



<b>CALL TO ORDER</b>	The regular meeting of Titusville City Council was called to order by Mayor Nystrom in the Conference Room at the Titusville Redevelopment Authority at 5:30 p.m.
<b>INVOCATION</b>	Given by Rev. Samuel Mabugu
<b>PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE</b>	Led by Mayor Nystrom.
<b>ROLL CALL</b>	Mayor James Nystrom, Deputy Mayor Esther Smith, Councilman Pat Cartney, Councilwoman Bonnie Hull, and Councilman Jay Reese were present.  City Manager Larry Manross, Fire Chief Joe Crotty, Mary Hill represented The Titusville Herald. GBS Television taped the proceedings.
<b>NOTICE OF EXECUTIVE SESSIONS</b>	Mr. Nystrom stated Council had a one executive session since the last regularly scheduled meeting having to do with a personnel matter.
<b>ADOPTION OF AGENDA</b>	It was <i>moved</i> by Mrs. Smith, <i>seconded</i> by Mrs. Hull, and <i>carried unanimously</i> to adopt the meeting Agenda as prepared.
<b>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</b>	It was <i>moved</i> by Mr. Reese, <i>seconded</i> by Mrs. Smith, and <i>carried unanimously</i> to accept the minutes of the regular meeting of June 21, 2011 as submitted and place on file.
<b>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PERTAINING TO AGENDA ITEMS</b>	Tom Kopper – 323 E Main St  Read a prepared statement in regards to Council Bill No. 6 which he distributed to City Council (attached).  Al L'Huillier – 530 W Oak St (since 1954, member TFD '54-'79, retired as Chief after 33 years)  Spoke in regards to the Fire Department. He stated he doesn't think a volunteer company will work because houses in town are one to two feet apart and have a lot of tenants/people in them. He discussed his experiences with fighting fires in town and believes the City is playing "Russian Roulette" with lives including those answering fire calls.  Gordon Carlson – 117 Overlook Dr  Spoke in regards to the Fire Department. He questioned if Mrs. Smith has a vendetta against the fire department because the City lost at arbitration. He went on to say instead of looking at the Fire Department, why don't we start looking at bringing in revenue from the Redevelopment Authority and Industrial Authorities? He stated there are two guys in the room; Ken Leach and Ryan Carlson that

saved a little boy's life about 8 years ago in under a 3 minute response time. He stated had we been volunteer that little boy would have died. He went on to say with a volunteer company you are not going to get that and said we can ask Mr. Reese as he is a has been. Mr. Reese stated he prefers to be called past and understands and appreciates Mr. Carlson's comments. Mr. Carlson went on to discuss the ages [50-60] of Cherrytree and Hydetown volunteers. He stated the young man today does not have the time and does not want to take the time to do the education and training that is required by the State. The state is putting more and more requirements on the volunteer and the day of the volunteer is going by the wayside.

Don Frazier – 206 W Elm St

Spoke in regards to the Fire Department. He stated he has always been in favor of a paid Fire Department, but thinks it is fair to take and evaluate a volunteer fire department. He stated he believes we need to do this in a non-biased and non-political way so as to bring both sides of the issue in all fairness. He went on to say that his experience from reading the paper in the last few years in regards to volunteer departments; how they are not managed very well, their credibility, or the reliability of some of the volunteers. He stated he learned a long time ago that our Fire Department is like an insurance policy. It's one of those things that you pay and you pay but boy you hope they are there the day that you need them. Instead of rushing in, he recommends that Council go to a major insurance company or someone from the state and discuss the pros and the cons in all fairness. He stated at this point without an evaluation he is in favor of a paid Fire Department. He went on to say he is disappointed that so much money was spent on legal fees and what did really disappoint him the other day was opening up the back page of the newspaper. He stated do not use a political issue to try and scare our senior citizens.

Joe Lamey – 725 S Franklin St (Union president for Titusville Firefighters)

Spoke in regards to the Fire Department. He stated to address this issue with the ad in the paper, certainly from their standpoint that isn't even close to a scare tactic, it is something that firefighters deal with as part of their job function. He went on to say this isn't meant to scare anyone or to show a big fire. It is to show the importance of having a career staffed Fire Department in your community that can respond in a timely matter and help. He stated ISO is an insurance underwriter organization that can offer information on how premiums are going to change. He stated the citizens elected Council to make educated decisions on their behalf. By Council saying they are going to put this back on the citizens he believes is unfair because the public hasn't had a chance to be educated on these issues or had the advantage of sitting in the meetings that Council has. They elected Council to make those decisions. Council

by washing their hands of it and putting it back on the public is unfair to them and he believes gives Council the opportunity to say this was their thing they voted for it. He stated the public has a mechanism to put this on a referendum. He stated these are not people that don't have a voice.

Calvin Marsh – Business owner for 26 years at 305 E Spring St

Spoke in regards to the Fire Department. He stated Council has some tough choices ahead of them and it is up to Council to make these decisions. He is stated he is not a big union fan either and after being part of one doesn't think they do a lot of good. He asked if a committee was formed to work with the firemen and if the City charges for ambulance calls. He stated if we don't we should. He went on to say it is a tradition for the City to have a paid Fire Department however he cannot afford to pay anymore property taxes with business and low sales the way they are in these times. He suggested both Council and the Firefighters take more time and work together and offered to sit on committees to help work on it.

Dennis Winton – 617 Petroleum St – retired Titusville City Firefighter after 18 years.

Spoke in regards to the Fire Department. He suggested that Council look at volunteer companies in this area alone to look at their staff. There is not one of them that isn't hurting for manpower. He went on to say, the age of some of these guys are the older generation. The younger generation isn't coming in to it. The City's response times are 5 minutes because we have a staffed department. A lot of times City firefighters can have a fire knocked down before the responsible company even gets there. The younger generation today does not have the sense of volunteerism that we have in our generation. He asked the question, if the City does go volunteer where are they coming from? Before Council goes too far and it is irreversible he hopes the citizens take a long hard look at the "Pandora's Box" they may be opening.

**REPORTS**

It was *moved* by Mrs. Hull, *seconded* by Mr. Cartney, and *carried unanimously* to accept the Operational Reports; Building Inspector, Fire, Police, Public Works, and Treasurer for the month of June 2011 as submitted and place on file.

Public Works

Mr. Reese questioned Manager Manross' emailed notice of satisfactory completion saying everything looked good but on Randy's report he is reporting different problems. Manager Manross stated they are totally different problems.

Mr. Nystrom reported the paving project has been completed.

Treasurer

Mr. Reese requested Manager Manross get him information on the big chunk of delinquent tax collection; 75% of the budgeted number

**MINUTES OF BOARDS & COMMITTEES**

for the year.

It was moved by Mrs. Smith, seconded by Mrs. Hull, and carried unanimously to accept the minutes of the Titusville Housing Authority for June 21, 2011 as submitted and place on file.

Mr. Reese stated he did not dig in to their 5-year plan although he appreciates all of the information they give Council. He stated he cannot wait to go through their new gas and electric allowances to see how well he compares. He is interested to see if he is a saver or if he is overspending.

**BILL LISTINGS**

It was moved by Mrs. Hull, seconded by Mr. Reese, and carried unanimously to ratify the bill listing warrants dated 6/29/2011, 7/6/2011, and 7/14/2011.

Mayor Nystrom stated Council receives and reviews the bill listings on a weekly basis and questions are submitted to the City Manager and responded to on a weekly basis.

Warrant Dated 6/29/2011 - \$153,987.09

Mr. Reese questioned the \$1,364 knuckle head nozzle lights. Fire Chief Crotty stated these were purchased through the grant program through Penn Prime. They are self-tethered flash lights that also have a May Day feature. Given the tight parameters of the program this was one of the few pieces of equipment that fell within the category. This purchase was reimbursed by grant money.

Mr. Nystrom stated the number for this warrant is higher because the City bills through intercompany transfers in policy keeping track of when City employees work with water or sewage department in repairing and doing other things. At the end of each quarter the City is reimbursed for those charges.

Warrant Dated 7/6/2011 - \$31,059.90

Mr. Reese stated he has ongoing questions that he has emailed to Council on the engineering bills.

Warrant Dated 7/14/2011 - \$94,571.05

Mayor Nystrom stated one major expenditure in this listing is for the payment for refuse collection.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Council Bill No. 6 of 2011  
Fire Department Referendum

It was moved by Mrs. Smith and seconded by Mr. Reese to adopt Council Bill No. 6 of 2011 on second reading vote as follows:

Mrs. Smith, Mr. Reese – Yes  
Mr. Cartney, Mrs. Hull, Mr. Nystrom - No

Mr. Reese stated he does not have the best luck of what he tries to say in the paper sometimes although he appreciates their coverage. He stated he has been correctly quoted in the paper stating he supports an affordable paid fire department and has been misquoted twice in his opinion that he stated this has a good shot at passing. He stated to the contrary he thinks that most people who vote many who may not pay real estate taxes who like him wish to continue to have the great services and security that we enjoy having firemen on duty at all times. Tonight's issue is only to allow the controversial question to be put to the voters. Mr. Reese stated everyone in this room has heard this kicked around for a number of years. When Esther brought this up earlier that was the way he looked at it. It was do we to put this to the voters? The fireman that he has had a chance to meet with know where he stands as a has been and he is prepared to work either way with the taxpayers wishes on whether it is a volunteer effort or to work as he has been working to make the paid department affordable. He stated he respects Firefighter Lamey's comments and point of view tonight that Council was elected to make tough decisions. In his opinion as he looks at this tonight he did not make a motion to put this on the first time and he did not second it but when it came to him does he want to say no to all you people that catch him in the coffee shop you don't have a vote; he is not going to say that.

Mrs. Smith stated that she could not have said it any better. It was brought to her attention to bring this to Council so the taxpayers have a vote. That is the reason why it was brought up. Mrs. Smith stated she does not have a vendetta. She stated she is all for an affordable paid Fire Department.

Mr. Cartney stated this has been a tough decision. Everyone says Council is here to make the hard decisions but this is a real tough decision for him. He does not want to see a Fire Department leave, but also would like to see us be able to pay for a Fire Department and not be in debt so much.

Mr. Reese stated in reality from what he has seen in his three years here in budgets in his opinion this is a referendum on a tax increase and he encourages everyone on whatever side of the issue you fall should this pass; educate the public on what we are spending and on what you get.

Mr. Nystrom stated as Council takes the vote as [the public] can tell it is not something that is predetermined. Council will make their votes known. If this does not make it to the referendum he certainly hopes that the people in the Fire Department will be willing to sit down with Council and discuss some of the hard issues that need to be discussed. Some of the points that were raised on the back page of yesterday's paper are the same things that Council has to look at and has to address and will have to educate the public if

this goes to a referendum. He thinks it is important to put the facts out if it goes that direction.

City Manager Manross stated he wants to assure the public of the people in the City of Titusville that this is not something that will be entered in to lightly. All of the facts that [the public] has requested will come out in the next three months before the vote on November 8<sup>th</sup>. There will be lots of opportunity for the citizens to voice their opinion and also to hear the real facts from insurance companies from all of the people that are involved in this process. This process is not something that would happen overnight. This could take a year before it actually action went in to effect. We would not leave the citizens without fire protection. We would have properly trained firemen before they ever were put in to duty. He stated part of his job is to inform the public and that is what he intends to do.

Mrs. Smith stated she would appreciate not seeing information going in the paper that isn't true. She went on to say if you are going to put something in the paper, make sure it's accurate. We don't want to eliminate the professional Firefighters. She state if you folks out there have been told that that's a lie and said if you are going to print stuff please tell the truth. Mrs. Smith stated she is a citizen and a taxpayer and every decision she makes is affecting her too. She stated none of Council created this mess but we have to work through it. We have to find a solution. We have to figure it out. She wishes that people including Mr. Carlson find out who she is before you say what you did say. She stated she does want an affordable paid Fire Department.

After the vote, Mayor Nystrom stated he hopes that we can sit down. He feels that this decision belongs to Council and it does not need to go to the public. This has been his position and the reason he has voted no on these. That doesn't mean we are not going to look at what a volunteer fire department would mean and we are going to have work and see if we can get something that is affordable to the City and still employ the Firefighters. If that does not happen and the decision possibly could be made by this Council to take a different route that is what we will have to look at doing. With this vote this vote it does not mean that it is over.

Mr. Cartney stated he did vote last time to put this on referendum but he did take a long hard look at a lot of things. It is true it is hard to get volunteers. He went on to say he volunteers for a lot of things; he has seen the volunteers for Relay for Life slowly go down. He volunteers at youth football and does see a lot of volunteers not showing up there either. He stepped down as a youth wrestling coach to do Council and does see a lot of people not volunteering for that either so it does make him a little bit nervous about trying to get volunteers. He does hope that Council can sit down with the Fire Department and work things out for the safety of our

**New Business**

Special Event Approval –  
Drake Well Marathon

community so we can have a Fire Department that is affordable for our town.

It was moved by Mrs. Hull, seconded by Mrs. Smith, and carried unanimously to approve the Drake Well Marathon to be run on 8/21/2011.

Benson Memorial Library  
Appointment

It was moved by Mrs. Smith, seconded by Mrs. Hull, and carried unanimously to appoint Roger Sybrant to the Benson Memorial Library Board to an unexpired term ending 1/1/2013.

Redevelopment Authority  
Re-appointment

Mayor Nystrom announced the re-appointment of Jim Come to the Redevelopment Authority to fill a term expiring June 2016. Mr. Reese stated he supports the Mayor's decision.

Redevelopment Authority  
Resignation

It was moved by Mrs. Smith, seconded by Mr. Cartney to accept with regret the resignation of Larry Manross from the Redevelopment Authority.

Mr. Cartney thanked Mr. Manross for all of his time served. It is well appreciated.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Tammy Champion – 418 W Main St

She stated she thinks it is really interesting the level of respect that all of those gentlemen [firemen] have for Council and its proceedings by getting their butts up walking out of the room and standing outside and talking loudly while this proceeding was still going on. She went on to say she thinks everyone should get an understanding of what level of "me" is involved in "we" serve the community. She stated she thinks it is very telling right here.

Ken Leach – taxpayer at 122 E Main St

He stated he wants to thank Council on their decision tonight. He asked a question on the budget and the shortfall: are all the Departments projected to come in at or below budget other than the Fire Department this year? He stated he has seen two or three times in the paper that the Fire Department was budgeted for roughly \$600,000 and we are going to have the spending is going to be around \$700,000. Mr. Leach asked Chief Crotty if the Fire Department spent \$100,000 that he wouldn't have been aware of or buy something that he would not have seen. Chief Crotty stated the Department had not. Mr. Leach went on to say that what it seems like to him is that Council purposefully shorthanded the Fire Department by 12 or 13 percent to maybe make us [the fire department] look bad.

Mr. Reese stated as he understands the issue, Council budgeted to go and have layoffs with the Police and Fire Departments. What Council did was thought they had a little extra money at the

beginning of the year so they pushed back the layoffs to the fall. The arbitrator has said we can not go to one man at the station that we are mandated to go with the same minimum staffing that then becomes the quandary that puts our budget \$100,000 short because we had planned on at least some form of creative staffing. Now with the arbitrators decision, our creative staffing comes down to close the station or put two guys in there.

Mr. Leach questioned the budget number Citywide or just the Fire Department: is everybody projected to come in or close to what was budgeted for that particular department?

Manager Manross stated there will be shortfalls but not to that degree. The budget for the Police is projected to be approximately \$20,000 short at this time. Mr. Leach stated that if his hourly pay is excessive for working for a company for 20 years Council please speak now. He sure would like someone to tell him what the right amount of pay for 20 years of service is. His only issue is Council purposefully set the Fire Department up to come up short. He stated we should say the City is over budget not the Fire Department is over budget.

Mr. Reese stated what Council did, we were handed numbers by the previous manager of "X" amount of dollars to spend. Council said we are going to have to lay a fireman off here and there to make it work and a couple of police officers. What has happened is no arbitration settlement has come back from the police yet so they are operating at the same funds as last year. Council has argued about going forward with the layoffs but our position was to hold on until we ran out of money because that was the safe thing to do. Now it doesn't matter whether we run out of money or not we are told to keep two men in the station or shut the station down all together. Mr. Leach commented the 0% increase he got this year by the arbitrated contract sure messed up the top of the budget didn't it. Mr. Leach then stated their arbitrated contract did not give them a golden pot at the end. Mr. Leach stated he seriously hopes Council will work with the Fire Department. He went on to say there are assets out there that the Fire Department could be bringing in to you if you just listen to the right people.

Mrs. Smith stated around the first of the year Mr. Leach discussed bringing revenues in. He was going to meet with Mrs. Hull and bring information back to Council.

Mrs. Hull stated this was in regards to the P.I.L.O.T program.

Mr. Leach stated Titusville is mutual aid to Oil Creek Township. He stated the City has gone to fires where they have run out water before the mutual aid company gets there and the City doesn't get any money for it. He thinks Council should go to Oil Creek Township and say hey throw us a couple of bucks and maybe we ought to

look someplace else for revenue before cutting back.

Mr. Nystrom requested Council and the Fire Department schedule time to sit down and talk in regards to Ambulance service possibilities. Mr. Nystrom stated he had experience with the Ambulance service in Titusville in the 80s.

Joe Crotty – 540 Brook St

Speaking as the Fire Chief stated for the past two years it has been an emotional roller coaster when speaking in regards to the Fire service. He went on to say he is overjoyed that Council took the stance they did tonight. To him it is not a matter of job retention. It goes to a higher level. He has been doing this job for 36 years. He stated he doesn't think anybody has anything derogatory to say about the Volunteer Fire Service. There are plenty of trained folks in voluntary fire service. This is not about maintaining jobs but about maintaining and attaining a credible viable fire service for citizens in the City of Titusville.

**COMMENTS BY  
MAYOR/COUNCIL**

Mr. Reese stated he has taken a lot of interest in the Fire Department to be able to discuss budget numbers as well as he can. The vote tonight in his opinion was do you want to put it on the ballot. He went on to say he was not going to say no not to put it on the ballot. He looked at it as do I want the taxpayers to have a voice and I said yes to that and stand by that.

**ADJOURNMENT**

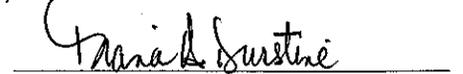
It was *moved* by Mrs. Hull, *seconded* by Mr. Reese, and *carried unanimously* to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

**APPROVED BY COUNCIL**

THIS 16<sup>th</sup> DAY OF August, 2011

  
James A. Nystrom, Mayor

I hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Council Meeting of July 19, 2011.

  
Diana A. Durstine  
Recording Secretary