

**LAWRENCEVILLE BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 03, 2002**

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

Council Members:

Mildred Bliss
Melvin Davis
William Dincher
Edward Lockhart (arrived 7:20)
Marian Russell

Mayor:

Bryce Taft

Chief of Police:

Walter Beach

Secretary:

Darcy Wood

Visitors:

Donna Blend
Chet Bryant
Rose Delia
Fern Deming
Nancy Funck

Tom Rotsell
George Butler
Alex Delia
Janet Beach
Gary Weaver

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of August 05, 2002 meeting were approved as presented with a note that the borough property Al Krieger was discussing was the eastern line of the property.

PUBLIC PRESENTATION

There appears to be a problem with the lot aside of the borough as some of the land appears on our deed and Butler's deed also. Thirty-eight feet is in dispute. Marian stated the westside of the lot has been tax-exempt on the borough tax bill dating back before the 60's. George Butler stated he thought it was quite obvious that he is the owner of this property because it wouldn't make sense for the builders to build a home and garage on borough property. His deed reads 77' x 108'. Since there is a dispute over the size it will be costly to search it out and the borough is hoping to come to an agreement with the Butler's on a purchase price.

There was a discussion on how much footage the fire dept. needed and the borough's not sure how much land they actually own. An agreement was reached that a letter of intent will be re-written excluding any footage.

Rose Delia, a resident from Ryon Circle, is interested in an update on Smokin Joe's and the lighting situation.

Marian spoke with Smokin Joe's lawyer, who is from out of town, and he requested a code enforcement officer look at the property and state whether it is in violation or not before he would make a trip to Lawrenceville. Secretary will ask Bill Lusk to check the lighting from Ryon's Circle. Ed Lockhart and Burdette Chamberlain have properties that are adjoining Smokin Joe's. They spoke of promises that Mr. Prezelski made to them and has not followed through with. Mr. Chamberlain would like to put a fence at his property.

COMMUNICATIONS

Communications were reviewed. HRMM & L law firm- letter about the gas tank in Crown Victoria's (police car) Walt will fill out the paperwork.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Marian had a question on the Liquid Fuels Audit Report. They show a balance of \$12,000 and list some errors they found. Nancy Funck was sure this audit was done before the transfer of money that was deposited into the general fund by mistake. This was adjusted and we now have direct deposit. The balance of \$29,000 is correct. Need to start looking at some projections for next year's budget. Mildred Bliss made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report and was seconded by Ed Lockhart. All were in favor and no one was opposed.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Additional bills to be approved: DGK insurance \$2,380.16, Marian Russell 40.63 for mileage (research on deed) totaling \$2,420.79 making a g.t. \$7,093.46.

Library, PPL \$32.65= \$180.37. Melvin Davis made a motion to approve paying the bills with the additions, seconded by Mildred Bliss. All were in favor; no one was opposed.

Tom Rotsell measured the borough property and there is 276 ft. without the property in dispute with the Butler's.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Meeting reconvened at 8:18 pm.

MAYOR'S REPORT

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

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

Chet Bryant said he heard some disturbing news that a neighbor of his was directly or indirectly called a liar for stating the church was starting construction before the time allowed and worked later than 8:00 pm. He gets home from work at 6:09 am and heard work begin ten minutes later and heard them working after 8:00 pm and they were working on the roof. Marian thought they were working on the foundation when they were told they couldn't start before 7:00 a.m. Gary

Weaver questioned why this is being discussed now that the work is all done. We are past the construction and if the ordinance was broken then what is the fine? Let's move on. There was a discussion on this matter. Most residents don't know there are specifics as to the time you are allowed to do construction and it should be on the building permit. Walt said he did not want to issue a citation and was more so looking for an apology from council for calling him a liar and saying the construction work didn't happen before/after hours. Marian and Bill agreed they were only going by what was told to them. Marian said she will listen to last months tape and didn't recollect anyone calling someone a liar.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Library

Lynn Warso was informed she could purchase carpet for the library. There was a question on the gas bill. There was major cleaning done last month and should be compared next month. Secretary will call Don Hartman to do an overall maintenance check for any gas leaks.

B. Building Enforcement/Zoning Officer

We sent the letter to Mansfield stating out interest in the code enforcement program. Discussion about who could be appointed to be a code enforcement officer and issue citations. Tabled for unfinished business.

C. Public Works: Streets and Dikes

Academy Street- A. L. Blades will start working on the project September 9. They can't do any resident driveway paving at this time as they are pressed for time. A letter will go out to the residents of the street explaining what is to be done and when. Marian suggested council members keep track of this project.

D. Building and Recreation

A complaint was heard about the destruction of the park swings.

E. Public Safety: Fire and Police

None

F. Personnel and Appointment

None

G. Finance

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Academy Street- an appeal was filled out disputing the tax status for this property.

Burrows property- hearing August 30 for pending junk ordinance violation. Judge Dalton found them in violation and gave them 30 days to comply.

Car Town – letter sent asking owner to remove old tires due to complaint from neighbor regarding mosquitoes. Owner has not complied, secretary to send a certified letter stating concern over West Nile virus.

Johnson property- barrels of trash have been on sidewalk for three weeks. Marian to get secretary a list of specifics and will send them a letter.

Sika- secretary sent letter (certified& regular) to clean up property.

Burton- put car in garage; there is still scrap metal and old trailer.

Interchange lighting- Marian read agreement the solicitor prepared; this will be made into a resolution. Secretary will call township and tell them of our agreement.

Calvary UMC complaints- Once again the council heard and discussed complaints concerning the construction of the church buildings. Council has not approved the permit as of yet. Some of the issues have been remedied. Issues of concern were about the size of the structure, space consumed on the property by the building and the depreciation of neighboring properties. There was a discussion on how to measure set back. Walt said it was from the street line. It's clearly defined in the ordinance book, under Index go to streets, street line defined, and it takes you right to the section that defines them. You take the width of the street, take half of that from the centerline, and there's your street line. That's also where your set back is measured from. An added complaint was there is suppose to be 20 ' between any building and any lot but according to the plans it shows 13', found in Section 14, 1133 of the Ordinance book. Also the lot size doesn't even meet minimum size to build on. Conversation continued about the validity of the building permit that was issued. Secretary will send a copy of the complaints to the solicitor to check into any violations.

Brad Robinson- has not been in to pay what he owes the borough. He was at the May meeting and promised to pay by June 6, 2002. Melvin will check it.

Christmas decorating contest- Marian forgot to ask Karen and she will check with her.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Borough Assn. dinner to be held in Knoxville this month.
2. Zoning Hearing Board committee- Roy property on James St. wanted a variance to build a garage. Ken Leone and Ed Lockhart decided a

- variance was not needed as there was another lot the Roy's owned but did not want to use it for the garage.
3. Zoning Committee- has not been re-appointed in several years. Ken Leone can't remember last time he was appointed, Ed Lockhart should not be on because he is on council, secretary will contact Tom Rotsell to see when he was appointed last. Janet Beach agreed to be on the committee, she could take Ed Lockhart's place.
 4. Code Enforcement Officer- we need to hire someone to issue citations for properties where we have violations. Marian asked Walt to possibly do this. Walt will talk to the solicitor about this, and Marian agreed to be present for the conversation. Also, it would be land use violations only.
 5. Millie mentioned the cable bills increased and did we have a contract with Time Warner, which we do not because they wanted a 10-year contract
 6. Millie mentioned the lights going off at least once a day. Our power comes from Osceola; some lines were hit when someone was cutting trees. The problem should get fixed soon.
 7. Sheds- Bill Lusk requested council make a ruling if a permit is required for a shed and what is the cost. There was a decision that if a shed is less than 256 sq. ft. without a foundation it does not require a permit and there is no fee. If the shed is over 256 sq. ft. it will be considered new construction and the fee is \$45.00. Secretary was told to delete the wordage: Borough ordinance states that no building shall be located less than: 25 ft. from front line, 10 ft. from side line or 30 ft. from the rear line of property as this does not apply in every case. Ed Lockhart made a motion to approve permit # 197, seconded by Bill Dincher. All were in favor; no one was opposed.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made to adjourn at 9:56 p.m. by Mildred Bliss, seconded by Ed Lockhart. All were in favor; no one was opposed.

Minutes were taken and prepared by:
Darcy Wood