

Regular Meeting Minutes
July 13, 2023

President Lou Little called the meeting to order. Mr. Kosanovich and Mrs. Lansberry were excused and Mr. Seybert will be arriving late. All other members were present.

A Harker/McNeely motion approved the June meeting minutes.
A Harker/McNeely motion approved the officers' reports.

Correspondence – a resignation letter from Mr. Chris Lemmon, code enforcement officer was read and accepted. We will need to advertise for a new code enforcement officer. Mr. Kosanovich had Mr. Heaton relay to council that as a constable he would be able to enforce some codes until someone was hired.

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

Bob Tate, 3631 Ann Street, offered to act as an interim code enforcement officer until someone was hired and the fact that he has spent many years in the construction industry, he is qualified to issue permits also. Following a brief discussion, Mr. Heaton moved to appoint Mr. Tate as interim code enforcement officer and was seconded by Mrs. McNeely. The motion passed all in favor.

Nora Soos, 102 37th Street Extension was down at the park walking her son's dog between shelter 2 & shelter three. Both borough employees were on zero turns cutting the grass. Hayden was flying, not only cutting the grass but on the road as well while the younger guy was taking his time cutting the grass. Hayden also took both hands off the mower and was still flying. He hit a big rock with the mower. There was also another incident with Hayden when she was at the park on 37th Street. He was in the borough truck and flying up the hill at least doing 40 to 45 miles an hour. Mr. Little asked what days these incidents occurred and it was just two days ago. These are not the only complaints that have been received concerning Hayden's speeding along borough roads. He was also seen along with family members with the lawn mower in the creek. She has pictures of the berms of the roads that used to be taken care of by the borough but haven't been for a while. On Pine Street, heading up toward Beresford's house, you can't even see the stop sign. There is also a problem on West 4th Avenue where you can't even see the fence. Mr. Heaton brought up the fact that our boom mower needs repaired and this is why the berms of the roads have not been taken care of. Mrs. McNeely stated that the boom mower has been broken for over a year and her husband Brian has repaired the mower before and would be willing to repair it again. Mr. Heaton mentioned that Jeffrey asked for a certified mechanic be called to repair the mower and council had agreed to look for one. Wendy checked into renting a boom mower and the cost is \$8,000.00 per month. She told council that the fire department would be paying for the repair of the boom mower.

Regarding employee complaints, Ms. Harker said there is a list of jobs daily that need to be done and if Hayden goes anywhere she is informed. Mr. Budicak reminded council that there are steps to be followed regarding employee complaints in the handbook – verbal warning, written warning, and termination. Mr. Little said verbal warnings have been given. In that case, Hayden needs to be written up.

Brian Covalt, 101 Boyd Avenue complained about his name being given to Hayden and also about seeing him at Orams donuts during work hours in borough truck.

Chrissy Barkfelt, 1015 37th Street Ext. say both borough workers were painting slow on Rock avenue with no vests, cones or safety equipment. They were almost hit by a vehicle running a stop sign and speeding by. More discussion and complaints continued. Michelle said that the new worker needs to be taught and if he is taught properly he will be a good worker. Someone has to supervise these guys. She also said the Mr. Bathgate cut down all the bushes on Rock from the stop sign on 37th Street.

Ray Evans – 2909 12th Avenue Rear Beaver Falls – explained safety courses from PennDot for workers. Jake Tate stated the need for signs and that they should be kept in the truck. They need to wear vests and have been provided with clothes.

Bob Tate – 3631 Ann Street was able to find a bench in Florida to replace Mr. Wiltrout's broken one for \$200.00. Jake bought the bench back. Part of the cement slab that holds the bench will have to be repaired.

He told council that the trees that fell on 37th Street were not from his property but were on borough property. There are more that are ready to fall. Lou will call Steve's trees to take care of them.

Bob's trash was not picked up on Monday and he called Aiken. She said that his bill wasn't paid and he never received any bills. He called on July 10 and got a letter the next day with the due date as July 20 crossed out with magic marker. Mr. Budicak said that he will check the contract and that there seems to be a problem with Aiken's billing and we should be able to get out of the contract. He will report next month. He said to wait until August to do anything. Jake asked if we could just go back to Valley and see if they would honor their bid rather than us having to rebid again. Michelle spoke with Aiken on July 12th and was told that 111 residents had their pick up suspended due to non-payment of their accounts. She also offered to go to Valley to talk with them.

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

Old Business

Buildings, Grounds & Equipment – Mr. Kosanovich discussed the purchase of chain saws and had obtained some more prices for saws that were better suited to our needs. He obtained prices for a Husquevarna from Sawsalvage Co. at \$1169.99 and D & G Rent-Alls for 1178.99. Mr. Tate moved to authorize the purchase of the Husky for \$1169.99 and was seconded by Mrs. McNeely. The motion passed all in favor. Mr. Kosanovich recommended buying 43 octane zero ethanol to operate the saw.

In reference to the drainage problem at Mayfield Village he recommended big stones to fill the holes and standard rif-raf at \$35-40 per ton. Mr. Tate recommended 6 tons to do the job. A motion to permit Mr. Kosanovich the authority to purchase the stone was made by Mrs. McNeely. Mr. Tate seconded the motion that passed all in favor. Upper High Street can be used to put the stone. Mr. Tate is doing the job next week and will place the PA One Call.

Sewers & Sanitation – Mr. Heaton – paving - Friday at 3 he will do a walk around with Youngblood. He only had one bid for fixing 43rd Street. It was suggested that he call Fryer Excavating by Spotlight 88. They do good work. He doesn't want to pave 43rd because of that and Youngblood said we could change that to a different road. To put a speed hump in there are things that have to be done prior to that according to PennDot rep that they met with. There would not have to be a traffic study done because everything was discussed with the PennDot engineer that

they met with. The speed hump costs \$3,000 to \$5,000 and there are lots of stipulations that have to be followed. He suggested maybe paving Rock instead of 43rd. There is a special paint sold at Sherwin Williams that is more visible and he would like to have STOP painted on Rock with that. Michelle talked about moving the stop sign coming up instead of down but that would be a problem in the winter. Chrissy Barkfelt asked to have the stop sign by Theresa Goes' house moved up at least 10 feet to where it used to be. We will look into that. Kevin Farkas talked about various calming devices that would help this situation. There are humps, pillows, etc. Perhaps the use of oversized stop signs would also be effective not only on Rock Ave but also High Street where other complaints have been made. He did a mock-up and put it on the website with the various devices. He suggested that everyone look at that and try to determine what would work best. Various roads were discussed to look at. There was a problem on Schutte Drive that was paved last year and it is starting to crack. He would like to know if there is something we can do to prevent that and what we can do to fix it. Bill would like permission to move the money from 43rd Street to a different street on the list. Ms. Harker moved to give permission to Mr. Heaton to pave a different road instead of 43rd Street.. Mrs. McNeely seconded the motion that passed all in favor.

He got called out a couple Sundays in a row at 730 in the morning with sewer issues and had to call out Robinson Pipe Cleaning to clean them out. Baby wipes were found in the lines. Bill asked Kevin to post on the website to please not flush wipes down the toilet even if it says they are flushable. On Craig Alley there is no manhole and two homes are there. It would cost \$2500 to fix it. On Friday Jake will dig on West 10th to correct the Percic water runoff problem. Bill has shown the guys where to put the rocks and how to put them.

MS4 project – Our application is deficient and we need to build a stone road to the creek plus tell them where we are going to put the dirt that we remove. Ray Evans said that they found an engineer that said they were too small to have to comply with the MS4 project. The cost is so high that we really can't afford to do this. There are so many trees that have to be cut down and that would cost a small fortune. Michelle suggested that we actually stop working on it but not really. Wendy & Lou went to Mr. Marshall at the beginning of this, seeking help but he had nothing to offer. We have all the paperwork showing that we are working on it. Mr. Heaton said that if we do not adhere to the DEP MS4 project we will be fined. Mr. Budicak talked about what happened in New Brighton was that they were told that they had to put a tax on all the resident's sewer bills to cover the cost of the project and there was no way to get out of it. Mr. Heaton wants to know what he needs to do. Michelle said that we just don't have the money to do this and he should go to Widmer Engineering and see exactly what it's going to cost us. The issue is tabled until next month.

Licia asked about the sewers on 37th Street. PennDot was doing a sewer sweep and some of storm drains have been patched over. PennDot is responsible to unpaved it. There is a difference between manholes and storm sewers (they are rectangles)

Ordinance – Mr. Seybert – said that 80% of the people have cut their grass 19.9 are getting it but aren't quite done yet.

Finance & Litigation – Mrs. McNeely just wanted council to know that Brian is certified to work on the boom mower. She also asked how many firefighter 1's the fire department has. They have 3. Over 200 hours is needed to be able to fight a fire. Lou works with five department as mutual aid so there is always availability of fireman to answer calls. She wanted to know if there was anyone who was trained in saving people. Mr. Kosanovich is a registered nurse and a registered CPR instructor. Michelle said that it would be good if the fire department could get out there and explain what they do because our residents don't really know how our fire department works.

Parks & Recreation – Mr. Tate talked about the traffic problem on High Street. He talked about a plastic bumper humper. He also talked about possibly placing a center line down the road. The road is barely wide enough to get two small cars through. The plastic bumpers can be removed if people are behaving and put back up when they stop behaving. We should get some prices on that.

Kevin again talked about the calming devices that are available. Michelle stressed that there haven't been kids up there for a while but there are now and the parents don't pay attention to them. Baseball is going to start working on the dugouts. The bathrooms are done and siding is done. The electrical in the park is a nightmare. He had bids that ranged as high as \$18000.00. He is going to put in new boxes that have 30 & 50 amp service as well as 120 & 220. He has already ordered them at the cost of \$2900.00. Lou said that the fire department is thinking about a carnival and these electrical boxes would be good for that. The bench is done for Mr. Wiltrout but the plaque has to be put on. Jake said that there was a big misunderstanding between us and baseball. There is no contract needed. Baseball asked if we could continue cutting the grass because it is too expensive to have the grass cut and weed wack. Jake suggested just spraying all of the weeds instead of trying to weed wack them. The borough will continue cutting the grass. Lou would like the contract that he asked Kip to look over be returned to him. Patterson Avenue from the Vets Club to Brook Street is going to be closed by the Centennial committee to avoid any accidents on the 26th after the parade. The time capsules are going to be dug up by the centennial committee and Lou wants to dig it up. Jake said the committee will be digging it up but they will give enough of a notice as to when they are going to do it so that anyone who wants to be there can be. Anything that is green and gold at the park is being returned to maroon and gray. The lady who owns the old Liberty school has said that she is willing to allow the use of her parking lot for the centennial. The weeds have not been sprayed – Wendy showed them how to mix it and she doesn't know why they aren't done. Someone from the street committee needs to go and watch them and show them what to do if they aren't doing it themselves. Jake is going to be down at the park in the evenings trying to smooth out the parking lots as much as he can so if you see the borough skid steer being used, it's me. Mulch is not going to be put down till the event. He's going to try to get a tri-axle load. We need to hire a code enforcement officer. What is going on with hiring an operator? Michelle said that Pat has put an ad in the paper but that's the only place it will be because Indeed is \$35 a day. Jake said what about Facebook. Michelle will put it on there too. Pat has also put an ad in for the code enforcement officer. Jake has had a lot of requests for a Pickle Ball court at the park and he will be looking into that for the future. Michelle said Brian would help. President Lou Little – Had a complaint from the owners of the Foundry about the pictures and videos that have been posted and they are upset. They feel that it is trespassing on their property. They are working on getting the place cleaned up.

Mayor Cogley – The Oven Pizza sign was moved. Are jersey barriers going to be put up on Lenore Alley? The council voted on getting five new wooden signs for the borough and to have the citizens decide what the logo should be. This has not been successful as of yet. It was decided not to do plaques naming the ballfields because too many people have contributed. It would be better to have a unified plaque for all citizens who have contributed to baseball and the fields.

Mr. Budicak – will discuss litigation in an executive session after all business has been taken care of.

New Business

Buildings, Grounds & Equipment - Mr. Kosanovich – none (per Mr. Heaton)

Sewers & Sanitation - Mr. Heaton – a concerned citizen asked about the missing stop sign on West 8th Avenue. There used to be one but no one on council remembers it being there.

Streets, Bridges and Lighting – Ms. Harker – the borough has a new chain saw. Trees down on Rock Avenue were removed by Duquesne Light. Wendy stayed all day to provide traffic control. If a dead animal carcass is found on 37th Street PennDot needs to be called to remove it.

Fire & Police – the fire department chain saw does not work and needs fixed. Lou said to have it sharpened.

Finance & Litigation – Mrs. McNeely Dennis Mitchell 3621 West 4th Avenue – 3621 West 4th Avenue Rear. Resident wants the borough to change address. Joe said to write deceased on it. Michelle will call on July 14th to follow up with him. Does the borough allow goats? Yes but they must be penned.

Ordinance – Mr. Seybert Vets Monument was not looking good.

Parks & Recreation- Mr. Tate – Oil changes need to be done. Wendy said that the oil changes were done. They are needing taken care of again.

Mayor Cogley – Received an email from Duquesne Light that trees were going to be removed on or near 102 Patterson Avenue. 44 Veterans flags are going to be put up. Lids on garbage cans – be considerate of your neighbors.

Mr. Little – none

Mr. Budicak – move to executive session to discuss water treatment plant sale litigation after all business has been taken care of.

Kathy Brewer said that a new mail carrier took the wrong mail and tax documents were not mailed.

Ms. Harker moved to pay the bills listed on the bill list and was seconded by Mrs. McNeely. The motion carried

Mrs. McNeely moved to ratify purchases made by committees and was seconded by Mr. Heaton. The motion carried.

Mr. Heaton moved to enter into executive session at 10:20 p.m. to discuss litigation regarding the sale of the sewage treatment plant. Mr. Tate seconded the motion that passed all in favor.

At 10:25 Ms. Harker moved to return to the regular order of business and was seconded by Mrs. McNeely. The motion passed all in favor.

With no further business to discuss, Ms. Harker moved to adjourn at 10:453pm; seconded by Mrs. McNeely with unanimous approval.

Respectfully submitted,

Licia Cogley (via audio recording and written notes)
Audio transcribed by Patricia Lansberry, Borough Secretary