

Regular Meeting Minutes
March 14, 2024

President Bob Tate called the meeting to order. Bill Heaton was excused for medical reasons.

A Tate/Little motion approved the February meeting minutes.

A Little/Jason Heaton motion approved the Agenda

A Helbig/Tate motion approved the officers' reports.

Kevin Farkas, Citizen Co-chair of the Fire Service Review Committee provided us with the purpose of the committee and the members. There are the borough members, Janet Helbig, Jeff Seybert and Bob Tate. The Citizen members, Kevin Farkas, Bob Kaib, Tracy Popovich, Jan Johnston Szopo, Janet Jurich Pico and Sue Wood. The Fire Department has been invited to join the committee. The purpose is to better understand the workings of the fire department in regards to finances, relationships to local government, eco systems and citizens. The number one issue with citizens is that they don't know what's going on. Transparency is important. The committee will be requesting a copy of the ISO Fire Rating Audit. Next month will be citizen's reports.

Correspondence: Letter of resignation from George Patterson as solicitor for the Zoning Hearing Board effective immediately. Letter of resignation from Pat Lansberry as borough secretary, effective December 31, 2024. Letter informing the borough of a deposit of \$50,416.65 into the Liquid Fuel Fund on March 1, 2024. Letter from the Humane Society listing prices for services. Letter from Diamond Communication offering \$315,000 lump sum to end the monthly payments for the cell tower rental given to the borough.

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

Linda Burns, 1010 High Street was again present with concerns of speeding on High Street. She wondered if there was any progress regarding the installation of speed bumps. Mr. Jake Tate responded that it would cost over \$10,000 to install speed bumps and the borough doesn't have the money to spend on that. Patty, property manager of Mayfield Village has said that if license plate numbers are given to her, she will take care of it. The incident log provided by the Beaver Falls Police Department listed 37 incidents on High Street. Please try to take pictures of the license plates and give them to Patty so that this can be taken care of. Kevin suggested that a committee of citizens get some ideas of traffic calming to try to take care of the problem.

Mike Bathgate, 1101 Boden Street said that the speed bump on Rock Avenue is causing the water to run into his yard and pretty soon it is going to wipe out the road. There was a discussion about what could be done to remedy this. Jake Tate moved to put a drain at the speed bump and was seconded by Jason Heaton. The motion carried.

Nora Soos, 102 37th Street Extension, suggested that the borough accept the lump sum offering from the cell tower company. We are now getting \$17938 a year and the contract still has about 10 years to go and there is a 3% increase every year. We will continue the monthly payments for now.

Stacey Tate, 335 Brook Street asked what had to be done to get items placed on the fire department bill board. All you have to do is ask.

With no other citizens wishing to comment, Jake Tate moved to return to the regular order of business, seconded by Lou Little and approved unanimously.

Old Business

Streets, Lighting & Bridges – Jake Tate – Bill Heaton drove around the borough and compiled a list of the streets that need paving. The list is long. High Street next to West 10th, West 5th north of 43rd Street 49th to Housing Authority, Pine Street, W 3rd, W 2nd, Matilda, Patterson, Rock, Harbison from 37th to Mayfield Alley, Craig Street, W 8th. 43rd Street still has water running so it can't be done until that is taken care of. Jake suggested that we look into getting a loan to do all the streets. Doing a few at a time is not really a good idea. When those are done, and we do a few more, the ones that were done before will need to be replaced. The prices will continue going up which will prohibit us from doing no more than a few. Jake will look into the possibility of getting a loan and what it will cost the borough. Weed killing and boom mowing is being done. Our citizens need to take care of the weeds that are behind their fences. This is not a borough job to take care of the weeds on their property. CoStars has been taken care of but PA One call is still not working. Jake also asked that Brian be given a tablet or an I Pad so that he can get the calls from PA One Call. We could get rid of the phone & internet in the borough building. AT & T would cost \$64.88 per month and Verizon \$84.72 with unlimited data. He should check with Bill Heaton to see if emergency management would be affected by dropping Comcast. Jake moved to purchase a tablet for Brian and was seconded by Janet. The motion carried.

Fire & Police - Lou Little provided a report of the fire department activity and it will be more detailed next month since this is something new and he's still trying to get everything set up.

Buildings, Grounds & Equipment – Jake Tate – the equipment is in great shape, but the pickup truck isn't running. There are still 2 garage door openers missing so new ones will have to be ordered. He will check with Doors by Ike and also see if there are any cheaper.

Sewers & Sanitation – Jason Heaton (for Bill Heaton) – Dan Sell from Widmer Engineering requested that the bids for the MS4 project be opened on April 4 so that they can tabulate the results and have them ready for the council meeting on April 11. There will be no one present for the opening of the bids except for a representative from Widmer, Bill Heaton and Pat Lansberry. There will not be a decision made so it is not necessary to advertise. The stop sign ordinances need to be updated so that all stop signs in the borough are accounted for. A list has been given to our solicitor. Bill reported on the meeting that he and Joe Budicak held with Aiken Refuse. They are not budging about unoccupied houses or houses being renovated with no residents in them. They also said that they overlooked the part of the contract that said that a smaller truck would take care of the alleys in the borough and they can't afford to do that. It is a breach of contract but would not be worth the time and expense to take it to court. Mr. Aiken said that he would be willing to change from unlimited to a 2 can per resident (Option B) on the bid. It is a little less expensive and would eliminate all of the hassle with unoccupied residences. Following a discussion, Jake Tate moved to go with Option B, the 2 can per resident. Lou Little seconded the motion and a roll-call vote approved the motion as follows: Lou Little – yes; Janet Helbig – no; Bob Tate – yes; Jeff Seybert – no; Jake Tate – yes; Jason Heaton – no and Mayor Licia Cogley with the tie breaking vote of yes. At this point, Kevin Farkas spoke and told council that the motion was invalid because it was not on the agenda and the citizens did not have the opportunity to review the change. This will be tabled until next month.

Finance & Litigation – Jason Heaton made numerous calls to people who had submitted resumes for the laborer position with no responses. Mr. Stanley who had been hired and asked for time off because of a serious health issue with his son. He hadn't responded to phone calls and emails and finally said that he had found another job. Jason did contact the Beaver County Jail about workers who could help out. They do have a program that allows that. There is also a program for people under the age of 18 who need to do community service. Janet Helbig moved to contact the jail to see what they can do for us and was seconded by Jake Tate. The motion carried.

Ordinance – Jeff Seybert – he turned in a list of all stop signs to the solicitor so that he can begin work on amending our ordinance.

Parks & Recreation – Janet Helbig – baseball – electric is turned on; they would like us to cut the grass but they will weed whack and take care of the fields; they are getting bids for batting cages; there are no travel teams or softball teams and there will be 2 tournaments; if cars park on the street, ticket them.. All locks have been changed – call Jake, Jeff or Janet if you need something unlocked. Brian Covalt donated locks and lighting.

President Tate – Regarding Ordinances – he would like to see a limit put on yard sales – 1 yard sale per month, per resident; cars can't be towed so what are our options for getting rid of unregistered or uninspected vehicles. Joe will work on these but it will take some time to change all of the ordinances.

Mayor Cogley – none

Mr. Budicak – has had discussions with Mike Ceravolo regarding the Athletic Facility he is planning to develop on W 2nd Avenue. Joseph Askar who is the attorney representing Mr. Ceravolo asked that due to time restraints we consider approving the development of the facility into a sports complex with contingencies. The complex will be equipped with fire extinguishers. Mr. Jake Tate moved to approve the issuing of an occupancy permit to Mr. Ceravolo to develop the existing facility into a sports complex contingent upon CodeSys. Code Consulting not finding any violations with the development and is completely approved by Code Systems. Mr. Little seconded the motion which passed all in favor. Mr. Budicak will contact Code Systems.

The litigation on the sale of the Beaver Falls Waste Treatment Plant has been settled for months. The PUC approval for the sale to Aqua is almost complete. In the meantime, PUC is drafting new rules. He is requesting a motion to not permit the new regulations to hinder our pending sale. Mr. Little moved to authorize Mr. Budicak to contact PUC requesting that they not permit the new rules and regulations to affect our pending sale to Aqua. Mr. Jason Heaton seconded the motion that passed all in favor.

New Business

Streets, Lighting & Bridges; Buildings, Grounds and Equipment– Jake Tate – the fire extinguishers need to be inspected.

Fire & Police – Mr. Little – The fire department car cruise is scheduled for August 10th; a battle of the boroughs fire departments at the park in being planned.

Sewers & Sanitation – Jake Heaton (for Bill Heaton) the storm drain at the Corner Tavern was clogged – he helped to clean it out.

Ordinance – Mr. Seybert – none

Finance & Litigation – Jason Heaton gave Janet Helbig some lists of grants available for parks and asked her to look at them. He is also looking for grants available for roads and some that would possibly help in paying for the MS4 work.

Parks & Recreation- Janet Helbig – would like to have new playground equipment at the park and some Doggie Stations. She realizes that there is no money for the playground equipment but has found some doggie stations for \$899.00. Mr. Little moved to allow Mrs. Helbig to purchase the doggie stations for \$899.00 and was seconded by Mr. Jake Tate. The motion carried. She is also looking into having a Farmers Market at the pony league parking lot for the summer.

President Bob Tate reported that Vern Krepps will reseal the pickle ball court as soon as the weather breaks. He will be turning over the code enforcement position to Tina Lampus. She will have to be sworn in.

Mayor Cogley – the Easter Egg Hunt at the park will be held on March 16th. She attended a Beaver Falls Neighborhood Watch meeting last Monday and learned about scams that have been reported. There will be a bus trip to the Ambridge 911 Center.

Mr. Budicak – none

Jake Tate moved to pay the bills listed on the bill list and was seconded by Jason Heaton. The motion carried.

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

With no further business to discuss, Lou Little moved to adjourn; seconded by Janet Helbig at 9.p.m with unanimous approval.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Lansberry
Borough Secretary