



*Leo S. Lutz, Mayor  
Michael L. Beury, Borough Council President*

*Robert L. Pfannebecker, Solicitor  
Ronald Miller, Interim Borough Manager*

---

**FINAL AGENDA**  
**SPECIAL JOINT COLUMBIA BOROUGH COUNCIL /MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY MEETING**  
**July 6, 2015**  
**6:00P.M.**

- I. Opening of Meeting
  1. Call to Order and Roll Call
  2. Invocation/Moment of Silence
  3. Pledge to the Flag
  4. Announcement of Executive Session(s)
    - a. A Personnel Meeting was held on Monday, June 29, 2015 at 6:00pm.
  5. Presentation of Information on the Alternative and Clean Energy Program Digester Project by Jonathan Shimko of Tetra Tech and John Bender, Waste Water Department Manager for Columbia Borough
  6. Citizen Comments (Agenda Items Only)
  7. Council and Authority Questions, Answers, and Discussion
  8. Council and Authority: Consider approval to execute the Commitment Letter and Grant Agreement with Pennsylvania's Commonwealth Finance Agency for \$300,000 to help finance the proposed Alternative and Clean Energy Program Digester Project for Columbia Borough.
  9. Columbia Municipal Authority: Consider approval to transfer the proceeds from the sale of CMA's Sewer Collection System, \$8.6 Million, to the Borough's Capital Fund for use by the Borough as Borough Council deems appropriate.
  10. Other Authority and/or Council Business
- II. Adjournment

**Special Joint Columbia Borough/Municipal Authority Meeting  
July 6, 2015  
Paul W. Myers Council Chambers**

Council President Beury called the meeting to order at 6:02pm

**Councilpersons present:** Barninger, Beury, Ford, Murphy, Smith, Weisser and Welsh.  
Mayor Lutz was also present.

**Municipal Authority Members present:** William Kloidt, Norman B. Meiskey, III, Michael Schober, and Breneman Shultz.  
Ray McCarty was absent.

There was a moment of silence.

Council President Beury led the pledge to the Flag.

Council President Beury announced that an Executive Session was held on June 29, 2015 at 6:00pm to discuss personnel matters with Personnel Committee.

Jonathan Shimko (Project Manager for Tetra Tech) along with David Palmer (Senior Energy Project Manager for Tetra Tech), Keith Henn, P.G. (Vice President Tetra Tech Bioenergy) and John Bender (Columbia Borough Wastewater Treatment Plant Manager) presented information on the proposed Alternative and Clean Energy Program Digester Project.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Ron Fritz of 568 Franklin Street read an article from the Lancaster Newspaper regarding an interview with Ron Miller about the proposed project. He also expressed his concern regarding the Borough spending so much money on a project when there are still so many unanswered questions. He said the Borough needs to spend more time looking into the project before they begin spending money on it. He questioned whether Borough Officials visited similar plants and expressed concern that the Borough would consider being a "Guinea Pig" with so many unknowns.

Ron Fritz, Jr. urged Council not to proceed with the project. The return on investment is not close to being acceptable.

Ron Miller, Interim Borough Manager, noted that the vote on the table tonight is not to approve spending millions of dollars to begin a digester business, it's only to approve spending a minimal amount of money to do further research in hope of turning the plant into something profitable rather than just tear it down.

Councilman Kelly Murphy noted that Council just received the information packet and heard the presented material for the first time.

Mayor Leo Lutz questioned if the project could be constructed and utilized while the Treatment Plant is in full operation. Mr. Shimko replied that it would be possible, but preliminary engineering would be required to answer the question.

Frank Doutrich of 1001 Ironville Pike asked what the \$2,000,000.00 Fulton Bank Note was for. Councilmembers said that it was used for the PA Route 462 Curb and Sidewalk Project.

**COUNCIL AND MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY QUESTIONS, ANSWERS, AND DISCUSSION:**

Councilman Kelly Murphy expressed his concerns regarding whether financing for the proposed project makes sense. He also discussed the presented 16 year payback period and the fact that the current Wastewater Treatment Plant is in need of repairs; the cost of which is not included in the presented information.

Councilman Jim Smith commented that the projected funding of approximately \$1.9 Million was not close to being accurate and the project should not have progressed to this point.

Authority Chairman Mike Schober identified a number of expenses that were not included in the Return on Investment calculation, which will make the ROI worse than 16 years.

**MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY:**

Motion: To recommend to Council not to execute the Commitment Letter and Grant Agreement with Pennsylvania's Commonwealth Finance Agency for \$300,000, and loan agreement with Commonwealth Finance Agency for \$1,449,952 to help finance the proposed Alternative and Clean Energy Program Digester Project for Columbia Borough.

Motion: Meiskey                      2<sup>nd</sup>: Shultz                      Voice Vote: All Favored

**BOROUGH COUNCIL:**

Motion: Not to approve the execution of the Commitment Letter and Grant Agreement with Pennsylvania's Commonwealth Finance Agency for \$300,000 and loan agreement with Commonwealth Finance Agency for \$1,449,952 to help finance the proposed Alternative and Clean Energy Program Digester Project for Columbia Borough.

Motion: Murphy                      2<sup>nd</sup>: Ford                      Voice Vote: All Favored

Councilwoman Barninger thanked Tetra Tech for their presentation. She said that she appreciates their candor and the fact that they did not inflate the numbers.

Michael Schober of the Municipal Authority thanked John Bender and Ron Miller for all of their work in preparing the grant applications and presented information.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 8:10pm.

Motion: Ford                      2<sup>nd</sup>: Smith                      Voice Vote: All Favored

**MOTIONED AND APPROVED** this 13th day of July, 2015, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Columbia, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, in lawful session duly assembled.

**BOROUGH OF COLUMBIA, LANCASTER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA.**

**BY:** Michael J. Beury  
Michael Beury, Council President

**ATTEST:** Georgianna Schreck  
Georgianna Schreck, Assistant Secretary

