

December 1, 2008

EMMAUS BOROUGH COUNCIL

Emmaus Borough Council
Agenda
Monday, December 1, 2008 7:00 PM

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Personal Appeals, Part I
4. Reading of Minutes

November 17, 2008

5. Decision on Bids
6. Communications

Lisa Weida, Board President, Meadow Pool Association – Sale of Pool

7. Borough Engineer's Report
8. Solicitor's Report

- a. Ordinance No. 1043 – An Ordinance Allowing for Installment Payment of Real Estate Taxes for Residents of the Borough of Emmaus (1st Reading 11/17/08) (2nd Reading 12/15/08)
- b. Ordinance No. 1044 – An Ordinance Approving the Agreement for the Exchange and Trade of Certain Real Estate Between Raven R. Mill and Mary M. Mill and the Borough of Emmaus (2nd Reading Awaiting Raven Mill's Attorney)
- c. **Ordinance No. 1047 – An Ordinance Amending the Provisions of Chapter 15, Section 404(d), and Establishing that Parking shall be Prohibited in the 600 Block of Pine Street in Excess of One Hour on any Vehicle Without an Approved Resident Parking Permit (1st Reading 12/1/08)**

9. New Business

- a. **Appointed Representatives to the Emmaus 2009 Anniversary Committee (Resolution 2008 – 33)**

10. Unfinished Business
11. Items Not on Agenda, Subject to Rule 6
12. Mayor's Report
13. Committee Reports

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Public Works/(Highway, Water & Sewer) (Labenberg, Neely, Waddell)

1. Committee
2. Solicitor

Health and Sanitation (Holtzhafer, Labenberg, Brown)

1. Committee
 - a. Borough Energy Usage – Department Head Input Forms
 - b. Recycling Needs and Costs
2. Solicitor

Parks and Recreation (Barrett, Labenberg, Holtzhafer)

1. Committee
 - a. Raven Mill Property Swap
 - b. Skate Park
 - c. Park Comp Plan
 - d. No Smoking at Parks
 - e. Parks & Rec. Commission Member needs to be appointed on the Arts Commission
 - f. Dog Park
 - g. Sandbox at Community Park
 - h. Ice Rink
2. Solicitor

Public Safety (Gilbert, Barrett, Brown)

1. Committee
 - a. Request for Permit Parking – 600 Block of Pine Street (90-Day Trial Period Expires 11/18/08) – Ordinance No. 1047
 - b. Trailer Truck Parking
 - c. Parking at Fairview/6th Streets (Santo's)
 - d. Public Safety Issues Raised by Lori Washburn, 420 Broad St.
2. Solicitor

General Administration (Neely, Gilbert, Barrett)

1. Committee
 - a. **Police and Employees' Pension Plan**
 - b. **Open Records Act**
 - c. **"Community Announcements" Agenda Item**
2. Solicitor

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Budget and Finance (Waddell, Gilbert, Holtzhafer)

1. Committee
 - a. **Bill List (Resolution – 34)**
 - b. **Matching Funds – Emmaus Sentinels**
 - c. Borough Installment Plan
 - d. **2009 Budget – First Review (After Executive Session)**
 - e. Lehigh County Green Future Fund
 - f. **Cintas Contract**

2. Solicitor

Community Relations/Development (Brown, Waddell, Neely)

1. Committee
 - a. Southside Industrial Master Plan
 - b. Triangle Park Construction
 - c. 2009 Anniversary Celebration – Reserving Pavilions for August 15, 2009
 - d. Public Parking Project – “Jubilee Parking Lot”

2. Solicitor

Ad Hoc Committees (Holtzhafer, Gilbert, Barrett, Vasoli, Mayor Iobst)

Community/School Relations

- a. **Junior Council Member**
-
14. Personal Appeals, Part II

 15. Borough Manager’s Report
 - a. Significant Revenue and Expense Items for November 2008

 16. President’s Business

 17. Adjournment

Next Resolution #35
Next Ordinance #1048

The Emmaus Borough Council met in regular session on December 1, 2008 in Borough Council Chambers, 28 S. 4th Street, Emmaus, PA 18049.

CALL TO ORDER

Council President Waddell called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

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Michael Waddell, President	Present
Craig Neely, Vice-President	Present
Brent Labenberg	Present
Lee Ann Gilbert	Present
Wesley Barrett	Present
Nathan Brown	Present
Brian Holtzhafer	Present
Winfield Iobst, Mayor	Present
Frank Procyk, Solicitor	Present
Mark Vasoli, Interim Borough Manager	Present

PERSONAL APPEALS, PART I

- A. Otto Slozer 121 E. Elm St.** thanked President Waddell for his presentation before the Concerned East Penn Taxpayers Association regarding the 2009 Celebration. Dr. Waddell also spoke about the Borough's financial situation. Mr. Slozer does not agree with cutting back on public safety to avoid a tax increase. He made suggestions to help the budget; Council should give back their salaries for 2009, each department should face a 10% budget cut, a spending freeze should take place and a committee should be created to help find additional budget cuts.

READING OF MINUTES

Motion by Council Member Neely, seconded by Council Member Gilbert to dispense with the formal reading of the November 17, 2008 minutes. There were 7 ayes. Motion carried.

Council Member Holtzhafer pointed out that the adjournment time was incorrect. Minutes were corrected. Council Member Barrett asked to check if he made the comment stated on page 177, from line 14 to 18. He said that his comment was for the Borough to assist in services instead of money. The recording was checked and minutes were changed to reflect statement made.

Motion by Council Member Brown, seconded by Council Member Neely to adopt the November 17, 2008 minutes as amended. There were 7 ayes. Motion carried.

DECISION ON BIDS – None

COMMUNICATIONS

- a. Lisa Weida, Board President, Meadow Pool Association – Sale of pool. Referred to the General Administration Committee.
- b. Susan Schmidt, 739 Lawrence Dr. – Request reappointment to the Zoning Hearing Board. Referred to the General Administration Committee.
- c. Jeffrey Yeakel, M.A. Yeakel Sons, Inc., Allentown, PA – Proposal for boiler problem in Town Hall.
- d. Shops of Emmaus – Council Member Barrett announced additional events to the December agenda.

BOROUGH ENGINEER'S REPORT – None

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SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Motion by Council Member Neely, seconded by Council Member Barrett to read Ordinance No. 1047 in short title. There were 7 ayes. Motion carried.

President Waddell read Ordinance No. 1047 in short title: An Ordinance Amending the Provisions of Chapter 15, Section 404(d), and Establishing that Parking Shall be Prohibited in the 600 Block of Pine Street in the Excess of One Hour on Any Vehicle Without an Approved Resident Parking Permit.

Motion by Council Member Brown, seconded by Council Member Gilbert to adopt Ordinance No. 1047 on its 1st Reading.

Council Member Neely noted that there are now students parking caddy-corner from this location on the east side of Franklin Street.

Roll Call Vote: Brown aye, Neely aye, Gilbert aye, Labenberg aye, Holtzhafer aye, Barrett aye, Waddell aye. Motion carried.

Progress

NEW BUSINESS

President Waddell explained that Resolution 2008-33 was created for insurance purposes relating to the 2009 Anniversary Celebration.

Motion by Council Member Holtzhafer, seconded by Council Member Brown to approve Resolution 2008-33.

President Waddell read Resolution 2008-33. Council Member Labenberg confirmed with Dr. Waddell that he has the authority to appoint Committees. Dr. Waddell said it was recommended to create the Resolution to codify it for insurance purposes.

There were 7 ayes. Motion carried.

President Waddell requested Council's approval for Public Works to pick up a jewelry case in Pen Argyl for the Library. Council Member Labenberg feels a volunteer should be looked at first; Dr. Waddell agreed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

ITEMS NOT ON AGENDA, subject to Rule 6 – None

MAYOR'S REPORT – Progress

COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Public Works Committee

Next meeting is scheduled for December 3rd at 8 a.m.

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Progress

b. Health and Sanitation Committee

Next meeting is scheduled for December 11th at 3:30 p.m.

Progress

c. Parks and Recreation Committee

Next meeting is scheduled for December 2nd at 3:30 p.m.

Progress

d. Public Safety Committee

Next meeting is scheduled for December 11th at 9 a.m.

Progress

e. General Administration Committee

Council Member Neely requested that the Police and Employee Pension Plan on tonight's agenda be referred to the Borough Manager and the Solicitor for review and draft an ordinance.

The next meeting is scheduled for December 9th at 9 a.m. Council Member Neely will present a draft of an ordinance regarding the Open Records Act. He attended a presentation at the County Government Center where he received ordinance samples. A sample ordinance will come before Council for consideration on December 15th. Emailing is one concern that will be addressed.

The Committee discussed President Waddell's request to add a "Community Announcement" agenda item. The Committee feels that it is a good idea for Community Groups to contact the Borough and then the Council President can make the announcements. President Waddell suggested that would also be the time for Community Groups themselves to make announcements or special presentations like from Representative Reichley. The Committee will further discuss this.

Council Member Gilbert said the Committee met in executive session on November 20th and reviewed the applications received for the Borough Manager position. On November 24th the Committee conducted six phone interviews and on December 1st, four personal interviews were conducted. Council and the Mayor will meet in executive session on December 3rd to interview the top three candidates.

Progress

f. Budget and Finance Committee

Motion by Council Member Gilbert, seconded by Council Member Holtzhafer to adopt the December 1, 2008 Bill List.

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Bill List	\$ 226,537.03
Payroll #24	\$ 107,483.53
Payroll Taxes	\$ 35,021.92
Total	\$ 369,042.48

Done this 1st day of December 2008. There were 7 ayes. Motion carried.

Regarding the installation of cameras on the Triangle, Gene Clock said that the application to PPL must be filed by the Borough to place the cameras on a utility pole; not an organization. There is a yearly cost of \$10.91 per camera, plus the power usage. PenTele Data would like to move forward on this project.

Motion by Council Member Brown, seconded by Council Member Holtzhafer to remove from the table Main Street Program's fund request for cameras on the Triangle. There were 7 ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Council Member Holtzhafer, seconded by Council Member Brown to file an application with PPL to install cameras on the Triangle, fund the annual fee for the cameras, and absorb the cost of the electric to power the cameras.

Council Member Barrett confirmed with Mr. Clock that PenTele Data agreed to run the cameras for 5 years and feels that an expiration date should be on the motion.

Amended Motion by Council Member Holtzhafer, seconded by Council Member Brown to apply the motion for a period of five years. There were 6 ayes, 1 opposed (Gilbert). Motion carried.

The Committee received a Matching Funds request from the Emmaus Sentinels Alumni Drum & Bugle Corps, Inc. and does not recommend approval due to budget restraints.

Motion by Council Member Labenberg, seconded by Council Member Brown to deny the request from the Emmaus Sentinels Alumni Drum & Bugle Corps, Inc. for Matching Funds.

Council Member Brown confirmed with President Waddell that the Sentinels have already received funds twice this year from the Matching Funds line item. Council Member Labenberg highly supports the Sentinels, but due to budget constraints, feels this account should be frozen. He also feels that \$1,500 should not have been awarded to the Shops of Emmaus at the last meeting.

There were 7 ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Council Member Brown, seconded by Council Member Labenberg to freeze the Matching Funds from this point on.

Council Member Labenberg stated there is \$6,239 left in the account. Council Member Barrett confirmed with President Waddell that the remaining money at the end of the year carries over into the 2009 budget.

There were 6 ayes, 1 opposed (Holtzhafer). Motion carried.

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President Waddell recessed the meeting for an executive session regarding a personnel issue at 7:37 p.m.

President Waddell reconvened the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

Borough Manager Vasoli explained that, according to Borough Code, the budget must be available for 10 calendar days. Also, the Borough needs two weeks public notice to advertise for the budget and any items related to the budget.

Motion by Council Member Gilbert, seconded by Council Member Holtzhafer to approve the 2009 Budget.

Regarding the 2009 budget, President Waddell said the Budget and Finance Committee has met numerous times since September and with Department Heads. He thanked Borough Manager Vasoli and Borough Treasurer Snyder for their work on the budget. Dr. Waddell said that the proposed balanced budget has been severely and relentlessly scrutinized, cut and then recommended 3-0 by the Budget and Finance Committee with a 1.55 mill tax increase, a 25% sewer increase and a 7% water increase. The tax increase averages on a home assessed at \$75,000 is \$116 per year. Mr. Vasoli read some of the cuts made in the 2009 budget, which totals \$139,958: Police Wages \$1,000; Police Clothing Allowance \$300; Police Footwear \$150; Water Meters in Sewer Budget \$50,000; Legal Services \$2,000; Office Supplies \$184; Full Time Wages (vacant position not replaced) \$27,800; FICA \$2,127; Postage \$100; Refuse \$1,959; Gas (pistol range) \$500; Arts Commission \$1,000; Auditing Services \$345; Utility Software Billing Upgrade \$10,000; Auditing Services \$845; Utility Software Billing Upgrade \$9,500; I & I Elimination \$25,000. Other additional cuts, totaling \$101,000 include: Earned Income Tax \$5,000; Police Car \$32,000; Tax Claims increased to \$4,000; Matching Funds eliminated \$15,000; Borough Hall Upgrades \$5,000; Main Street Program contribution reduced by \$5,000; Fire Company On-call reduced \$5,000, Fire Company Electric reduced \$5,000; Snow/Weed Officer \$3,000. A third round of cuts, which nets \$31,000, includes: Fuel/Diesel \$6,000; Fire Company On-call Wages \$5,000; Public Works Natural Gas \$500; Public Works Fuel Oil \$500; Curb/Sidewalk Work \$1,200; Auditing Charges \$750; Pool Pass revenue increase \$7,000. Council Member Neely feels that each line item should be discussed and voted on.

Council Members Gilbert and Holtzhafer withdrew their motions.

The report before Council was from September 1, 2008 and Council Member Neely wished it was more recent because, according to the current Treasurer's Report, there's a significant revenue increase. Borough Manager Vasoli said that the fund balance has been monitored on a daily basis and despite the current incoming revenue the projection for 2009 is accurate. He and the Treasurer met with former Borough Manager Fosselman and have already cashed out the incoming revenue on expenditures. Council Member Labenberg pointed out that no delinquent taxes have been paid in 2008. He reviewed some 2008 and projected 2009 revenues that he's concerned about; Per Capita, Earned Income Tax, and the Local Services Tax. Mr. Labenberg said that the I & I inspections are reducing the costs to Allentown for sewer treatment and doesn't feel a sewer increase is needed. Council Member Brown reviewed items in the budget that he's concerned about; Public Works Computer Maintenance, and Downtown Services. Council Member Barrett suggested finding other ways to get the Borough Newsletter to residents instead of the paper version and save on postage and printing costs. The Budget and Finance Committee will research this further. Mr. Labenberg confirmed with Borough Manager Vasoli that increased permit fees have not been implemented.

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Motion by Council Member Brown, seconded by Council Member Labenberg to reduce line item 410.255, Police Bike Patrol Maintenance, to \$250.00. There were 3 ayes, 4 opposed (Holtzhafer, Barrett, Gilbert, Neely). Motion denied.

Council Member Labenberg stated that he supports the Lehigh County Drug Task Force, but does not feel the Borough should support it; it should be County funded. Mr. Labenberg feels the Drug Task Force Officer should come back to the Borough and then layoff the least senior officer.

There was a total of \$10,000 cut from the Fire Department's budget. Council Member Barrett suggested cutting the costs of printing and postage for the ambulance subscriptions by looking into emailing.

Motion by Council Member Brown to decrease line item 412.325, Ambulance Postage, to \$2500. Motion denied from lack of a seconded motion.

Council Member Holtzhafer does not feel that line item 412.361, Lions Building Electric, should come out of the Ambulance budget.

Motion by Council Member Holtzhafer, seconded by Council Member Gilbert to move the Lions Building Electric fund from the Ambulance budget to the Recreation budget.

Council Member Barrett confirmed with Council Member Holtzhafer that this is the building in the back of Lions Playground. Emmaus Youth Association and the Ambulance use the building for storage. Council Member Labenberg suggested lowering the budgeted amount.

There were 6 ayes, 1 opposed (Neely). Motion carried.

Motion by Council Member Labenberg, seconded by Council Member Brown to budget \$150 for the Lions Building Electric fund, instead of \$250.

Council Member Holtzhafer suggested adding this amount to line item 454.361, Electric Park Facilities.

Council Member Labenberg amended his motion to add \$150 for the Lions Building Electric Fund to line item 454.361. Council Member Brown amended his seconded motion. There were 6 ayes, 1 opposed (Barrett). Motion carried.

Council Member Neely suggested cutting the compost hours to save on staff wages.

Motion by Council Member Neely, seconded by Council Member Barrett to reduce line item 427.131, Refuse/Composting Staff Wages, to \$14,871.

Council Member Barrett suggested reducing the man hours at the Compost Center, but keeping the Center open. Council Member Labenberg suggested talking to the Public Works Director about Composting hours before changing it. Council Member Holtzhafer thinks this line item also includes the wages for yard bag and Christmas tree pickup. He said the Public Works Director suggested cutting costs by picking up Christmas trees on one day, versus three weeks, and reduce man hours for yard bag pickup. Mr. Holtzhafer agrees with cutting the line item by

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\$5,000 and see if the Public Works Director can make adjustments to fit the new amount. Mr. Barrett said there could be an adverse effect by cutting the hours because of how much the Center is used. Council Member Gilbert would like to get information from the Public Works Director before reducing the line item.

Motion by Council Member Gilbert, seconded by Council Member Barrett to table the previous motion. There were 5 ayes, 2 opposed (Holtzhafer, Brown). Motion carried.

Motion by Council Member Barrett, seconded by Council Member Holtzhafer to reduce the Civil Service Commission budget by \$500; line item 419.318 reduce by \$200, line item 419.341 reduce by \$100, and line item 419.461 reduce by \$200.

Council Member Barrett said that other than replacing an officer, the Civil Service Commission could be inactive for 2008. He pointed out that in 2005 and 2006 total expenses were under \$1,000.

There were 3 ayes, 4 opposed (Waddell, Neely, Gilbert, Brown). Motion denied.

Motion by Council Member Holtzhafer, seconded by Council Member Brown to reduce line item 430.231 by \$10,000, Public Works Vehicle Fuel, to \$39,200. There were 2 ayes, 5 opposed (Labenberg, Barrett, Waddell, Gilbert, Neely). Motion denied.

Motion by Council Member Holtzhafer, seconded by Council Member Brown to reduce line item 430.231 by \$5,000, Public Works Vehicle Fuel, to \$44,200.

Council Member Holtzhafer said the actual costs from 2005 to 2007 was in the mid thirty thousand range and he feels 2009 is over estimated. Council Member Labenberg agrees with lowering it by \$5,000. He confirmed with Borough Manager Vasoli that the escalation clause for the 2008-2009 fuel contract does not have a cap.

There were 5 ayes, 2 opposed (Gilbert, Waddell). Motion carried.

Council Member Brown feels that the Public Works Assistant Director position should be eliminated before removing a Public Works Employee off the street. He said this could decrease the tax increase.

Motion by Council Member Brown, seconded by Council Member Labenberg to eliminate the Public Works Assistant position from the 2009 budget.

Council Member Neely said that this position has been in the Borough for a long time and doesn't see a reason to eliminate it. Council Member Labenberg said there was a time that there was no Assistant and Mr. Clapper was overloaded. Council Member Holtzhafer feels it's a critical position and will not vote for it. Council Member Brown feels the position could be delegated to other Public Works employees. Council Member Barrett confirmed with Mr. Brown that he did not discuss this with Mr. Clapper. President Waddell asked if Mr. Brown was prepared to eliminate all Assistant positions and Mr. Brown feels only Public Works.

There was 1 aye (Brown), 6 opposed. Motion denied.

Motion by Council Member Neely, seconded by Council Member Holtzhafer to reduce line item 480.501, General Fund Contingency Account, to \$60,000.

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Council Member Holtzhafer confirmed that \$66,000 is equal to ¼ mill. Borough Manager Vasoli said that the fund balance has been reduced over the years and that a \$100,000 contingency fund is not much for a \$12 million dollar budget. Council Member Neely hopes that the new Borough Manager keeps a close watch to make sure that everything stays within the budget so that the Borough doesn't end up in the same shape as they are this year with the fund balance. President Waddell is concerned to have less than \$100,000 budgeted. The auditor recommended a \$1 million dollar contingency. Council Member Labenberg doesn't agree with banking taxpayer's money, but would compromise at \$75,000.

There were 4 ayes, 3 opposed (Labenberg, Barrett, Waddell). Motion carried.

Council Member Labenberg supports increasing pavilion rentals, but not the pool rates. Council Member Gilbert said the daily admission pool rates are not changing. A residential family season pass is increasing \$20 and a non-resident family season pass is increasing \$25. The pavilion rates will now have both resident and non-resident rates; the resident rates increased \$10. Council Member Barrett asked where field use fees were deposited; the Budget and Finance Committee will look into that. Mr. Barrett said the field use fee has not been charged correctly in the past, nor has it been enforced. Council Member Brown suggested budgeting more for electric use and get ready for the 2010 electric increase. Council Member Holtzhafer doesn't feel the Borough should raise taxes in 2009 to pay for 2010 bills. President Waddell said the remaining amount at the end of 2009 will carry over to 2010. Council Member Neely said the Parks and Rec fund needs to be supplemented by the General Fund and feels Council should look for other revenue that can be generated by the users of the park. He understands that the Parks and Rec fund will always need to be supplemented, but the users of the park are the ones that benefit from it, but the taxpayers are supplementing \$250,000 for park use. President Waddell pointed out that the header, Civil and Military Celebrations, was changed to Economic and Community Development. Mr. Barrett said in 2008, the job structure of the Pool Manager was changed to help lower the budget, but the actual wages were higher. He was also surprised that the lifeguard actual costs were higher, but yet the wages were not increased. Mr. Holtzhafer said there was more lifeguard coverage this year.

Motion by Council Member Neely, seconded by Council Member Barrett to not fund line item 457.505, Lehigh County Senior Citizen, in 2009. There were 7 ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Council Member Neely, seconded by Council Member Labenberg to change line item 457.506, Main Street Manager Program, from \$10,000 to \$15,000 and eliminate line item 457.507, Main Street Advertising, in 2009.

Council Member Barrett confirmed that the Main Street Program can still use the fund for advertising. John Hayes of the Main Street Program stated they considered the Advertising Fund as restricted funds and used it only for marketing and advertising for the Borough.

There were 7 ayes. Motion carried.

Council Member Neely confirmed with President Waddell that the budgeted dump truck can be held off a year. But, Borough Manager Vasoli is concerned about doubling up on equipment purchases the following year. Mr. Neely said the Borough, over the years, has been aggressive with replacing equipment and stepping back for a year or two should be fine.

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Motion by Council Member Neely, seconded by Council Member Labenberg to remove line item 448.762, Water share for One Dump Truck, from the 2009 budget.

Borough Manager Vasoli noted that \$80,000 was budgeted through the General Authority for the dump truck and will be removed. Council Member Labenberg said that money may be available the following year from the General Authority. Mr. Vasoli does not agree with this. Council Member Brown is not in favor of this and suggested budgeting \$45,000 this year and \$45,000 next year. Mr. Vasoli said the Budget and Finance Committee felt the proposed dump truck should be voted upon by Council before purchasing. Mr. Labenberg will check with Mr. Clapper on the importance of this vehicle. Mr. Neely said there is no rule stating that the General Authority can only fund capital purchases and is a question that can be asked.

Council Member Neely amended his motion to also remove line item 429.762, Sewer share for One Dump Truck. Council Member Labenberg amended his seconded motion.

Council Member Brown confirmed with Council Member Gilbert that this is the additional cost to purchase the dump truck.

There were 5 ayes, 2 opposed (Gilbert, Brown). Motion carried.

Council Member Holtzhafer pointed out that Mr. Clapper wrote a memo, which states the new dump truck can be eliminated and also suggested reducing road projects by \$160,000. Council Member Gilbert stated the road project line item was already reduced; no major streets will be paved only alleys. Council Member Neely confirmed that the Telemetry System under the water funds is the technology that controlled the well pumps. Council Member Neely does not feel \$135,000 needs to be budgeted for the Storage Tank Savings Fund. President Waddell said that \$50,000 was eliminated for water meter replacements and added to the Storage Tank Savings Fund as a contingency. Council Member Labenberg will review this at the next Public Works meeting.

Council Member Neely wondered if it was necessary to budget for I & I Elimination when the Borough's own inspections have proven to reduce the sewer flows.

Motion by Council Member Neely, seconded by Council Member Holtzhafer to eliminate line item 429.805, Sewer I & I Elimination, for the 2009 budget.

President Waddell confirmed that no money was spent for this in 2008. Council Member Labenberg explained that Borough employees are still performing I & I inspections for ground water. The fund being voted on is for using a camera in sewer lines looking for broken pipes. Mr. Labenberg would like to discuss this with Mr. Clapper before eliminating it.

Motion by Council Member Labenberg, seconded by Council Member Neely to table the previous motion to eliminate line item 429.805 in the 2009 budget. There were 4 ayes, 3 (Brown, Holtzhafer, Barrett). Motion carried.

Council Member Brown suggested to Council Member Labenberg to hold off one year on the I & I inspections, but Mr. Labenberg said that budgeting for I & I inspections may save the Borough more money than the \$20,000 expended.

Borough Manager Vasoli will notify Council when loans will be paid off. Council Member Holtzhafer confirmed that \$10,000 was eliminated for Borough Hall Upgrades.

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Regarding the Triangle Improvement Project, Mr. Vasoli said the bricks and mortar will be paid for by grant funds. What is unclear is if the engineering will be covered.

President Waddell suggested turning off street lights to save on costs. He is waiting to hear back from PPL about turning off half of the street lights. Council Member Brown feels that would concern citizens with public safety. Council Member Barrett said there are some areas that are dark to begin with and suggested having the lights on timers instead of photocells. Council Member Labenberg supports the idea, but is not sure how to choose the lights.

It was discussed about the effects the Borough may see with assessment changes. President Waddell also said that Council needs to pay attention to the pension plan and possible shortfalls. Council Member Neely agreed and said that in 2003 or 2004 the Borough was notified about having to fund the pension plan, which was assessed from 2002 due to the September 11, 2001 attack.

A special meeting will probably be scheduled for December 29, 2008 for the budget.

Council Member Brown suggested for 2010 or 2011 a health savings account for Borough employees. This will be looked into.

Progress

g. Community Relations/Development Committee

Next meeting is scheduled for December 17th at 4 p.m. They will discuss the ornamental fountain for the Triangle Park Construction and a junior council person.

Progress

h. Ad Hoc Committees

Community School Relations

Council Member Holtzhafer said the next meeting will probably be in January.

Progress

PERSONAL APPEALS, PART II

- A. **Otto Slozer 121 E. Elm St.** stated that prior to 1994 the Borough operated with no contingency fund. He urged Council to make plans and be fiscally conservative. Mr. Slozer suggested Budget Workshops for all Council Members starting in August. At these meetings questions can be answered and details can be worked out about budgeted items before a Council meeting.
- B. **Teri Madison, Main Street Program**, thanked Council for their hard work on the 2009 budget and not cutting out the Main Street Program.
- C. **Chris DeFrain 181 Harrison St.** thanked Council for their input on the 2009 budget. He suggested putting money aside for the pension fund and holding off on purchasing the fire truck and dump truck. Mr. DeFrain feels that the income will be the hardest part of the 2009 budget.

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BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT – Progress

PRESIDENT'S BUSINESS – Progress

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Council Member Barrett, seconded by Council Member Brown to adjourn. There were 7 ayes. Motion carried.

The meeting of the Emmaus Borough Council adjourned at 10:32 p.m.

Mark Vasoli
Interim Borough Manager

Transcribed by: Renea Flexer
Administrative Assistant
December 8, 2008