

Regular Meeting Minutes
September 9, 2021

President Bill Heaton called the meeting to order. All members were present including Mayor Farkas. The August minutes were approved unanimously by a Harris/Little motion. The Officers reports were approved unanimously by a Harker/McNeely motion.

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

Mr. Richard Pegg, 3812 High Street Ext, had the same complaint aired by Brent Robison last month. He has complained about the drainage from his neighbor's property for the last four years and no solution as ever been reached. As explained by our former solicitor, this is an issue between the property owners, and council cannot really do anything about it. Mr. Budicak, our current solicitor, read a letter sent by Mr. Bovalino to the owner. Mr. Pegg feels that there is a borough ordinance that deals with this and he wants answers as to why the borough is not doing anything to resolve the issue. Mr. Heaton will look at the ordinances, and see if there is anything that we can do since the drainage from the neighbor's property is now damaging his garage. Mr. Pegg will go the state if nothing is done to rectify this.

Elaine Civolti from Town Square Real Estate provided council with some print-outs of Sensibility Soaps property, owned by Tom and Lynn Betz which is up for sale. She listed the price, many amenities of the building and asked council to think about what type of business they might like to have purchase the building. The Betz's have always been happy with their treatment by the borough but the time to sell has arrived and they would like to see someone in the building who will continue to take care of it the way they did.

Mrs. Wanda Horvath, 3741 West 5th Avenue was extremely upset that borough residents were not warned of the spraying and tree trimming contracted by Duquesne Light. She was told that both the secretary and president of council were called that this was being done. Mrs. Lansberry replied that she was told the company doing the trimming would notify residents. She was concerned because there are a number of cancer patients who definitely should have been told as this may affect their health. Regardless that the company said they would notify residents, she felt that the borough had an obligation to let them know for their safety. She also complained about the high vegetation and abandoned cars on the Sulli property (formerly the foundry) and demanded that something be done about it. The zoning officer needs to be involved and get this taken care of. Mr. Heaton responded that the box truck on the property is being used for storage and one car is gone. They will take care of this as soon as they can. She also asked why there was no newsletter. That is in the works and should be mailed out soon.

Nora Soos, 102 37th Street had a complaint about being asked to leave the shelter at the park they had rented for a graduation party at 8 pm. The signs in the park say that it is open until 10 p.m. Mr. Little explained that the contract states rentals are until 8 pm so that they can be cleaned up and closed. She asked why the fire department was renting out the shelters since the park is owned by the borough. The borough turned it over to the fire department so they could earn some money. She also complained that people are being told they cannot use the ballfields for pickup games during a party. The only field that is not to be used is the first field (the pony league field). All other fields can be used. We will talk with the coaches to make sure that this is taken care of.

Mr. Mark May, 118 Coolidge Street wanted to know what decision was made for Wilson Avenue. This will be taken care of during old business.

Cheryl Sudano, 3782 West 5th Avenue thanked council for all the work that was done by the street department employees on West 5th Ave. There was a question about what was going to be done with the drainage problem on Craig Alley (Craig Street). That issue will be discussed during old business.

With no other residents present Mr. Harris moved to return to the regular order of business and was seconded by Mr. Little. The motion passed.

Old Business

Police and Fire – Ms. Harker reported that certified letters have been sent out by the police department to the owners of the abandoned vehicles and they have been tagged. The vehicles on West 4th Avenue have already been moved.

Steve Cable will be cutting down the trees at the park (if there are no more storms) next week – the 3 pine trees by the time capsule and the tree at shelter 2.

Parks and Playground – Mrs. Sepp had a bid from Glass Block Pro to replace the windows at the park for \$1500. Glass block windows can be purchased at Home Depot and we could do the work ourselves for less money.

Sewers and Sanitation - Mr. Kosanovich – none but he reported Mr. Heaton donated a wooden train which will be used for collection of recycling. They train cars will be labeled for cans, bottles, cardboard and paper and will be on camera. There was no cost involved for the borough. This will allow residents to recycle anytime and there will be no more second Saturday collections.

Ordinances - none

Buildings and Equipment – Mr. Harris – none

Streets, Lighting and Bridges – Mr. Little reported that the drainage line on West 5th Avenue had been completed. Wilson Avenue has been all cleared out, cut brush and high grass. All we have to do now is decide if we are going to open it the whole way to Railroad. Following a discussion, it was decided the best way to proceed is to open it the entire way and that will allow ample room for emergency vehicles. Mr. Little moved to open Wilson Avenue all the way to Railroad Street and was seconded by Mrs. Sepp. A roll-call vote passed the motion as follows: Ms. Harker – yes; Mrs. Sepp – yes; Mr. Kosanovich – yes; Mr. Harris – yes; Mr. Little – yes; Mrs. McNeely – yes; and Mr. Heaton – yes.

Finance & Litigation - Mrs. McNeely - none

Mayor Farkas – none

Mr. Budicak – none

Mr. Heaton reported that he and Mr. Kosanovich met with Youngblood Paving and marked and highlighted all of the roads that were to be included in the paving contract. They will meet again tomorrow to finalize and will probably begin paving on Monday. Youngblood will notify the residents of the streets and the project should be completed within a week.

Mr. Heaton also reported that the logging company cutting trees on Patterson Avenue had completed their job and there was no damage done to borough roads or property. The company had provided a bond to cover any damages that might have occurred.

The relining of the sewer lines is considered critical infrastructure and will allow us to use the COVID grant money for those repairs. We are considering relining 4 streets from manhole to manhole and will do some videoing of additional areas if there is money remaining.

New Business

Police & Fire – Ms. Harker reported that someone has been dumping propane tanks over the hill at Boyd and Railroad. This was discovered when cleaning up for opening Wilson Avenue. The road crew will remove the tanks.

Parks & Playground – Mrs. Sepp discussed the contract with Mr. Emge for the use of the borough ball fields. He does not pay us anything for the use of our fields but he pays \$500 a weekend to Chippewa for the use of their fields and he has to submit the dates in advance. We should be thinking of all of this when we renegotiate the contract at the end of this year.

She also spoke with Mr. Long from Duquesne Light and all the LED lights have been changed in our street lights. There is no charge to add additional lights and she suggested some on West 4th and one on Brook Street also. She will get the information to Mr. Long.

Sewers & Sanitation- Mr. Kosanovich - none

Ordinances – Mr. Kosanovich discussed the concerns regarding vandalism at the park. He has been researching other municipalities' ordinances and is reworking them to propose a new ordinance for us. This will include curfew, signs, pets and pet waste removal as well as fines and penalties. The application for street openings is also be updated and at least half of the street would have to be repaved and 45 day notice given by utility companies if they plan to open any of our streets.

Grounds and Equipment – Mr. Harris contacted the camera company regarding our broken cameras and they are short-handed and extremely. Will get to us as soon as they can. Mr. Heaton had researched some different types of cameras that could also be used at our park and they are much more reasonable. An 8 pack runs about \$240 but would require a new monitor as well. Mrs. Sepp moved to purchase an 8 camera system spending up to \$500 and was seconded by Mrs. McNeely. A roll-call vote passed the motion as follows: Mr. Harker – yes; Mrs. Sepp – yes; Mr. Kosanovich – yes; Mr. Harris – yes; Mr. Little – yes; Mrs. McNeely – yes and Mr. Heaton – yes.

Streets, Lighting & Bridges – Mr. Little reported that there are big stones against the alley between West 5th and West 6th Street (3724 West 6th). The owners of the property, the Mussers, have given written permission for the borough to remove the stones to provide better access to the alley. The bucket truck needs a converter for about \$150 to be up and running and the pick-up truck will be up and running in a couple of weeks. The salt boxes and plows are ready but a chain is needed for the salt box. He will bring some prices to the next meeting.

Finance & Litigation – Mrs. McNeely - none

Mayor Farkas noted that while riding around the borough he saw a lot of high grass on properties and cars parked going the wrong way. We do try to take care of every issue that is reported, but our code enforcement officer does not go around the borough looking for violations. Please be sure to call and report any violation so that it can be addressed.

Mr. Heaton would like to have a clean-up day where residents can volunteer to go around the borough and help clean up the trash that has been dumped along the side of the road, etc.

Mr. Budicak – reviewed the resolution for No Parking on High Street. Mr. Harris moved to enact the resolution and was seconded by Mr. Little. The motion passed unanimously. Signs will be installed.

Mr. Heaton reported that it is National Preparedness month. There is information on our website for anyone who is interested.

He also addressed the drainage problem on Craig Alley (Craig Street). He spoke with AJ from Tru Plumbing about the issue. For \$5600 he would be able to install a couple of basins and 26 ft. of 8 inch double wall pipe. We should clean out the basins and make sure water flows through. He would want ½ of the \$5600 at the beginning of the job and the remainder when the job is complete. Mr. Little move to accept the bid of \$5600 from Tru Plumbing to fix the drainage problem and was seconded by Mrs. Sepp. A roll-call vote passed the motion as follows: Ms. Harker – yes; Mrs. Sepp – yes; Mr. Kosanovich – yes; Mr. Harris – yes; Mr. Little – yes; Mrs. McNeely – yes; and Mr. Heaton – yes.

The sewer line by the Christian School to Jean Street was clogged and he had to call Robinson Pipe to clean it out. There is a pipe fractured below the playground.

The police department was given a list of the width of all the streets in the borough along with a copy of the ordinance regarding inoperable and abandoned cars. There should be no more confusion regarding this.

The September bills were presented to council and Mr. Little moved to pay the borough bills seconded by Mrs. McNeely. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Harker moved to ratify all purchases made by committees and was seconded by Mr. Harris. The motion passed all yeas.

With no further business to discuss Mr. Little moved for adjournment at 8:45 p.m., seconded by Mr. Harris. The motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Lansberry
Borough Secretary