

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES
Monday, December 14, 2009
7:00 p.m.**

Mayor Eisaman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. City Administrator, Susan Trout, took roll call with the following members present: Councilman DePasquale, Councilman Peterinelli, Councilman Tridico, Councilman Finfrock and Mayor Eisaman. City Solicitor, Timothy McCormick and City Treasurer/Fiscal Director, Mary Perez were also present.

*****PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE*****Councilman Tridico

*****COMMENTS/BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR*****

Greg Lazarchik, 910 Kunkle Avenue, Greensburg, PA. Mr. Lazarchik, "I'd like to make a few comments about the 2010 budget. I feel three major points; you should reconsider recovery of the 3.8 mill tax increase for 2009; the projection of your earned income tax revenue for 2010 is too optimistic in the budget and should be reevaluated; and three, a zero-based budgeting system should be tried. Now it's difficult for someone on the outside, like me, who didn't participate in any discussions and not having any narrative to analyze these numbers to come up with some definitive conclusions, however, as a businessman I find sometimes the numbers can tell you something all by themselves. The budget appears to be driven by two factors; one, to hold the line on taxes and therefore to spend available income and no more. I suggest it might be more appropriate in these times to use a zero-based budgeting system wherein each department starts with their current level of spending and calls this the zero base and then works to find out how they can cut costs through efficiencies without reducing services. Then you balance your budgets with your revenues later and maybe you can reduce or refund some taxes. I believe your budget is optimistic on the revenue side and I feel that further budget cuts are warranted to avoid significant tax increases in 2011 and beyond. We need to develop a budget that lives realistically within our means and doesn't dig a hole for us during the year 2010. For example, earned income taxes; in the 2010 budget I feel we're optimistic by about 2-5%. The average collection for the last three months of this year was \$174,993; September, October and November. If you add that to your year-to-date you can come up with a projection for next year which would estimate it \$2,679,284. That's about 2.6% under the budget for 2009. So far in 2009 through November we're running 91% of the budget in collections for earned income tax. In 2008 we had 100% at the end of November. Consider if the average monthly rate for 2010 equals the average monthly rate for the last three months, which was \$174,993, then your 2010 earned income tax revenue would be as low as \$2,099,916. Compared to your 2010 budget of \$2,675,000 this would be \$575,000 short or 20% below your projection. This is equivalent to 5% of your General Fund. Some economists have forecast unemployment rates to peak as high as 15% nationally sometime during the year 2010. The highest figures for this year we have seen in the fourth quarter. This might suggest that the decline in earned income will continue on into 2010, perhaps to mid-year. How far is anyone's guess? As a businessman I know if you throw five economists on the ground they all point in different directions. But the numbers don't lie. Your trend on the income figures are down. Your last three months are the lowest of the year and the projections are that the unemployment numbers are going to go higher before it starts to recover. So how far this goes and where you're going to go, I can suggest that you're 5% high, but I certainly can see 2-3% for a further reduction in the estimate of earned income which would then effect the whole rest of the budget. Hopefully by 2011 we'll be able to see these numbers grow again, but we need some restraint right now to avoid putting ourselves in a deep hole. You know every other year we've come out with a \$400,000 or \$500,000 surplus at the end of the year. You're not going to see that this year. I'm afraid you're going to be the other way when you have to make it up twice. We took that tax increase last year and your Fiscal Director's presentation in the November minutes of the meeting cited inflated oil prices, higher energy costs, higher utility costs, reduced real estate tax income for the year and reduced business and earned income taxes. If you actually look at the records, oil prices have been lower, utility costs and gas prices have been lower, the actual real estate tax collections have been higher than they were the year before instead of as you projected lower, and the earned income tax is right on the button. I think if those are the reasons why we increased the taxes last year, those reasons have all gone away during this year but we still didn't wind up with a big surplus. That's all I have to say."

Mayor Eisaman, "I don't think fuel prices decreased drastically."

Mr. Lazarchik, "Natural gas has."

Mayor Eisaman, "I think most of our conversation was on fuel."

Mr. Lazarchik, "I'm just putting back what was in the minutes. They cited the tax increase because crude oil prices hit record highs. They were \$80-\$90. This year they've been \$57 all year. So, if that was one of the factors, it's no longer a factor and it shouldn't have been a factor most of this year. We got the tax increase but we didn't have to pay that for crude oil. Natural gas prices are coming down. They're all being adjusted at the end of the year. Well, I think you'd really have to look at these things. Again, I'm not clairvoyant and I haven't sat in on your meetings and there's nothing in the budget figures I've been given that shows performance against actual year-to-date by department or anything else so you could really judge who is doing their job and who isn't doing their job. It looks like you try to do a very respectful job in holding the line on costs, but the question is I worked for a large corporation that had 65,000 employees in 1971 and they have 43,000 today. They have over twice the sales and almost twice the earnings. So it can be done. General Motors has done it; Pfizer has done it, and I know we have a much smaller scale, but somehow you have to find ways to do things better. I know a few months ago you spent a few thousand dollars to get a meter maid a computer to write tickets. I assume that's going to make her more efficient; maybe you only need one meter maid instead of two now. I don't know, but those are the kinds of things you look at."

Mayor Eisaman, "We only have one. I appreciate good points. Thank you."

Mr. Lazarchik, "Thank you."

*****APPROVAL OF LAST MONTH'S COUNCIL MINUTES*****Councilman DePasquale **MOVED** to approve the minutes of last month's Council meeting, and Councilman Tridico **SECONDED**. No discussion. **Unanimously all voted in favor.**

*****APPROVAL OF MONTHLY BILL LIST*****Councilman Finrock **MOVED** to approve the bill list and pay the bills as the money becomes available. Councilman Peterinelli **SECONDED**. No discussion. **Unanimously all voted in favor.**

*****REPORTS OF COUNCIL*****

Councilman DePasquale, "The Recreation Department will be offering some additional public ice skating sessions at the Kirk S. Nevin Arena from December 28-31, 2009. Also, registration for Session No. 4 of the ISI Tot Program and the Learn-to-Play Hockey are now open. The session will begin the third week of January. The Recreation Department would like to thank everyone who participated in this year's Holiday Parade. There were approximately 115 units that participated which made it one of the largest parades that we ever had. We appreciate everyone's cooperation and those who volunteered to help make it a successful event. I'm still receiving favorable comments so it was a nice job to everybody who worked so hard on that. Mt. Odin Golf Course will be open for play weather-permitting until December 31, 2009. The Pro Shop will be closed January and February and will reopen on March 1st for the 2010 season. While the Pro Shop is closed you can contact the Recreation Office with any golf course related business. You may purchase a 2010 season membership and gift certificates at the office at this time also. That concludes my report."

Councilman Peterinelli, "The Street Department finished collecting leaves last Monday. There were approximately 600 tons of leaves collected this year. All leaf equipment has been removed, and the dump trucks have been cleaned and serviced and placed in storage. City mechanics have mounted the snow plows and the trucks are ready to roll. Too bad Sunday morning had to be as bad as it was. They were called out but I don't think they used that much salt. Also, residents are reminded that the Street Department will be collecting Christmas trees again this year. For those who wish to have their tree picked up, please place it at the curb, and it will be picked up after Christmas."

Councilman Tridico, "Westmoreland Hospital's 4,200-square foot addition to the Emergency Department is on tonight's agenda for approval. Excelsa Health spent a lot of time coordinating this movement in this area to their campus to ensure pedestrian safety. The Site Plan contains the conditions set forth by the Planning Commission. That concludes my report."

Councilman Finfrock, “We have a mixed bag again to report. On the revenue side we are at 96% of our budget. That is 2% lower than we were comparably in November 2008. That’s the bad news. On the positive side of the ledger our expenses are at 85% of the budget and that’s also 2% lower than last year. So we’re able to offset the decline in revenue with better control of our expenses. We expect to finish the year in an okay manner.”

*****MAYOR’S REPORT*****

- a. Code, Fire and Police Reports.** Mayor Eisaman reviewed the Code, Fire and Police Reports. Copies of these reports may be obtained at the respective offices or the City Administration Office.
- b. Holiday Parking.** Mayor Eisaman, “Beginning at 1:00 p.m. today and continuing through December 31, 2009, parking at all downtown meters will be free beginning at 1:00 p.m. each day for Holiday shopping in an effort to boost the downtown merchants’ patronage. That’s what we’ve done in the past as per the merchants’ request that we do it this way. We will abide with that again starting today.”

*****ADOPTION OF BILLS AS ORDINANCES*****

Bill No. 11 as Ordinance No. 1987 – AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 249 OF ORDINANCE NO. 1647, ENTITLED ‘VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC’ OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF GREENSBURG. Ms. Trout, “Adoption of Ordinance No. 1987 institutes ‘No Parking’ on the west side of Towne Square Drive. I am recommending tabling adoption of Bill No. 11 until the developer submits his full development plan for his parking and pedestrian walkways at this site in conjunction with discussions that were held at the November 30, 2009 Planning Commission meeting. I’m recommending tabling.”

Solicitor McCormick, “Is there any objection from anyone on Council? So it’s appropriate. I don’t think we need a motion.”

Mayor Eisaman, “Bill No. 11 as Ordinance No. 1987 is **tabled**. I think we discussed this before. This is not something that if we don’t vote on it at the next meeting is automatic; that’s only when you’re dealing with planning issues.”

Solicitor McCormick, “You’re correct.”

Bill No. 11 as Ordinance No. 1987 was TABLED.

*****COUNCIL APPROVAL*****

- a. Time Extension Request for the Hometown Streets Project.** Ms. Trout, “Council approval grants Gibson-Thomas an extension from December 10, 2009 to June 10, 2010 for completion of the construction consultation/inspection phase of the project related to a delay in the removal of utilities by Allegheny Power. Also what’s going on there is there are some thermoplastics that need placed in the edge of the crosswalks that can’t be done until the ambient temperatures rise above 50° so that will most likely be projected for a springtime project.”
Ms. Ciampini, “Sue, I think you meant Gulisek Construction not Gibson-Thomas.”
Ms. Trout, “No, actually I do mean Gibson-Thomas because our inspection/consultation agreement is with them.”
Councilman Peterinelli **MOVED** to approve the time extension, and Councilman DePasquale **SECONDED**. No further discussion. **All voted unanimously to approve the time extension.**
- b. Professional Service Agreement between the City of Greensburg and Exelos.** Ms. Trout, “Effective January 1, 2010, Council approval accepts a 3-year agreement with Exelos for managed IT Services. The agreement reflects a 12.8% increase over the current price. It includes a recurring adjustable fee of \$5,499.90 invoiced monthly for the first 12 months of the agreement based on 97 managed units at \$56.70 per unit with a built-in increase of 5% per unit per year for years 2011 and 2012. It should be noted that we’ve held the same price in the past three years with Exelos, formerly SSI, our IT consultant.”
Councilman Tridico **MOVED** to approve the agreement, and Councilman Finfrock **SECONDED**. No discussion. **Mayor Eisaman abstained, and all others voted unanimously to approve the agreement.**

- c. Maintenance Agreement between the City of Greensburg and The Verdin Company for the Clock in Courthouse Square.** Ms. Trout, "Taking advantage of Early Bird Savings, the 1-year agreement includes two (2) preventive maintenance visits at the price of \$550 versus \$590. Council approval accepts the agreement which is \$30 more than last year's price. Considering that we went through a great partnership to replace the clock we recommend this agreement."
Councilman Peterinelli, "What time does that ring up there; does anybody know? I haven't been around town to hear it."
Mayor Eisaman, "I thought 8:00 a.m., 12:00 p.m., 4:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m."
Ms. Trout, "I think Karl is correct but I can't be positive. I know it rings at noon; that I know for sure."
Councilman Peterinelli, "I'm glad to see it working again though."
Councilman Peterinelli **MOVED** to approve the maintenance agreement, and Councilman Finfrock **SECONDED**. No further discussion. **All voted unanimously to approve the maintenance agreement.**
- d. Concession Lease Agreement between the City of Greensburg and The 5V's, LLC for the Snack Bars at the Veterans' Memorial Swimming Pool and the Kirk S. Nevin Ice Arena.** Ms. Trout, "Council approval accepts the option to renew the agreement with The 5V's for a one (1)-year term effective January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010. Rent shall be due on the first day of January, February, March, September, October and November in the amount of \$715 and on the first day of December in the amount of \$710 for a total of \$5,000 reflecting an \$800 reduction from the 2009 rental rate. Specifically this affects the swimming pool which is completely contingent upon weather. This is at the vendor's request and I recommend that you go with it."
Councilman DePasquale **MOVED** to approve the lease agreement, and Councilman Tridico **SECONDED**. No discussion. **Mayor Eisaman abstained, and all others voted unanimously to approve the lease agreement.**
- e. Professional Services Agreement between the City of Greensburg and Robert T. Regola Surveying.** Ms. Trout, "The agreement is renewed for one (1) year at the same rate of \$53.82 an hour and under the same general terms as last year's agreement for the period of January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010 pending your approval."
Councilman Peterinelli, "Did we reduce the amount of hours he's working?"
Ms. Trout, "We did in last year's agreement; down from two days to one day."
Councilman Peterinelli **MOVED** to approve the agreement, and Councilman Finfrock **SECONDED**. No further discussion. **All voted unanimously to approve.**
- f. Issuance of Certificates of Appropriateness for the Slate of Projects Recommended for Approval by the Historic and Architectural Review Board (HARB).** Ms. Trout, "The HARB has recommended Council approve the following projects presented at their November meeting: located in the Gateway District are façade changes to the Pennsylvania Department of Health at 233 West Otterman Street for Barry Lhormer and a new addition and façade for the Emergency Department at Excelsa Health at 532 West Pittsburgh Street; and in the Downtown and Gateway Districts, new signs for Pop Culture Connection for Jet One, LLC at 105 East Pittsburgh Street."
Councilman DePasquale **MOVED** to approve the issuance of Certificates of Appropriateness, and Councilman Tridico **SECONDED**. No discussion. **All voted unanimously to approve the issuance of the Certificates of Appropriateness.**
- g. Site Plan/Land Development for Excelsa Health for a Proposed Addition to the Emergency Department on West Pittsburgh Street and South Washington Avenue.** Ms. Trout, "This plan is recommended unanimously for Council approval by the Planning Commission as long as contingencies have been met in regards to pedestrian crosswalks being positioned for safe access from parking lot entrances to the hospital; landscaping restraints are added to guide pedestrians to the entrance safely in the parking lot; additional lighting is added per City Codes; and approvals have been received from the Westmoreland Conservation District and Gibson-Thomas Engineering Company, Inc. I thought I saw that Gibson-Thomas already approved this."
Ms. Ciampini, "The only outstanding condition is we're waiting for the Conservation District. As Councilman Tridico said in his report the Excelsa Health staff has done a great job on coordinating all those efforts."

Councilman Peterinelli, "Are they going to get that parking lot done up there first, Barb?"

Ms. Ciampini, "That's what they're working on right now."

Councilman Peterinelli, "Then the other part will start later?"

Ms. Ciampini, "They're trying to coordinate it so when they're under construction for the addition they have parking across the street."

Councilman Tridico **MOVED** to approve the site plan/land development, and

Councilman Peterinelli **SECONDED**. No further discussion. **All voted unanimously to approve the site plan/land development.**

- h. Site Plan/Land Development for Regis McHugh for a Proposed Parking Lot at 411 Bovard Street.** Ms. Trout, "Council approval is recommended by the Planning Commission with the following condition: a pedestrian crosswalk must be added to the site plan showing the path of walkway on Bovard Street to the parking lot directly behind the McHugh & Wolff offices on West Pittsburgh Street. Do you have an update?"

Ms. Ciampini, "They did amend the site plan to include that crosswalk."

Councilman DePasquale **MOVED** to approve the site plan/land development, and

Councilman Peterinelli **SECONDED**. No further discussion. **All voted unanimously to approve the site plan/land development.**

- i. Professional Service Contract Renewal between the City of Greensburg and Hoffman Boarding Kennels.** Ms. Trout, "Council approval accepts the agreement with Gary Hoffman to serve as the City's Dog Law Enforcement Officer for the period of January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010. The rate of \$265 per month and fee of \$55 per emergency/weekend call for dog law enforcement is the same price we were charged during last year's contract. The feline emergency/weekend call-out rate remains the same as last year at \$55 per call with a decrease from \$50 to \$45 per stray feline and feline litter service."

Councilman Peterinelli, "Wally, how many calls do the police normally get a month?"

Chief Lyons, "Four. I think we looked at 21 for a couple years."

Ms. Trout, "It seems like it's about three to four a month."

Councilman Peterinelli **MOVED** to approve the contract, and Councilman DePasquale **SECONDED**. No further discussion. **All voted unanimously to approve.**

- j. Resignation from the Historic Architectural Review Board (HARB).** Ms. Trout, "Council approval accepts the resignation of Teri Lutz from the Board effective November 24, 2009."

Councilman Finrock **MOVED** to approve the resignation, and Councilman

DePasquale **SECONDED**. No discussion. **All voted unanimously to approve.**

Mayor Eisaman, "Could you please make sure that we send a letter thanking her for her service?"

Ms. Trout, "Sure. She was an original HARB member, correct, Barb?"

Ms. Ciampini, "Yes. She was a member of the Design Committee that helped us organize the whole HARB process."

Councilman DePasquale, "Which would be how long?"

Ms. Ciampini, "She served three years; four years in total."

- k. Appointment to the HARB.** Ms. Trout, "Council approval appoints Autumn DeLellis as a member of the Board to fill the unexpired term of Teri Lutz until January 1, 2012. Some of you might know Autumn; she owns SkySight Photography here in Greensburg on Main Street."

Councilman DePasquale **MOVED** to approve the appointment, and Councilman Tridico **SECONDED**. No discussion. **All voted unanimously to approve.**

- l. Appointment to the Zoning Hearing Board.** Ms. Trout, "Council approval appoints Mark Dent as a member of the Board to fill the unexpired term of Anita Simpson until December 31, 2009. Some of you might remember Mark. He was at a recent Council meeting talking about storm water."

Mayor Eisaman, "Yes, about three months ago."

Councilman DePasquale, "Why would we do this for only a couple of weeks?"

Mayor Eisaman, "We're filling the unexpired term. We have to fill the unexpired term before we can move onto the new term."

Councilman DePasquale **MOVED** to approve the appointment, and Councilman

Peterinelli **SECONDED**. No further discussion. **All voted unanimously to approve.**

- m. Agreement between the City of Greensburg and Hotel Appraisals, LLC d/b/a HVS Consulting and Valuation.** Ms. Trout, “Council approval authorizes the Mayor to enter into an agreement for a market study and financial projection for a hotel in downtown Greensburg. The cost of the study is \$22,000 which will be paid for by grant funding through the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development via Governor Rendell’s Community Action Team Pre-Development grant appropriation for the years 2008-2009. There is no local match to this grant.” Councilman Peterinelli, “Is this the one former Councilman Mertz was working on down there?” Mayor Eisaman, “Yes, he was very diligent in working hard to get this for us along with our Planning Director.” Councilman DePasquale **MOVED** to approve the agreement, and Councilman Finfrock **SECONDED**. No further discussion. **All voted unanimously to approve.**
- n. U.S. Justice Department Communications and Technology Grant Purchases.** Ms. Trout, “Council approval authorizes the Chief of Police to make purchases under the approved grant funding up to a maximum amount of \$435,000 for dispatch equipment for the Regional Booking Center. Purchases include radio communications and console equipment with an automated vehicle locator system, fiber optic cable and hardware, computers, Visual Alert and Crime Mapping Software, security cameras and associated installation costs. All pricing of this \$435,000 is State Contract Pricing, Co-Stars, Single Source Vendors or the item is under the \$10,000 bid threshold. We need a joint purchasing agreement so Wally can start making the necessary orders.” Solicitor McCormick, “I was asked to review this and it doesn’t look like there will be any bidding necessary, although I think that remains to be seen. Then if it has to be bid, it has to be bid. Most of the items will be acquired through exceptions to the bidding process. Most of them will be government sources, won’t they?” Ms. Trout, “Yes, that’s correct.” Councilman Peterinelli, “The Chief ought to be commended keeping on this grant money. If it wasn’t for him, we wouldn’t get it. Thank you, Wally.” Councilman Finfrock, “How does this money work? Do they forward the money to us?” Mayor Eisaman, “I believe it’s a direct reimbursement. We pay out and they reimburse us.” Ms. Perez, “That’s correct. There is a provision in the grant paperwork that allows you to try to time it so you get the invoice and you get the money instead of us having to front it. We would get it just in time. We’ll have to work on that since this is all new to us and we’ll have to try and figure out what that timing is.” Chief Lyons, “We’ll try to work with the vendors as well. If an invoice must be submitted we’ll try to get the funding and reimburse it back out.” Councilman Peterinelli **MOVED** to approve the grant purchases, and Councilman Tridico **SECONDED**. No further discussion. **All voted unanimously to approve.**
- o. Application for Pennsylvania Commission Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) Grant Funding.** Ms. Trout, “Council approval authorizes the City of Greensburg Police Department to participate with the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association in applying for funding through the Justice Assistance Grant Program in the amount of approximately \$10,000. This funding shall support the PCCD’s efforts to improve central booking through the automation of the arrest and court filing process, the creation of a video conferencing communication system with the courts and the establishment of a standardized professional training program throughout Pennsylvania. Another police grant.” Mayor Eisaman, “Once again this requires no match or anything of that nature.” Councilman Tridico **MOVED** to approve the application, and Councilman DePasquale **SECONDED**. No further discussion. **All voted unanimously to approve.**

*****CONGRATULATIONS*****Councilman Peterinelli, “I would just like to congratulate Greensburg Central Catholic High School. We have four people who used to go to Central Catholic. They’re going to Hershey on Friday to play on Saturday in the PIAA Championship for the State. That would be great if they’d win that. Have they ever done that before?”

Councilman DePasquale, “Never. We’re proud of our alma mater but I can say with certainty that none of the four of us played football.”

*****ADJOURNMENT*****Councilman Peterinelli **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting.
SECONDED: Councilman DePasquale. Unanimously all voted in favor to **adjourn**.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Susan M. Trout, City Administrator

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