

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
Final Reading - Bill No. 7 - Facilitate General Authority's Termination
August 18, 2014

Members Present: Douglas Baker, Mayor
Donna Fletcher, Deputy Mayor
Samuel Lyons
James Marshall
Jennifer Morris
Garnet Wood

Members Excused: Ryan Rudegeair

In Attendance: E. William Gabrys, City Manager
Tracy Jamieson, Deputy Manager
Brian Spaid, Esq., City Solicitor
R. Russell Lucas, Jr., Esq., Campbell Durrant Beatty Palombo & Miller Law Firm
Darla Hawke, Recording Secretary
Joe Sporer, 808 Fern Avenue, Sugarcreek Borough
Bud Kennedy, 887 Pone Lane, Sandycreek Township
Denton Lake, 189 Pone Lane, Sandycreek Township
Bob Finch, 237 Washington Street, Franklin General Authority
Russ Campbell, 1235 Chestnut Street, Franklin General Authority
David R. Lord, 407 Forest Lane, Franklin General Authority
Robert Hoffman, 323 Crestview Drive, General Authority
James M. Greenfield, Esq., Franklin General Authority Solicitor
Michael S. Butler, Esq., 1140 Buffalo Street
Linda Turner, 315 Wiley Avenue
Carol McMasters, 231 Elm Street
Dr. James Knarr, 1611 Elk Street
Norma Sanford, 111 Sycamore Drive
Francis Zagar, 1135 Chestnut Street
Bonnie Jolley, 113 Sycamore Drive
Roger McCauley, 105 Poplar Drive
Chuck Minnick, Sugarcreek Borough
James McNally, 1352 Franklin Avenue
Savannah Barr, Venango Newspapers, Inc.
Jerry Sowden, Venango Newspapers, Inc.

Mayor Baker called the special meeting to order at 4:00 PM.

FINAL READING - BILL NO. 7 - FACILITATE GENERAL AUTHORITY'S TERMINATION

Resolution No. 93 - Mr. Spaid read the title of Bill No. 7, "Facilitate General Authority's Termination," into the record. Attorney Lucas then read a public statement at the request of Council [attached to original minutes].

Mayor Baker then opened up the meeting for questions and/or comments from the floor.

Dr. Knarr questioned Mayor Baker on why he voted no on First Reading of this Bill at the last Council meeting. He also asked if a public hearing could be held on this matter prior to Final Reading. Mayor Baker explained that he would have preferred the City keep the General Authority intact; however, decisions need to be made now in order to begin the projects necessary to meet Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) requirements and time frames.

Several others in attendance also expressed their concerns on the possible privatization of the water and sewer systems. Mr. Marshall informed them that the City supervisors, who run these departments, all have at least 25 years of service in their respective departments. He noted that Council has the utmost faith in the supervisors and the in-house employees as being more than capable of handling the extra responsibilities. He explained the decision was strictly a monetary one and that Council felt there would be a cost savings in engineering fees once the City takes back control. Both he and Mayor Baker assured the public that the City would not privatize the systems.

There being no further comments, Mr. Marshall moved to pass Bill No. 7, "Facilitate General Authority's Termination," on Final Reading. Mr. Lyons seconded the motion, which passed 5-1, with Mayor Baker voting "no."

ADJOURNMENT - Resolution No. 94

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, Mr. Wood moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:30 PM. Mr. Marshall seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Darla Hawke, Recording Secretary