

Borough of Somerset Council Meeting December 19, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting was called to order by President Ruby Miller, opening with recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Roll Call

Council Members Present: Ruby Miller; Fred Rosemeyer; Judy Pyle; Pam Ream; Sue Opp; Steve Shaulis; Gary Thomas and Scott Walker, Mayor.

Also present were the following: Borough Manager Michele Enos; Director of Finance Brett Peters; Chief of Police Randy Cox; Public Works Director George Svirsko; Solicitor James Cascio; and Consulting Engineers Tom Reilly and Jake Bolby.

Announcements

(a) President Miller announced that an executive session was held this evening at 6:00 p.m. December 19, 2016 for the purpose of Collective Bargaining.

Approval of Previous Council Meeting Minutes

Motion

Mrs. Ream moved, Mrs. Opp seconded to approve the November 21st 2016 Council Meeting Minutes.

Motion Unanimously Carried

General Public Comments

(a) Mr. Jim Holliday was present to discuss his concerns over the Skiver property and whether the cleanup was funded through taxpayer's dollars. Solicitor Cascio discussed what the Borough was planning to do to be reimbursed for those costs.

Administrative Business

- (a) Communication – There were no communications
- (b) Payment of Bills

Motion

Mrs. Opp moved, Mr. Shaulis seconded to approve the payment of the following bills: Check Numbers: 28621-28745 Total Amount \$295,555.92.

Motion Unanimously Carried

Policy Agenda

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

(a) Tax Rate Ordinance – Consider the adoption of the Tax Rate Ordinance for 2017.

ORDINANCE NO. 1371

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF SOMERSET, COUNTY OF SOMERSET, COMMONWEALTH OF PA, FIXING THE TAX RATE FOR THE YEAR 2017

BE IT ORDAINED AND ENACTED, and it is hereby ordained and enacted by the Borough Council of the Borough of Somerset, County of Somerset, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

SECTION 1. That a tax be and the same is hereby levied on all real property within the Borough of Somerset, subject to taxation for the fiscal year 2017 as follows:

Tax Rate for General Purposes, the sum of 13.79 on each dollar of assessed valuation.

For Mary S. Biesecker Public Library purposes, the sum of .666 mills on each dollar of assessed valuation.

For Somerset Volunteer Fire Department purposes, the sum of .444 mills on each dollar of assessed valuation.

The same being summarized in tabular form as follows:

	<u>MILLS ON EACH DOLLAR OF ASSESSED VALUATION</u>
Tax Rate for General Purposes	13.79 Mills
Tax Rate for Mary S. Biesecker Public Library purposes	.666 Mills
Tax Rate for Somerset Volunteer Fire Department Purposes	.444 Mills
<u>TOTAL:</u>	<u>14.9 Mills</u>

SECTION 2. That any ordinance, or part of ordinance conflicting with this ordinance, be and the same is hereby repealed insofar as the same affects this ordinance.

Ms. Enos stated that the Tax Rate Ordinance was prepared with no tax increase for the year 2017. The millage remains at 14.9 mills, as it was last year, and the prior 5 years. There has not been a tax increase in the last 6 years.

Motion

Mr. Thomas moved, Mrs. Opp seconded to approve the Tax Rate Ordinance with the millage to remain at 14.9 mills for the year 2017.

Motion Carried 6 yes-1 no
(Mr. Rosemeyer voting no)

(b)Water Rate Ordinance – Consider the adoption of a Water Rate Ordinance increasing the rate by \$0.03 per 100 gallons effective January 1, 2017.

ORDINANCE NUMBER 1372

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF SOMERSET AMENDING THE
ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE RATES TO BE COLLECTED FROM
CUSTOMERS OF THE SOMERSET BOROUGH MUNICIPAL WATER SYSTEM

BE IT, AND THE SAME IS HEREBY ORDAINED AND ENACTED as follows:

1. From and after the effective date of this Ordinance, the rate to be charged to all customers of the Somerset Borough municipal water system shall be SIXTY-SEVEN CENTS (0.67) per ONE HUNDRED (100) GALLONS of water.
2. All existing ordinances or parts thereof that are inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed.
3. This ordinance shall take effect January 1, 2017.

ENACTED AND ORDAINED this 19th day of December 2016 by the Borough Council of the Borough of Somerset.

Motion

Mrs. Ream moved, Mrs. Opp seconded to approve of a Water Rate Ordinance increase of the rate of \$0.03 per 100 gallons effective January 1, 2017.

Motion Unanimously Carried

(c) Act 511 Taxes – Consider re-enacting the Act 511 Taxes for 2017 at current rates.

Motion

Mr. Thomas moved, Mr. Shaulis seconded to keep the Act 511 Taxes for 2017 at the current rate.

Motion Unanimously Carried

(d) 2017 Final Budgets – Consider adoption of the final budgets for 2017. (General, Water, Sewer & Various Accounts)

Motion

Mr. Thomas moved, Mrs. Opp seconded to approve the adoption of the Final Budgets for 2017.

Motion Carried 6 yes -1 no
(Mr. Rosemeyer voted No)

(e) Lions Club Agreement – Consider executing an agreement with the Lion’s Club.

Mr. Cascio discussed that there is a building, on the Borough playground property, constructed in the 1950’s or 1960’s that’s been occupied by the Lion’s Club. There has never been a formal arrangement or agreement regarding that. If for any reason the organization doesn’t continue, they would like an arrangement in place to be able to terminate, and know that the building will revert back to the Borough. In the meantime, they would also like to clarify their obligations to ensure that the building can be located there.

Motion

Mrs. Opp moved, Mr. Thomas seconded to approve the Lion’s Club agreement and to have the Officer’s sign and authorize the agreement.

Motion Unanimously Carried

(f) Appointments to Boards & Commissions for 2017 – Consider appointments to Boards & Commissions for persons whose terms are expiring.

Somerset Borough Municipal Authority – Vincent Jacob (5-year term)

Motion

Mrs. Ream moved, Mr. Rosemeyer seconded to appoint Vincent Jacob to another 5-year term.

Motion Unanimously Carried

Somerset Borough Planning Commission – Sean Garrigan (4-year term)

Motion

Mr. Rosemeyer moved, Mrs. Pyle seconded to appoint Sean Garrigan to another 4-year term.

Motion Unanimously Carried

Somerset Borough Zoning Hearing Board – Timothy Resh & Dave Halverson (3-year term).

Motion

Mrs. Ream moved, Mr. Thomas seconded to appoint Timothy Resh and Dave Halverson to another 3-year term.

Motion Unanimously Carried

Somerset Borough Vacancy Board – Delmas Hutzel (1year term)

Motion

Mr. Shaulis moved, Mr. Rosemeyer seconded to appoint Delmas Hutzel to another 1-year term.

Motion Unanimously Carried

Ms. Enos mentioned that there was a vacancy on the Somerset Borough Planning Commission. Ms. Enos received a letter from Sienna Davis who expressed her interest and desire to serve in this vacancy if Council so chooses to appoint her.

Motion

Mr. Shaulis moved, Mr. Rosemeyer seconded to appoint Sienna Davis to the Somerset Borough Planning Commission.

Motion Unanimously Carried

(g) Management Wages – Discussion on setting wages for 2017.

Motion

Mr. Rosemeyer moved, Mrs. Ream seconded for Management to receive a 2% pay increase in the year 2017.

Motion Unanimously Carried

Committee, Administration, Special Reports

Manager's Report

Ms. Enos presented the following report:

- Nov 23rd Ms. Enos met with Maust Excavating to discuss the project timeline for the Hickory Hill Water Tank Replacement Project.
- November 25th Ms. Enos met with Regina from Somerset Inc. to discuss the details for street closures prior to Somerset's Light Up the Night.
- Tom, Jake, and Ms. Enos will be arranging visits to our various facilities to assess infrastructure and maintenance needs. This will assist us in developing a long term plan to address those needs. Once that has been developed, Ms. Enos will circulate the information to Council.
- Re-imbusement from the Jonas Storm was received: \$29,300. This represents 75% reimbursement of our costs for the highest 48-hour reimbursable period.
- We would like to thank Council for continuing our annual Christmas Party.

President's Report

Mrs. Miller thanked the staff for a job well done on the streets and on all the Firemen's calls and Police calls. She wished all employees and staff the best of Holidays. Thanks, also, goes out to Ms. Enos and staff for a great Christmas party.

Engineer's Report

Mr. Reilly mentioned that we are waiting for the Hill Water Tank project to start construction in the spring of 2017, along with other projects.

Public Works/Equipment Committee

- Mr. Thomas thanked the Borough and Public Works for the good job they did in the last snow and ice storm. Mentioned the roads were in good shape.
- He mentioned that a Public Works meeting was not held.
- Mr. Shaulis reviewed the work that was done in the past month:
- Repaired a water leak of Crestview Drive.
- Salting and plowing streets.
- Worked on Christmas lights.
- Installed street sign on North Rosina.
- Repaired storm line in the Industrial Park.
- Installed plow markers.
- Final pick up of leaves.
- Ordered 600 tons of salt.
- Worked on Borough equipment to make sure it's ready at all times for the weather.
- Daily/weekly/ monthly routine work, uptown trash pickup, PA One Calls, hauling of brush, sign repairs, pothole patching, gas detector calibration, weekly water sampling.

Public Safety Committee

Mr. Rosemeyer mentioned that the Public Safety Committee met with the Mayor and Chief, and discussed a hospital security issue.

Finance Committee

Mr. Rosemeyer presented the following report for the finances through November, which is 91.67% through the Budget Year.

General Fund

Revenues = 93.85%

Expenses = 86.78%

Water Fund

Revenues = 97.94%

Expenses = 94.78%

Sewer Fund

Revenues = 87.18%

Expenses = 71.08%

Mr. Rosemeyer thanked Mr. Peters and Ms. Enos for doing an excellent job on managing the Budget.

Somerset Inc.

- Mrs. Pyle stated that Small Business Saturday and Light Up Night was recently held. She stated that it went beautifully, and there was a lot of things to do. She stated that the flow of traffic went well and everything ran smoothly.
- The Cookie Tour went exceptionally well this year.
- Mrs. Pyle stated that a lot of new things were going to be added with Fire and Ice this year in addition to the other things that are continuing.
- Talks are being held presently about The Trinity Park Project. It is to begin as soon as the weather breaks. Mrs. Pyle stated that it is right on schedule. She also stated that during the time of ribbon cutting, they would like to hold a Sidewalk Chalk Festival.
- She also mentioned that holding a Harvest Festival in the fall is being discussed.
- Mrs. Pyle also mentioned that there will be a Blues Festival held on the East End.
- There have been discussions held about getting signs on the buildings in the Uptown Historic District that could tell about the history of the building. She mentioned that the people who wanted to place the signs were asked to pay for their own sign. The head of that committee found someone out of Vo-Tech who could do the work and make the price very reasonable.

Somerset Volunteer Fire Department

Mr. Thomas mentioned that the fire department has been very busy with over 20 calls in the last 10 days. They have been helping other fire departments with structure fires. They have been busy with automatic fire alarms and other weather related things like pumping basements. Calendars are still available for sale through the firemen. The Fire Department has a banquet coming up, with installation of new officers, in January 2017.

Solicitor's Report

The Solicitor had nothing further to report.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Walker mentioned he was very impressed when he read in the paper, today, that Tom Reilly's son was selected to the All-State Boys Soccer Team.

Mr. Rosemeyer mentioned that our Police Department again has passed accreditation. Chief Cox mentioned that there are approximately 1,200 Municipal Police Departments in the Commonwealth. Of those 1,200, there are 108 that are accredited.

Our Police Department is one of the 108. This works out to about only 8% that are accredited. So our Police Department will be accredited for 3 years. We can be reaccredited in 2019.

Adjournment

Motion

Mrs. Opp moved to adjourn, motion seconded by Mr. Shaulis.

Motion Unanimously Carried.

7:42 p.m.

Michele A. Enos, Borough Secretary