I. OPENING PROCEDURES

A. Pledge of Allegiance lead by President Smith
B. Call To Order by President Smith at 7:03 p.m.
C. Roll Call

Council Members Present: Robert John Smith, President of Council; Brian R. Kozera, Sr., Vice President of Council; Charles Vogel, First Ward; Mark F. Rothert, Second Ward; John R. Denny, Jr., Fourth Ward; Alan C. Templin, Fifth Ward; Bart E. Bodkin, At-Large

Also Present: Richard A. Stampahar, Treasurer; Julie A. Jakubec, CPA, Township Manager; Erika R. Groves, Township Solicitor; Charles W. Steinert, Jr., P.E., Township Engineer; Loren R. Kephart, Public Service Superintendent; Scott Slagel, Police Sergeant; Cathy Bubas, Manager’s Secretary

II. PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE REGULATIONS OF CERTAIN RENEWABLE ENERGY GENERATING STRUCTURES AND FACILITIES

Manager Jakubec recalled the ordinance was introduced during the January 11, 2011 Regular Council Meeting. The purpose of the Public Hearing is to receive public comment concerning the proposed amendments to the Zoning Ordinance. She noted the proposed ordinance was made available to the public for review via the Township website, Allegheny County Council Office and upon request. The proposed amendment to the Zoning Ordinance would make it easier for residents to "go green" by utilizing solar, wind and geothermal alternative energy sources.

Ms. Cindy Harris, Fox Pointe Drive, stated she was glad Council was addressing the subject, but questioned the purpose of the ordinance and what Council hopes the ordinance would accomplish. The Manager explained anything not specifically permitted in the Zoning Ordinance is not allowed. Ms. Harris indicated the ordinance regulates the use of alternative energy sources and does not encourage the use. If she had wanted to install solar panels during a home remodeling project last year, there is nothing in the ordinance to prevent the installation of solar panels. Ms. Harris questioned the existance of solar panels within the Township. Mr. Denny, Jr. considered the ordinance as a pathway for people by providing guidelines. Manager Jakubec was not aware of the installation of solar panels since she was appointed Township Manager.

Vice President Kozera, Sr. explained safety issues related to an entire roof of solar panels in the event of a fire.
Manager Jakubec explained without the ordinance, anyone wishing to install solar panels or a wind turbine would need to obtain a variance. Once the ordinance is adopted, a resident could apply for the building permit without having to seek a variance.

Mr. Denny, Jr. clarified for the record that Ms. Harris opposed the ordinance. Ms. Harris also stated she opposed Council voting on the ordinance, indicating lack of public notice. Mr. Denny, Jr. cited legal notice was advertised in The Herald.

III. CONTINUATION OR ADJOURNMENT OF PUBLIC HEARING

Motion by Vice President Kozera, Sr. to adjourn the Public Hearing was seconded by Mr. Denny, Jr. and carried unanimously. The Public Hearing adjourned at 7:13 p.m. and Council proceeded directly into the regular meeting.

Cathy Bubas, Manager’s Secretary

Attachment: Sign-In Sheet(s)