

BOROUGH OF SOUTHMONT  
148 WONDER STREET  
JOHNSTOWN, PA 15905

MINUTES FOR JUNE 20, 2022

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The pledge of allegiance was conducted, and the scheduled June 20, 2022 Council meeting was called to order by President Bill Trevorrow at 4:00 p.m.

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**Present:** Council President Bill Trevorrow, Council members Eric Muncert, Doug Beri, Richard Burkert; Herb Ewald, Bob Morgan, Kevin Pile, Borough Manager Amanda Layton; Solicitor Michael Carbonara; Police Chief Edward Fisher; Fire Chief Joel Weslager; Mayor Anthony Keiper; Street Commissioner Harry Lingenfelter, Asst. Sec. Debra Riek.

**Absent:** Engineer Todd Banks.

**Visitors:** Shawn Jedrzejek (207 Leila St.); Robert Connelly (106 Arlington St.); Fran & John Mattre (102 Arlington St.); John Klanchar (104 Dahlia St.); Timothy Lentz (491 Edward St.); Noah Burda (404 State St.)

**Public Comment**

Shawn Jedrzejek stated he is frustrated with the lack of parking on Leila Street. Mr. Jedrzejek has a child with disabilities and would like to have the not parking sign removed. It was suggested that he apply for a handicap parking space. Mrs. Layton stated she would send an application for him to apply for the handicap parking.

Robert Connelly asked the council could have a yield sign for turning right where the stop sign at the top of Olive Street and Orchard Street is located at this time. He believes there is not enough traffic to warrant the stop sign.

John Klanchar stated that there is a handicap parking sign that needs to be moved closer to Harshberger Road. His former wife is handicap and moving the sign would be more convenient to access the house. Solicitor Carbonara suggested that Mr. Lingenfelter and Mr. Trevorrow will go out and see if they can resolve the problem. He also addressed the problem with paying his sewer and garbage bill and ask if the council would wave the late charges. He then would be able to set up a payment plan. Mr. Trevorrow stated that he and Mrs. Layton will look into his account and make a decision and asked him to call Mrs. Layton on Wednesday.

Timothy Lentz inquired about the problem with a neighbor at 495 Edward Street having hedgers not cut and growing up to the cable lines and also having high grass and weeds. Mrs. Layton stated that a letter was sent to him and if no action was taken it would be turned over to the zoning officer. Mr. Lentz also inquired about paving plans for Bluff and Ottis Streets. Mrs. Layton informed him they are on the paving list for this summer.

Noah Burda inquired about the parking on Dell Street and the Fire Department being able to turn toward Menoher with no problems. Mr. Trevorrow stated that he would have Mr. Lingenfelter and the Fire Chief

go to Dell Street and see if the problem could be resolved. Solicitor Carbonara suggested that a council person as go along to observe.

### **Correspondence**

Joanne Carbaugh requested to have the handicapped parking sign removed that she had previously requested to have installed in front of her home. After discussion Mr. Trevorror requested that Mr. Beri, Mr. Muncert and Mr. Lingenfelter investigate the situation and determine what needs to be done to resolve the problem and see if a second handicap space is needed.

The request by Mr. Varmecky was tabled and would be discussed in the executive session.

### **Minutes**

A motion was made by Mr. Muncert to approve the May 16, 2022 Council Meeting Minutes. Motion seconded by Mr. Burkert. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

### **Police Chief's Report**

The Police Chief's report was received. Chief Fisher reported that Officer Kesslak did a great job in having 7 junk uninspected vehicles removed from the borough streets. There were 2 significant drug busts take place in the borough due to the cooperation and information from the public. We must encourage the residence to call the police immediately when they see or hear anything suspicious. He suggested that maybe we could post this information on our website and Facebook page.

Mr. Morgan ask Chief Fisher to explain the plate readers the department want to purchase. Chief Fisher stated that these readers are a game changer for the police. The large data base makes it possible to see if there is a warrant, in need of insurance, amber alert, stolen vehicle, no inspection or any other problem with the vehicle. There are numerous police departments in our area that have two for there departments. West Hills is looking to purchase 2 that would be used to bring the depart up to date and generate revenue.

### **Fire Company Report**

The Fire Chief's report was received. Chief Weslager was happy to state that the fire department did very well with the Jubilee. It was one of the best years they have had in the last 9 years.

### **Engineer's Report**

Mr. Banks was absent. Mrs. Layton reported the Cheney Run project is ready to proceed. Mr. Muncert reported that Somerset Trust can finance the borough's needs for the project. Solicitor Carbonara will send a letter to get approval from to proceed with the line of credit and start the project in the next 90 days. Mr. Trevorror asked if Mr. Banks could look into the traffic situation and see if the street needs to be closed and traffic diverted now before the project begins.

### **Zoning Officer's Report**

Mr. Walkers report was received.

### **Street Commissioner's Report**

Mr. Lingenfelter report was received. Mr. Lingenfelter explained he is short one person. Mrs. Layton stated he was having a meeting with Bishop McCort on Tuesday regarding having community work for students to cut grass.

**Solicitor's Report**

Solicitor Carbonara requested an executive session at the end of the meeting to discuss legal issues. There was a permit submitted for the demolition of the house on 200 State Street.

**Borough Manager Report**

Mrs. Layton's report was submitted and accepted. Motion was made by Mr. Muncert to approve removal of the past due penalties applied in error for Deborah Leventry 216 Mable Street. Motion seconded by Mr. Beri. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

Motion was made by Mr. Morgan to approve removing the trap at 411 Orchard Street. Motion seconded by Mr. Muncert. All in favor (6 – 1). Mr. Ewald apposed; motion carried.

**Mayor's Report**

Nothing to report.

**Committees:**

**Administration:** Nothing to report.

**Audit:** Nothing to report. Mr. Pile will have a meeting before the next council meeting.

**Ballfield Improvement:** Nothing to report.

**Borough Services:** Mr. Pile stated he would be having a committee meeting before next council meeting regarding the burning ordinance.

**Budget/Tax Collection:** Nothing to report.

**Building & Grounds:** Nothing to report.

**Emergency Management:** Nothing to report.

**GJWA:** Mr. Pile stated GJWA is waiting for a permit from the Department of Environmental Protection for the North Fork Project so they can move forward.

**Grants:** Mr. Beri stated that the Cambria County is starting a program to bridge the gap in funding. Mr. Beri sent a letter to see if they can help the borough to fund Cheney Run.

**Insurance:** Nothing to report.

**MS4/Stormwater:** Nothing to report.

**Open Records:** Nothing to report.

**Personnel:** Nothing to report.

**Police:** Mr. Morgan lead in a discussion on the License Plate Reader. It was decided to table the approval until more information is obtained. A motion was made by Mr. Pile to table the decision on the approval

of the License Plate Readers. Motion seconded by Mr. Muncert. All in favor, motion carried (7-0). Mr. Trevorror ask Mr. Beri and Mr. Morgan to ask the Police Commission at their next meeting if West Hills police could make a presence in the borough to help control the speed throughout the borough.

**Shade Trees:** Mr. Muncert stated that they investigated the split tree on Southmont Blvd., and it is the responsibility of the property owner. A motion was made by Mr. Muncert to advertise the Updated Shade Tree Ordinance. Motion seconded by Mr. Pile. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

**Streets:** Nothing to report.

#### **New/Old Business**

A motion was made by Mr. Muncert to approve Southmont Volunteer Fire Company Volunteer Tax Credit Application for Stephen Costic for \$62.14. Motion seconded by Mr. Beri. All in favor, motion carried (7 -0).

A motion was made by Mr. Muncert to approve the grass cutting & landscaping proposal from W.B. Landscaping company. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. All in favor, motion carried (7-0-).

#### **Business Items**

A motion was made by Mr. Beri to approve ratification of payroll from May 17, 2022 through June 20, 2022 in the amount of \$17,580.66. Motion seconded by Mr. Pile. Roll call: Mr. Trevorror, Mr. Muncert, Mr. Beri, Mr. Burkert, Mr. Pile, Mr. Ewald and Mr. Morgan in favor. Motion carried (7 -0).

A motion was made by Mr. Pile to approve payment of bills from May 17, 2022 through June 20, 2022 in the amount of \$112,009.04. Motion seconded by Mr. Beri. Roll call: Mr. Trevorror, Mr. Muncert, Mr. Beri, Mr. Burkert, Mr. Pile, Mr. Ewald, and Mr. Morgan in favor. Motion carried (7-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Beri to approve transfers from May 17, 2022 through June 20, 2022 in the amount of \$51,093.00. Motion seconded by Mr. Pile. Roll call: Mr. Trevorror, Mr. Muncert, Mr. Beri, Mr. Burkert, Mr. Pile, Mr. Ewald, and Mr. Morgan in favor. Motion carried (7-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Beri to approve the May 2022 treasurer's report in the amount of \$1,721,404.08. Motion seconded by Mr. Pile. Roll call: Mr. Trevorror, Mr. Muncert, Mr. Beri, Mr. Burkert, Mr. Pile, Mr. Ewald, and Mr. Morgan in favor. Motion carried (7-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Beri to note the receipt of the May 2022 tax collector's report in the amount of \$3,249.40. Motion seconded by Mr. Pile. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

An Executive Session was called at 5: p.m. to discuss issues regarding the Department of Environmental Protection. Executive Session ended at 6 p.m. and the regularly scheduled meeting was resumed.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. for adjournment of the June 20, 2022 meeting at 5 p.m. Motion seconded by Mr.. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Riek  
Assistant Secretary