

# TOWN OF RISING SUN

## BOARD OF TOWN COMMISSIONERS

**MAYOR**  
Judith M. Cox

**COMMISSIONERS**  
Deborah Craig  
James Majewski  
August Pierson  
Stewart Yust

**TOWN ADMINISTRATOR**  
Calvin Bonenberger, Jr.

**CLERK-TREASURER**  
Sandra D. Didra

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November 13, 2007

Present: Judy Cox, Skip Yust, Jim Majewski, Debbie Craig, Augie Pierson

Town Administrator: Calvin Bonenberger, Jr.

Guests: See Attached List

The regular scheduled meeting of the Mayor and Commissioners of Rising Sun was held on November 13, 2007 at the Community Fire Company of Rising Sun with all members in attendance. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Mayor Cox, followed by the pledge of allegiance and a moment of silence. Mayor Cox asked that the veterans and their families be remembered.

With one correction under the public safety report, changing Pierson to Peterson, a motion was made by Mr. Pierson, seconded by Mrs. Craig and carried to approve the minutes of the 10/30/07 meetings.

Mayor Cox swore in Francis "Chip" Peterson as the newest police officer for the Town. His start date was 10/29/07.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Mayor - Mayor Cox advised that she had nothing to report other than to acknowledging that the Rising Sun Tigers have won their 4<sup>th</sup> State Field Hockey title.

Finance – Nothing to report

Streets & Sidewalks - Mr. Yust reported that we are still waiting to hear from the contractor with regard to the restoration of the municipal parking lot. He also advised that the Town is soliciting bids for the sidewalk repairs on S. Queen Street and Wilson Avenue.

Water & Sewer - Mr. Majewski advised that RK & K had been authorized to move forward with the design of the 675,000 gpd WWTP. He presented a schedule for delivery of the new plant. He advised that since the Town did not qualify for the MDE funding, we are applying for a loans through the USDA. He advised that there needs to be a analysis report completed which should cost between \$10,000 and \$15,000, Mr. Bonenberger will be preparing a RFP in order to get the best price

Public Safety - Mr. Pierson reported that the police department has stepped up their patrols for expired parking along Main Street. He also advised that the Town is still seeking applicants for the vacant 6<sup>th</sup> police officer position. He reminded the Board that they had previously received the monthly report from the PD.

Parks & Recreation - Mrs. Craig reported that Mr. Fowler had started the "Just a Day Dream Away" project in the Community Park. She complimented Jane Bellmyer on her article about the project in the Cecil Whig.

Town Administrator - Mr. Bonenberger advised that the Public Hearing for the text amendment change to the zoning Ordinance which would allow private educational institutions as a special exception in specific zones other than residential would be held on November 27, 2007 at 7 PM. He advised that this request was petitioned by the private sector.

Planning & Zoning - Mr. Bonenberger reported that the next workshop meeting for Planning & Zoning will take place on Monday, November 19, 2007 at 6 PM. The next regular meeting of P & Z will be on November 26, 2007 at 7:30 PM. He advised that there would be interviews of the 6 applicants for the 2 vacancies at both sessions.

Board of Appeals - No report.

Community Development - Mr. Bonenberger reported that McDonald's is requesting permission to temporarily install their McDonald's logo on the side of the building for their Grand Opening. They will remove the sign within 72 hours of the event. They have applied for a variance to locate the sign permanently. He advised that allowing them to temporarily place the logo there would be similar to them placing a banner announcing the Grand Opening on the building. Mr. Pierson motioned to allow McDonald's to temporarily place the logo on the building for the Grand Opening in compliance with their letter. The motion was seconded by Mr. Yust. Mr. Majewski questioned the text of the letter with regard to removing the sign after 72 hours. In his letter of approval for temporarily placing the logo on the building, Mr. Bonenberger is to advise that the logo is to be taken down within 72 hours of the event.

Code Enforcement – No report.

Historical Preservation Commission – In the absence of Mrs. Ehrhart, Tom Mumey reminded everyone of the dance being held on November 18 at the fire house. Any military personnel will be half price. He advised that there would be a speaker at their regular meeting on 11/14/07 and that they would be participating in the Christmas Parade in North East on December 1.

Old Business – nothing to report..

New Business – nothing to report

PUBLIC HEARING – TRAFFIC STUDY:

Mayor Cox advised that Mr. Bonenberger would serve as facilitator for the Public Hearing. He introduced Sabine Watson, the Town Engineer with KCI. She in turn introduced John Borkowski, a traffic engineer with KCI. Mrs. Watson and Mr. Borkowski did a power point presentation on highlights of the actual traffic study. Following their presentation, Mr. Bonenberger addressed several questions to them concerning clarification of specific items addressed in the actual traffic study document. A copy of that study is attached and made a part of these minutes.

It was reported that the traffic count down by SHA indicates approximately 6500 vehicles per day on Rt. 274 and approximately 5600 vehicles per day on Rt. 273. It was also reported that the SHA has said no the 4 way stop signs at the intersection of 274 and Cherry Street and also to a traffic light. However, they are willing to do something with the signal at Center Square to help clear traffic.

Other issues that were addressed by Mr. Bonenberger were site distance, stopping site distance, identifying obstructions, parking issues and establishing guidelines. He addressed the issues on the suggested improvement concepts and KCI reported that the one-way streets should be considered as a last resort. He advised that the State has jurisdiction over Rts. 273 & 274 as they are state highways. The state says that stop bars are put there to stop at and then ease out into an intersection.

Mayor Cox thanked KCI and Mr. Bonenberger for their presentations. She advised the audience that in an effort to allow everyone to speak, those speaking would be allowed 3 minutes for their questions and comments.

Richard Mooney – 306 N. Walnut – opposed to removal of parking on N. Walnut Street, focus should be on slowing down speeders. 3 churches on street and many childrens.

Mayor Cox inserted the clarification that it was never the intention of the Board to take away any parking on Walnut Street.

Kirk Lewis – Conowingo – 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church of Rising Sun – Opposed to one way traffic. Many of their congregation are elderly and need access to the handicapped ramp from the passenger side of the vehicle. One way traffic would promote speeders. If it is made one way could it be 2 way on Sundays

Marilyn O'Connell – 132 S. Queen Street – Suggested additional signal control and to improve sites and other controls. Concerning about our businesses and how one way traffic would cause confusion for out of town people going to a funeral. Need to support our local businesses.

Russ Bleeker – Oxford, Pa. – FPCRS Trustee – Reiterated concerns over elderly church goers with walkers and wheelchairs. Good news that parking will stay opposed to one-way traffic.

Ken Jenkins – 1115 Colora Road – Advised family member injured in accident at Cherry and 274. He is experienced in engineering. Rising Sun is growing. The problem is the stacking of vehicles at the traffic signal

Bud McFadden – 117 Sunrise Drive – Owns business in Town. Thanks to Calvin for getting report and for meeting with area business people. Patience of drivers would solve a lot of the problem. One way traffic would hurt his business and the bank's business. One way traffic would divert problems to other areas.

Tom Mumey – 115 Turtleback – former Town Commissioner – Thanks to Calvin and Board for the study. Addressed the Church issues saying that parking would not be affected. Study shows that there are other options besides one way streets.

Mrs. Craig requested that Mr. Mumey address his comments to the Board not the audience. Mr. Mumey requested additional time due to the interruption of Mrs. Craig.

He suggested a "car shuttle" to get cars from Western Auto to his parking lot.

Charles Hayes – 268 Union Square – FPCRS – Thank you for letting the church be a part of the meeting. Opposed to one way which threatens not only the church goes but the people going to Sue's and Western Auto. The stacking of the vehicles at the light obstructs the vision of oncoming traffic.

John Maarsteller – 112 E. Main Street. Opposed to one way streets, try other options for a specific time period before trying one way streets. Questioned if additional crosswalks would help. Mayor Cox advised that there is a need. Mr. Borkowski of KCI advised that crosswalks are safer at a signal.

Karen Majewski – 124 E. Main Street. Questioned left had turn situation at the traffic light. Was advised that the State is waiting for the Town to reach a decision from the traffic study before addressing changing the patterns and timing of the traffic light. Stacking is a problem. She asked if there was a need for a petition would help. Is opposed to one way streets.

Jim Kyte – 545 Pearl Street. Mr. Kyte also represents the fire company. Believes the changing of the red light to alternating is a good idea. The 18 accident were from drivers not paying attention. The 2 parking spaces were not always there. They were put in after street scape and that is when the increase in wrecks happened. Need more visibility coming out of Cherry Street.

Henry Mason – 91 Shelton Lane – FPCRS – Echoes support of other church members. Thanks the Town for their support of church.

Pat Yust – 36 W Cherry Street. Advised that speeding had a lot to do with the situation especially W. Cherry. Can't see to right. Speed, & visibility. One way would only confuse and create the potential for a head on wreck and is it worth the trade off.

Lisa Tome – Rising Sun Herald. Asked when traffic study was done. Was advised August 31 on a Friday between 10 am and 2 pm. She advised needs to be revised and include weekends too. Traffic dramatically changes on Friday evenings.

Jim Gibney – Sue's Restaurant – Most of my questions have been answered, but would hate to lose any parking spaces. The loss of any parking spaces would hurt by business.

Jim Majewski – Questioned alternatives to traffic flow, such as right turns on red. Discussion ensued concerning stop bars and truck traffic as they relate to right turn on red situations.

With no other business coming before the Board the meeting was adjourned.

The meeting adjourned at 9.25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra D. Didra,  
Secretary