

Regular Meeting Minutes
July 9, 2020

President Bill Heaton called the meeting to order. All members were present with the exception of Mayor Farkas and Mr. Harris who were excused.

The June minutes were approved unanimously by a Sepp/McNeely motion. The officers' reports were approved unanimously by a McNeely/Sepp motion.

Mrs. Lansberry read correspondence which included the Comcast Cable TV franchise which is a 10 year contract. Mr. Bovalino reviewed the contract and the only comment that he had was that other municipalities receive a 5% fee and ours is only 3%. A discussion followed. Mrs. Lansberry was asked to contact the Comcast rep to see why our contract was only 3% instead of 5% and also to see exactly what is covered by the contract. Other municipalities have internet providers such as Go Net Speed that offer a lower rate. Does our contract prohibit other internet providers? Mrs. Lansberry will obtain the answers to the above questions/concerns and contact council so that a decision can be made and the contract signed at the August meeting.

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

Victoria Orłowski, 3616 W. 3rd Avenue was present to voice concerns that a house next door to her was purchased to be turned into a half-way house and that there was supposedly another half-way house on the street. She stated that there was no validation of this but only rumors. She wanted to know what the borough's codes were pertaining to a half-way house. Mr. Bovalino explained that the owner must ask for a conditional use for the property but the borough is not responsible for licensing of half-way houses.. She also had a complaint about the dirt and dust from the renovations being done on the property. The dust has to be controlled. Only exterior renovations are monitored by the borough which deal with physical changes to the structure. Interior renovations are not monitored. Mr. Tate commented that the house in question is not a half-way house. It is occupied by a handicapped person who has multiple care givers taking care of him. The house being renovated is going to be occupied by a family member.

Cheryl Sudano, 3782 West 5th Avenue was present again because the neighbors have not cleaned up their yard of animal feces. Mr. Bovalino said that the code enforcement officer could address this situation because we do have an ordinance that deals with Health, Safety and Sanitation (Ordinance 630). This does cover such items as noxious odors. Mr. Lemmon will go to the residence and explain the ordinance to the owners.

Jake Tate, 335 Brook Street was following up on the creek problem that has been addressed during previous meetings. He pushed dirt and gravel back in to prevent any more damage to the road. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, everything has been put on hold. Due to minimum staffing, DEP has delayed permitting. He also asked about the condition of the roads that were dug up due to Columbia Gas installing new lines. We are working with Columbia Gas to do the work from their paving company. We can't go down the hill because only the work that was done installing the lines will be covered. We will have to contact PennDot and obtain a project contract because it involves over 2600 square yards of blacktop and then advertise for bids to complete the project. The underpass road has been patched but it isn't holding. We are trying to get ready for paving of the roads by patching using a new process prior to any tar and chipping. This will probably not occur this year.

Mike Orłowski, 100 Ross Avenue said that Railroad Street was dug up due to a sewer collapse but was only filled from Boyd to Ross and then stopped.

With no other citizens who wished to address council, Ms. Harker 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 – The street light on 37th Street and Jean Street is still no repaired after numerous calls to Duquesne Light. She will call again

Sewers and Sanitation; Ordinances -Mr. Kosanovich – reviewed various bids to repair the collapsed culvert. Due to the collapse, the road has been closed from the culvert to the Vets Club. Mr. Bovalino asked if we could obtain a letter from the engineering firm validating an emergency so that we don't get surcharged for not going through a formal bid process. The cost of doing the entire circumference is \$38,400. Doing the entire circumference will deter any leakage and the possibility of another collapse. Mrs. McNeely asked if Widmer has looked at it. Mr. Heaton responded that they had not but talked with him and recommends doing the entire circumference. Traffic on the road will not impact the damage but would be a hazard for any vehicle using the road. Mrs. McNeely said if traffic doesn't impact it, why spend more money. Mr. Heaton's concern is that there may not be a solid seal and water could get through causing another possible collapse. Mrs. McNeely asked why the borough employees couldn't do the work and save money in the process. We would have to divert the creek and have an engineering study completed. The discussion also considered the possibility of not replacing the entire pipe but only part of it. After the discussion, Mrs. McNeely moved to replace the entire 100 foot full circumference of pipe and accept the lowest bid with the contingency of finding that this is an emergency with eminent risk of danger. A roll-call vote approved the motion as follows: Mrs. McNeely – yes; Mrs. Sepp – yes; Mr. Little – yes; Mr. Kosanovich – yes; Ms. Harker – yes and Mr. Heaton – yes. A question from the small water grant representative asked if we were under any obligation of a consent decree from DEP for our sewer system that we have to do some work to offset infiltration.

Ordinances – none

Streets, Lighting and Bridges -Mr. Little - none

Finance and Litigation – Mrs. McNeely – reported that the committee interviewed the two candidates for the solicitor position, Mr. Joseph Budicak and Mr. Paul Steff. Both candidates were highly qualified. Mr. Steff is well versed in the MS4 process and Mr. Budicak is not. A discussion followed regarding the different obligations of each candidate outside of borough commitments and following that discussion, Mr. McNeely moved to hire Mr. Joseph Budicak for the solicitor position seconded by Mrs. Sepp. A roll-call vote approved the motion as follows: Mrs. McNeely – yes; Mrs. Sepp – yes; Mr. Little – yes; Mr. Kosanovich – yes, Ms. Harker – yes and Mr. Heaton – yes. Mrs. McNeely will notify Mr. Budicak of our decision.

Mr. Heaton reported that Columbia Gas has completed its work on the gas lines and called him yesterday regarding the paving of the roads. They do all of their paving through Youngblood Paving and there is a total of 3600 yards of paving to do the whole area. The borough would have to contact Youngblood and pay the bill and the gas company would reimburse us for half of the cost. We will need to advertise for bids with PennDot specs and if the cost is over \$300,000 we will not be able to do the paving. He will contact PennDot to get the specifications and a request for bids ad will be placed in the paper.

Mr. Bovalino – none but since he had to leave early, he was thanked for all of his service during his time as solicitor for our borough.

New Business

Mrs. Sepp – none

Mrs. McNeely reported on a free service for municipalities using inmates from the county jail who have to do community service. We would have to provide information regarding how many days the inmates would be needed and the type of work they would be doing. She will get the information from Mr. Little and scan it to the service provider.

Mr. Kosanovich reported that the chipper shredder will be delivered sometime this month.
Mr. Little – none

Mr. Heaton asked if the park shelters are going to be rented out this summer. Due to the COVID pandemic, it was decided that there will be no rentals this year.

Ms. Harker discussed the problem with the dogs using the fire hall parking lot as a bathroom area and the owners are not cleaning it up.

The July bills were reviewed by Mrs. Lansberry. Mrs. Sepp moved to pay the borough bills and was seconded by Mrs. McNeely. The motion carried.

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

Mrs. McNeely moved to adjourn at 8:15 pm; seconded by Mrs. Sepp with unanimous approval.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Lansberry