

Regular Meeting Minutes
April 14, 2022

President Lou Little called the meeting to order. All council members were present except for Mrs. McNeely. A Heaton/Sepp motion approved the March meeting minutes. The officers' reports were approved by a Harker/Sepp motion.

Mr. Little asked for nominations to fill the vacancy left by Monica Sepp's resignation. Mr. Heaton moved to appoint Eli Kosanovich for the vacancy, seconded by Ms. Harker. Mr. Sepp moved to appoint Jake Tate for the vacancy and was seconded by Mr. Seybert. There were no other nominations. The following are the roll-call votes: For Mr. Kosanovich – Mr. Heaton – yes; Mr. Sepp – no; Ms. Harker – yes; Mr. Seybert – no; and Mr. Little – yes;

For Mr. Tate – Mr. Heaton – no; Mr. Sepp – yes; Ms. Harker – no; Mr. Seybert – yes; and Mr. Little – no.

Mr. Kosanovich was appointed to fill Mrs. Sepp's vacancy and was sworn in by Mayor Licia Cogley.

Because Mrs. Sepp held the vice presidency at the time of her resignation, Mr. Little asked for nominations to replace the vice president. Mr. Little moved to appoint Mr. Heaton as vice president and was seconded by Ms. Harker. With no other nominations a roll-call vote appointed Mr. Heaton as follows: Mr. Sepp – yes; Ms. Harker – yes; Mr. Seybert – yes; Mr. Kosanovich – yes; and Mr. Little – yes.

Ms. Harker moved to listen to citizen comments and was seconded by Mr. Sepp. The motion passed all in favor.

Brian Covalt, 101 Boyd Avenue has been struggling for two years with trains stopping at Standard Steel. They are doing crew changes without permission at Standard Steel, idling for hours which emits diesel fumes and they are blowing their horns in the middle of the night. He has complained to Norfolk & Southern but has had no results. There are other places with crossings that can't be blocked and there is no reason for them to sit at the position they have taken. He would like to see if the borough can initiate a quiet zone permit from the FRA for horn blowing & idling. Mr. Heaton will follow up with Norfolk & Southern Police in Atlanta in support of Mr. Covalt's complaint.

Joann Smith, 800 W 38th Street again brought to council's attention the garbage not being picked up on W 38th Street across from her house. There is construction debris laying on the road as well as trash overflowing the cans. Mr. Lemmon explained that the property is in the process of being sold and he is in contact with the buyer. The closing will be in early May. He had been in contact with the property management company being used by the current owners with little success. He expects much better cooperation with the new owners. Ms. Harker brought up that multiple unit dwellings are required by ordinance to construct an enclosure around trash cans.

Jake Tate, 335 Brook Street brought a problem to council attention. There is a tree on the left hand side of Ross Avenue that causes a problem when bus drivers make a left turn. They go onto a person's property and this property owner has put down some concrete to prevent them from going on his property. The property is jagged and could cause some damage. This concrete that was placed might be on borough right of way. Ms. Harker will check into this. If the property owner has a survey, this will show his property line.

Mr. Daniel Muir, owner of the former Christian School at 3601 Short Street brought a written description of his plans for the solicitor to review to see what the next steps should be.

With no other citizens wishing to comment, Mr. Heaton moved to return to the regular order of business, seconded by Ms. Harker and approved unanimously.

Old Business

Mr. Little asked the chief of police and zoning officer if they had anything to report. Chief Johnson commented on issues brought up at the March meeting. The parking on W 10th Avenue has been taken care of. The only streets in the borough with weight restrictions are West 3rd Avenue and Boden Street. In order to do anything about truck traffic on borough streets, other streets would need signs as well. As for truck

traffic on West 4th Avenue, there is no problem with trucks to be diverted onto Route 18 from 376 and turning onto 37th Street Ext. at Sheets.

Mr. Lemmon is continuing to follow up on previous issues.

Streets, Lighting & Bridges– Ms. Harker – still working on potholes. The tree in front of the borough building fell over by itself so there is no need to get bids for cutting it down.

Bill Sepp reported that all council members were called to approve the purchase of a 2005 GMC truck for \$6500. Our GMC truck has been out of commission for a while because we were unable to locate parts for the repair. GMC has quit manufacturing parts for older vehicles. The approval was unanimous. The parts truck is stored in the building.

Buildings and Grounds – Mr. Sepp is working with the chief of police to cut down on 4th Avenue truck traffic. Signs need to be purchased and installed stating that “This is not a GPS Route”.

The lower panel garage door seal and sides needs to be redone. He will get bids for the cost of the repair.

Fire & Police – Ms. Harker – The ISO insurance inspection has been complete and the fire department received a rating of 6. In order to get a higher rating you must have paid fire fighters. The borough needs to adopt an international fire code and adopt an ordinance for it.

The park will open on May 1 and shelter rentals will begin on June 1. Shelter 1 will be used strictly for rentals.

Sewers and Sanitation Mr. Heaton – no further bids have been received for the manhole on Ann Street. That repair will be put on hold due to other pressing issues.

The resident on Jean Street will have to repair the pipe on their property before any further repairs can be made.

The line on Harbison and Jean is blocked half way up and has to be dug up.

The sink hole has to have something done to it. Water is running down the side of the road and there is nothing in the catch basin. Digging a ditch and putting gravel down was discussed; check to see if a joint in the pipe elbow is broken; piping it down to the last outfall. Wendy and Jeff will check it out.

Finance & Litigation – Mrs. McNeely – none (excused absence)

Parks & Recreation – Jim Brooks is working on the plaques at the monument. Jeff suggested reaching out to Steckmans or Home Depot to see if they will make slabs to put down.

Ordinance – Mr. Seybert – none

Mayor Cogley – none

Solicitor Budicak – none

Mr. Little – Team Fisher has been informed that there will be no dumping permitted at the end of West 8th Avenue. He asked if they would be willing to contribute to repaving the damage caused by their trucks and they refused.

The issue on Craig Street (Craig Alley) has to be resolved. There is a pipe coming straight out onto the road at Fosnaughts house. That has to be dealt with.

New Business

Streets, Lighting & Bridges – Ms. Harker – Neighborhood Watch has complained about the bridge at the foot of 37th Street Extension. There is a steel plate in place, but there are other holes in the concrete and you can see down to the train tracks below. This bridge is on a state-owned road and it is not the borough’s responsibility. It is our understanding that the bridge should be maintained by the railroad. We will have someone look into that.

There are trees down at the park near the road. The little yellow light on the pick-up truck needs replaced.

Buildings & Grounds – Mr. Sepp – he is working on handicap accessibility for the building; handicap sign for parking; bars or arms to pull down for the toilets.

He also asked about an ordinance book. Mr. Kosanovich sent him a CD with the ordinances as we have them. They are in need of being updated but that is for a later time.

He also asked about the employee handbook. That should have been signed by the employees as soon as it was approved. Mrs. Lansberry will email the handbook to him.

There should be a light switch outside of council chamber doors. The light switch now is located by the front entry door and there is also one outside of the secretary's office. In order to get to the garage or the secretary's office, you have to walk in a dark hallway.

The side door is rotted out. Does it have to be replaced by a fire proof door? Mrs. Lansberry will contact the insurance company to find out.

The Bobcat needs brushes and he will get prices on what that will cost.

He spoke to PTC Alliance about the truck traffic on West 4th Avenue. Their dispatcher will reroute the trucks delivering to their facility. PCT is also willing to weigh our trucks if we need a weight and they will donate any pipe that we may need. Mr. Sepp will talk to Standard Steel about the trucks that deliver to them. Mr. Sepp told council that our batteries are being used up and suggested that we get battery tenders to save on the battery life. They cost \$40-\$60 each and we need six of them. Mr. Sepp moved to buy all six at a cost of up to \$400 and was seconded by Mr. Seybert. The motion passed all in favor.

The gages on the 2006 GMC need to be replaced. It will cost \$80 to \$90 to rebuild.

The machinery needs led lights so that when the employees are on the roads they can be seen. LED lights can be purchased at Rural King or Tractor Supply – square light bars run \$60 to \$80 each and two are needed. The employees also need fluorescent green shirts for safety reasons. Mr. Little will get the shirts. Mr. Sepp suggested that we contact PMAC about donating property to us for very specific use. He will give the contact information to Mr. Budicak.

He would also like to thank Mr. Brian McNeely for locating the GMC truck that was purchased for parts and towing it from Mercer.

Fire & Police – Ms. Harker – none

Sewers & Sanitation – Mr. Heaton discussed the sewer problem on 37th Street Ext. They had to do an emergency dig and obtain an emergency permit from PennDot because it is a state owned road. A 4 foot by 20 foot hole was dug, down 6 feet to a 16 inch pipe. The pipe was collapsed; they had to dig 4 more holes to make the repairs. All pipes are patched and blockages were removed. There was 130-140 feet not cameraed. They jetted from bottom to top. The road will be cold patched on Friday and the road should open by the end of the day. He estimates the cost of the 1st hole to be around \$25 to \$30 thousand and the final cost to be \$50 thousand or more. Signs also had to be ordered (road work ahead and detour signs).

Mr. Heaton recommends relining from the manhole up 650 feet. It will cost about \$25 thousand for lining, \$3-\$4 thousand for video; and \$425 per hour (approximately 4 hours of work). Ms. Harker moved to reline the pipes from the manhole on 37th Street Ext. up 650 feet for approximately \$30,000, not including traffic control, permits and special licensing fees. Mr. Seybert seconded the motion that passed by roll-call vote as follows: Mr. Heaton – yes; Mr. Sepp – yes; Ms. Harker – yes; Mr. Kosanovich – yes; Mr. Seybert – yes and Mr. Little – yes. Mr. Heaton asked Mr. Kevin Farkas to post on our website that baby wipes are not to be flushed even if they are flushable. The main cause of the blockage was tree roots but baby wipes were also removed from the pipes. The trees on 37th Street between the monument and West 4th Avenue need to be removed and possibly the sidewalk.

PennDot recommended patching from berm to berm and 15 feet above and below. They also recommend waiting at least 3 months to allow for settling. We may have to replace more than anticipated because we had to dig more than one hole to make the repairs. Mr. Kosanovich mentioned checking into the Agility Program offered by PennDot to see if we can reach some type of agreement to share plowing and salting in exchange for repaving the road.

Mayfield Village is replacing the sidewalk where new pipe was installed and it should be 4 inches thick.

Parks & Recreation –

Ordinance – none

Finance & Litigation — none

Mr. Little – A powerline got pulled out and the resident wants us to pay for his microwave. The borough is not responsible because it is not their line and we were not the cause.

Mayor - none

Mr. Budicak - none

Ms. Harker moved to pay the borough bills as presented on the bill list and was seconded by Mr. Sepp. The motion carried.

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

Ms. Harker moved to adjourn at 8:40 pm; seconded by Mr. Sepp with unanimous approval.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Lansberry
Borough Secretary