

March 26, 2007
7:00 p.m.

The regular meeting of the Doylestown Borough Council was held on the above date and at the above time in Council Chambers, with the following members present: President John (“Chip”) Thome, Vice President Lou White, Council Members Detlev Ansinn, Jr., Melissa Bond, John P. Buckman, David A. Bull, Jennifer Corr, Mark D. Double, and Darrin M. Hoffman. Also present were: Mayor Libby White, Borough Manager John H. Davis, Chief James Donnelly, Assistant Borough Manager/Zoning and Planning Director Philip Ehlinger, Borough Solicitor Charles T. McIlhinney, Borough Engineer Bob Solarz, Director of Finance Caroline Leiter, and Code Enforcement Officer/Fire Marshal David Cell.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. January 22, 2007 Council Meeting

Upon motion (White-Ansinn) to approve the minutes of the January 22, 2007 Council Meeting, all Council Members present were in favor.

2. March 9, 2007 Vacancy Board Meeting

Upon motion (Hoffman-Ansinn) to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2007 Vacancy Board Meeting, all Council Members present were in favor.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION - Mr. White

Mr. White stated there was an Ordinance in everybody’s packet which amends Chapter 1, Part 4A of the Code of Ordinances which provides for retirement requirements and benefits under the police pension plan. Two amendments are proposed, both of which are housekeeping items, and will keep our plan in agreement with the police contract and IRS regulations.

Mr. White further stated that the first amendment proposes to change the Ordinance to allow for a monthly service increment benefit to the maximum allowed by law, which is \$500. He said the second amendment does not change the operation of the plan, rather only updates certain sections of the plan document to reflect standard IRS language. The IRS requires that plans contain this

language, even though it does not affect plan benefits. Both amendments were attached for reference.

Mr. White said the Committee met and reviewed the amendments, and recommends that Council authorize the advertisement of the Ordinance amendments. Upon motion (White-Ansinn), all Council Members present were in favor, and the motion carried.

Mr. White added that this does not affect currently retired officers, it just affects those who retire from here forward.

Mr. White stated there was also in everybody's packet the financial statements for January and February. He said there was also a meeting of the Finance Committee sitting as the Police Pension Board and he was happy to delivery some good news: although there was a forecast of eight percent increase in our investments, we actually earned 13 percent, which reduces funding liability for the Borough, which is a plus. Likewise, the capital reserve results came in with a nice earning at 4.59 percent in 2006. It probably would have been five percent if we had that money we are owed still for the armory.

WATER - Mr. Bull

Mr. Bull stated they did not meet this month due to lack of an agenda, but he had some information to report. He said there is a meeting with the DEP and EPA on Wednesday of this week at 9:00 with respect to the Broad Street situation, so it was hoped to get some movement and information on that. Mr. Bull confirmed for Mr. Thome that this was the ChemFab site.

COMMUNITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS - Ms. Corr

Ms. Corr stated the following reports were in everyone's packets:

- 1. Fire Marshal's 2006 Year Activity Report**
- 2. Fire Marshal's January and February 2007 Activity Reports**
 - Doylestown Fire Co. No. 1 Reports - January and February 2007
 - Central Bucks Ambulance and Rescue Unit Reports - February and March 2007
- 3. Code Enforcement Report - January and February 2007**

4. Proposal to Perform Cable Franchise Renewal Services

Ms. Corr stated that attached was the proposal from Daniel S. Cohen of the Cohen Law Group in Pittsburgh, Pa. The Borough is working jointly on the franchise renewal with Chalfont and New Britain Boroughs and New Britain, Newtown, Warwick, and Warrington Townships. The Borough's share of the cost of the renewal services is \$948.67.

She said the Community and Governmental Affairs Committee recommends approval of the proposal, and that if Council wished to follow the recommendation of the committee, it could do so by motion. (Corr-Bond.) Mr. Ansinn stated his firm does work with Comcast so he would be abstaining from the vote. Mr. Davis said that there was potentially at least one new member of the consortium and possibly more, and that each new member would reduce the \$948 cost by some increment. All Council Members present were in favor of the motion, with Mr. Ansinn abstaining, and the motion carried.

5. Landscape Maintenance Bid Award

Ms. Corr said bids were opened and publicly read for the above-referenced bid on March 12, 2007, and a tabulation of the bids received was attached. She said the low bidder is Jukus Landscaping of Pipersville, Pa., at a price of \$10,994. The Borough budgeted \$18,500 for this project in 2007.

She stated further that the project is under budget, and once an inspection is performed, the remainder of the 2007 Budget will be put toward replacement of dead plants and needed in-fill plants.

Ms. Corr said the Community and Governmental Affairs Committee recommends that the bid be awarded to Jukus Landscaping of Pipersville, Pa., at a price of \$10,944, and that if Council wished to follow the recommendation, it could do so by motion. (Corr-Ansinn.)

Mr. Hoffman said it was his understanding that in the process of looking at this bid, that there were some questions as to whether we're getting everything done according to the bid that was actually out there. He guessed he would look to the Borough Engineer or staff to stay on top of it to make sure that we do get the services that are in the bid. He said if the bid needed to be amended for next year so that more than just maintenance items took place, that we would have an eye towards that in reviewing their work this year.

Mr. Thome stated he was at this Committee meeting and the issues stated by Mr. Hoffman came up. He said a representative of our engineering firm was present, took copious notes, and that they would follow through with what Mr. Hoffman suggested.

Mr. Double said he remembered from years past that there was discussion to make sure we got the right size of mulch, that the rating of the mulch can be significant. Mr. Davis said quality and depth of the mulch has been an issue. Mr. Thome said that was one of the items. Mr. Davis said we just make sure we're there when they pour it.

All Council Members present were in favor of the motion, and the motion carried.

6. Doylestown Community Pedestrian-Transit Linkage Project

Ms. Corr stated the plan was funded by a Transportation and Community Development Initiative (TCDI) Planning Grant. Its purpose is to "provide accessible pedestrian routes in conjunction with way finding signage to facilitate and enhance the pedestrian experience" to walk up to the Borough, and to "provide the link between the Borough's public transportation facilities, cultural district, business district, and county courthouse complex."

She said the Doylestown Revitalization Board and the Community and Governmental Affairs Committee of Borough Council have endorsed the draft plan and are recommending that it be presented to the community for comment and input at a town meeting. If Council wishes to follow the recommendation, it can do so by motion. (Corr-Bull.)

Mr. Thome commented that he has attended most of the meetings of the Revit Board when they worked on this and there was a town meeting, which was somewhat related about the pedestrian and traffic issues. For those who didn't know what this was about, Mr. Thome said there

is a very elaborate report by Gilmore (copy put on table for public perusal) which is a study of the entire downtown with some very elaborate recommendations, something to the tune of \$750 or \$800,000. He said it is very energetic and the study is essentially complete. The motion is asking Council to start scheduling public meetings.

Mr. Davis said we want to get some input and once that input is received, we would finalize our approval and actually submit the plan back to TCDI, and that would then become our working document for moving forward on implementation. Mr. Thome, therefore, highly recommended that the motion be approved and move forward with this very nice, energetic project.

All Council Members present were in favor, and the motion carried.

Mr. White commented regarding the January 31, 2007 walking initiative meeting. He said there was a very good turnout, 50-60 people present, and there was lively discussion. Everyone took part in a dot exercise identifying areas in town where they thought there were critical walking issues, which revealed about 10 areas where work was needed. He said there were a lot of ideas and suggestions from the small groups that were formed, which information has already been reviewed by staff. Mr. White thanked the staff for doing that as it was a tedious task, going through every single comment and making sure the appropriate Committee got those comments. Mr. White said as the Committees meet, they'll need to take action on some of the recommendations to see where we can go with this project and he hoped we could demonstrate to the town that we're serious about this and maybe hold a followup meeting here in the Spring to present a plan for responding to some of the things that the public was asking about.

Mr. White said one of the big issues was enforcement, and he said he knew that was something the Chief would be looking at.

Mr. White complimented the Chief on a very good report on the Heritage Towers roof collapse incident.

Regarding the ambulance squad report, Mr. White stated we got a report from them about a month or so ago about their response, which he believed to be three and one-half minutes for responding to calls within the Borough. He said that's an excellent response and very timely

because, as everyone knows, the ambulance squad is seeking funds from various municipalities to give them support for their work, and we contributed to that. Buckingham has too. A three and one-half minute response is good reinforcement for the work that they do.

Regarding Mr. White's mentioning of the Heritage Towers roof collapse, Mr. Thome said that although it wasn't on the Agenda, what Mr. White was talking about was a report prepared. Mr. Thome joined Mr. White in congratulating our Chief of Police. Mr. Thome asked the Chief if he was in charge at any time during the night and the Chief responded that he was, as he is the Emergency Management Coordinator for the Borough.

Mr. Thome said it was somewhat of a coincidence that all public officials are required to go through training called NIMS (National Incident Management System). He said NIMS training is precisely what was implemented on that evening and that it was an incredibly good exercise to watch what was going on. He said he was there all night long. Mr. Thome said there were dozens of different fire departments, police departments, and EMS people there, and that we have privately sent a letter of thanks .

Mr. Thome stated that this report was a compilation of what went on that night, and to his observation, Mr. Thome said everything he learned seemed to work well under these extreme set of circumstances. He asked everyone to recall that there were elderly people who had to be relocated and that every element was involved. He said our hats are off to our department, the local CB Ambulance, and all the other people who helped. Mr. Thome also said we'll learn from this and that the reason the report was prepared was to do post-incident studies. Chief Donnelly stated we can always improve on whatever is done. Mr. Thome gave congratulations to everyone involved in that incident.

PUBLIC SAFETY - Mr. Hoffman

Mr. Hoffman stated there are a couple of items on the Agenda this evening, the first of which is the authorization to lease a narcotics vehicle from the Bucks County District Attorney's Office. He said this is really formalizing an arrangement that we have had with the D.A.'s office for some time, but largely due to insurance reasons, they wanted to formalize the agreement. Mr. Hoffman

said the cost of the lease for this vehicle is a dollar, so he recommended and made the motion that the lease be entered into with the D.A.'s office. (Ansinn seconded.)

Chief Donnelly said the lease describes a vehicle that's not a concern because the vehicle can be replaced. Mr. Hoffman said that's why he didn't bring that up.

Mr. Douple said there were a couple of options that could be chosen from, and option one was chosen which was the most advantageous for us. Chief Donnelly stated option one is that it is a vehicle used by the department, but there is no take home privileges, and there is no individual officer assigned to it, just the department. The Chief stated further that option two is that an officer is assigned and he has take home privileges, but he didn't think it was necessary to issue a car out to somebody.

Mr. White asked if the vehicle was used only for drug enforcement. Chief Donnelly responded it was and that it cannot be used for anything else.

All Council Members present were in favor, and motion carried.

Mr. Hoffman stated the next item on the Agenda, from their Valentine's Day meeting, is the part-time officers pay. He said part-timers have been paid at the rate of \$15/hour since January 2001 and the Public Safety Committee is recommending that the rate for the first six months be increased to \$18/hour and if someone is employed longer than that, that it would be \$20/hour. Mr. Hoffman said we have had good success in getting part-timers and it certainly is a cost savings over overtime for the full-time officers, and we don't want to lose them to other departments which is what was starting to happen because we were not as competitive on the pay. Mr. Hoffman made the motion to raise to the tiered system of \$18/hour for the first six months and \$20/hour thereafter for part-timers. (Ansinn seconded.)

Mr. Ansinn noted that the pay raise was on the February agenda, the month Council did not meet. Mr. Hoffman stated the Committee Meeting was February 14. Mr. Ansinn said he just wanted to highlight that this could have been voted on February 26, 2007. Mr. Hoffman said as a result, we saved money from the part-time hours that we had for the last month.

All Council Members present were in favor of the two-tier pay raise.

Mr. Hoffman stated the next item on the March 14, 2007 meeting of the Public Safety Committee, during Executive Session, they interviewed a number of applicants for part-timers and one was present that they recommended, Robert Johnson. Mr. Hoffman said Mr. Johnson has been going through the approval process, his testing. Mr. Hoffman made the recommendation and motioned that Robert Johnson be hired as a part-time officer subject to normal probationary periods. (Corr seconded.) All Council Members present were in favor, and the motion carried. Mr. Thome said congratulations.

Mayor performed the swearing in of Robert Johnson.

I, Robert Johnson, do solemnly swear that I will support, obey, and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and the Ordinances of the Borough of Doylestown, and that I will discharge the duties of police officer with fidelity.

Chief Donnelly stated that Bob lives in North Wales with his wife Lisa, and his son, Tyler. He said in his background investigation, Bob is described as hardworking and reliable. The Chief said we are going to use and abuse him, and wished Bob good luck.

RECREATION, SHADE TREE AND PROPERTY - Ms. Bond

Ms. Bond stated this Committee has great news for the Borough: we have applied for two grants and the trees are in. She said the Borough made application for two grants, one of which was to the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission for \$50,000, and the other to the PECO Green Region Open Space Program. Ms. Bond moved to accept the terms of that application for that grant. (Bull seconded.)

Mr. Thome asked Ms. Bond to describe what that would be applied to, such as engineering design for a certain area. Ms. Bond responded it's for Doyle Street and Atkinson Drive, and it would link the shopping area to the community. She said the second grant would be for \$10,000 and it is a matching fund to the first grant.

Upon motion (Bond-Hoffman) on both grants, all Council Members present were in favor.

Mr. White asked how this relates to the Dairy Queen issue. Mr. Davis stated the Dairy Queen property is basically in the middle of this route. Mr. White said it is not certain that we would

be getting that. Mr. Davis said it is basically a planning grant to try to design a pedestrian link through that area, depending upon the circumstances relating to the Dairy Queen site. He said whether it's acquired, not acquired, or it's partially acquired, we would adjust our designs accordingly. Mr. White asked if we are not locked into getting that piece of property. Mr. Davis responded no, we are not.

All Council Members present were in favor to approve the application process, and the motion carried.

Ms. Bond continued her report by stating that the Borough has acquired 80 trees, 40 of which will be planted very soon, and that volunteers are needed to help plant the trees. She said the other 40 trees will be planted in the fall, and she assumed we will need volunteers then too.

Mr. Cell stated the trees are arriving on April 17, 2007 at the Public Works yard. He said the first batch is 40 trees, different sizes and species. He stated there is a map and a spreadsheet of where the trees are going to be planted throughout town, and that people will see stakes in the ground with a sign on it that says, "Tree Vitalize," which is a location for a tree. He said once everything is done by the end of 2007, for the 80 trees that we're receiving in this grant, it's approximately \$28,000 worth of trees. He said typically, only five trees a year are planted under the normal budget process, but we were fortunate this year to get approved for this grant. He informed everyone that the trees are arriving on the 17th of April, and that the 21st and 28th of April, both of which are Saturdays, are the tentative dates for planting, as long as the trees show up and there is no further snow.

Mr. Hoffman said he thought this would be nice in conjunction with what we've had for 11 years now, Arbor Day tree giveaway of smaller seedlings, typically dogwoods. Mr. Cell confirmed this will continue. Mr. Hoffman said maybe we could get a press release out. He asked if we typically get 500 trees. Mr. Ehlinger said it has been less and less every year because we have the same amount of money and we get less and less for our money, so now it's down to about 400 trees, which are usually gone in about an hour or two. Mr. White asked if that date has been identified. Mr. Hoffman stated Arbor Day is always the third Friday in April, which would coincide

with the tree planting date of the 21st, so maybe this could all be coordinated together. Mr. White stated he thought this is a good idea.

Mr. Cell stated he has brochures for that day, information on the Tree Vitalize Grant, and applications for people who want to volunteer. He said they would like to have about 15 people during the planting day, including Public Works with the equipment they have. Mr. Cell said they don't want too few or too many people. Mr. Hoffman thought there were some other ideas they discussed regarding some other things that could be done that day as well.

Mr. Davis said recognition should go to the Shade Tree Commission which has done most of the planning with Mr. Cell, applied for the grant, selected the species, worked to identify the locations, notify the property owners, will be providing at the least the backbone of the volunteer labor, and they also provide the volunteers for giving away the dogwoods. He said Mr. Cell will be doing some press releases and some stuff will be done on the website. Mr. Davis said we're in the process of doing some publicizing and will refine that to bring Arbor Day into the mix.

Mr. White wondered whether some of the kids at Lenape and CB West might be interested in helping. He said he knew there were service groups at both schools that might want to do that.

Mr. Cell said the Shade Tree Commission is reaching out to some of the schools and also DeVal College to try to get volunteers from them.

Mr. Cell stated he has a brochure which gives an outside the scope of the Tree Vitalize Grant that gives a \$25 rebate if you plant a tree on your property and show proof of planting.

Mr. Thome said this is excellent work.

STREETS - Mr. Ansinn

Mr. Ansinn stated there is the 2007 Road Materials Bid, with a breakdown the bid, along with recommendation of the Borough Public Works Director. He said the Public Works Director and the Streets Committee are recommending that Council award the bid to Eureka Stone Quarry, Inc. of Chalfont, Pa., conditioned upon the receipt of a properly executed performance bond and compliance with the bid specifications. He said if Council wishes to follow the recommendation, it can do so by motion, and he so moved. Mr. Hoffman seconded.

Mr. Hoffman said for those who aren't aware, the reason we're meeting on the fourth Monday this week as opposed to the third is that we had a Borough's Association Conference and invariably something is learned. He said one of things learned is that even stones can be different and apparently incorporated into this bid is now what is called "Super Pave" which is angulation of the rocks, the size, and everything else, but PennDot has a new standard for paving, which this bid does incorporate. Mr. Davis stated Super Pave is mandatory - if you do not use it, you will not receive your liquid fuels reimbursement from the state for your paving material.

Mr. Thome stated it was moved and seconded, and all Council Members present were in favor.

Mr. Ansinn stated next is a Resolution #2007-2, supporting the Goal of 20% Clean Energy by 2010 for Doylestown Borough. He said attached was the Resolution, as well as additional information regarding the Pennsylvania Clean Energy Communities Campaign. The Resolution represents the Borough's commitment to the Campaign, including a pledge to obtain 20% of our electricity from clean renewable resources by 2010.

He said specifically, the Borough would agree to purchase Farm Methane from Native Energy at an additional cost of \$762 in 2007, rising to \$3,139 in 2010. The \$7,771 cost would be offset by the receipt of a free 1 kw solar energy system valued at \$10,000 for our use at any facility.

Mr. Ansinn stated in addition to our 20% clean energy commitment, the Borough would pledge to make every effort to achieve a target of 7% of our combined households and businesses signed up for clean energy, and that currently, 4% of the Borough's households and businesses already do so. He said this was impressive, so this is an easy place to move forward.

He said the Borough's year one commitment represents the equivalent of making Borough Hall a "Green Building," so it gives us the opportunity to have Borough Hall powered by green energy.

Mr. Ansinn said representatives of Smart Power and Native Energy are present, and recognized Molly Tsongas, Project Associate of Smart Power, and George Hoguet of Native Energy. He said they could answer any additional questions.

Mr. Ansinn stated the Streets Committee is recommending the adoption of Resolution #2007-2, and that if Council wishes to follow the recommendation, it can do so by motion. (Ansinn-Hoffman)

Mr. Hoffman stated he knew we chose methane because it's the least expensive of the alternative clean power sources and he recognized that Pennsylvania is putting a little more weight behind ethanol and he wondered if that factors into the program. Mr. Hoguet stated that ethanol is related to transportation fuel and not to electricity. He said Native Energy is a Vermont based company, which was invited into Pennsylvania by the state in 2003 to help dairy farmers manage their manure system, not to manage their systems, but to help raise capital for that by marketing the emission reductions created by these systems. Mr. Hoguet said basically these are dairy farms throughout the state. He said they're on the fifth farm now and they're trying to get a couple more and they sold all the commission credits for those farms to date to businesses, consumers, and others, so that's typical of what they're doing.

Mr. Hoguet said he could answer questions, but sometimes it gets a little technical. He stated where the manure goes, it creates a lot of methane gas and basically, they destroy that methane and generate it into electricity - like putting a little nature gas power plant on the farm. It generates all the electricity for the farm and usually twice as much of that will go back into the electric grid. Mr. Hoffman asked if that's where they're buying that power. Mr. Hoguet said you're not actually buying the power, you're still buying your power from the utility company; you are doing pollution reduction.

Mr. White asked if Native Energy was the only provider of farm methane. Mr. Hoguet stated they were the only provider in the state. Mr. White asked if we want it, we need to get it from them? Mr. Hoguet replied that, again, they're the only provider of emission reduction for farm methane in the state. He said there are some others out of the state that are trying to sign up these farms, but the clean energy that is available in Pennsylvania is from PECO, which is a wind power, and Native Energy is in the energy co-op which is a mixture of municipal, landfill, and other sources, like solar. Mr. Hoffman stated we did look at wind power and that it's just a little bit more expensive, and

what's nice about this is the additional cost is offset by the value of the solar system that we will be receiving.

Mr. Davis added that for a little bit of context on those numbers, we spent \$236,000 in electric costs for both the water system and the general fund in 2006, so if you look through to 2010, that's about a million and a quarter in terms of energy costs and this will increase that by a total of \$7,771, so it's almost a de minimus increase in the Borough's cost over that period.

Mr. Ansinn wanted to recognize Molly Tsongas' presentation with her associates during the Streets' meeting as it was very informative, and he thanked her for giving us information to help make our decision.

Mr. Thome said the second part of this motion involves the commitment to try and sign up households and businesses to pledge commitment to this cause. He asked how we go about that, as it says here four percent of the Borough's households and businesses do, so how do we know that. Mr. Ansinn responded by saying that there are a number of tools that they provided in the packets of information and Ms. Tsongas could address that, but that's part of what was discussed in the Streets meeting.

Mr. Hoffman said he thought the four percent probably came as a result of PECO's push a few years ago for alternative power sources and obviously some of the residents signed up for it, which got us to the four percent number. He said they talked about maybe a newsletter or other opportunities to promote, and they came upon Borough Hall because it just fit numerically that we can say Borough Hall is powered by the equivalent of green power and we're making our commitment. Mr. Thome added, "follow our example," and Mr. Hoffman replied, "yes, exactly."

Mr. Douple thought Ms. Tsongas could explain this better. Ms. Tsongas said regarding signing up folks, she thought we needed about 65 new sign ups in our community. She said SmartPower is here to work closely with whatever entity we appoint to do that, be it the Streets Committee or an energy task force of some kind. She said they have a marketing tool kit that really outlines all the creative ways you can go about trying to build support in your community and get the word out. They have templates for newsletters and borough websites, and they have their own

website for this campaign. She said it's really up to us in terms of what we want to do. They have a very extensive list and you can just check it off and they can help implement it.

All Council Members present were in favor of adopting Resolution 2007-2.

Mr. Thome thanked everyone for the nice work on this.

ZONING AND PLANNING - Mr. Douple

Mr. Douple gave the HARB recommendations. He said the first four are all for business signs which are at 60 East State Street, Suite 2 - Craig Finklestein, 41 East State Street - Monkey Business, 12 South Main Street - Rita's Water Ice, and 5 Taylor Avenue - Salon Pure. He said the next recommendation is for 82 Cottage Street, where the residents are seeking to construct a new residential addition. Mr. Douple said the next item was 75/77 Mary Street, where the residents are looking to replace the existing slate porch roof with a new simulated slate shingle. He stated the last item is 117 East Ashland Avenue, where the applicants are seeking to replace the existing slate roof with new slate shingles. Mr. Douple said all the applications are being recommended to be approved as submitted by the HARB, and that if Council agrees, then it may grant approvals by carrying a motion to do so. (Douple-Ansinn)

Mr. Thome commented that our HARB has been very busy. He said he tries to attend as many meeting as possible and he thought Mr. Ehlinger was at most too. Mr. Ehlinger replied that Mr. Cell attended all. Mr. Thome said these folks are doing an excellent job, the applicants, as usual, are very cooperative with the recommendations, and it's just another example of what makes our Borough tick.

All Council Members present were in favor, and the motion carried.

Mr. Douple said his other item on the Agenda was the adoption of Ordinance 2007-2, the purpose of which is to augment the existing regulations as they relate to freestanding off-premises advertising signs, otherwise known as billboards. He said the Borough few appropriate properties for such signs and we have been successful heretofore regulation them. Mr. Douple stated this improved ordinance language will add an additional tool to the Borough's "regulatory toolbox" and will help deal with the billboard companies in the area who have recently become more aggressive.

Mr. Double stated that Ordinance has been properly advertised and recommended for approval by the Borough Planning Commission and the Zoning and Planning Committee. He said if Council agrees with the Committee's recommendation, then Ordinance 2007-2 may be adopted by motion, and he so moved. Ms. Bond seconded.

There was no further discussion and all Council Members present were in favor of the motion, and the motion carried.

ENGINEER'S REPORT - No report.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT - No report.

ZONING HEARING BOARD REPORT - Mr. Ehlinger

Mr. Ehlinger stated the Zoning Hearing Board report for the February 21, 2007 hearing is as follows: there was one new application which was Paul and Nancy Abbate, 103 East Street, and they requested variances from lot coverage and floor area ratio in order to permit the construction of a residential addition. He said the Board also rendered a decision on February 21, 2007, and that was of Salvatore and Jacqueline Mannino, 24 North Main Street, who requested variances concerning required parking for a proposed change of use in their Zoning District of Central Commercial. Mr. Ehlinger stated that decision was granted.

Mr. Ehlinger said because of the delay in meetings, there is two Zoning Hearing Board reports. He said at the March 21, 2007 hearing, James and Mary Ogle requested variances to permit a reduction in the setback requirements for a single car garage. Mr Ehlinger said the second application was that of John Munshower, 563 Pebble Hill Road, requesting variances in minimum lot size, minimum lot width at street line, and minimum lot width at setback line in order to further subdivide the property, a vacant lot at the corners of Rohr Drive and Linden Avenue.

Mr. Ehlinger said the decision for the Abbate application, which was heard previously, was also rendered at the March 21st hearing, and that application was granted.

PERSONNEL - Mr. Thome

Mr. Thome stated on January 29, 2007, the Personnel Committee interviewed applicants to fill vacancies on various Boards/Commissions. As a result of the interviews, the Committee is recommending the following appointments:

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Board/Commission</u>	<u>Term Expiring</u>
Charles Scott	Zoning Hearing Board	12/31/09
Heather Walton	Historic & Architectural Review Board	12/31/08
Patricia Keppler	Park and Recreation Board	12/31/09
Nancy Huber	Fanny Chapman Pool Board	12/31/09
Kara Cleary	Fanny Chapman Pool Board	12/31/09

Mr. Thome said if Council wishes to follow the recommendation of the committee it can do so by motion. (Thome-Hoffman) All Council Members present were in favor, and the motion carried. Mr. Thome said congratulations to those appointed.

Mr. White wanted to remind Mr. Davis and everyone else that there are some Revit Board vacancies we have to fill in the next month or so. He thought the Personnel Committee screened people, but they haven't been referred yet to the Revit Board. Mr. Davis stated it wasn't until this action of Council that we actually know how many openings we have, which he believed to be two at this point. Mr. Thome recalled there are several applicants, some have been interviewed, some not. He said as is our history, the Personnel Committee interviews and then refers those for the Revit Board to similarly interview for their input. Mr. Thome said we will get right on that now.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor White stated she had been really busy the last month or so, but would focus on just a few activities. She gave a report of the police activities of 104 arrests made, no traffic accidents involving death, two traffic accidents involving property damage, seven reportable accidents, 25 non-reportable accidents, and 1384 complaints were received and appropriate action was taken to remedy them, so the police have been very, very busy. She called on Chief Donnelly to comment on some of the criminal activities that have been going on.

Chief Donnelly noted that people are still leaving their cars unlocked and thefts are still occurring as like this last weekend there was a vehicle parked on Taylor Avenue and it was entered between 2:00 and 3:00 in the morning and money and other valuables were taken. The Chief urged people to lock their cars and when they leave their house to lock it. He said this is unfortunate, but that's the way it is in our times.

The Chief further reported that there was an officer struck by a car. He said it was reported in the newspaper about two weeks. He said the officer was not injured, that the officer had stepped out to stop the car and it brushed past him and was struck, but he didn't require any hospitalization and he didn't lose any time. In addition, the Chief stated we had an officer assaulted dealing with a domestic in which the offender grabbed the officer by the throat and wrestled with him, and the officer punched him in the nose. He said the officer was not injured.

Chief Donnelly said as a follow up on the Heritage Tower report, Dave Cell, Kelli Scarlett, and he are sitting down to go through the report and come up with a better way of doing things. He said not that this was bad, but it's just that we can improve it to make it better. He said he, Mr. Cell and Ms. Scarlett have been meeting for the last year with the Fire Chief and the Ambulance Chief to go over different scenarios and different buildings inside the Borough that we would be responsible for - like nursing homes or anything like that. He said one of the good things that came out of this Heritage Tower report was that Heritage Tower has a very good plan that we intend to share the other nursing homes and make sure that they also have a nice plan.

The Mayor stated she was very happy to attend a town meeting on Safe Walking Initiative. It was a very lively and informative meeting, and a lot of work was done towards that initiative.

Mayor White said she attended a few meetings at Borough Hall on the subject of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and she was happy the Resolution was adopted this evening to help reduce our dependence on fossil fuels and to improve the air that we breathe. She said she thinks we are all becoming aware that this is an idea whose time has finally come, and not only is Doylestown taking a lead in helping that whole situation, but other townships in Bucks County are

also involved, like Lower and Upper Makefield Townships and Upper Dublin Township. She asked for everyone to keep that in mind and that we can all do something to help.

The Mayor reported that the Memorial Day Parade will be Monday, May 28, at 10 a.m. She said she went to a meeting, along with Officer Gerhart, with the Doylestown United Veterans, and said those veterans are in charge of the parade and have been doing so for years. Mayor White said Mayor Neis was instrumental in keeping the parade going in a very orderly way with family and friends, and volunteers are needed to help organize the different stage places around CB West. She said if anyone was interested in getting people to the spot they should be, it's really exciting to be a part of this.

Mayor White said the American Legion and other veteran groups are very much in need of new members as the membership has dropped over the years. She said these veterans that work on the parade and that she gets to meet with a few times a year are salt of the earth and wonderful people. She said they're not spring chickens anymore and they could sure use some new people coming in to help. The Mayor said she's not a veteran, but knows there are some out there and they could really do a tremendous service to your country by taking a more active part. She said this is a tradition we shouldn't allow to die out. Mayor White said if anyone was interested in volunteering or joining a group, the American Legion, VFW, and the Vietnam Vets are active in Bucks County, to just give her a call at 345-4143, the same number as the Police Chief.

The Mayor asked Mr. Davis if he wanted to comment any further on the Clean Air Initiative. Mr. Davis previewed next month's meeting which will further explore of the issue of clean energy. He said there should be consideration for a more broadly based program through the Sierra Club. What we've done tonight with Smart Power is an excellent start and is an element of what would be a broader approach dealing with this issue. Mr. Davis said they have met several times with representatives of the Sierra Club and an organization called ICLEA, an entity involved with local government initiatives regarding clean energy. He said certainly what we've done tonight with Smart Power will be a very strong element of such a broader overall plan. He stated they are working on a proposed resolution under the further auspices of the U.S. Council of Mayors that we will be bringing to you next month. He stated again, this program, with the cooperation of the Sierra Club looks at the Borough in a broader way, not only our operations, buildings, vehicles, traffic

signals, streetlights, but it also looks at power usage and energy of individual residents and businesses, and provides us with some expertise and with some consultants who will help us work on a program to move toward clean energy on a Borough wide basis and set some benchmarks. He said it's very interesting and again, this is a nice lead into it and we'll have more information next month. He said if anyone on Borough Council was interested, they should attend the Streets Committee meetings which have been very interesting discussions thus far.

Mayor White continued with the next Senior Open House is April 10, 2007, at 1:30 p.m. It was originated, organized, and supported by the Bucks County Area Agency on Aging and in particular, the Regional Task Force on Aging. She said we have a Doylestown Committee and they came up with the program this month: the new tax law known as Act I. She stated she was glad to see the Intelligencer had a big front page article about this as we all have to decide how to vote on it at the primary on May 15. She said there is going to be a very fine panel who will speak on the various parts of Act I: Joseph Gable, Dave Matyak, and Beth Darcy of the Tax Study Commission of Central Bucks, and Senator Chuck McIlhinney. She said all of these people are very well qualified to speak and she urged people to tell neighbors and friends to come to the meeting. That was the end of the Mayor's report.

Mr. Thome commented that every month the Mayor recites all of the wonderful activities she's involved with other than strictly as a Mayor on Borough Council and he felt she should be applauded for that. Mr. Thome pointed out that, equally, he could look up and down the row here and could tell you there is a commitment by every Council Member, they are all involved in outside activities, outside meetings, they don't just meet once a month. He wanted to tip his hat to all Council Members who are so involved.

Ms. Bond interjected that she felt we would be remiss if we didn't mention that we have a new father, who is the Manager of our Borough. Mr. Davis stated his wife gave birth on March 10, 10:53 p.m., to their first child, Catherine Longstreet Davis, 7 lbs. 11 oz., 21 inches.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Ansinn stated he had an item that maybe could be considered in the upcoming months. He said for those of them that went to PSAB, which included himself, Mr. Hoffman, Ms. Bond, and Solicitor McIlhinney, there was a lot of discussion regarding zoning changes and how the laws affect municipalities. He said one of the areas that residents frequently ask him about, and he looks at the character of our downtown and you see news items like the Dunkin Donuts in New Hope, is the concept of town-serving ordinances. He said it might be something for us to consider to help protect those who invest in our community, that we do the best we can to support them. Mr. Ansinn said he trusts Solicitor McIlhinney's steady guidance on what flies and what doesn't, and would certainly be looking for that to see what might work to help maintain the character of our community.

TREASURER'S REPORT - Ms. Leiter

As Ms. Leiter was not present due to the Fanny Chapman Board meeting next door, Mr. Davis said there are two Treasurer's Reports. Starting with the revised January Report, he said the revision relates to the vouchers payable for the month that were paid during the period of February 27 to March 5, and they are highlighted in green on the revised report. Mr. Davis said they total approximately \$277,000, and with a verbal consensus of Council, although there was no quorum, they were paid via treasurer's checks, so Mr. Davis asked for a Motion from Council to approve the Revised January Report. (White-Ansinn) All Council Members present were in favor.

Regarding February's regular Treasurer's Report, Mr. Davis stated the beginning balance January 31, 2007 was \$1,106,000; Revenues in the General/Water Funds: \$371,000, approximate; Expenditures: \$313,000, approximate, and Ending Balance: \$1,164,600. He said vouchers payable in the General and Water Fund: \$116,912; Fanny Chapman \$2000 as they get geared up; \$100 in the Road Tax Fund, probably two or three potholes; and, \$232,000 was transferred to Bucks County Water and Sewer. That concluded the Treasurer's Report and Mr. Davis said if Council wishes to approve it, they may do so by motion. (White-Ansinn) All Council Members present were in favor of approval of the February Treasurer's Report, and the motion carried.

Mr. Thome there were some items under Executive Session, but wanted to asked for Public Comment first before breaking since it may take a while.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Don Berk of Doylestown Borough wanted to formally invite Council and everyone present, as well as the community, to the Earth Day Celebration that the Sierra Club is having at the Courtyard at the Courthouse and that is Saturday, April 14, from 11 to 2:00. Mr. Burke said Chuck McIlhinney and Marguerite Quinn will be there, and Patrick Murphy, unfortunately, had another Earth Day to attend. He said there will be some additional presenters there, Native Energy might be, and some presentations from Newtown School on how to leave a smaller footprint, and Cycle Sports, one of our local businesses, will probably be holding a raffle.

Mr. Hoffman stated there was one more announcement and that was the opening day of Trout Season is earlier this year, it's this Saturday, which is an exciting event for the Borough and its families. Mr. Double stated the Borough Dam is still going with the traditional opening day, April 14th. Mr. Davis said the decision was made not to move the event up to the new earlier opening of fishing season, but to stick with the traditional day for weather purposes and because most people are familiar with that day. He said clean up day was Saturday and despite the snow, they were able to get a lot of work done, a lot of good volunteers came, and things were falling into place. Mr. Davis wanted to again recognize Mike Stachel for all of his work.

Mr. Thome then said Council would break for an Executive Session regarding litigation involving the Salem Church zoning appeal matter, and the other item involves the acquisition of real estate.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made to approve Resolution 2007-3 regarding the Pieritz Condemnation, 318 North Main Street. (Double-Ansinn) All Council Members present were in favor.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion (Double-Ansinn) to adjourn the March 26, 2007 Council Meeting, all Council Members present were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

John H. Davis
Borough Manager