn, windows, etc

There was a discussion on several driving violations within the borough and some suggestions were given to remedy the problems.

Marian said next year council is hoping to do some work on the drainage problem on State Street and speed bumps could be put in at the time paving is done. An estimate of \$300,00 was given several years ago for the drains on State Street.

COMMUNICATIONS

Communications were reviewed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Additional bills to be approved: Postmaster \$37.00, PA MS 16.48. Additional total \$53.48. Harry Kittle's check will be held up until Melvin gives his ok. Marian mentioned Ron Hamilton from DEP visited our office 7-17-03 and stated the dikes were inspected and passed by a minimum, which now allows us to apply for grant money.

Mildred Bliss made a motion to pay the bills with the exception of Harry Kittle's check and pay the additions, seconded by Melvin Davis. All members present voted yea.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Taft read the police report for Chief Walter Beach and patrolman Corey Mosher.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Library

Several students will start working on their senior project next week.

B. Building Enforcement/ Zoning Officer

Approval of building permits- Mildred Bliss made a motion to approve the building permits for the fire department, seconded by Al Losey. All members present voted yea.

Al Losey read a letter from Shawn Forrest pertaining to the new code enforcement plan.

A copy of this information will be made and council is to stop in the office, read the contents, and note any questions they have. This will be approved in September. Al stated a letter would be sent simplifying the information in the application packet.

C. Public Works

Snow plowing will be advertised this month.

Drains-Al Losey will contact Zeiser Wilbert regarding the drains that need replace/repairs. Melvin and Al Beach will look into two problems, one at the point of State/Mechanic and Walt Beach's property. Mildred Bliss will contact DOT about two (2) drains plugged up on Main St.

D. Building and Recreation

Borough Council once again discussed the plans for a new building. It is expected that the current building will be razed by mid October. Marian Russell and Ed Lockhart will meet with Tom Rotsell as he offered to work up a set of plans. There was a discussion on pros and cons of modular built. Ed Lockhart voiced his opinion against modular built. Pricing for a modular construction as well as stick construction will be reviewed before the next monthly meeting. Secretary will contact Tom Schill, Northern Tier Regional Planning, for an application regarding a loan for the first \$50,000 at 2% interest.

E. Public Safety

None

F Personnel and Appointment

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Code violations

Burrows property- Marty Burrows was on vacation when secretary called to set up an appt to re-inspect property, this is in the attorney's hands.

Robinson grant money- Al Losey attended the hearing, judgment is that Brad owes the money plus court costs. Brad made the statement he might still appeal the judgment; but Al did not seem to think he would do this.

Barnes- property on Franklin St- followup by Al Losey.

Robinson barn- Al Losey was told they were going to tear it down and Al will check the timeline on it.

Building Code Enforcement Officer- It was decided last month to contact someone to condemn several buildings but Marian stated this was not done because of the cost.

Johnson, Sika property violation- Marian turned these over to Mayor Taft to investigate.

Bieri property- they have been working on cleaning up the property and should have an extension for another month.

Code of Ordinance- final manuscript- in the process of reviewing

There was a discussion on the type of sidewalk the fire dept will have.

Church /Beach- Marian relayed the church wants to deal directly with Walt, not through the borough, and Walt stated they can contact him, which hasn't happened so far. Al Losey discussed having had a meeting with Jim Baker several months ago and felt confident they would put some type of evergreen barrier up. Bill Dincher, representing the borough, will contact the church and Walt for a meeting.

In a related matter, Walt questioned what was being done about the building permit that still has not been issued and the zoning violation that exists for the church building. It was suggested council read the sidewalk ordinance as the fire dept was told one thing yet other properties are not made to follow the same rules.

Tom Rotsell mentioned the fire dept is following the L&I stamped plans; they also have architect stamped plans.

Multi-Municipal zoning grant- Al Losey read the letter to adopt a resolution. There is a slight increase in the fee, as Tioga Township is not participating. Al Losey made a motion to accept the resolution, seconded by Melvin Davis. Bill Dincher expressed his thoughts on why Tioga Township is not participating. Al Losey spoke as to why he thought it would be a good idea to join even with the increase in funds due.

Bill Dincher made a secondary motion, that we table the action for now, seconded by Mildred Bliss. Motion carried by a roll call vote with all members present voting yea.

NEW BUSINESS

Numerous ordinance violations were discussed and it was agreed that Mayor Taft would be handling the matter in the future and will be enforced by the police. Walt reminded everyone this did not include enforcement of building code or zoning codes. Taft assured council there would be equal enforcement.

Marian discussed the "move" and feels everyone will have to donate some time. The need for a new shredder was discussed and it was decided it would be cheaper to incinerate.

There was a discussion on changing the rummage sale ordinance.

Koleen commended our police dept stating whenever she has called, they have always responded with either a phone call or a visit.

Marian also reminded everyone that those on council get no pay for all the work they do. John Ripic has been absent from a few meetings due to work and the secretary will check into the procedure for this.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made to adjourn at 9:58 P.M. by Al Losey, seconded by Mildred Bliss. All members present voted yea.

Minutes were taken and prepared by:
Darcy Wood
Secretary