

Regular Meeting Minutes
April 13, 2023

President Lou Little called the meeting to order. Michelle McNeely was excused. All other members were present.

At this time the bids for the paving projects were opened. Only one bid was received and it was from Youngblood Paving in the amount of \$93,204.48. Mr. Heaton asked to review the bid prior to making a decision to accept.

A Tate/Seybert motion approved the March meeting minutes.

A Harker/Seybert motion approved the officers' reports.

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

Jim Toy, 207 Patterson Avenue who is a life-long resident of the borough had a complaint about cars doing donuts after dark in the ballfield parking lot. His house is across the street from the parking lot and the gravel is being thrown onto his residence and the house next door which he also owns. There has been damage to his vehicles and garage doors. The neighbor on the other side of his house has also had damage to her car. This is happening on a weekly basis. He has requested some jersey barriers be installed in the parking lot on the Patterson Avenue side and also requested that the large stone be replaced with smaller gravel. Mr. Toy is going to add security cameras on his property to try to get the people on camera. Jake explained that when the contractors were doing work in the area they disrupted the smaller aggregate that had been in place. All of the smaller aggregate was donated and it will be distributed in the lot. Wendy will go down tomorrow.

Cheryl Meador, 3606 Craig Street wanted to know if anything could be done with the alley that washes away every time it rains. Their garage is on the alley and if they take their bikes out, it could cause an accident. It was discussed that they could maybe put 2A limestone on it, mill it or patch it. Wendy will check it out to see what might be done.

Jan Berry, 1015 High Street wanted information on the Mayfield Village incident a week ago. She questioned why the residents weren't notified and they had to hear it from other people. The police chief responded that there was a press statement issued and council was notified. There were 8 gunshots fired and it was an argument. Neighborhood cameras were used to detect and the incident is still under investigation. There were no firearms found in the woods. One arrest has been made and a suspect is in mind. The chief stressed that there is no danger to the public. Six search warrants have been issued and they are working diligently but they want to assure that there is a successful prosecution.

There has been a great deal of traffic on High Street at 2, 3 or 4 in the morning. Is this drug related and related to the incident. The chief can't answer that but will definitely check into this concern. He recommends that you call the police with any concern and they will respond. All borough ordinances are enforced if phone calls are received.

Linda Burns 1010 High Street lives three doors away from where the incident occurred. Jake reiterated the chief's response and that council can't do anything for police matters. She also said that the 15 mph speed limit on High Street is not being adhered to. There are a number of children in the neighborhood and she is afraid that someone is going to get hurt. The chief explained that it is difficult to control speeding. He plans on putting the digital sign that is used on 37th Street on High

Street. She also said that it is the people living in Mayfield Village who are speeding. Jake suggested that she talk to the neighbors and work together to police area. Document what you find and then call the police. He also said to voice their concerns to BAR (the owners). He will reach out to their secretary, Patty with their concerns.

Kevin Farkas, webmaster asked if a new contract for Park Shelter Rentals had been written yet. He needs to have a copy to put on the website as soon as possible. He also asked if council members would like to have personalized mailboxes for email. He will set them up and let members know when they are ready.

Paul O'Hara, 3619 Short Street had a complaint about a maintenance worker's use of the zero turn. They will talk to the worker about it.

Kathy Brewer, 3628 Matilda Street had more complaints regarding the neighbor across the street who had been told that the house had to be cleaned up. The porch is still full of stuff and it looks like a metal scrapyard. Chris will go and take care of it.

Bob Tate, 3631 Ann Street reported that a Zoning Hearing Board meeting had been scheduled for May 18th to review the variance request from Daniel Muir, owner of the former Christian School on Short Street. The board had an organizational meeting and Mr. Tate is the chairperson. The board is in need of an alternate member in the event that one of the board members cannot attend a hearing. Tina Lampus volunteered to be the alternate member.

Brian Covalt, 101 Boyd Avenue remarked that the park was in terrible condition and asked if we were going to get caught up with removing the branches that are all over the park. He also remarked that the borough was sitting on money in their account that could be used to take care of the park. He mentioned Green Valley Park and how beautiful it was and they had received grants. Mrs. Lansberry explained that the borough is not sitting on money in their account. We are required to have some money in reserve for emergencies and also, if the borough has three years where expenditures are more than revenues received, the state will come in and investigate. We have only so much money coming in as revenue and with everything costing more now, the expenditures cannot be met with the money coming in. We have tried not to increase taxes for our borough but we may not have any recourse. Jake also told Mr. Covalt that he is now in charge of the park and was given \$20,000 to use this year. He plans on making some changes at the park for sure. He also said that getting a grant is not something that is easy to achieve. You can certainly apply for a grant but there is a lottery to receive it.

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

Streets & Bridges – Ms. Harker - road bids. Mr. Heaton reviewed the road bids and the streets listed for the amount of \$93,204.48. We had discussed spending up to \$106,000 which was the estimate given to us by Widmer Engineering. He asked if we could add to the bid without having to rebid the entire bid. He will check with PennDot to see what they say. Mr. Tate moved to accept the bid from Youngblood Paving with added condition of increasing the amount up to \$106,000. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kosanovich and approved by a roll-call vote as follows: Mr. Heaton – yes; Ms. Harker – yes; Mr. Kosanovich – yes; Mr. Seybert – yes; Mr. Tate – yes and Mr. Little – yes.

Fire & Police – none

Buildings, Grounds & Equipment – Mr. Kosanovich – has anything been decided about naming the ball fields? Kip was supposed to be at the meeting tonight to discuss baseball so he will go and talk to him and have something to report at next month's meeting or have Kip at the meeting. The lightbulb in council chambers is still flickering and should be fixed. Also someone should think about writing a newsletter for the borough. This hasn't been written since Monica resigned. The current 2022 audit requested for the small water grant was sent in.

Sewers & Sanitation – Mr. Heaton – there are no current issues being dealt with right now.

The PennDot representative said all we would have to do is paint the lines back on 37th Street and they would close out the contract. There is a 2-year life cycle so if there are any issues we will be responsible for taking care of them.

MS4 project – stream bank restoration 261 ft. on both sides; 50 feet on each side and 35 feet out should be tapered. This should be done by year end but probably won't be. A permit is required. They won't accept armoring for MS4 but we are permitted to armor. We will be told what to plant when the job is done. There will be requirements that haven't been given to us by DEP.

The Brook Street project requires a different permit from the MS4 and there is no charge for the permit but we have to have an engineering study done. Ms. Harker moved to contact Widmer to do an engineering study for the Brook Street project and was seconded by Mr. Kosanovich. The motion passed all in favor.

The 100-700 Emergency Management still needs to be completed by Michelle and Jeff. Bill is still available to help them get logged in.

The closing of Lenore Alley has been approved. It will be closed down from Orosz property to the last house at the bottom of the alley. The ditch coming down will have to be maintained to keep the water from flowing into other peoples' yards. The residents at the top of the alley will have to put their garbage in front on Ann Street and the house at the bottom of the hill will have to put garbage on 37th Street. The work will be done when we have 2 employees to do it.

Ordinance – Mr. Seybert – none

Parks & Recreation – Mr. Tate – The Easter Egg Hunt was wet, but fun and more people are getting involved with the Centennial Committee. Clean up day is set for April 22 (Earth Day) at the park, West 4th, Rock Ave and Glade. We should call Valley Waste to see if they would provide a dumpster. If that isn't possible, Jake will leave a dump truck and get rid of the trash himself.

He would like to see moving on the park camera system and have it linked into the kitchen shelter. He also needs keys to all the buildings so that the electrical work that needs to be done can be assessed.

Fishels are done with the construction work on Patterson Avenue so gravel can be spread out in the parking lots.

Mayor Cogley – There are a lot of volunteers for Earth Day – the baseball teams will be helping out at the park, the Barkfelt family is taking care of Rock Ave and the mayor and Dacko's are doing 37th Street. The Barkfelts are donating trash bags for Hayden to pick up.

Mr. Budicak – none

Mr. Little – spoke with Kip about the ballfields. He is concerned about the grass cutting. If the borough can't do it they will have to hire someone. The water lines have been fixed and the bathrooms are working. We should have a paper trail about money coming in. The time capsules

need to be dug up and Mr. Toy has provided pictures. Once they have been retrieved we need to lock them up so no one can get into them.

New Business

Streets & Bridges - Ms. Harker we need to hire a new employee. There are resumes that will be reviewed and the Finance & Litigation Committee and Mr. Little will call candidates for interviews. The borough's chain saw is 17 years old and needs to be replaced. It is too costly to repair. After some discussion, Mr. Kosanovich moved to allow the purchase of a commercial grade chain saw and was seconded by Mr. Seybert. The motion passed all in favor. The boom mower is being repaired. Permission is not needed to put No Hunting signs in the park – one at the beginning, one in the middle and one at the end.

Fire & Police – the four firefighters who were there have to have bloodwork, urine tests and physicals every month. There is a lot of paperwork involved.

Buildings, Grounds & Equipment - Mr. Kosanovich – 3 truckloads of salt have to be purchased through Costars.

The employee handbook changes need to be discussed and voted upon. The changes are that comp time will no longer exist – any overtime will be paid and after 3 years of employment vacation time will be 2 years.

There was a discussion regarding the hiring of a new employee. If we are unable to hire a qualified operator we will have to hire a second laborer. We would have to pay a little more to get someone qualified. Mr. Heaton moved to authorize a salary of \$20 for a candidate qualified as an operator. Mr. Tate seconded the motion that passed all in favor.

Sewers & Sanitation - Mr. Heaton – John Percic who lives on 37th Street Extension has water that is coming down from Mayfield Village and flooding his yard. There is a pipe out of the ground that is running out. There was some discussion as to the best way to fix the problem and if it is a storm drain on Bar Residential property. His committee will take a look at it

He had a complaint about garbage on West 7th Avenue in the back being strewn all over the place.

He told Chris about it, Chris tagged the door and it's all cleaned up now.

He also had a call about a tree on Sand Alley & Matilda. Wendy will take a look at it.

He asked Wendy to put basins on Boyd, Brook and Cottage on the list for the employee to take care of.

Emergency Management – the emergency management trailer was always locked and he found it unlocked. He found cords that were in the trailer in the parts truck, gas cans, cords and a ceramic heater missing from the trailer. He needed the cord to provide a generator to a lady needing oxygen during the power outage that the borough experienced. Directions need to be posted for the generator that supplies the building.

Ordinance – none

Parks & Recreation- Mr. Tate – There was some concern about overnight parking at the park. He will talk with Chris and get with Joe to see if something can be done. He also should check out the property on Rock Avenue

The signs at the entrances to the borough are in need of replacement. There was no decision made as to the type of signs to be installed at this point, but Mr. Tate moved to replace the entrance signs and was seconded by Mr. Seybert. The motion carried.

Someone put ruts in the park and the ruts need to be raked, filled with topsoil and have grass planted. Grass seed was put in the ruts but that was all that was done – nothing else was taken care of. The tree needs to be replaced.

Mayor Cogley – none

Mr. Little – none

Mr. Budicak - none

Mr. Tate moved to pay the bills listed on the bill list and was seconded by Mr. Seybert. The motion carried.

Mr. Tate moved to ratify purchases made by committees and was seconded by Mr. Seybert. The motion carried.

Mr. Tate moved to adjourn at 9:47 pm; seconded by Mr. Kosanovich with unanimous approval.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Lansberry
Borough Secretary