

BOROUGH OF SOUTHMONT  
148 WONDER STREET  
JOHNSTOWN, PA 15905

MINUTES FOR JANUARY 16, 2024

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The pledge of allegiance was conducted, and the scheduled January 16, 2024, Council meeting was called to order by President Doug Beri at 4:00 p.m.

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**Present:** Council Members Doug Beri, Sheree Speicher, Bob Morgan, Herb Ewald, Eugene Kupchella; Borough Manager Amanda Layton; Police Chief William J. Newman II, Solicitor Eric Hochfeld; Mayor Anthony Keiper; Street Commissioner Sam McAdams; Asst. Sec. Debra Riek

**Absent:** Richard Burkert; Engineer Todd Banks

**Visitors:** John Klanchar (104 Dahlia St.)

**Public Comment:**

Mr. Klanchar addressed council stating he has attempted to report a crime to the police department and feels it has been blown off and he would like it to be documented that he feels he is the victim of harassment.

**Correspondence Received**

Mr. Beri acknowledged correspondence from Mr. John Klanchar regarding a request for wi-fi to be provided to the general public at and around the borough building and paid by the borough and from the Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office regarding notification of Grandview Cemetery being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places.

**Minutes**

A motion was made by Mr. Morgan to approve the December 11, 2023, council meeting minutes. Motion seconded by Mrs. Speicher. Mr. Burkert absent. All in favor, motion carried (5-0).

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve the December 21, 2023, Special Meeting Minutes. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. Mr. Burkert absent. All in favor, motion carried (5 -0).

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve the January 2, 2024, Reorganization Meeting Minutes. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. Mr. Burkert absent. All in favor, motion carried. (5-0).

**Police Chief's Report**

The December 2023 Police Chief's Report was received. Chief Fisher stated that the call volume for the month of December was down slightly with 389 calls noting 5,144 total calls were received for the year.

**Fire Company Report**

The December 2023 Fire Chief's Report was received.

**Engineer's Report**

Mr. Banks absent.

**Zoning Officer's Report**

Mrs. Layton stated there were no permits issued in December.

**Solicitor's Report**

Solicitor Hochfeld stated that he spoke with Attorney Carbonara and was updated on some pending issues in the borough and stated he would review the items for the next meeting.

**Street Commissioner's Report**

The December 2023 Street Commissioner's Report was received and is on file.

**Borough Manager Report**

The December 2023 report was received. Mrs. Layton stated there were four more streetlights that were reported to Penelec that are not working.

**Mayor's Report**

Nothing to report.

**Committees:**

**Administration:** Nothing to report.

**Audit:** Nothing to report.

**Budget/Tax Collection:** Mrs. Speicher reported she will be having a committee meeting on January 23<sup>rd</sup> at 4:00 p.m.

**Community Planning & Improvement:** Mr. Burkert absent.

**Emergency Management:** Nothing to report.

**GJWA:** Mrs. Speicher reported the authority is working on reducing the inflow and infiltration sewer flows between Westmont and Greater Johnstown and are working on replacing lines. Mrs. Speicher reported the authority finally received approval from the Department of Environmental Protection for the North Fork Dam repairs and engineering has started planning and are expected to start work in November. Mrs. Speicher reported the Westmont water tank is in the process of being inspected for service.

**Grants:** Mr. Beri reported the Local Share Grant for building upgrades has been submitted noting we probably won't hear anything until September. Mr. Beri reported a Steering Committee is being formed for the WalkWorks Active Transportation Plan grant.

**Insurance:** Nothing to report.

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

**Personnel:** Nothing to report.

**Police:** Nothing to report.

**Property Maintenance and Streets:** Mr. Ewald stated that things are going well, but there are some things that could be tweaked.

**Shade Trees:** Mr. Burkert absent. Mrs. Layton reported the Bare Root Tree Grant preliminary application has been submitted for the spring term.

**New Business**

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve the Volunteer Service Tax Credit Application for Stephen Costic. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. Mr. Burkert absent. All in favor, motion carried (5-0).

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to table the advertising Ordinance No. 550, updating the stormwater ordinance. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. Mr. Burkert absent. All in favor, motion carried (5-0).

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to appoint Matthew McVicker to fill the vacant position on council. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. Mr. Burkert absent. All in favor, motion carried. (5-0).

**Business Items**

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve ratification of payroll from December 12, 2023, through January 16, 2024, in the amount of \$22,092.60. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. Roll call: Mr. Beri, Mr. Mrs. Speicher, Mr. Morgan, and Mr. Kupchella. Mr. Burkert absent. All in favor. Motion carried (5-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Morgan to approve payment of bills from December 12, 2023, through January 16, 2024, in the amount of \$142,869.70. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. Roll call: Mr. Beri, Mrs. Speicher, Mr. Morgan, and Mr. Kupchella. Mr. Burkert absent All in favor. Motion carried (4 -0).

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve transfers from December 12, 2023, through January 16, 2024, in the amount of \$560,047.68. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. Roll call: Mr. Beri, Mrs. Speicher, Mr. Morgan, and Mr. Kupchella. Mr. Burkert absent. All in favor. Motion carried (5-0).

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve the December 2023 Treasurer's Report. Motion seconded by Mr. Pile. Roll call: Mr. Beri, Mrs. Speicher, Mr. Morgan, Mr. Kupchella. Mr. Ewald. Mr. Burkert absent. All in favor. Motion carried (5-0).

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to accept the Tax Collector's Report for December 2023. Motion seconded by Mr. Ewald. Mr. Burkert absent. All in favor. motion carried (5-0).

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Morgan for adjournment of the January 16, 2024, meeting at 4:19 p.m. Motion seconded by Mrs. Speicher. Mr. Burkert absent. All in favor, motion carried (5-0).

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Riek  
Assistant Secretary