

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES
Monday, April 13, 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 Tridico, Councilman Finfrock and Mayor Eisaman. City Solicitor, Timothy McCormick and City Treasurer/Fiscal Director, Mary Perez were also present. Councilman Peterinelli was absent.

*****PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE*****Mayor Eisaman

*****MOMENT OF SILENCE *****Mayor Eisaman asked for a moment of silence at this time in memory of the fallen Pittsburgh Police Officers.

*****BIDS*****

Harrison Avenue and Ehalt Street Conduit Installation and Curb and Sidewalk Replacement. Ms. Trout, “We opened bids last week, I don’t remember the exact date, but based on the review and the recommendation by the City’s consulting engineering firm, which is Gibson-Thomas, Barb Ciampini, our Planning Director, and myself recommend Council accept the base bid from the lowest qualified bidder, which is TSB Inc., d/b/a/ Schultheis Electric in the amount of \$95,593.60. I give you that recommendation also with the understanding there was one bid that was received that didn’t meet the qualifications of the bid.”

Contractor	Bid Amount
D’Andrea Plumbing, Pittsburgh (Disqualified)	Base Bid: \$ 78,011.09 Alternate Bid: \$ 18,758.50
Donegal Construction, Greensburg	Base Bid: \$156,451.47 Alternate Bid: \$ 30,110.00
Elisha Industries, Inc., Belle Vernon	Base Bid: \$164,116.00 Alternate Bid: \$ 26,730.00
TSB Inc., d/b/a Schultheis Electric, Latrobe	Base Bid: \$ 95,593.60 Alternate Bid: \$27,631.00
Thomas Didiano & Sons, Pittsburgh	Base Bid: \$135,373.00 Alternate Bid: \$ 14,584.00
Vernco Industries, LLC, Mount Pleasant	Base Bid: \$204,105.00 Alternate Bid: \$ 27,554.00
Vince Building Company, Greensburg	Base Bid: \$206,614.50 Alternate Bid: \$ 20,029.80

Mayor Eisaman, “Do we need to address anything with regards to that, Solicitor?”

Solicitor McCormick, “No, just note that the bid was reviewed by me and a determination was made that legally it did not qualify to be considered.”

Mayor Eisaman, “Are we looking for a motion to accept the bid as you presented?”

Ms. Trout, “Correct, the base bid. At this time we do not recommend the alternate bid, just the base bid in the amount of \$95,593.60. This work is being done in conjunction with Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) money.”

Councilman Tridico **MOVED** to accept the bid as presented by the City Administrator, and Councilman DePasquale **SECONDED**.

Mayor Eisaman, “This is our CDBG money, and we are basically approving this as a formality. Do we pay it out and the County reimburses us through our CDBG or do they pay for it directly?”

Ms. Trout, “No, I believe we pay and then we invoice them. Do you think I’m wrong about that, Barb?”

Mayor Eisaman, “Either way there’s no cost to the City.”

Ms. Ciampini, “Other than the engineering which was already paid.”

Ms. Trout, “I’m not positive if we pay first or they pay first.”

Ms. Ciampini, “Usually they pay first.”

Mayor Eisaman, “And we just do this as a formality.”

Ms. Trout, “We can find that out for sure.”

No further discussion. **All voted unanimously to accept the bid.**

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

Rachel Seiler and William Seiler, 224 Brown Street, Greensburg, PA. Ms. Seiler, "The topic is student housing. My husband and I are taxpayers, and the problem we're having is we bought our house in January 2007 and there's been a lot of commotion going on with us calling the police after 12:00 on a Monday or Thursday night or on a weekend because of students coming home drunk or having parties across the street from us. We call the police and they come and do their job and it happens again. It's ongoing."

Mayor Eisaman, "Is it one house or several houses?"

Ms. Seiler, "Mainly one that we have."

Mr. Seiler, "It's 221 Brown Street. We've called multiple times about this and even when we speak to the dispatcher it's the same song and dance; you have to keep calling, keep calling and keep calling. But that doesn't help us when we're trying to get a good night's rest before getting up for work in the morning and we're hearing profanity at 3:00 in the morning, fighting and screaming."

Mayor Eisaman, "I think part of our process we did last summer was if there were incidents reported to the police we would keep track of those and based on the items, if they're significant and consistent, we were going to have concerns as far as reapproving them for student housing the following year."

Ms. Seiler, "We were told that and the following week the police were called by other neighbors about them causing damage to their houses and fighting in the middle of the road. One police officer had to pick a girl up from being drunk in the middle of the night. I understand you're going to have these problems. I understand every night isn't going to be a peaceful night, but the point is we have two kids. I want the same respect as if you guys were living next door to me or anybody else in the same sense that they want a good night's sleep and everything. Another problem I'd like to address is our neighbors at 228 Brown that are Section 8, and I know for a fact they're on Section 8 and we have a problem with them damaging our property. We can't see them to call and say we videotaped them or we saw them personally throwing stuff at our car. We asked them politely to keep the noise down. They have five kids and they play basketball and they're damaging our cars while playing basketball."

Mr. Seiler, "There's only a five-foot wire fence that separates the two properties. There's times when I'm out grilling for dinner and you see the basketballs hit the vehicles and they come get them and go back. We've mentioned that before, too. I mean a \$16 basketball versus a \$16,000 vehicle; what's more important? We tried to talk to the parents about it first and they're not much past the level of their own children. It's frustrating that discipline isn't laid down."

Ms. Seiler, "Do they get reviewed by the Housing Authority?"

Mayor Eisaman, "That would not be us; that would be the Housing Authority. They're the ones renting it and providing information so that's a decision they would have to make I believe."

Ms. Seiler, "I even tried pricing a fence between us and that's really expensive for what we can afford right now to make peace. So we don't have to look at them and they don't have to look at us. I know it can be an ongoing issue but we're hoping to get it resolved. Our question is how far does it go? I heard the renters can allot 500 feet for another student home. Is that true?"

Mayor Eisaman, "That's correct."

Ms. Seiler, "We have three or four student houses on our road. They're renting at the corner of Brown Street, right across the street from us and next door to us; I don't know if it was you guys who said he's not allowed to rent to students anymore."

Mayor Eisaman, "Before you leave touch base with Barb and give her your phone number so we can investigate that. We'll also research the police incidents."

Ms. Seiler, "That would be great."

Mr. Seiler, "How many times do you have to call? I mean how many slaps on the wrist before they actually get fines and the landlords are actually accountable?"

Mayor Eisaman, "One of the things we did in reviewing this when we reevaluated it last summer was we wanted to put in stipulations that made the landlords be more responsible for their tenants. That's why the license is issued for a one-year period, so they all renew July 1st. So if there are problems then we can reevaluate and if there's somebody else within that 500-foot radius that's looking to establish a house for students they might take advantage of it; not necessarily on Brown Street."

Ms. Seiler, "When we do call, with the next door neighbors being HUD or Section 8, meaning no disrespect with the name calling, and they have damaged our property, where do we find the fine line of calling or do we let our property get damaged?"

Mayor Eisaman, "Some of that becomes not necessarily a police matter but a civil matter." Mr. Seiler, "We were told we'd have to witness everything which who is going to sit up 24 hours on their back porch and wait for something to happen? I mean that's a little far-fetched in my eyes. I work the overnight shift at the Westmoreland Manor in nursing and I come home at 7:00 in the morning and see beer cans in my yard. How am I supposed to see that happen?"

Mayor Eisaman, "Have you contacted the Housing Authority?"

Ms. Seiler, "Yes, I was told we had to write a two-page letter stating what was going on and what happened. I do have a log of what was going on and what had happened and they'll see what they can do about it. We're still waiting to see what we can do about it. I'm trying to do everything on our end of what we're supposed to be doing. I'm not seeing much progress on the other end."

Solicitor McCormick, "Have you talked to the landlords of the respective properties?"

Ms. Seiler, "Yes. I have contacted the landlord twice and no phone calls have been returned. They told me it is what it is basically."

Solicitor McCormick, "Unfortunately, to classify either one of these situations by just indicating who might be living there really I don't think is the best way to approach it. I think you're doing a very good job by keeping a log and keeping track. The police have to respond and I'm sure they will. Also, it's a matter of working with the landlord to make sure you have rights. You do have civil rights if it's a constant nuisance. You can maintain a Private Action of Nuisance; hopefully it doesn't go that far. But whether they're students or non-students or whether they're Section 8 or renting on their own really doesn't say much about the behavior. It's the behavior that is the problem; not the status of the tenant. I think you have to look at it more as a civil approach, communicate more with the landlord....."

Mr. Seiler, "But we have unreturned phone calls so how is that supposed to happen?"

Solicitor McCormick, "You might think about engaging a lawyer who might send a letter to the landlord advising them that your rights are being disrupted; that there's a nuisance and they need to control their tenants more or whatever it is. Simply categorizing the behavior because they happen to be students or they happen to be Section 8 really doesn't advance what the true problem is."

Mayor Eisaman, "Reference the activity not necessarily the tenants."

Solicitor McCormick, "I'm not discouraging you from calling the police if there's a disruption."

Mr. Seiler, "They don't get any more leeway than her or I would, right?"

Solicitor McCormick, "Who would?"

Mr. Seiler, "Anybody. You just said whatever status they would be."

Solicitor McCormick, "They don't have any greater rights, but they don't have any lesser rights either."

Mr. Seiler, "In summary we're homeowners in the neighborhood and we feel they're coming in after we move in and running the roost. They get to hang out and make all kinds of disruptions and wake our kids up at 2:00 in the morning."

Solicitor McCormick, "Your beef is not only with them immediately, and I know it's difficult, but your chief beef is with the landlord."

Ms. Seiler, "I have actually had contact with the landlord numerous times who had taken over the kids at the college. He has said if you have any problems give me a call. I called him and he was nice the one time. I told him he might want to call the police; they have the reports on us calling as well as the other neighbors in the neighborhood who have been calling. Before we looked for a home we did our homework. Who would be our neighbors; what kind of neighborhood is it; do we want our kids growing up here? It's getting to the point where we're looking to move out of our neighborhood because of this situation. We have a beautiful house and we love it, but it's just getting to the point where we're getting frustrated. We're not trying to take matters in the worst-term situation, but our cars are getting damaged and our property is getting damaged. I must have pulled 30 cigarette butts from my house in the parking lot of the same brand that have deliberately been put there so my child can pick them up. I watch my child as much as possible, but I'm afraid with beer cans and cigarette butts being thrown over, what's going to happen if something happens to our child? Do we come to you and say we came to you with this problem?"

Solicitor McCormick, "You have to understand the government is there to regulate the laws but private complaints you have with your neighbors have to be dealt with privately. It wouldn't hurt to consult with your own attorney. Some people have gone so far and this is not cheap but they get surveillance cameras if they're truly concerned about proving the case and showing people littering on your property. You can end up doing it that way."

And I'm not saying Council isn't here to listen to you, but everybody lives in a neighborhood and has to figure out how to communicate to the people in the property that you deserve respect."

Mayor Eisaman, "Obviously if there are ongoing situations at the student home we can address that with the landlord's renewal permit this summer."

Ms. Seiler, "With regard to my husband's question about the police, are they getting fines when they're called to their house?"

Mayor Eisaman, "Once again we can research it to find out what's going on, but if they do show up and they do write a citation, it goes to the magistrate's office and depending what the magistrate does there...."

Ms. Seiler, "I hope this is being taken as if you were living where we live. I understand it's the landlord."

Mr. Seiler, "You say get an attorney, but the law is the law in the neighborhoods, so I don't understand why you have to pursue it with an attorney when you can go right to the...."

Mayor Eisaman, "Once again we can deal with the government issues. The private issues between property owners sometimes have to be resolved within the court system. We don't have the right to come in and start evicting people from houses."

Solicitor McCormick, "Or privately sit down with your neighbor or the landlord and do a good job of communicating with them."

Mr. Seiler, "I did have communication with the one and she screamed at me right in front of her children because I took her garbage and threw it back on her property. She didn't understand why I did that, so that was the last conversation I had with her. To try and be civil with people when they're acting like their own children act, it's hard to keep your own cool. When you call the police and put the law into their hands and they can't do anything; they get to go home, we have to stay there. So how far does it go before we have to take something into our own hands? So one day I snap because I'm constantly being told we can't do this, we can't do that; you have to sit up and watch this and see that, and you just snap. Not that it's happened yet, but if it happens one day, then what? Then it's on me for trying to be a good husband and a good father to my two children that are both under two years old. Enough is enough. You can be pushed so far. Now you're saying I have to get an attorney and who knows if I can even afford that."

Mayor Eisaman, "We didn't say you had to. We said it was an option."

Ms. Seiler, "I understand both situations, but it's a little frustrating when we're trying to go in the positive direction. We have tried to contact the landlords. My fear is we have contacted the landlord, we try to go to the magistrate and get an attorney; what's to stop them from doing something to our property or us? Nowadays you see on television anybody can buy a gun. We're trying to do the right thing and go about it the right way."

Mr. Seiler, "We hear noise and stuff and it's pretty sad every day we have to keep our blinds shut because we don't know what's going on in the neighborhood. Every little noise we hear we're peeking through the blinds to see if people are being destructive. That's no way to live."

Ms. Seiler, "We bought a security system and it's really sad I can't let my son go outside and play in the yard without having to hear the neighbors swearing or different things happening and going on. It's not only at nighttime, it's during the day. Where are their values at? Where's the security at that we're supposed to feel comfortable? I'm not feeling that anymore. I told my husband I want to move. I want to get out of this area. It's a sad, sad feeling. We're working hard; not one but two jobs some of us work. How can we do more? We lived in Southwest Greensburg for five years and we loved it. We found this house that we loved and we thought we did our homework on it and now it's being turned around and how's that fair to us as taxpayers? I don't feel that's right. We're being told now turn the other cheek, or call the landlord or do this. Is there another way or another situation we can be told besides calling the landlord which we have tried?"

Mayor Eisaman, "I will ask George, Barb and Sue to get together and review this situation and the number of incidents. And, obviously, we need to either advise the landlord or do whatever."

Ms. Seiler, "I hope something. We tried numerous times and we're trying to be nice and work things out. The magistrate will just give them a fine and they'll pay that and it won't stop it going on another year or two. I hope that you guys feel that you wouldn't put up with this."

Mayor Eisaman, "Once again, when we reevaluated this we tried to incorporate some items that if there are problems that the license may or may not be renewed. We were trying to resolve problem areas and if we could, we will do what we need to do. I would like the opportunity to review the information."

Ms. Trout, "Who is the student home landlord?"

Ms. Seiler, "Michael Posner is the landlord for the Section 8 home. I have the landlord's name at home for 228 and 221 Brown Street. I can give it to you guys."

Mr. Seiler, "When we moved in there was a very sweet woman who lived in the house named Joanne, I believe, and she had to move out. We introduced ourselves to her and she was very nice. I even went over and did her walks in the winter."

Mayor Eisaman, "Yes, she was a crossing guard for the City."

Mr. Seiler, "She had to move out and now this. It's not like we walked into this and they were already there. It's evolving and is it going to be nipped in the behind or is it just something we have to deal with?"

Mayor Eisaman, "I know it's very frustrating, but we'll get back to you."

Dean Papapetrou, 31 East Otterman Street, Greensburg, PA. Mr. Papapetrou, "Last year I was here and this is about St. Clair Park and the problems with the young kids and adults vandalizing it at night. I call the folks only when I see the vandalism because in my apartment when I sit in my chair in my living room I look right at the amphitheater. I see the park and it's beautiful. When I first moved in, it was beautiful. I watched them build the bathrooms and that was a beautiful building. The young kids have no respect just like the young couple just said. If the people had more respect for personal property we wouldn't have this problem."

Mayor Eisaman, "I'm not arguing that point."

Mr. Papapetrou, "You told me you were going to try and take care of it. I noticed the signs you put up that say about the skateboards. Now the kids are in there with scooters, roller blades and mountain bikes. The volunteers planted all the flowers like they do every spring and take care of the landscaping by the parking lot and young folks come in and ruin everything. When people vandalize stuff it seems to fire me up. We all pay for it. Our taxes pay for it and then you have it posted right there. How much money was invested into that park? It was a beautiful park when I moved in here over nine years ago. I called about a month ago. There were a couple of kids up there vandalizing and the officer showed up, and for some reason I had to give my information again. Then he asked me for my birth date. Wait a second here, I'm not the victim, I'm the one who called you. Why am I being harassed, well not harassed, but he was getting more information because I was walking my dog. I have to get my exercise because I'm a disabled vet. Last night the fire alarm goes off in the St. Clair building."

Mayor Eisaman, "In the amphitheater?"

Mr. Papapetrou, "No, in our building. I'm done with the amphitheater because it's still happening. I call the officers and I don't want to bug these guys, they're busy and they have more important things. But you told me last year to call them and I've been taking pictures. There's also a nesting pair of hawks over there in the park. I have a spotting scope. I was told my camera would fit to it so I could take some good, close-up pictures of it, because I have one good, close-up of a red-tail up there. When the officer came I told him I watched them through my spotting scope because my eyes are not that great with my age. Everyone wears glasses here basically. I get fired up when I see the vandalism. They vandalize everything. So last night the fire alarm went off in the building I live in. A gentleman showed up. He didn't have a fire uniform on. I was half asleep because I have to take medicine for my medical problems and I take it normally at 7:00 and I didn't take it this evening because I wanted to come here. I was half-dazed and I went down and silenced the alarm, let the gentleman in, talked to the landlord and he said the Fire Department is coming to see what's going on. The older guys were very professional. The young volunteer firemen come in, God bless them all, but they had no respect, because I couldn't remember what was on the back of his sweatshirt. I remember blue clothing. And after he left I realized it was Greensburg's abbreviation he had on the back of his shirt. I was coming out to walk my dog and the officer that responded is the same officer that was over at the park with the incident I talked about earlier and he grabs my dog and looks at his tags. My dog's always legal. I get him shots all the time. I don't understand why he has to grab my dog's tags and look at them. His people skills are not that great and I'm not the only one because there are other people here in Greensburg that I hear the same thing with the same officer. I didn't get his name or badge number but he looks like Kojak. His people skills need some work. Other than that the police force is doing a great job getting the drugs out of the City. Up at the park, late at night, they're up there again with broken glass all over the place along the walking path. There's young children up there playing and God forbid someone gets hurt especially a young child. I know you're not going to want to see that and you'll feel bad. People don't have respect of personal property especially something that was so nice. Is there anything the City and the police force can do?"

Mayor Eisaman, "We're looking at cameras but budget wise....."

Mr. Papapetrou, "I'm putting one in our back lot."

Mayor Eisaman, "If we place cameras there we have to tie them into our dispatch center."

Mr. Papapetrou, "We had a few vehicles broken into in our lot right behind the amphitheater in the big parking lot that you folks built. I'm putting one up that will only cover the lot and maybe a part of your lot, that's it. I guess I have to go to a School Board meeting because these young kids have no respect at all. Even the college students like the young couple said. They come out of Mr. Toad's at 2:00-3:00 in the morning and they're raising all kind of Cain going down Otterman where all their little places are down the street; that one place where you had the problems a few years ago where you made the heroin bust. There's college students living in that row of homes and also down on lower St. Clair between East Pittsburgh and Otterman. I don't want to have to come here all the time. I'm not a complainer. I just want to live in peace and have everyone else in peace. These young kids destroying public property; it's not right. I get frustrated. Thirty years ago you were able to kick their little butts, and that's what I think the problem is. I think everyone in this room if they stepped out of line they felt a belt or spoon and today you can't do that to the kids. I guess we have to go to the School Board meetings and see what we can do there."

Mayor Eisaman, "It probably wouldn't hurt publicly, but I'm not sure they'll be able to oversee this. I'm not disagreeing with you, but to backtrack, did you say the incident with the officer was last night?"

Mr. Papapetrou, "Yes, sir. It was about 8:15 or so."

Ms. Trout, "What time do you consider the majority of concerns at St. Clair Park happen?"

Mr. Papapetrou, "Right after they get out of school until the sun comes up, but the majority is when they get out of school; that's when the young teenagers are there. Then when it gets dark the college students and older adults go in there and do whatever they're doing because there's drug paraphernalia all over the place. I wanted to point it out to the one officer because I didn't know what it was. I had to have my landlord tell me what it was. You can go up there right now and walk that walking path and see all kinds of broken glass, drug paraphernalia, empty bags and everything else. They just cleaned up all the leaves not even three weeks ago. There's fresh stuff all over the place, broken glass and everything else. I just don't want to see anyone hurt and wish people had more respect for property."

Mayor Eisaman, "George, maybe we could schedule some visits through the night with Chuck and the police dog."

Mr. Papapetrou, "I thought of that myself; if they would just drive through once every two hours. Once the word got around it's being watched they'll go somewhere else, hopefully out of Greensburg. It seems like it's a convenience for them because they come up from different areas and they always head to East Pittsburgh Street. When the officers do respond for the young kids, they scatter like flies. How is one man going to track down five or six young kids on skateboards? You're not going to catch them. You might catch one."

Mayor Eisaman, "Unfortunately, that location has many different escape areas."

Mr. Papapetrou, "Exactly. I know all too well where they go because I watch them. I'm not being a 'neb nose'. I like looking at the trees changing with everything blooming now. I don't want to have my blinds closed like the young couple said. I want to enjoy the sunshine and be able to open my windows without hearing skateboards and stuff bouncing. Actually when they're not vandalizing and they're in the parking lot and they bust their little butts, I think it's funnier than heck. I don't call when they're in the parking lots. It's when they vandalize the public property is what really irks me off. It's just a respect and courtesy issue. Be courteous to all men and other people and everything that's around you. Thank you."

Mayor Eisaman, "Thank you, sir."

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

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

Councilman DePasquale, “The Recreation Department is planning the summer program schedule which will offer the following camps; Baseball, Basketball, Soccer, Track and Field and Volleyball. We will also be hosting an All-American Wrestling Camp in July. More information will be available soon. Please check the City’s website at www.city.greensburg.pa.us and look for our insert in the Tribune Review in the near future. Starting the beginning of May we will be selling Veterans’ Memorial Swimming Pool passes for the 2009 season. As part of our summer program schedule we will be offering swimming lessons for all skill levels. We offer private pool parties and daytime birthday parties. You can stop by the Recreation Office to make your reservations. The Robertshaw Amphitheater at St. Clair Park will once again be filled with many events throughout the summer months. This information will be available soon at the Recreation Office, City Hall and on the website. That concludes that report.”

Councilman Peterinelli, reported by Councilman DePasquale, “On Monday, March 30, 2009 the street sweeper started operating the summer work shift with the hours of operation beginning at 4:00 a.m. until noon, Monday through Friday. The list of streets to be considered for resurfacing this year has now been inventoried. Information for these streets is being cataloged so that bidding can take place in June. Today the Street Department began excavating the first of the alleys scheduled for reconstruction this year. The alley between Lemington and McArthur will have a new base and wear surface established when this project is completed early next week. And, last, the brush chipper is in full operation. The call volume is on the increase as the weather continues to improve. This service is provided Monday through Friday.”

Councilman Tridico, “On tonight’s agenda there is a site plan/land development for Ray Charley’s Shop ‘n Save at his East Pittsburgh Street store. The plan is to reconfigure and change the grade of the existing parking lot to better utilize the parking spaces. Plans include wonderful, new landscaping and easier accessibility through the lot. This concludes my report.”

Councilman Finfrock, “Once again we have a mixed report on the budget. Revenues at this point on the surface look pretty good; they’re at 25% of the budget. However, we’re still dealing with that \$1million dollar transfer that has to be backed out here in the next few months, so we really want to take that out of there. Also, we’ve done a Parking Revenue transfer, which was 30 days before we normally do that, so that artificially inflates that percentage. So if we back those two things out we’re really looking at 19% of the proposed budget and that comes out to 3% lower than revenues in March 2008. That’s offset though by the fact that our expenses are at 20% of the budget and that is also 3% lower than last year. So we’re doing a fairly decent job again of keeping our expenses under control. The revenue will hopefully start to pick up here in the next two months.”

*****MAYOR’S REPORT*****

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

*****ADOPTION OF BILLS AS ORDINANCES*****

Bill No. 3 as Ordinance No. 1979 – AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF GREENSBURG AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 1646, THE CODE OF THE CITY OF GREENSBURG, REMOVING REFERENCES TO THE PARKING AUTHORITY WHICH WAS DISSOLVED AT THE END OF LAST YEAR. Ms. Trout, “It’s exactly as you’ve stated, Mayor, this adoption was introduced last month. This is one of the final pieces of the total dissolving of the Parking Authority; eliminating this language from our Code.”

Councilman DePasquale **MOVED** to adopt Bill No. 3 as Ordinance No. 1979, and Councilman Tridico **SECONDED**. No discussion. Roll call vote was taken. **All voted unanimously to adopt Bill No. 3 as Ordinance No. 1979.**

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

- a. Professional Consulting Services Agreement between the City of Greensburg and GEO Decisions.** Ms. Trout, “Council approval of the 2-year agreement is for the period of April 13, 2009 until April 13, 2011. Terms of the agreement include an annual maintenance fee of \$1,500. Only two of the associated rates of pay for staffing costs have increased since the last agreement. The hourly analyst rate has increased from \$65 to \$70 and the administrative rate has increased from \$60 to \$65.”
Councilman Finrock **MOVED** to approve the agreement, and Councilman DePasquale **SECONDED**. No discussion. **All voted unanimously to approve.**
- b. Appointment to the Recreation Advisory Board.** Ms. Trout, “Chris Thomas is recommended for appointment to the Board to fulfill the vacated term of ‘Huddie’ Kaufman until September 13, 2009.”
Councilman DePasquale, “Is that because that’s when that term was normally due to expire? We can’t do three years from now?”
Ms. Trout, “That’s correct. I don’t think you can because it will mess up the staggering terms for the other members.”
Councilman DePasquale **MOVED** to approve the appointment, and Councilman Tridico **SECONDED**. No further discussion. **All voted unanimously to approve.**
- c. Site Plan/Land Development for Shop ‘n Save on East Pittsburgh Street.** Ms. Trout, “Based upon recommendations by the Planning Commission and the Historic and Architectural Review Board, this plan is being recommended for approval. I believe there was a contingency that they fulfilled.”
Councilman Tridico **MOVED** to approve the site plan/land development, and Councilman Finrock **SECONDED**. No discussion. **Mayor Eisaman abstained, and all others voted unanimously to approve the site plan/land development.**
- d. Hiring of Recreation Workers.** Ms. Trout, “Nathan Snider is recommended to be hired at the Mt. Odin Pro Shop at \$7.15 per hour until July 23, 2009 at which time his hourly rate will increase to \$7.25 per hour in accordance with the minimum wage again. In addition, Nathan Stempfer is recommended to be hired as Mt. Odin Seasonal Maintenance at the rate of \$8.25 per hour.”
Councilman DePasquale **MOVED** to approve the hiring of the Recreation workers, and Councilman Finrock **SECONDED**. No discussion. **All voted unanimously to approve the hiring of the Recreation workers.**
- e. Purchase of Nine (9) Police Vehicle Video Cameras.** Ms. Trout, “Council approval authorizes the purchase of the cameras through the COSTARS program, Contract No. 012-042, from Digital Ally. The total price is \$41,950 of which \$39,000 was obtained through grant funding.”
Councilman Finrock **MOVED** to approve the purchase, and Councilman DePasquale **SECONDED**. No discussion. **All voted unanimously to approve.**
- f. Agreement between the City of Greensburg and the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) for Grant Funding under the Community and Regional Development Program.** Ms. Trout, “Council approval accepts the terms and conditions in Contract # C000038739 for grant funding in the amount of \$59,500 to be utilized for the purchase of police vehicles and safety equipment that I believe will be in those vehicles.”
Councilman Tridico **MOVED** to approve the agreement, and Councilman DePasquale **SECONDED**. No discussion. **All voted unanimously to approve.**
- g. Equitable Sharing Agreement and Certification among the Greensburg Police Department, the City of Greensburg and the Federal Government.** Ms. Trout, “Council approval accepts the terms of the agreement for the Police Department’s participation in the sharing of federally forfeited cash, property, proceeds and any earned interest with other participating law enforcement agencies.”
Councilman DePasquale **MOVED** to approve the agreement, and Councilman Finrock **SECONDED**. No discussion. **All voted unanimously to approve.**

- h. Federal Grant Funding from the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Recovery Act for the Police Department.** Ms. Trout, “Council approval authorizes the City of Greensburg to participate in an application for Federal Grant Funding in the amount of \$20,625 as part of a nine (9)-community grant application. This is something new.”
Councilman Finrock **MOVED** to approve the application for funding, and Councilman Tridico **SECONDED**.
Solicitor McCormick, “There is a requirement before you vote on this that Captain Seranko give a little more detail, but it’s also the opportunity to accept public comment. Before it is approved you have to at least give the opportunity for the public comment.”
Captain Seranko, “Under the formula UCR Crime Reports and Population, nine communities in Westmoreland County are eligible for \$193,225 in funding. The City of Greensburg’s funding share will be \$20,625. One application must be submitted for all nine communities, and the Mayor and Council will need to approve the filing of the application and designate the Mayor to sign the nine-member community Inter-local Agreement under the terms of the agreement. Funds will be allocated for the purchase of an unmarked police car to replace our unmarked police car now. I believe the community that will submit this is New Kensington and the deadline is May 18, 2009.”
- At this time the floor was opened for public comment and discussion in regard to the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Recovery Act and/or the Inter-local Agreement.
For the record, no public comments were received.
- No further discussion. **All voted unanimously to approve.**
- i. Authorization for the Mayor to Enter into an Inter-local Agreement.** Mayor Eisaman, “In conjunction with Item h. this was summarized briefly by the Captain a few moments ago.”
Councilman DePasquale **MOVED** to approve the authorization, and Councilman Tridico **SECONDED**. No discussion. **All voted unanimously to approve.**
- j. Authorization for the Planning Director to Execute on Behalf of the City of Greensburg a Municipal Application for Community Development Block Grant Funding.** Ms. Trout, “Council approval would authorize the Planning Director to make application for CDBG funding in the amount of \$231,000 for interior demolition of the Troutman’s Annex on Pennsylvania Avenue. The money is available through the Federal Government’s new Stimulus Package. The demolition is necessary to prepare for future renovations.”
Mayor Eisaman, “And once again this is the Pennsylvania Avenue Troutman’s Annex and it is my belief that this is at no cost to the City of Greensburg.”
Ms. Trout, “The potential party we have in mind has agreed to pay the ‘soft costs’ which by law is 2% of the grant.”
Mayor Eisaman, “This CDBG money is through the County, not the State or the Federal Government?”
Ms. Trout, “That’s correct. It has floated down from there.”
Mayor Eisaman, “Correct, but we’re dealing locally on the County level.”
Councilman DePasquale **MOVED** to approve the authorization, and Councilman Finrock **SECONDED**. No further discussion. **All voted unanimously to approve the authorization.**
- k. Cooperation Agreement between the City of Greensburg and the Redevelopment Authority of the County of Westmoreland (RACW).** Ms. Trout, “Council approval authorizes the Mayor on behalf of the City of Greensburg to execute the cooperation agreement with the RACW to determine the future reuse and redevelopment of three (3) parcels of land located at the corner of College Avenue and West Otterman Street. Terms of the agreement include the designation of representatives from both the City and RACW to form the Development Selection Team who will be responsible for marketing, assembling, promoting and developing a timeline of the redevelopment of the parcels as a possible location for a hotel. Also, the RACW agrees to designate the City and the City agrees to accept the responsibility of preparing with the review and approval of the RACW an application to DCED for a hotel feasibility study to be conducted. Acceptance by

RACW for the proposed reuse of the parcels for a hotel will be contingent upon verification by the RACW that twenty (20) replacement parking spaces are included in the redevelopment. We were at 11 spaces and it grew to 20.”

Mayor Eisaman, “This agreement is designed in conjunction with our hotel study grant funding to look at this and to move forward to see if it is feasible for a hotel to be developed in that area.”

Ms. Trout, “That’s correct. The specifics of the cooperation agreement have to be closed though.”

Mayor Eisaman, “Correct.”

Councilman Finrock **MOVED** to approve the agreement, and Councilman DePasquale **SECONDED**. No further discussion. **All voted unanimously to approve the cooperation agreement.**

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

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Signed 4/29/2009
Susan M. Trout, City Administrator

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