

MINUTES OF THE INITIAL ORGANIZATION MEETING
OF THE BOROUGH OF CHESTER HEIGHTS HELD
JANUARY 7, 1946, AT 8 O'CLOCK P.M. AT THE
ROSE HILL SCHOOL.

The first organization meeting of The Borough of Chester Heights after its incorporation was held at the Rose Hill School on January 7, 1946, at 8 o'clock P.M.

There were present the Burgess, Walter E. Schrader, and the following Councilmen, Arthur E. Stromgren, J. Taney Willcox, H. Herbert Breneman, Lohr E. Kerns and E. Clay Krebs.

*Koffler
Liddle
not present*

Mr. C. N. Smitheman was appointed to act as temporary Secretary of the meeting.

Father Sylvester McCarthy gave the following Invocation;

"We pray the O God of wisdom and justice thru whom authority is rightly administered, laws are enacted and judgement decreed, assist with Thy holy spirit of counsel and fortitude the officers of this new borough that their administration may be conducted in righteousness and be eminently useful to Thy people over whom they preside.

Let the light of Thy divine wisdom direct the deliberation of our Council and shine forth in all the proceedings and regulations framed for our guidance, so that everything may tend to the preservation of peace, the promotion of natural happiness, the increase of industry and useful knowledge and may guarantee to us the blessings of equal liberty."

Amen

The Burgess, Walter E. Schrader, presented his Certificate of Election, was sworn in, and his oath of office administered by Justice of the Peace, WM. Griffith.

The Burgess then took the chair.

The members of Council, Walter E. Schrader, Burgess Arthur E. Stromgren, J. Taney Willcox, H. Herbert Breneman, Lohr E. Kerns and E. Clay Krebs, presented their Certificates of Election, were sworn in and their oaths of office were administered by Justice of the Peace, WM. Griffith.

The written oaths of office of the Burgess and members of Council were directed to be filed with the Secretary,

The Burgess stated that it was in order to elect a President of Council.

J. Taney Willcox was nominated for the office of President of Council to serve for the period of one year. The nomination was seconded, and it was moved that the nominations be closed. The Secretary was directed to cast a ballot for J. Taney Willcox for the office of President of Council to serve for one year. The Secretary cast the ballot and it was declared that J. Taney Willcox was duly elected as President of Council to serve for one year.

The President of Council took the chair. He stated that the Borough of Chester Heights had been incorporated by Decree of the Court of Common Pleas of Delaware County, Pennsylvania, dated September 21, 1945.

On motion, duly seconded, the Charter of The Borough of Chester Heights was accepted and the Secretary was directed to spread the Charter upon the minutes of the Borough.

The President of Council then gave the following historical sketch of the Borough:

Quotations from Ashmead's History of Delaware County, 1884.

"On the evening of Sept. 11, 1777, a number of the stragglers from the defeated American Army, hungry, demoralized and exhausted in their flight from the field at Brandywine, collected in the neighborhood of Logtown, where they passed the night, sleeping in the outbuildings and open fields. The next morning most of them rejoined their commands."

"The Original Township of Aston, which at upper end conformed to the straight east and west line dividing that township, Concord and Middletown from Thornbury and Edgmont remained undisturbed until 1842, when, on July 20th of that year the Assembly enacted a law changing the line of Aston so that that part of the old township lying above Stony Bank school-house - a direct line drawn thence eastward from Concord township line to Chester Creek - was annexed to Thornbury township. Again, in 1870, an effort was made by the citizens of the upper end of Aston to divide the present township, the difficulty growing out of the alleged disproportion of the number of schools and the unequal division of the taxes for road purposes. A petition was presented to the court, but at the election held, under order of court, October 18th of that year, the project was defeated at the polls."

"Thatcher's Tilt Mill. Previous to 1811 there was a tilt-mill situated on Chester Creek above Grubb's Bridge, and near Wawa station, the junction of the West Chester and Philadelphia Railroad and the Baltimore Central Railroad, which was owned and operated by Joseph Thatcher. In 1812 Enos Thatcher had control of the works and in 1815 the firm became Thomas & Enos Thatcher. The stimulating effect of the war with England caused an extension of the business, but with the return of peace, as with all manufacturing industries, became precarious, hence it is with no astonishment we find it recorded in 1826 that the tilt and blade mill owned and occupied by Thomas Thatcher had not been 'much used in times past'. Nevertheless, the last named, through good and bad times, retained the ownership of the mill until his death in 1840. Indeed, at that time there was a stone tilt-mill, forty by forty one feet, with four fires, two of which were blown by water power, a new wheel having been built for that purpose, to which a lathe could be attached as well as grindstones and polishing wheels. Near by the mill was a coach-maker's shop, twenty five by thirty seven feet and two stories in height. In 1841, Joseph and Isaac Thatcher were engaged in making at that mill 'scycloidal' self sharpening plows. In the flood of 1843 this tilt-mill, belonging to the heirs of Thomas Thatcher, was swept away by the water, nothing being found after the rushing current had subsided but the tilt hammer and the grindstone. In 1852 John W. Thatcher carried on blacksmithing and coach building near by for several years.

"Martin's school house was subsequently known as the Logtown school and the latter name in 1880 was changed to Chester Heights school, its present title."

"In 1872 an association of Methodists purchased a farm in Aston, on the line of the Baltimore Central Railroad, and was incorporated under the title "Chester Heights Camp Meeting Association". The tract contains about one-hundred and sixty two acres, of which about sixty was woodland, which is enclosed with a close fence about seven feet

high, having gates located at convenient points for the admission of those attending the meetings."

"The Blue Church. - About 1818 the church which was known by this name was erected, almost entirely at the cost of James Lindsay, on the west side of the Logtown road, a short distance above where the highway leading from Lima intersects with former road. On March 1, 1822, James Lindsay, of Aston, conveyed to William Glenn, James McMullen, Samuel Hunter and their successors, Trustees of the First Branch of the United Presbyterian congregation of Aston, Providence and Springfield, 'for and in consideration of the love of God and promotion of Religion, and also in consideration of the sum of One Dollar, 'for the use of the congregation mentioned, 'a small lot of land with the meeting house built thereon.'" It finally ceased to be used as a place of worship, until today the building has disappeared, and the ancient God's acre, wherein the 'forefathers of the hamlet sleep,' is indistinguishable from the field which surrounds it."

"St. Thomas' Church, Ivy Mills. - The Catholic residents of Aston for many years attended worship in St. Mary's church, the noted chapel in the mansion of the Willcox family at Ivy Mills, in Concord township, but in time the congregation grew so numerous that it became necessary to erect a sanctuary at a more convenient location for those living at Rockdale and its neighborhood. Hence to that end a tract of land was purchased from Nicholas F. Walter on August 26, 1852, the deed being made to the Rt. Rev. J.N. Newman, Bishop of the Diocese of Philadelphia, which lot was to be held in trust for the congregation of Ivy Mills. On Sunday, August 29, 1852, the corner stone of the church of 'St. Thomas the Apostle', was laid, Rev. Mr. Sourin, of Philadelphia conducting the ceremonies. The imposing church edifice was finished in 1856."

16 RESOLVED, that the President of Council be directed to appoint a Board of Health consisting of five members.

The President of Council then announced the appointment of, Dr. William Best, Gilleat G. Schroeder, Alice C. Ross, Sadie R. Kerns, Ruth Willard Aiken as the members of the Board of Health.

The President of Council stated the next order of business was consideration of a plumbing code and a building code.

Upon motion, duly seconded, it was unanimously

17 RESOLVED, that the President of Council be directed to appoint the members of the plumbing code and the building code Committee.

The President then announced that he had appointed the following as members of the Plumbing Code and Building Code committee; Irwin K. Little, H. Herbert Brennan and Edwin H. Keller.

The President of Council stated the next order of business was that of New business.

It was suggested that at each meeting of Council each member be provided, by the Secretary, with a typewritten copy of the minutes of the preceding meeting. There was some discussion on this matter but No action taken.

The next item of new business brought up by the Burgess was the need of filing a Form from the state (which he had) in order for the Borough to obtain an allowable share of state money for the maintenance and upkeep of Borough roads. The State contribution being on the basis of

\$300.00 per mile of road. The Borough of Chester Heights has 5/10 of a mile of road.

Upon motion, duly seconded, it was unanimously
18 RESOLVED, that application for these funds be filed with the state at Harrisburg which was forthwith done.

Upon motion, duly seconded, it was unanimously
19 RESOLVED, that the Burgess be empowered to provide uniform and badge for Borough Police and other necessary equipment. Such Badge, Uniform and equipment to be worn when Police are on duty.

Upon motion, duly seconded, it was unanimously
20 RESOLVED, that the President of Council appoint a Committee to meet with Aston Township Officials for the purpose of settling accounts with the Township.

The President of Council appointed the following committee members, Margaret Wood Schroeder, Walter Schraeder, Mark Willcox, Claud E. Tucker and John F.K. Voigt to meet with representatives of Aston Township to determine apportionment of Township Assets and Liabilities and to make such appraisals as may be necessary.

No further business, a motion was made and carried to adjourn.



Secretary