

Orwigsburg Borough Council
Meeting Minutes
October 10, 2018

The Orwigsburg Borough Council met on Wednesday, October 10, 2018 in Council chambers. President Rudloff called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

In attendance: President Michele Rudloff; Vice President Susan L. Murphy. Councilors: Rod Schaeffer, Paul Bedway, Brian Baldwin, Angie Hoptak-Solga, Katie Bedway. Mayor Barry Berger; Solicitor Paul Datte; Borough Manager Robert Williams; Borough Secretary Sherry Edwards.

Visitors:

Damien L. & Amy Huber of 1020 Donna Rd
Robert & Alexy Bechtel of 110 E Mifflin St
Jerry Einsig of 455 Marshall Dr
Virginia Hughes of 135 S. Warren St
Jan McGowen of SSN
Kathi Mengle, Bookkeeper
Taunia Gerber of 1015 Ridgeview Dr
Becky Eckert of 313 Grove St
Kerry Mariano of 3027 Ridgeview Dr

Rick Bubeck of 415 Marshall Dr
Chris Grube of 436 W Market St
Michael Hart of 110 Walters Ave
Bill Knecht of 204 S. Warren St
Dave Teter, Streets/Utility Manager
Fire Chief Jesse Zimmerman
Greg Solga of 490 Clark Dr
Amber & Mike Zanolini of 230 Walter Ave

Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes from the September 5th & 12th 2018 meetings as presented was made by Susan Murphy, second by Rod Schaeffer. Unanimous.

Treasurer's Report

The August 2018 Treasurer's report was presented to Council

Tax Collector's Report

The September 2018 Tax Collector's report was presented to Council as follows:

Real Estate	\$891.07
Per Capita	\$55.00
Occupation	\$12.87

Tax Exoneration List - #09

A motion to exonerate the Tax collector from collecting Occupation Tax on Tax Exoneration List #9 was made by Paul Bedway, second by Susan Murphy. Unanimous.

Building Permits

0 New Permit issued at \$00.00 total value
1 Renovation Permits issued at \$1,000.00

President Rudloff reviewed the Standard Operating Procedure for adopting the purposed Budget:

- Finance Committee presents their deliberations
- Discussions begin in September thru October
- Vote on preliminary budget in November
- Purposed budget displayed for 30 days
- Ratify at the December meeting

Budget Review

Council's 2019 Budget Considerations

- Police Officer
- Infrastructure
- Water & Sewer -
- Structural Deficit

Brian Baldwin summarized the results of last weeks Financial Committee's meeting:

Structural Deficit – No deficit, purposed budget is balanced

Sewer:

- Based on current rates project a deficit of \$61,000
- Known deficiencies within the system that need to be addressed
- Applied for grant that was unsuccessful but will continue to pursue grants that become available in the future
- Rates last raised in January 2012
- Based on consumer index inflation since 2012 recommends a rate increase of 11%
- Recommendation:
 - Increase base rate from \$95.00 to \$110.00 (first 5,000 gals) per quarter
 - Increase usage rate from \$2.50 to \$3.00 (per 1,000 gal over the 5,000 gal) per quarter

Water:

- Rates last adjusted in 2005
- Project deficit of \$75,000 – based on consumption might break even
- Rate adjustment of 8%
- Recommendation:
 - Increase base rate from \$83.00 to \$90.00 (first 5,000 gals) per quarter
 - Increase usage rate from \$5.00 to \$5.26 (per 1,000 gals over the first 5,000 gals) per quarter
 - Increase SCMA bulk water rate from \$4.86 to \$5.25 (per 1,000 gals)

Police Officer:

- No additional officer, keeping part-time budget and overtime budget a 0.4 increase would be required for general increases such as cost of living adjustments
- Additional officer with no part time budget and overtime would be less a 1 mill increase would be required.

Infrastructure –

- Borough receives \$110,000 per year from PENNDOT for Liquid Fuels
- Active loan requires \$55,000 per year of the Liquid Fuels
- Providing addition millage to be earmarked for infrastructure improvement
- Discussed various options, from 0 all the way to 2 mil increase but came to no consensus; depends on the hiring of additional officer

Need Councils consensus on all recommendations. Major projects have been accomplished with limited funding. Do recognized the infrastructure budget is under funded based off the projects that needs to be addressed.

Public Comment on Budget:

Virginia Hughes of 135 S Warren St commented not in favor of an additional officer for a town our size. Understands the need to increase water and sewer rates. Once hospital is up and running will their financial responsibility cover what is needed for the budget and what is their responsibility for the added strain or expanding the plant.

Solicitor Datte responded the agreement is 4 years old and does have provision to allow for annual increases. There is a cap on the amount of water the borough is obligated to supply. SCMA is a customer of the borough that will be generating a lot of revenue.

Councilor Baldwin noted Entech Engineering did a study to establish the bulk rate that does take into consideration the added strain to the system and when drawing the max agreed amount the current system is capable of providing that flow.

Jerry Einsig of 455 Marshall Dr asked what we pay a police officer to start?

Chief Koury responded \$54,000

Jerry Einsig – Saw in the paper Pottsville hires at \$44,000 for a new police office

Michele – written in the police contract – 5-year contract

Jerry Einsig – Doesn't get 100% sewer service, about 6 to 8 times a year he doesn't get service.

Brian Baldwin responded we did express that we have known deficiencies in the system which is why we proposed an above 0 budget.

Kerry Mariano asked about the hospital having first right to the water.

Brian Baldwin doesn't know if the agreement says anything about having first right

Taunia Gerber of 1015 Ridgeview Dr: In favor of hiring a police officer – theme is we held the line on taxes and screwed residents in the end. If you lived here 10 years ago you got away scot free and

people who live here now are making up for the past. Water and Sewer needs to be running flat or if not slightly in the green. In favor of raising rates for utilities. You can control your own water usage. Don't wait all these years to raise rates. In favor of police officer for safety reasons.

Greg Solga of 490 Clark Drive commented - key word this year should be "infrastructure" we took on a big responsibility to the hospital. This year should be infrastructure and prepare for the hospital. Would like to see another police officer but that key words the past years and was accomplished.

Becky Eckert of 313 Grove St – understands water and sewer rate increases but as far as another officer we don't need one we have 5 full time officers. Can't keep whacking the residents left and right, you're making it unaffordable to live here. She has never felt unsafe with full time and part time. Not in favor of another officer.

Michael Hart of 110 Walters Avenue: has concerns with the residents getting the best bang for their police buck. He is willing to pay extra for 24/7 coverage but first would like to take a look at the schedule and got back to a part time scheduling. He would like to sit down with the Chief to be enlightened about the schedule and are there any plan in the works now to promote someone into the sergeant position?

Chief Koury responded that's a personnel issue

Becky Eckert – Everyone wants to feel protected. We can still have protection by using full time and part time and at the same time save a couple bucks.

Virginia Hughes – family we need to understand residents in town and their income; a lot of these have made this town what it is. On here street alone there are at least 15 retired people. Raise taxes slowly so residents can absorb better.

Michele – know that council is trying to do that, hopefully tonight you have seen the perfect storm council is up against there are holes in the dike everywhere and we're trying to plug with bubble gum.

Virginia – can't have it all and be considerate of the borough's residents; afraid of seeing more rental properties

Jerry Einsig – approved their contract did they check around other towns to see how much they were paid for new officers. Renegotiate next time contract is up with the price of a new officer coming down in salary.

Michele Rudloff noted - at all times we are reviewing documents – we have a 20 pages document that's been prepared on all the surrounding municipalities and what they pay in taxes, electric, water and sewer.

Chief Koury – He been here 30 years and every time we negotiate a contract it was always looked at surrounding department and always weighed in.

Brian Baldwin – police are huge, they are at your door step in 2 minutes, we use our police for EMS. Our police are first to arrive at the scene even before EMS. Two police officers saved lives within the past couple months.

Old Business

Solicitors Report – Paul Datte

1. Pine Creek Retirement Community
Decision has been entered – he'll let us know as soon as he reviews
2. Blue Mountain Retirement Community
Oral argument has been heard by Judge Domalakas on September 26th – case is with the Judge for final determination
3. Villas of Orwigsburg – Nothing new to report, case is being handled by insurance defense council for the Borough
4. Sopko/SCMA – Settlement Agreement has been fully executed, payment acquired under the Settlement Agreement has been made to the Sopkos, attorneys are in the process of signing various documents that need to be filed on record to formerly end the litigation.

Committee Reports

Streets, Lights & Buildings

A motion to approve Payment #1 to Spotts Brothers Inc., in the amount of \$62,369.10 in accordance with the review and recommendation of Benesch Engineering for the construction of the Veterans Community Memorial Hall Outdoor Basketball Court was made by Susan Murphy, second by Brian Baldwin. Unanimous.

Finance

A motion to approve the following Annual October Contributions was made by Paul Bedway, second by Brian Baldwin. Unanimous.

1. Accept \$65,581.43 Contribution from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, forwarded same, plus a contribution from the Borough of \$29,592.57 for a total of \$95,174.00 to PMRS, (Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement System).
2. Accept \$14,403.24 Contribution from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Forwarded same to Fireman's Relief Association of the Friendship Hose Co.
3. \$20,000 - Friendship Hose Company
4. \$5,000 - Orwigsburg Library
5. \$1000 - Orwigsburg Senior Citizens
6. \$500 - Orwigsburg Historical Society

New Business -
None

Police Department Report

The September 2018 Police Report is attached to these minutes.

Chief John Koury

Chief Koury addressed Rod Schaeffer's request to justify hiring an additional officer.

This officer is not considered an additional officer but would fulfill the requirement of the 1997 DCED Study which determined in order for the borough to provide 24/7 police coverage the department needs to employ 5 full time officers and a Chief.

Part time officers create issues with not being able to make hearings due their full-time jobs which makes them unreliable. They tend not to make arrests due to their full-time obligations.

Over the last 40 years the borough has employed 62 part time police officers. In 2018 we need to run the department professionally with full time officers.

Chief Koury responded to an e-mail from Knecht – email stated the he made comments to Council 3 times that if they don't hire a new police officer and raise taxes, they can get a new Chief. He has never said that. What he said was that if the borough wants to run half-assed police department, he doesn't want to be the Chief.

Councilor Murphy sent out an e-mail suggesting council should set the police budget. Which is what Council has been doing for the past 30 years. Council never gave the police a true budget. If that what council wants to do then tell the tax payers so his department isn't taking the heat.

Last Friday and Saturday there was no police coverage during the day. One officer was on vacation and the other suffered a loss in the family and was off on bereavement. Night shifts were covered.

Rod Schaeffer asked how will you utilize this new officer?

Chief Koury responded will give us 2 officers for day shift and 2 officers for night shift primarily. Officer will fill in for scheduled vacations, scheduled trainings, plus reduce overtime. The Mayor and the Chief compiled a schedule that will work for 24/7 coverage.

Murphy 1 mil is equal to \$62,500.00, Police budget \$775,000 includes new officer, the boroughs budget is 1.2.

Mayor Berger mentioned he doesn't micro manager JK and John professional, ethical and efficient. He is also on budget, being 9 months into the year he is within 1 or 2 % of 75%.

Chief Koury no coverage Friday day shift he received a phone call on his cell at 8:39 am from Heisers Hardware they got a shop lifter, owners detained her but she caused a ruckus and she got in her car and drove away. It took the State Police 1 ½ hours to arrive.

Fire Company Report

Fire Chief Jesse Zimmerman presented the September report:

17 total call for month

106.09-man hours

1 call East Brunswick Township

7 calls North Manheim Township

3 calls West Brunswick Township
6 calls Orwigsburg Borough
164 to date calls
858 hours total man hours for the year

Jesse informed Council the Fire Company has been awarded an AFG grant for \$287,000 to be used for new air packs.

Smoke detector installations will be scheduled for mid-November.

COG

The next COG meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 18th at 7:00 pm at Borough Hall in Council Chambers.

Community Activities/Events

Orwigsburg Lions Club Halloween Parade is scheduled for Wednesday, October 24, 2018 beginning at 7:00 pm. Parade Rain Date - October 25, 2018

Trick or Treat is scheduled for Wednesday, October 31, 2018 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Veterans Memorial Task Force

Capital Campaign Dinner will be held at the Veterans Community Memorial Hall on Saturday November 10, 2018 from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Keynote Speaker will be General George Joulwan. Cost is \$125.00 Per Guest, \$250.00 Per Couple, \$100.00 to Sponsor a Veteran. For more information: www.orwigsburgmemorial.org

Orwigsburg Children's Christmas Party

Party is scheduled for Saturday, November 24, 2018 from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm at the Veterans Community Memorial Hall. Free Hot Dogs and Drinks will be served – Movie: *"Santa Clause 2"* (Sponsored by Market Street Wash Rite and Classy III, Inc.)

Orwigsburg Business & Professional Association

Festival of Lights is scheduled for Saturday, December 1, 2018 from 4:30 pm to 7:00 pm on the Community Lot.

Correspondence - None

Bills

A motion to approve and ratify the accounts payable for General, Water, Sewer, Sanitation, State, Grant, Credit Union, and Capitol Improvement accounts was made by Paul Bedway, second by Sue Murphy. Unanimous.

Fire Chief Jesse Zimmerman spoke with the Red Cross regarding the free smoke detector installation. Looking at mid-November for installations in the Borough.

Brian Baldwin requests reallocating donation for the historical society in 2019. Current donation is \$500.00.

A motion to adjust sewer rate from 95.00 for the first 5,000 gallons per quarter to \$110.00 for the first 5,000 gallons per quarter and adjust the usage rate for sewage from \$2.50 for every 1,000 gallons over the first 5,000 gallons per quarter to \$3.00 for every 1,000 gallons over the first 5,000 gallons per quarter beginning January 2019 was made by Brian Baldwin, second by Paul Bedway. Unanimous.

A motion to adjust water usage rates from \$83.00 for first 5,000 gallons per quarter to \$90.00 for the first 5,000 gallons per quarter as base rate and adjust usage from \$5.00 per 1,000 gallons over the first 5,000 gallons per quarter to \$5.40 per 1,000 gallons over the first 5,000 gallons per quarter also adjust SCMA bulk rate from \$4.86 per thousand gallons to \$5.26 per thousand gallons was made by Brian Baldwin, second by Rod Schaeffer.

Solicitor Datte suggests providing SCMA with cost justification for the increase.

Brian Baldwin withdrew water rate increase motion

Increase bulk rate under the SCMA Agreement based on the increased cost over the last 4 year period to amount not to exceed \$.40 per thousand gallons.

A motion to increase base rate 8.4% or \$7.00 per quarter to a new rate of \$90.00 per quarter for first 5,000 gallons and increase usage rate 8% which is an increase of \$.40 giving a total of \$5.40 for every 1,000 gallons over the first 5,000 gallons also recommends the SCMA rate be adjusted provided justification is available to increase their rate 8% which is an increase of \$.39 per thousand for a new rate of \$5.25 per every thousand gallons usage was made by Brian Baldwin, second by Rod Schaeffer. Unanimous.

A motion for a 1.5 mil increases for a new police officer and for infrastructure improvements was made by Rod Schaeffer, motion died do to a lack of second.

A motion to increase the budget by 1 mil for the purpose of hiring a police officer was made by Michele Rudloff, second by Rod Schaeffer.

Roll Call Vote taken: Motion carried

Paul Bedway – No
Brian Baldwin – Yes
Susan Murphy – No
Rod Schaeffer – Yes
Katie Bedway – Yes
Angie Hoptak-Solga – No
Michele Rudloff – Yes

Public comment on motion:

Virginia Hughes – She is all for water & sewer increase but not a mil for another police officer and still

have to address infrastructure – can't have it both ways, this is asking a lot for people of this town
Bill Knecht – questioned details why we need another officer, analyzed police reports over past three years, determined the increase in incidents is due to assisting other agencies, traffic citations and issuing warnings.

Greg Solga – The borough will be the second highest tax base in the county on an individual basis

Tanya Gerber – Schuylkill Haven's taxes might be less but their electric rates are high, her two-bedroom apartment in Schuylkill Haven electric bill cost more than her home in Orwigsburg.

Bill Knecht – questioned the failed vote earlier for 1.5 mil increase being too much for the residents to bare, if so one mil for police office but can't justify .5 mil for infrastructure.

A motion to raise real estate taxes by .5 mills to be dedicated for infrastructure improvements was made by Paul Bedway, second by Rod Schaeffer.

Roll Call vote taken: Motion carried

Paul Bedway – Yes

Brian Baldwin – Yes

Susan Murphy – No

Rod Schaeffer – Yes

Katie Bedway – Yes

Angie Hoptak – Solga – Yes

Michele Rudloff – Yes

A preliminary budget will be voted on at the November 7th Work Session. Budget will hang for 30 day for public review and comment. Budget will be certified at the December 12th Council meeting.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry M. Edwards
Borough Secretary

October 01, 2018

Calls for Service - by UCR Code

Incidents Reported Between 09/01/2018 and 09/30/2018

All Municipalities



Code	Description	Primary Count	Secondary UCR Count		
			Code 2	Code 3	Code 4
0591	CIVIL COMPLAINT	3			
0636	THEFT - UNDER \$50 - BICYCLES	1			
0637	THEFT - UNDER \$50 - FROM BUILDINGS	1			
1440	CRIMINAL MISCHIEF - ALL OTHER	2	1		
2242	LIQUOR LAWS - OTHER - JUVENILE	1			
2410	HARASSMENT BY COMMUNICATION	1			
2420	DISORDERLY CONDUCT-PUBLIC PLACES	1			
2440	DISORDERLY CONDUCT-DISTURBING THE PEACE	2			
2627	FALSE ALARM	3			
2660	TRESPASSING OF REAL PROPERTY	1			
2801	BOROUGH ORD. WEEDS	4			
2830	BOROUGH ORD-ALL OTHER	1			
2910	LOST/MISSING PROPERTY	1			
3400	MENTAL HEALTH	1			
3500	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	2	1		
3502	SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY	8			
3600	DISTURBANCES-DOMESTIC	1			
3610	DISTURBANCES-JUVENILE	1			
3620	DISTURBANCES-OTHER (FIGHTS,DISPUTES,ETC)	1			
3700	WARRANTS-LOCAL-SERVICE	1			
3800	MISCELLANEOUS	8			
3810	ALARMS-UNFOUNDED-EXCPT FIRE	10			
3840	FIRES (INCLUDING ALARMS-FOUNDED/UNFOUND)	1			
3860	VEHICLE LOCKOUT	1			
3900	TRAFFIC & PARKING PROBLEMS	4			
4004	ACCIDENT- NON REPORTABLE	4			
4006	ACCIDENT - REPORTABLE	1			
4008	ELECTRIC LIGHT OUTAGES	1			
4010	TRAFFIC OFFENSES	7			
4011	RECKLESS DRIVING	1			
4014	INVESTIGATE OPEN DOOR / WINDOW	2			
4016	PEDESTRIAN CONTACTS	1			
4018	BOROUGH REPAIRS	2			
4022	SUSPICIOUS PERSON	4			
4026	WIRES AND POLES DOWN	2			
4510	DEATHS - UNATTENDED	1			
5004	LOST & FOUND - FOUND ARTICLES	2			
5008	LOST & FOUND - LOST ARTICLES	1			
5010	LOST & FOUND - MISSING JUVENILE FEMALE	1			
5506	ANIMAL COMPLAINTS - STRAY ANIMALS	2			
5510	ANIMAL COMPLAINTS - OTHER	4			
6390	TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT - REPORTS	1			
7004	BUILDING CHECKS - VACATION,VACANT HOME	1			
7006	VEHICLE LOCK OUT	2			
7504	ASSIST OTHER AGENCIES - OTHER POLICE	7			
7506	ASSISTING OTHER AGENCIES - STATE POLICE	5			
7590	ASSISTING OTHER AGENCIES - REPORTS	5			
8090	WARRANTS - LOCAL - REPORTS	1			

October 01, 2018

Calls for Service - by UCR Code

Incidents Reported Between 09/01/2018 and 09/30/2018

All Municipalities



Code	Description	Primary Count	Secondary UCR Count		
			Code 2	Code 3	Code 4
8110	WARRANTS - OTHER AUTHORITY - CRIMINAL	3			
8518	DEPARTMENTAL SERVICES - RECORD CHECKS	3			
8590	DEPARTMENTAL SERVICES - REPORTS	3			
8600	DEPARTMENTAL SERVICES - CARSEAT CHECK	2			
8610	PARKING TICKET ENFORCEMENT	4			
9010	ADMINISTRATION - IN-SERVICE TRAINING	2			
9022	AMBULANCE ASSIST	20			
9024	911 HANG UP CALL	2			
9026	SERVICE CALL-WELFARE CHECK RESIDENT	4			
CITT	TRAFFIC CITATION	43			
CITW	WARNING	58			
DTB	DRUG TAKE BACK	5			
INFO	INFORMATION	10			
PRM	DUMPSTER PERMIT	1			
ROAD	ROAD CONDITIONS	1			
SI	SCHOOL INCIDENT	1			
Total Calls		281			