

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES
Monday, February 9, 2009
7:00 p.m.**

Mayor Eisaman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. City Administrator, Susan Trout, took roll call with the following members present: Councilman DePasquale, Councilman Peterinelli, Councilman Tridico, Councilman Finfrock and Mayor Eisaman. City Solicitor, Timothy McCormick and City Treasurer/Fiscal Director, Mary Perez were also present.

*****PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE*****Councilman Tridico

*****BIDS*****

Sale of Used Tractor. Ms. Trout, “We placed the tractor on bid through Municibid as we’ve done previously with other used equipment. Our high bid came in the amount of \$1,853.33 from Dale Brosius of Rebuck, PA. It’s for the purchase of a used 1974 Ford Model 2110 Tractor which was utilized at Mt. Odin. Our original bid was \$1,000. We had numerous bids that came in this morning; 18 in total and that was the high bid. So I’m recommending Council accept that bid.”

Councilman Peterinelli **MOVED** to accept the bid on the tractor in the amount of \$1,853.33 from Dale Brosius, of Rebuck, PA, and Councilman Tridico **SECONDED**. No discussion. **All voted unanimously to accept the bid.**

*****PROCLAMATION – ‘March 1 - 7, 2009 as Osteopathic Medicine Week’*****

Mayor Eisaman, “I would like to read a proclamation designating the first week of March 2009 as Osteopathic Medicine Week. Later on this week I’ll be meeting with Mr. Freeman and another doctor to do a formal presentation.”

Mayor Eisaman read the proclamation, “**WHEREAS**, the Nation’s largest medical college, the Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine, (LECOM), is preparing a new generation of physicians in the Osteopathic tradition that sees wellness as a state of health created before any disease occurs, the state of being that prevents sickness, and **WHEREAS**, the Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine will expand osteopathic medical education at LECOM at Seton Hill University in Greensburg, and **WHEREAS**, the Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine has partnered with Excelsa Health to attract physicians to the Greensburg area, and **WHEREAS**, there are currently 48 million Americans who lack health insurance and the number grows with increased unemployment, and **WHEREAS**, there are millions of Americans with health insurance for whom the cost is still a barrier to care, and **WHEREAS**, the osteopathic medicine profession of the United States has recognized that many barriers to access affordable health care and medical care exist, **WHEREAS**, the City of Greensburg recognizes the need for osteopathic physicians who are committed to bringing attention to the barriers to quality care that exist for so many Americans regardless of age, income level or ethnicity, and **WHEREAS**, Greensburg’s practicing osteopathic physicians are dedicated to improving the health of our Community through education and awareness-based efforts as well as by delivering quality health services. Now, **THEREFORE**, I, Karl Eisaman, Mayor of the City of Greensburg in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby proclaim March 1-7, 2009 to be Osteopathic Medicine Week, and I urge all citizens and Community organizations to support this observance calling attention to access quality health and medical care.”

Mayor Eisaman continued, “As I said before we’ll be doing a formal presentation of this proclamation to LECOM later on this week.”

*****COMMENTS/BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR*****

John Vanderhoff, 12 Brattleboro Drive, Greensburg, PA. Mr. Vanderhoff, “I just wanted to talk a little bit seeing that you’ve made an offer to the Police Department which they’ve accepted. It’s good to know that there’s not going to be any issues there; that it’s being approved and apparently the majority accepted it and they’re satisfied with it. So that’s good. The question that prompted my mind is being that we’re in a recession, I’ve not heard in the news or anything what the City’s doing to be proactive in trying to reduce costs and in some hope perhaps help us taxpayers who have suffered lower incomes and are struggling under a tax burden. The tax increase of 18%, I guess I’m a person that maintains hope, and so my hope is that you guys are taking a proactive approach and figuring out ways that you can cut costs as you review contracts and what have you. I see

in the paper all the time that UPMC is going to cut executive pay up to 25%. I know the State has frozen hiring and perhaps wages.”

Mayor Eisaman, “A lot of those are non-contractual positions.”

Mr. Vanderhoff, “I realize you have contracts but you’re also in the process this year of negotiating contracts and setting contracts for just this year perhaps and some for longer and what have you. The question I’m raising is because I haven’t seen anything that tells me you’re doing anything proactive to cut costs. I would love to hear you guys make the commitment that you’re going to do everything that you can and you could roll back at least a part of that 18% tax increase over the year or something.”

Mayor Eisaman, “Our hope is to do that. For example, on this contract, and I really don’t want to get into it too much because it’s not on the agenda yet, but I will tell you that we have negotiated changes in the hospitalization that will save \$60,000 a year which was included in our budget. We’re also looking at changing the pension plan from 20 years of service at a 60% payout to 20 years of service, age 50 minimum retirement date and 50% payout for new hires. Unfortunately in the State of Pennsylvania you can’t change pension plans for existing people. Basically the 20 years, minimum age 50 and 50% is what’s reflected in the Third Class City Code, which we’re restricted to honor that one at least. So we have done two items that created future savings to the City; obviously one more immediate than the other. Also, later on we will introduce and discuss the wage amounts arrived at from reviewing recent arbitrations. If you don’t come to agreement contractually you go to State arbitrators, which have not always benefited communities, but these amounts are in line with what the awards have been in the last three or four communities we’ve looked at over the last six months. Obviously we started these negotiations nine months ago and the economy was not near where it is today. When you look at contracts especially when you have to look at the end result being arbitration, you have to try to evaluate what arbitrating rulings there have been to see what the people are awarding and trying to figure out what you can benefit from without going to arbitration. If you go to arbitration it’s not always a ‘win-win’ for either side. There’s a ‘give and take’. I think from what we’ve been told being able to renegotiate the future hires’ pension plan is a very positive thing as far as items that can be negotiated prior to an arbitration-type hearing.”

Mr. Vanderhoff, “I wasn’t talking specifically about the contract with the police; it’s more of what’s your general approach that you’re taking because this recession has been pretty hard?”

Mayor Eisaman, “I can tell you that last Friday the City Administrator and I met with Senator Ward and her staff and other municipalities that have police departments looking for ways for additional funding for communities that have police departments versus communities that don’t have police departments and possibly still get funding.”

Mr. Vanderhoff, “Pennsylvania is not fair in how they take and distribute that. We are all in agreement in this room probably on that. I was interested and I appreciate your comments and I do encourage you to really work hard to figure out ways to cut costs even if they’re painful temporarily to get us through. Be proactive on it. Thank you.”

Mayor Eisaman, “Even though most of our conversation dealt with the police, that’s not the only department that we’re looking at with regards to potential savings whether it be the second half of 2009 or into 2010.”

Mr. Vanderhoff, “Thank you.”

Mayor Eisaman, “You’re welcome.”

*****APPROVAL OF LAST MONTH’S COUNCIL MINUTES*****Councilman DePasquale **MOVED** to approve the minutes of the last month’s Council meeting, and Councilman Tridico **SECONDED**. No discussion. **Unanimously all voted in favor.**

*****APPROVAL OF MONTHLY BILL LIST*****Councilman Finrock **MOVED** to approve the monthly bill list and pay the bills as the money becomes available. Councilman Peterinelli **SECONDED**. No discussion. **Unanimously all voted in favor.**

*****REPORTS OF COUNCIL*****

Councilman DePasquale, “The 38th Annual Laurel Hockey Tournament will be held at the Kirk S. Nevin Ice Arena for three consecutive weekends starting March 6, 2009 and ending on March 22, 2009. During the times of this tournament public skating sessions will be cancelled on Friday and Saturday evenings and Sunday afternoons. All other public session times will still be open. The Recreation Department is now taking registrations for Spring Baseball, In-house Soccer and Soccer Tots. You can register at the office, Monday through Friday, between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. or you can print out a

copy of the registration form from the website at www.city.greensburg.pa.us and mail it in. That concludes my report.”

Councilman Peterinelli, “To date we have 1,700 tons of rock salt. This is about 600 tons more than we ordered last year at the same time. The salt shed is actually half-full and we need 450 tons to be filled up. So when it comes in it will be filled. Also, the Street Department is doing some pothole patching. We got some complaints from some residents about their streets, and you know, Mayor, we don’t have much salt. They’re trying to do as much as they can on the hills and the intersections. Some people want the salt truck to go up and down so the salt gets on both sides. There are cars parked on both sides of the streets; they can only go one place. That’s it.”

Mayor Eisaman, “A lot of the parameters we’re using for salt spreading this year is based on what PennDOT had requested of us with regards to salting hills and intersections.”

Councilman Tridico, “There is a new business at 714 Mt. Pleasant Street across from The Meadows Ice Cream Parlor. The business is called ‘Gifts of Glass Wear’. The American Red Cross will soon be moving to 351 Harvey Avenue from their current location on North Main Street. That concludes my report.”

Councilman Finfrock, “I want to address the revenues first. Right now we have sort of an artificial concept of revenue in that it’s looking like its 13% of our budget which seems to be astronomical. But that’s really due to an in-house transfer and is really an artificial increase in revenue and that will eventually be moved back out. So it really shouldn’t count as a true revenue piece of income. Discounting that and adjusting for that our revenues are really at 4% of our budget and that’s 1% lower than they were in January 2008. So we’re running a little bit behind on revenues. Expenses are at 8% of our budget. This is 1% higher than they were last year, so the two areas were about 1% behind in each category. I complimented the supervisors last year on keeping it within budget and we’ve got to make sure we continue to do our best efforts and make sure we stay within our budget for this upcoming year. To address Mr. Vanderhoff and any other citizens that may have some interest, first of all we had to get a police contract so we knew exactly where we were going to be. Then once we see what the impact is on the budget and its revenues and expenditures we’ll be able to look at some of the things you’re trying to address and want us to look forward to. I think within the next few months we’ll have some statements that you’ll like to be hearing. Hopefully we’ll meet your approval later on down the road. That concludes my report.”

Mayor Eisaman, “I’m assuming also one of the reasons why our expenses are up a little bit is because of the 500 additional tons of road salt we’ve used.”

Councilman Finfrock, “Well when we’re talking General Fund that may be the overtime. The salt comes out of Liquid Fuels so that’s not included in there. But that \$57,000 is roughly the salt.”

Councilman Peterinelli, “They have been out quite a few hours for overtime, Mayor.”

MAYOR’S REPORT

Fire, Code and Police Reports. Mayor Eisaman reviewed the Fire, Code and Police Reports. Copies of these reports may be obtained at the respective offices or the City Administration Office.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 1 – AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 1974, THE WAGE ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF GREENSBURG, FIXING THE NUMBER OF OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF ALL DEPARTMENTS OF THE CITY OF GREENSBURG AND RATES OF COMPENSATION THEREOF FOR THE YEAR 2009. Ms. Trout, “Bill No. 1 is an introduction only and will not be acted upon this evening. It is introduced in conjunction with Council’s consideration and acceptance of the Agreement between the City and the Police Officers of the City of Greensburg included under the Council Approval portion of tonight’s agenda. The purpose of the introduction is to amend the hourly rates of compensation for the City’s Police Officers’ wages and longevity schedule retroactive to January 1, 2009 as set forth in the new agreement.”

Bill No. 2 – AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF GREENSBURG AMENDING ARTICLE II, ENTITLED ‘POLICE PENSION’ OF CHAPTER 54, ENTITLED, ‘PENSIONS’ OF ORDINANCE NO 1646, THE CODE OF THE CITY OF GREENSBURG. Ms. Trout, “Also relative to Council’s acceptance of the Agreement between the City of Greensburg and the Police Officers, the introduction of Bill No. 2 amends the Ordinance setting forth a minimum retirement age of fifty (50) and changing the benefit rate from 60% to 50% of the participant’s final monthly average salary to all police officers hired after January 1, 2009. This benefit change still requires officers to work a minimum of twenty (20) years.”

Mayor Eisaman, “With the minimum age of 50 years?”

Ms. Trout, “Correct.”

*****ENACTMENT OF RESOLUTION*****

Resolution No. 1134 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF GREENSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF A PROPOSAL TO OBTAIN FUNDING FROM THE PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (DCED), COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA. Ms. Trout, “Enactment of Resolution No. 1134 by City Council authorizes the Mayor to execute documentation on behalf of the City and the Planning Director to apply to DCED for grant funding in order to fund a feasibility study for the development of a hotel at a proposed site located near the new Seton Hill University Center for the Performing Arts.” Councilman Tridico **MOVED** to enact Resolution No. 1134, and Councilman DePasquale **SECONDED**.

Mayor Eisaman, “If we got the money at some point, if private dollars were available in a more timely fashion, we’re not obligated to do this or can we transfer it to another use?”

Ms. Ciampini, “We could always attach that to acquisition price.”

Mayor Eisaman, “Okay, very good.”

No further discussion. Roll call vote was taken. **All voted unanimously to enact.**

*****COUNCIL APPROVAL*****

- a. **Acceptance of the Agreement between the City of Greensburg and the Police Officers of the City of Greensburg retroactive to January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2013.** Ms. Trout, “Highlights of the 5-year contract include a 3% wage increase for years 2009, 2011 and 2012, a 3.5% increase for year 2010 and a 4% increase for year 2013; a change in hospitalization coverage from SelectBlue of Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield to the Keystone Highmark PPO Blue \$250/\$500 Plan which includes an increase in deductible, co-pays and prescription costs; the pension change ~~enacted~~ introduced tonight under ~~Resolution No. 1134~~ Bill No. 2; elimination of the penalty for moving outside the City; and language changes and clarification in regards to usage of earned time off. Council approval would authorize the Mayor to execute the Agreement on behalf of the City.”

Councilman DePasquale, “I think there’s a mistake in here. Resolution No. 1134 was for the DCED grant.”

Ms. Trout, “It should read ‘introduced under Bill No. 2’.”

Councilman Peterinelli **MOVED** to approve the agreement, and Councilman Finfrock **SECONDED**. No further discussion. **All voted unanimously to approve the agreement.**

Mayor Eisaman, “I assume legally you’ll have to draft the official document for both parties to sign off on?”

Ms. Trout, “Correct. It will go now for the review to make sure with both sides that the language indicated at the table is what’s actually listed in the contract.”

Councilman DePasquale, “Mayor, I think we want to thank everybody involved in this, too, in moving it along in a way that didn’t disrupt anything for the City and arriving at an agreement that was fair to the police force and to the City. I want to thank those involved in the negotiations.”

Mayor Eisaman, “I have to say Tim and Sue did most of the negotiating. They did a good job in being fair to both parties.”

- b. Appointments to the Central Westmoreland Council of Governments (CWCOG).** Ms. Trout, “Council approval appoints Councilman DePasquale as the City’s COG Representative and reappoints Les Harvey as the Alternate Representative.”
Councilman Finfrock **MOVED** to approve the appointments, and Councilman Tridico **SECONDED**. No discussion. **All voted unanimously to approve.**
- c. Maintenance Agreement between the City of Greensburg and Copier Corporation of America for the Toshiba Copiers located in the Code Enforcement and City Administration Offices.** Ms. Trout, “Council approval accepts the 1-year agreement effective February 27, 2009 at the rate of .009 cents per copy reflecting an increase of approximately \$45.81 for the copier in the Code Office and \$41.23 for the copier in the City Administration Office.”
Councilman Peterinelli **MOVED** to approve the maintenance agreement, and Councilman DePasquale **SECONDED**. No discussion. **Mayor Eisaman abstained, and all others voted unanimously to approve the agreement.**
- d. Maintenance Agreement between the City of Greensburg and AMCOM Office Systems for the Toshiba Copier located in the Police Department.** Ms. Trout, “Council approval accepts the 1-year agreement effective February 16, 2009 at the rate of .0075 times the number of copies per month reflecting an approximate increase of \$41.78.”
Councilman Finfrock **MOVED** to approve the maintenance agreement, and Councilman Tridico **SECONDED**. No discussion. **All voted unanimously to approve the maintenance agreement.**
- e. Alert/Care Software Service Agreement between the City of Greensburg and Metro Technology Services, Inc.** Ms. Trout, “Council approval accepts the agreement covering the Police Department’s Metro software program for the period of April 26, 2009 through April 25, 2010 at the annual rate of \$4,260. This price is \$150 more than last year’s rate.”
Councilman DePasquale **MOVED** to approve the agreement, and Councilman Peterinelli **SECONDED**. No discussion. **All voted unanimously to approve.**
- f. Agreement between the City of Greensburg and Idlewild Park.** Ms. Trout, “Council approval of the agreement sets the date for the Community/School Picnic for Friday, June 19, 2009. I think the all-day pass is \$15 as set forth.”
Councilman Finfrock **MOVED** to approve the agreement, and Councilman DePasquale **SECONDED**. No discussion. **All voted unanimously to approve.**
- g. Hiring of Skate Instructor for the Kirk S. Nevin Arena.** Ms. Trout, “Recommended to be hired by the Rink Manager, Council approval hires Mallory Zombek in the contracted position of Skate Instructor at \$12 per hour.”
Councilman Peterinelli **MOVED** to approve the hiring, and Councilman DePasquale **SECONDED**. No discussion. **All voted unanimously to approve.**
- h. Purchase of a 2008 Ford Crown Victoria Police Car through the South Hills Area Council of Governments (SHACOG).** Ms. Trout, “Council approval of this purchase replaces one of the two police vehicles approved for purchase through the Central Westmoreland COG at last month’s meeting.”
Mayor Eisaman, “Last month we approved the purchase of two 2009 Ford Crown Victorias, but in between our meetings SHACOG advised us they had a 2008 Ford, the same car we were looking for, and we could save \$2,500, so we cancelled the one 2009 and we are hoping to be purchasing the 2008.”
Councilman Tridico **MOVED** to approve the purchase, and Councilman Finfrock **SECONDED**. No further discussion. **All voted unanimously to approve.**
- i. Maintenance Agreement between the City of Greensburg and Diskwriter, Inc.** Ms. Trout, “Council approval accepts the agreement to service the Lanier recording system in Council Chambers and two transcribing machines in the amount of \$1,638. This is an increase of \$120 over last year’s price.”
Councilman DePasquale **MOVED** to approve the maintenance agreement, and Councilman Peterinelli **SECONDED**. No discussion. **All voted unanimously to approve the maintenance agreement.**

- j. **Maintenance Agreement between the City of Greensburg and Schindler Elevator Corporation for the Elevator at City Hall.** Ms. Trout, “Council approval renews a 5-year agreement with Schindler for the term of February 17, 2009 until February 16, 2014. The renewal price for the first year of the contract is \$3,360 annually. This is an \$806.04 decrease in the amount from the previous year’s price. Mary was working hard on this trying to negotiate them down.” Mayor Eisaman, “Very good.” Councilman Finrock **MOVED** to approve the maintenance agreement, and Councilman DePasquale **SECONDED**. No further discussion. **All voted unanimously to approve the maintenance agreement.**

*****ADJOURNMENT*****Councilman Peterinelli **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting. **SECONDED:** Councilman DePasquale. Unanimously all voted in favor to **adjourn**.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

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Susan M. Trout, City Administrator