

**MINUTES
BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
June 16, 2005**

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 Borough Manager Smith, Solicitor Middlebrooks, Engineer Mulvena, Treasurer Gioggia and Administrative Assistant Godek.

President Hagan called the meeting to order at 8:04 p.m. and led the salute to the flag.

Approval of the Minutes

Vice-President Robinson motioned to approve the May 16, 2005 special meeting minutes and the May 19, 2005 meeting minutes. Councilwoman Whitaker seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Privilege of the Floor

Councilman Sherwin read Proclamation #2005-06 commemorating the 50th anniversary of Pinocchio's Restaurant. Ted Volikas, owner of Pinocchio's, accepted the plaque and thanked Media Borough Council and residents for their support of the establishment.

Paul Cavanaugh, Fifth Street, mentioned the success of the Annual State Street Blues Stroll. Mr. Cavanaugh inquired why the New Orleans Café is closed. President Hagan responded that the business is being sold. Councilman Tyson asked if all building upkeep for 1 W. State Street is the responsibility of the tenant. Solicitor Middlebrooks stated that maintenance and repairs are the obligation of the lessee. Councilman Alyanakian commented that repairs to the roof are the responsibility of the Borough. Solicitor Middlebrooks responded that it is her understanding that the Borough is responsible for exterior repairs to the roof. The buyer received an estimate of \$20,000 plus for roof repairs. Vice-President Robinson stated that he thought this estimate was high for the necessary work. President Hagan suggested that the matter be discussed in executive session.

Mayor's Report – Mr. McMahon

Mayor McMahon reported there were 987 complaints in the month of May and no reported burglaries.

Mayor McMahon mentioned that Officer Linda Miller is available to review the security of businesses and has been evaluating the security of area banks. Anyone interested in her assistance can contact the police department.

Mayor McMahon announced the Penncrest Softball Team won their first Central League Championship with a record of a 21-4 season.

Council Committee Reports

Recreation, Code Enforcement & Properties – Mr. Tyson

Councilman Tyson mentioned that the Borough received county and state level awards for restoration of the Media Armory. Councilman Tyson commended everyone who was involved with the project for a job well done.

Public Safety – Ms. Whitaker

Councilwoman Whitaker stated that the Media Police Department, in conjunction with the Sheriff's Department, is handing out gun safety locks. Councilwoman Whitaker encouraged anyone who owns a gun to take advantage of this free program.

Councilwoman Whitaker responded to Councilman Tyson's statement from the previous meeting that the cost of housing in Media is becoming unaffordable. Councilwoman Whitaker stated the rising costs of housing is a national trend, and not specific to Media Borough. Councilwoman Whitaker stated that even with the new ordinances and amendments to zoning, Media has preserved the character of the Borough. Councilman Tyson responded that he has identified three areas of development that concern him and has expressed the sentiments of some members of the Fire Department. These areas include building height, building coverage and impervious surface coverage. Vice-President Robinson suggested that Media Borough educate residents about the zoning districts to promote compliance and encourage the desired development. Councilman Alyanakian stated that the Borough should avoid gentrification and not permit \$500,000 houses to be constructed alongside older row homes, which would skew property values. President Hagan stated that Borough Council must protect the rights of property owners, and can only encourage development as directed by building codes.

Community Development – Mr. Robinson

Vice-President Robinson motioned to adopt Resolution #2005-08 increasing sign permit fees from \$10 to \$25. Councilwoman Whitaker seconded the motion. The Motion carried unanimously.

Vice-President Robinson motioned to approve the minor land development and change of use application for 313-315 W. Baltimore Avenue contingent upon items listed in the NDI review memo. Additional items to address include the following: 1) the properties are adjoined, with 313 referenced as the parking lot and 315 identified as the building, 2) the applicant perform an enhanced traffic study, 3) the automatic sprinkler system will be extended to all portions of the building, 4) the Borough and applicant enter into an agreement relating to the use of the parking lot for the period of time the tenant occupies the property, 5) the construction and façade changes reflect those pictured in the rendering from Bob Linn's office, dated May 26, 2005, 6) a cut-away is created for pedestrians to allow access to the municipal parking lot at Orange Street and Baltimore Avenue off of the Baltimore Avenue side of the parking lot. Councilwoman Whitaker seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Vice-President Robinson motioned to authorize the Council President to execute an agreement with the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board for the use of the parking lot located at 313 W. Baltimore Avenue. Councilwoman Whitaker seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Vice-President Robinson motioned to approve the minor land development/change of use application for 100 W. State Street contingent with compliance of the NDI review memo. This will change the use group from mercantile to business and assembly to allow for utilization by a bank and coffee shop. Councilwoman Whitaker seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Vice-President Robinson motioned to approve the preliminary land development application for 7-13 E. Baltimore Avenue contingent with compliance of the NDI review memo. The applicant is proposing to demolish a two-story building and construct a two-story retail/office building with parking in the rear. Vice-President Robinson reported that it is the recommendation of the Planning Commission to approve the preliminary plan, which will appear again before Borough Council. Councilman Tyson stated the proposed plan would mean the loss of two more historical buildings. Vice-President Robinson stated the properties are not listed on the National Register of Historic Houses. Councilperson Alyanakian inquired to the relocation of the tenants who currently live in these buildings. Vice-President Robinson stated that Media Real Estate is working with the residents to find suitable alternative housing. President Hagan stated that she was willing to consider rejection of the application if there was an option that would not cause legal action. Councilwoman Whitaker seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-2 with Councilpersons Tyson and Alyanakian casting the dissenting votes.

Vice-President Robinson motioned to approve the preliminary subdivision/land development Application for 113-125 W. Fifth Street contingent with compliance of the NDI review memo. The proposal calls for two (2) single-family semi-detached dwellings and two (2) single family detached dwellings. Councilwoman Whitaker seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Vice-President Robinson motioned to approve the preliminary/final reverse subdivision and preliminary/final land development application for 202-204 South Avenue accompanied by the NDI review memo. The applicant proposes to connect the two (2) existing structures and join the lots. Councilwoman Whitaker seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Vice-President Robinson motioned to approve the preliminary/final land development application for 228 Brooke Street, contingent on compliance with the recommendations of the NDI review memo. The applicant proposes a change of use from residential to mixed use commercial. Councilwoman Whitaker seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Vice-President Robinson reported that the Planning Commission has been very busy the past month due to the increased amount of applications. Vice-President Robinson thanked those members of the Planning Commission, the Code Enforcement Department and the Borough Manager for their work in processing these requests.

Vice-President Robinson motioned to authorize the Council President and Solicitor to execute the Lease Addendum with the Society for the Performing Arts for the rental of the Media Theatre. Councilwoman Whitaker seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Vice-President Robinson reported he attended a meeting with the Glenwood Elementary School Student Council who presented a petition to Media Borough Council requesting the ban of smoking in Media's dining establishments. The students created a smoke-free dining guide that

will be available at Media Borough Hall. Vice-President Robinson commended the students on their interest and participation with local government.

Vice-President Robinson stated the Media Five Mile Run will be held on June 17, 2005 and this will cause interference with traffic flow through town. Vice-President Robinson suggested that commuters use Providence Road (Rte. 252), Orange Street and Baltimore Pike to circumnavigate the event. Proceeds from the race will benefit the Media Fire Company and the Media-Upper Providence Library.

Personnel & Highway – Ms. Hagan

President Hagan reported that the Borough is negotiating with the Firemen and Oilers Union, Local 473, to bring on two additional employees to the Highway Department.

President Hagan reported that the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is accepting bids to resurface a portion of Baltimore Avenue. President Hagan stated that the majority of the work would be completed at night to reduce the impact on daytime traffic. Borough residents will be notified of the project specifications once details are confirmed with PennDOT.

Finance, Insurance & MBA – Mr. Sherwin

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

General Fund	\$ 280,758.50
Recreation Fund	\$ 3,031.45
Liquid Fuels Fund	\$ <u>12,580.93</u>
Total	\$ 296,370.88

Councilman Sherwin motioned that bills be paid when properly approved for all funds. Councilwoman Krull seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Sherwin commented on the success of the Annual State Street Blues Stroll which appeared to be the most successful to date. Councilman Sherwin commended the MBA for organizing the event. Councilman Sherwin also stated that the MBA as a whole has increased the organizations net income by \$8,458 in the past quarter. Vice-President Robinson noted that the bike EMT's and police department did a great job patrolling the community event.

Recreation, Grants, Recycling & Streetscape – Mrs. Krull

Councilwoman Krull reported the Recreation Board is sponsoring Karate for the Family, a six week session, which will begin on June 18, 2005. The cost is \$5.00 per class and is open to individuals ages 9 years through adult.

Councilwoman Krull stated the Recreation Board is sponsoring summer tennis lessons. The adult camp begins on June 20, 2005 and will meet Tuesdays (for beginners) and Thursdays (for intermediate players). The children's tennis camp will commence on August 15, 2005 and will offer group lessons for children ages 7 to 10 and 11 to 15 years of age. Residents should contact Media Borough for more information.

Councilwoman Krull made the following Recreation Board event announcements:

- Fourth of July Celebration – Sat., July 2, 2005
- Phillies game – Sun., July 17, 2005

Councilwoman Krull reported the Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) is attempting to increase Media's recycling rate to surpass the state's average and will organize and implement additional programs.

Health & Shade Tree Commission – Mr. Alyanakian

Councilman Alyanakian announced the Shade Tree Commission will implement a pilot program testing the feasibility of rubber sidewalks as a means to better accommodate root growth.

Councilman Alyanakian reported the Borough conducted a solicitor and engineering compensation survey that indicated that Media Borough is paying two to three times the amount for these services than neighboring municipalities. Councilman Alyanakian motioned the Borough change the fee structure from an hourly wage to a \$3,000 per month retainer for the solicitor and the engineer. Councilperson Tyson seconded the motion. Vice-President Robinson motioned to table. Councilwoman Whitaker seconded the motion to table the action. The motion to table carried 5-2 with Councilpersons Alyanakian and Tyson casting the dissenting votes. President Hagan stated that implementing a retainer may not be the correct action to cap the fees and suggested this matter be discussed in executive session. Councilman Sherwin reported that the Finance Committee has been analyzing a way to reduce consultant costs. Councilperson Tyson made a motion to authorize the Finance Committee to report back to Council within 90 days with recommendations to address this issue. Councilperson Alyanakian seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Privilege of the Floor

Jane Rowland, Second Street, reported that the flag was not properly positioned at half-mast in observance of Memorial Day. Ms. Rowland thanked the Police Department for their assistance transporting her disabled relative.

Bob Dimond, Third Street, thanked everyone who attended the Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony, making the event a success.

Councilwoman Whitaker announced that the Spring/Summer newsletter that will be mailed to residents has a new interactive component. Councilwoman Whitaker encouraged residents to attempt to answer the historic buildings quiz for an opportunity to win two (2) Phillies tickets.

Virginia Purdy, Baltimore Avenue, inquired if there are grant opportunities available to preserve the buildings at 7-13 E. Baltimore Avenue. Vice-President Robinson responded that the Borough Manager and the Grants Administrator will research this possibility.

Adjournment

Vice-President Robinson motioned to adjourn the meeting. Councilwoman Whitaker seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 9:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey A. Smith

Jeffrey A. Smith
Borough Manager/Secretary