

APRIL 5, 2006
WAYNESBORO, PA 17268
"TOWN MEETING"

Council President Richard George called the "Town Meeting" to order at 6:00 p.m. with the following in attendance:

Council Members – Allen Porter, Jason Stains, Craig Newcomer, Richard George, Charles McCammon and Allen Berry

Mayor Richard Starliper

Borough Staff – Lloyd R. Hamberger, II, Borough Manager
Dan Sheffler, Zoning-Code Enforcement Officer
Kevin Grubbs, Head of Engineering Services
Ray Shultz, Police Chief

WELCOME: President George welcomed the public to the second citizens' meeting held by Waynesboro Borough Council. A handout was provided to those in attendance, outlining the purpose and intent of this meeting. He noted that Council has implemented several suggestions brought forth by the public since the last Town Meeting, and others are still being worked on. Mr. George added that any concerns addressed will be directed to the proper committees for discussion. The committees will review each concern and make recommendations to Council. Members of the public were also invited to attend the committee meetings.

Amos Miller, 309 W. Sixth Street – Mr. Miller noted his concern regarding the homes on Main Street that were fire-damaged several years ago. The properties remain in a state of disrepair, and it seems that the Borough can do nothing to force the owner(s) to repair/demolish. He stated that this is also the case throughout town with many properties, but added that he is unsure of a solution to the problem. Mr. Miller noted that it is disheartening to see homes in this condition for a number of years.

Councilman Porter responded that Council is also concerned about the properties mentioned on W. Main Street. The Borough Manager and several members of Council met with the property owner's son and his attorney several weeks ago to discuss their plans for the properties. They agreed that it had gone on too long, but described the difficult situation due to the property owners' declining health. Written correspondence has since been received from their attorney, describing their proposed plan of action.

Caryl Stalick, 15 W. Third Street – Ms. Stalick noted she has heard rumors that Washington Township is planning to prohibit truck traffic on their proposed relief route, which would direct them through Waynesboro on Route 16 (Main Street). She feels that no trucks should be permitted in the Borough except those making a delivery/pick-up in town. Ms. Stalick also noted that there should be inter-municipality

cooperation with regard to development, and a master plan should be shared between the Township and Borough (which, she understands, is in progress at this time). She added that Waynesboro should also consider applying for historic district designation, as Chambersburg, Mercersburg and Greencastle did. This would send a message that we value our history and buildings, and would aid in attracting tourists to the Waynesboro area.

Regarding the historic district issue, Council President George noted that this matter was brought before Council last year. Recommendations for Council's consideration were to be forthcoming, however nothing has been presented to Council regarding this matter as of this date. He would prefer to wait for input from the public as to how they wish Council to proceed.

Councilman Porter stated that he has received many comments regarding truck traffic in town, but stated that there may be a misconception about the number of unnecessary trucks traveling through town. He acknowledged the need for trucks to pick-up and deliver items at all establishments in the Borough. In fact, he noted that a study was conducted several years ago by an individual pursuing the start-up of a business in Waynesboro, which indicated that a high percentage of the trucks traveling in Waynesboro were transporting something either to or from businesses in town (with the exception of trucks doing business with Grove Manufacturing, who had determined that this was the shortest route to the Baltimore port). Mr. Porter did not deny that truck traffic is an irritating problem, but it is one that is difficult to resolve because our society depends highly on trucks.

Councilman Newcomer also noted that the Downtown Revitalization and Finance Committee will discuss the historic district designation at its next meeting.

Ronald Martin, 66 State Hill Road - Mr. Martin stated that he has attended many Township meetings and is aware of no planned limitations on truck traffic on Washington Township Boulevard. He also discussed his concerns regarding the intersection at N. East Avenue and E. Main Street, and suggested that Council re-visit the possibility of installing a traffic light at that location. He graciously offered monetary support, if necessary, for any required engineering studies. Mr. Martin noted his agreement with Mr. Miller's comments regarding property maintenance (particularly with abandoned vehicles in residents' yards), adding that the Borough's ordinances should bestow the Code Enforcement Officer sufficient authority to enforce the regulations.

Councilman Porter stated that, in the past, Council had strongly supported the installation of a traffic light at the intersection of N. East Avenue and E. Main Street. Even though funds were made available by Senator Punt, the neighbors opposed it and the light was not pursued. Since the majority of the current Council supports a traffic light at that location, he suggested that discussions could be held with Senator Punt to determine if funding could again be made available for this project.

Mr. Hamberger noted that the Borough does have an ordinance regarding abandoned vehicles, and the Code Enforcement Officer is aware of the situation mentioned on Frick

Avenue. Dan Sheffler advised that the property owners have been instructed to remove the vehicles within 30 days. They have indicated to him that the vehicles had been wrecked and they are awaiting an insurance adjuster to view them. He added that he will contact them again (and the insurance company, as well) regarding the urgency of the matter.

President George stated that the traffic signal at N. East Avenue and E. Main Street has been discussed by Council many times in the past year. Just recently, it was decided that a meeting should be held with residents of the area regarding the matter.

Frank Bittner, 842 Anthony Avenue - Mr. Bittner complimented the Borough on its street sweeping efforts. He suggested that residents do their part by cleaning their sidewalks prior to the scheduled sweeping on their individual streets. He also noted concern regarding a potential hazard in the sidewalk area at a business on E. Main Street – “caution” tape was draped around two deteriorating cellar doors with concrete blocks. The tape is now gone, but the doors and sidewalk area have not yet been repaired. Kevin Grubbs noted that he and Dan Sheffler have spoken with the property owners regarding the matter, and a 90-day repair notice has been issued.

Ronald Martin, 66 State Hill Road - Mr. Martin thanked Council members for the time they put forth on behalf of Waynesboro. He noted that many good things have happened in the Borough because of their efforts.

Lori Newcomer, 28 Tritle Avenue - Mrs. Newcomer questioned if any planning has been done for traffic issues on Tritle and Frick Avenues – such as designating one-way travel, installation of a stop sign at North Street, crosswalks, speed limit signs, etc. She also asked about the time-line for the installation of street lights on the west side of town.

Regarding the street lights, Mr. Hamberger reported that he met with a representative from Allegheny Power the previous day. Cost is a major problem, and they will be making some alternate recommendations. Councilman Newcomer explained the proposal to install a different type of lighting in the “downtown court” area, and the existing lights from those locations would be installed on the west side of town. Additional information will be forthcoming, and the matter will be discussed further at the upcoming Joint Committee meeting.

President George noted that continuing discussions will be held between the Street Committee and residents of the Tritle/Frick Avenues area with regard to future planning for the increased traffic from the nearby development.

Caryl Stalick, 15 W. Third Street - Ms. Stalick noted that she has observed much improvement being made within the community – the new streets look good and many residents’ yards are very well-kept. She stressed that people should take pride in their properties (not only homes, but businesses too).

Mayor Starliper advised that the Chamber of Commerce has been working with

downtown businesses to encourage facade improvements. Littering is a persistent problem which is difficult to resolve, as charges cannot be filed unless a witness comes forth who is willing to testify against the violator.

Councilman Newcomer noted that downtown cleanliness was discussed at Council's recent workshop. It was recommended that the area in front of Borough Hall be kept very clean as an example for other businesses. He related that he grew up in Washington, DC; and on an annual basis, they held a "Clean-Up Day" in which residents were responsible for cleaning up their areas of town. At the end of the day, there was a celebration in the middle of the city for all to enjoy. Mr. Newcomer stated that he is working on organizing a similar event for Waynesboro.

Mayor Starliper added that, for the past two years, he and several other volunteers have picked up trash on Main Street (from Broad to Grant Streets) prior to the annual Tree Lighting Ceremony.

President George noted that, many times, only negative comments are heard. It should be mentioned that there are many homes in Waynesboro (and entire blocks of streets) where residents take a great deal of pride in their homes and lawns. He added that it would be nice if those such areas could be designated as "star blocks".

Barry McNew, 304 N. Grant Street - Mr. McNew voiced his concern regarding the Borough's water situation. He questioned if an article he read in the newspaper several months ago regarding the drilling of a well to augment the water supply was true. If so, he questioned if residents will be required to install a filter and/or softening system in their homes to ensure that they receive the same quality of water they have grown accustomed to. Having been a resident of the area since 1943, Mr. McNew noted that the revenues he has paid have funded several plant upgrades. He doesn't think it is fair that he (and many other residents) be faced with funding additional upgrades required due to future development in the area. He feels that the developers should be required to pay for any needed upgrades to the water and/or sewer systems as a result of their planned development. Mr. McNew also noted that an additional police officer will probably be needed due to the increased population of the area. Again, he feels that the developer should bear these costs, not the community.

Jon Fleagle, Chairman of the Waynesboro Borough Authority, was present. He responded to Mr. McNew's concerns regarding the water situation. He explained that a well has been drilled and flow-tested at 300 gpm. The water quality was excellent, but hard. The WBA is currently in the process of designing a treatment facility to soften and treat the well water before it is introduced into the Borough's distribution system. Once the well is on-line, there should be no need for residents to treat the water in any way in their homes. When questioned about the costs for this project, Mr. Fleagle noted that the well development is expected to cost approximately 1 to 1.5 million dollars.

Mr. Hamberger also explained that the WBA increased capacity fees to the developers

about a year ago. Jon Fleagle added that, in addition to paying the increased capacity fees for each dwelling constructed, one developer is also paying for a pump station upgrade.

Mr. McNew questioned if the fee increase will cover the entire cost of the well development. Jon Fleagle noted that Congressman Shuster obtained a federal grant to assist in the costs, and a state grant has been received for land acquisition at the well site.

Regarding the need for an increase in the police force due to the planned developments, Councilman Newcomer stated that the new tax base will assist in those costs. He urged residents to contact their state representatives regarding proposed legislature which would require municipalities to pay entirely for emergency services in their communities.

Jim Fisher, 133 E. Second Street - Mr. Fisher discussed the issue of noisy thru-trucks on Main Street, which make it somewhat impossible to hold a conversation on the sidewalk. He mentioned that he stayed recently in Mayfield, Kentucky, where they have a population similar to Waynesboro. They have a nice downtown area, which they are in the process of revising. They have banned thru-trucks by building a two-lane parkway around the town, which the trucks are required to use. Mr. Fisher suggested that this could be done in Waynesboro, but the by-pass would have to be built in the Township. He added that he is hopeful he was misinformed that the Township has decided to route trucks into town by banning them on their planned relief route.

Hearing no further comments from the public, Council President George noted that the meeting will be adjourned until Council's regularly scheduled Council meeting beginning at 7:30 p.m. If the public so chooses, he noted that Council members can be addressed individually at this time. Mr. George thanked members of the public for their attendance and input.

The meeting adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melinda S. Knott
Administrative Assistant