

Regular Meeting Minutes
March 12, 2020

President Bill Heaton called the meeting to order. All members were present including Mayor Farkas.

The February minutes were approved unanimously by a Harris/McNeely motion. The financial report and January police report were approved unanimously by a Harker/Little motion. No February police report was available.

A letter informing council that the Liquid Fuel payment of \$54075.13 was mailed on March 1, 2020.

Mr. Harris moved to hear the citizens present at the meeting and was seconded by Mr. Little. The motion passed.

Mr. John Beres, 705 Lennox Avenue had questions regarding the repair of borough roads and when that might begin. Mr. Little responded that patching is being done in preparation of having roads tarred and chipped. Bids will be solicited upon completion of the prep work. Mr. Beres asked also if the funding was completely from the Liquid Fuel Account. Some money from the General Fund is also used for road repair in addition to funds from Liquid Fuels.

Tracy Popovich, 1017 High Street had a complaint about property adjacent to her residence. Damage was done to the roof of the property last year when a large pine tree fell on the house and nothing was done about it so the roof is beginning to cave in. She questioned who enforced the ordinances and it is a combination of the police and our code enforcement officer. The property in question is a rental property and the owner is Keith Anderson, the address is 1014 37th Street. There are also abandoned vehicles on the property. Mr. Heaton will take a look at the property and see what it looks like. As far as the vehicles are concerned, since they are on private property, there is not much that can be done. She also had a complaint about another home on High Street belonging to Marilyn Russell that has been abandoned and is in terrible disrepair. We have been aware of this for some time, but have not had much success with the owner who is not well.

Mr. Bovalino responded that the code enforcement officer does try to do the best he can. We can cite for nuisance. Mr. Lemmon first issues a tag on the door listing the complaint, gives a time frame for a solution and if the complaint has not been taken care of, it goes to the magistrate. The magistrate may allow an appeal.

Mr. Jake Tate, 335 Brook Street is still having trouble with disturbances from his neighbors. They rent the house and the landlord doesn't do anything about it. He has called the police, the neighbors have been cited and fined, but it still continues. Calls are made to the police at every disturbance. Mr. Heaton has a meeting scheduled with the police chief and will discuss this matter with him during the meeting. Mr. Tate requested that we check into a "Three Strikes You're Out" ordinance.

With no other citizens who wished to address council, Mr. Little moved to return to the regular order of business and was seconded by Mrs. McNeely. The motion carried.

Old Business

Code Enforcement – Mr. Lemmon - none

Fire and Police - Ms. Harker - none

Parks and Playground - Mrs. Sepp – none

Sewers and Sanitation; Ordinances -Mr. Kosanovich – none

Ordinances – none

He did report that the winter commodities bids have been submitted. He also reported that there is no money available for park shelter grants this year and in order to submit an application it must go through an engineering study. He will also look into retroactively submitting an application.

Buildings and Equipment – Mr. Harris - none

Streets, Lighting and Bridges -Mr. Little reported that the storm drain on Rock Avenue has been repaired.

Finance and Litigation – Mrs. McNeely – none

She also questioned when road repair work was going to be done because the roads are in terrible shape. In order to tar and chip, patching needs to be done or the tar and chip will not hold up. They plan on cutting out the bad spots, re-patching the area in preparation for resurfacing. Weather permitting, they will begin the patching next week.

Mayor Farkas - none

Mr. Heaton met with Dan Sell from Widmer Engineering and they walked the length of Walnut Bottom Creek to assess what needs to be done for the DEP MS4 mandate to restore 260 feet of bank. A representative from DEP in Pittsburgh will come down and make sure that what we plan is acceptable. The water issue from Mayfield Village seems to be corrected at this time. A broken waterline was repaired and we have not been informed of any water run-off from adjoining property owners. There is still water running out from the maintenance building onto the road but no water lines leaking have been found. They hope to install a basin that will lead to 37th Street to correct the problem this summer.

He has not heard from anyone from PennDot regarding participation in the Agility Program.

He asked if any resumes had been received for the solicitor position that will be vacant upon Mr. Bovalino's resignation. The only resume received was from a firm in Pittsburgh and after a discussion, it was decided that we needed someone local rather than a large firm from an urban area. He had spoken with Mr. Joseph Budicak who is the solicitor for Eastvale and Koppel. Mr. Budicak is interested in the position and will submit a resume prior to the end of the month.

The car theft problem seems to have died down as there have been no recent reports.

Mr. Bovalino asked if Mr. Dennis Miller had been contacted regarding the steps that are necessary to construct a new home in the borough. He has been given Code Systems contact information so that he can work with them when he is ready to proceed.

New Business

Ms. Harker reported that for two months the street light at 37th Street and Jean Street has been on all day and all night and has been reported to Duquesne Light but nothing has been done to repair it.

Mrs. Sepp questioned if the handicap parking marker could be removed from the Mineard property as there is no longer a car parked because of the owner's health issues. She was advised that since the marker was applied for and paid for, unless the owner no longer resides there, it should remain.

Mr. Little received a call from Barry Emge, Traveling Baseball League, asking for help from Council at the park. Two of his largest tournaments have been cancelled due to the Corona Virus outbreak and he asked if council could pay for the dumpster rental at the park. The rental costs about \$1000 for the entire summer.

Mr. Little was asked to find out exactly how much the dumpster costs and we would possibly pay half. Following a discussion, Mrs. Sepp moved to pay up to \$500 for the dumpster after receipt of an invoice and was seconded by Mrs. McNeely. The motion passed all in favor.

Mr. Kosanovich had to contact Robinson Pipe Cleaning to jet and clean out a clogged sewer line at 3404 Orchard Street at the corner of Harbison Road. It was jetted out and cleared but they couldn't video. Also the line at Craig Alley and Walnut needs videoed. A smaller camera is necessary and they will video the lines as soon as one becomes available.

He also reminded all council members that the annual ethics report needs to be submitted to the secretary. The K-12 saw that was purchased needs an adapter to fit the sled that we have and one can be purchased for \$250. Ms. Harker moved to purchase the adapter at the cost of \$250 and was seconded by Mr. Little. The motion passed unanimously.

He also talked about employee safety program and even if not by OSHA standards, we are liable to state standards. A MSDS guide is required and we must keep a SDS binder. First aid kits are also required for the building and also for the vehicles. Mr. Harris will be in charge of the MSDS cataloging and feels that we should also provide eye protection, hearing protection, etc. He has compiled a chemical list but it needs to be put in a binder. What is not available on labels will have to be printed out.

Mr. Harris informed council that due to a serious health concern for his wife, he may be unavailable for a period of time and asked for understanding for his unavailability.

Mr. Little expressed a need for the borough to purchase a trash pump to pump out water and sludge from work areas. The cost is between \$300 and \$320. He also would like a metal detector to aid in finding manholes that are buried. Mr. Kosanovich moved to give Mr. Little the authority to purchase a trash pump for up to \$350. Mr. Harris seconded the motion that passed all in favor.

Mr. Little notified council that Mr. Benjamin Langer, street department employee has resigned. He gave no notice and cited salary as the reason. Mr. Coleton Beighley who had also applied for the position is available to begin work immediately and he would like to hire him. Mr. Bovalino said that since more than three months has passed we are obligated to re-advertise for the position and Mr. Beighley would have to submit a new resume. He could, however be brought on as a temporary employee. Mrs. Lansberry will place an ad in the paper for the laborer position and Mr. Beighley will fill the position on a temporary basis at \$11 per hour. Interviews will take place as soon as possible after the new resumes are received and reviewed. Mrs. McNeely would like to see all employees to receive special training provided by PennDot.

Mrs. McNeely - none
Mayor Farkas - none

Mr. Bovalino has prepared the Tax Ordinance and it needs to be advertised before it can be adopted. Mr. Harris moved to authorize publication of the ordinance and Mrs. Sepp seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

He also informed council that he has been given a promotion at work and will be submitting a letter of resignation at the February meeting. He is giving a 90 day notice with a maximum of 6 months to procure a replacement. He strongly recommends that our ordinance committee meet and review our ordinances, especially the pet and noise ordinances to amend them and bring them up to date.

Mr. Heaton said that Columbia Gas had difficulty locating a manhole during the replacement of gas lines at Ross, Coolidge, Railroad & Boyd. It was found at the top of the hill but was 3 feet down from the surface. They dug up the manhole and found lots of roots. The 6 inch line was 50% clogged. This will have to be taken care of to avoid problems in the future. He also talked with the regional manager of Columbia Gas and they will repave what they have cut up. He also asked if they would consider paying half for repairing the entire road if we paid the other half. They will consider that.

Mr. Bovalino – none

The bills were reviewed by Mrs. Lansberry. Mr. Harris moved to pay the borough bills and was seconded by Mr. Little. The motion carried.

Ms. Harker moved to approve purchases made by committees and was seconded by Mrs. Sepp. The motion carried.

Mrs. McNeely moved to adjourn at 8:5pm; seconded by Mr. Little with unanimous approval.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Lansberry