

**REVISED MINUTES
BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
November 18, 2004**

Media Borough Council met in Council Chambers on the above date with the following officials present: Mayor McMahon, President Hagan, Vice-President Robinson, Councilpersons Alyanakian, Krull, Sherwin, Tyson and Whitaker. Also present were Solicitor Middlebrooks, Engineer Walton, Borough Manager Smith and Administrative Assistant Godek.

President Hagan called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m. and led the salute to the flag. President Hagan then asked for a moment of silence for John Trustee and George Weaver, who were both recently deceased.

Privilege of the Floor

Ken Barlow, Dick Porter, and Don Borden, VFW Post 3460, presented a check to the Media Police Department for purchase of a digital video-imaging camera. Police Chief Wusinich accepted the donation and thanked the VFW for their support.

Bob McAfee, Town Talk, presented a check to the Media Police Association for their efforts to support those of need in the community. Police Chief Wusinich accepted the check of behalf of the Media Police Association. Councilperson Whitaker reiterated her praise for the good work of the Police Association and thanked Mr. McAfee for recognizing the organization.

Virginia Purdy, 13 E. Baltimore Avenue presented a petition to Council to prevent the demolition of 13 and 15 E. Baltimore Avenue. The petition contained approximately 275 signatures of residents and other individuals supporting the cause. Councilperson Robinson commended Virginia for her participation as a resident to express her concerns and efforts to preserve the historic character of Media Borough. Councilperson Tyson stated that even though the properties do not have a historical designation they still add value to the community. Vice-President Robinson urged individuals to send a letter to the property owner requesting they reconsider their position and Councilperson Tyson suggested that, in addition, Borough Council express their sentiment to the property owners. President Hagan stated that Council must acknowledge the rights of the property owners but can share the public influence with them.

Approval of the Minutes

Vice-President Robinson made a motion to approve the Council meeting minutes of October 21, 2004. Councilperson Whitaker seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor's Report – Mr. McMahon

Mayor McMahon reported that there were 1,071 complaints in the month of October and no reported burglaries.

Mayor McMahon read Proclamation #2004-16 recognizing Adam Hopper's walk from Broadway in New York City to the Media Theatre, in order to raise awareness and funds for the Media Theatre.

Council Committee Reports

Recreation, Code Enforcement & Properties – Mr. Tyson

Councilperson Tyson reported that Borough Council will discuss the sidewalk snow/ice removal ordinance at the December Council meeting.

Councilperson Tyson reported that there is a vacancy on the Historical Archives Commission and a possible vacancy on the Historic Preservation Commission. Interested individuals should submit a letter to Borough Manager Smith, for consideration.

Councilperson Tyson stated that the Borough is examining updating the sprinkler ordinance and is soliciting public input. The current sentiment is to require sprinklers in all new construction.

Public Safety – Ms. Whitaker

Councilperson Whitaker thanked the VFW and Town Talk for their contributions to the Police Association and the Police Department.

Councilperson Whitaker reminded the public that carbon monoxide can present a danger and the fire department has carbon monoxide and fire detectors available.

Councilperson Tyson highlighted the landing of an emergency response helicopter at the Media Elementary School earlier in the week. Councilperson Tyson stated that in cases of severe trauma this is necessary to provide treatment for the victim. Councilperson Tyson assured that this is safe procedure and that officials clear the area to provide no threat to the public.

Community Development – Mr. Robinson

Vice-President Robinson motioned to approve the final subdivision application for 406 N. Olive Street and 113 W. Fourth Street with the NDI memo and Councilperson Whitaker further tightened the motion adding that the applicant will take all steps to minimize the impact of water incursion on neighboring properties. Councilperson Krull seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Vice-President Robinson motioned to approve the preliminary land development application for 27-31 E. Baltimore Avenue contingent with the NDI review memo. Councilperson Whitaker seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Vice-President Robinson motioned to authorize an agreement relating to stormwater management for 128 E. State Street. Councilperson Krull seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Vice-President Robinson announced that the next Comprehensive Plan Task Force meeting would be held on Wednesday, December 1, 2004, 6:30 p.m. Councilperson Robinson encouraged the public to attend.

Personnel & Highway – Ms. Hagan

President Hagan announced the resignation of Tara Higgins.

President Hagan announced the Fall 2004 leaf collection schedule. President Hagan stated that bagged leaves would also be collected with regular trash pick-ups. The schedule was printed in the press and listed on the Borough website.

President Hagan announced snow emergency routes would be in effect this winter. Routes will be listed on the cable channel and website.

President Hagan congratulated the mayor and everyone who worked on organizing the Veterans Day parade for their successful event.

Finance, Insurance & MBA – Mr. Sherwin

Councilperson Sherwin read the finance report. The Finance Committee reported checks drawn on the Central Disbursement account for the following funds:

General Fund	719,816.43
Liquid Fuels Fund	<u>7,624.20</u>
Total	727,440.63

Councilperson Sherwin motioned that bills be paid when properly approved for all funds. Councilperson Krull seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilperson Sherwin motioned to adopt the 2005 Budget. Councilperson Sherwin stated that this was the first time in 21 years that an adjustment in the property tax millage rate is being recommended, from .29 mills to 1.0 mills. Councilperson Sherwin stated that the average residential assessment of \$125,000 would increase taxes from \$36.25 to \$125.00, a difference of \$88.75. He stated that the rationale for the Finance Committee recommendations were to set aside funds for residential capital improvement projects, such as road resurfacing and stormwater management, etc. and to help offset increases in annual operating expenses such as liability and health insurance and contracts with unions, among other things. President Hagan added that the most significant reason is the change in Pennsylvania tax structure and the Borough's reliance on Earned Income Taxes. Councilperson Sherwin stated that Council would reexamine the budget on December 6, 2004 and will look to cut operating expenses and put the savings toward capital projects. Councilperson Krull seconded the motion. Councilpersons Krull, Sherwin, and Hagan yoted for and Councilpersons Robinson, Tyson, Alyanakian, and Whitaker voted against the motion. The motion was defeated 4-3.

Councilperson Sherwin motioned to authorize the advertisement of the 2005 Millage Rate at 1.0 mills. Councilperson Krull seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-2 with Councilpersons Alyanakian and Tyson casting dissenting votes.

Councilperson Sherwin stated that the Media Business Authority (MBA) is considering expanding the Board to thirteen (13) members. Council discussed this issue and decided to appoint one person to fill the current vacancy and consider the other candidates at next month's meeting. Councilperson Sherwin motioned to appoint Alex Schwab, General Manager of the

Iron Hill to the MBA, to complete the unexpired term of Jim Townsend. Councilperson Krull seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilperson Sherwin announced Santa's Arrival and the Festival of Lights that will be held on Friday, November 26, 2004, 6 p.m., at State and Jackson Streets.

Recreation, Grants, Recycling & Streetscape – Mrs. Krull

Councilperson Krull announced the resignation of Michelle Cropper from the Recreation Commission. Interested residents should submit a letter of interest to Borough Manager Smith.

Councilperson Krull made a motion to adopt Resolution #2004-13 an application for a "Preserve America" designation, to gain national recognition for the Borough's efforts in restoring the Armory. Councilperson Robinson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Health & Shade Tree Commission – Mr. Alyanakian

Councilperson Alyanakian motioned to appoint of Barabara Domingos to the Board of Health to complete the unexpired term of Andrea Kovach. Councilperson Whitaker seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilperson Alyankian motioned to appoint Kirk Daulerio to the Environmental Advisory Council (EAC). Councilperson Krull seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilperson Alyankian announced that the Borough has been awarded a \$94,000 Energy Harvest Grant to install additional solar panels. Councilperson Alyanakian thanked Judy Fowler (Media Grants Administrator), Katherine McGinty (Secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection), and Governor Rendell, for their support.

Privilege of the Floor

President Hagan announced that following the Council meeting there would be an executive session to discuss the Third Street Bridge.

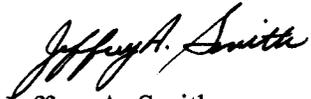
Sean Crane, resident of 331 W. Second Street, asked Council to expound on the tax increase. He questioned how many properties in the Borough are assessed at a value of \$125,000. Councilperson Sherwin stated that \$125,000 was the median residential assessment. Councilperson Tyson stated that the Borough was last assessed in 1998 and that the assessment value is not in line with the current market value. Councilperson Sherwin expounded that of the anticipated 2005 taxes collected from Borough residents, approximately 4.5% go to the Borough, 20% go to the County, and 75.5% go to the school district.

Councilperson Robinson thanked the County Park Police and Employees who helped make the Veterans Day Parade a success.

Adjournment

Vice-President Robinson motioned to adjourn, which was seconded by Councilperson Whitaker. The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m. Borough Council exited the Chamber for an executive session.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jeffrey A. Smith".

Jeffrey A. Smith
Borough Manager/Secretary