

BOROUGH OF SOUTHMONT
148 WONDER STREET
JOHNSTOWN, PA 15905

MINUTES FOR SEPTEMBER 18, 2023

The pledge of allegiance was conducted, and the scheduled September 18, 2023 Council meeting was called to order by Vice President Sheree Speicher 4:00 p.m.

Present: Council Members Doug Beri, Richard Burkert, Kevin Pile, Sheree Speicher, Bob Morgan, Eugene Kupchella, Herb Ewald; Borough Manager Amanda Layton; Solicitor Michael Carbonara, Police Chief Ed Fisher; Mayor Anthony Keiper; Engineer Todd Banks, Street Commissioner Sam McAdams; Asst. Sec. Debra Riek

Absent: Fire Chief Ed Burkett

Visitors: Terry Vilkofsky (135 Wonder St.); Steve Shesko (312 Cheney Oak Drive); Jayce Pecze (103 Violet St.) John A. Klanchar (104 Dahlia St.); John G. Klanchar (190 Woodland Road); JoArleen Klanchar (104 Dahlia St.); Lary Koval (336 Orchard St.); Russ O'Reilly (Tribune Democrat); Carol Hickman (103 Dahlia St.); April Clawson (210 Leila St.); Rose & Bob Barger (311 Leila Street)

Public Comment:

Mr. Lary Koval addressed the council in support of Ordinance 546 to be passed, which includes a stop sign to be added at the intersection of Olive Street and Orchard Street.

Mrs. Carol Hickman stated that the council meetings should be a safe place to come, noting Mr. John A. Klanchar yelled and called her foul names after the previous meeting.

Mr. Sam Ross addressed council regarding incidents he's had with Mr. Klanchar giving him the middle finger and trying to intimidate him by almost backing into his vehicle in Lettuce Alley. Mr. Ross stated he feels his neighbors are playing both the predator and the victim.

Ms. JoArlene Klanchar stated that she feels the proposed trailer ordinance was written just to harass her family and that her family has been continually harassed by the neighbors and the borough.

Mr. John G. Klanchar stated the borough receives money from the state through the liquid fuels tax so they should not be allowed to regulate the large vehicles and motor homes parked on the streets.

Mr. John A. Klanchar stated he has his first amendment rights and can express himself as he wishes noting his artwork in his yard and on the garage are his expression of freedom of speech and he has not said anything that isn't true. Mr. Klanchar stated that if the proposed trailer ordinance is passed, he will have nowhere to park his vehicles.

Correspondence

Correspondence has been received and acknowledged.

Minutes

Mr. Kupchella noted his name was not included as being present in the August 21, 2023 minutes. A motion was made by Mr. Kupchella to amend and approve the August 21, 2023 Council Meeting Minutes as corrected. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

Police Chief's Report

The August 2023 Police Chief's report was received. Chief Fisher stated the department will be duty weapon certified by the end of September.

Fire Company Report

The August 2023 Fire Chief's Report was received.

Engineer Report

Mr. Todd Banks reported that 511 Edward Street will have the camera run through within the next two weeks to determine if the runoff issue is contributed to the stormwater lines. Mr. Banks reported that the sewer lateral work at 942 Pine Grove Lane was completed and 4-inch pvc pipe was installed.

Zoning Report:

Laurel Municipal Inspection Agency report was received.

Solicitor's Report

Solicitor Carbonara reported that the Westmont Hilltop School District agreed to decrease the required liability insurance amount to \$1 million in the soccer field lease agreement with the Southmont Volunteer Fire Company. A motion was made by Mr. Ewald to dismiss the lawsuit against Westmont Hilltop School District contingent upon the amended lease being approved and signed. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. All in favor, motion carried (7-0). Solicitor Carbonara stated that Geistown Borough is interested in having a committee meet with Geistown Borough in the future to discuss stormwater problems and actions that can be taken together by both municipalities. Mr. Beri suggested that the committee for MS4 storm water be the committee that will meet with Geistown Borough.

Attorney Carbonara spoke with Laurel Municipal Inspection Agency regarding changing the language in the their notices so that appeals will be handled through the District Magistrate Office.

Street Commissioner Report

Mr. Sam McAdams reported that the leaf machine will be repaired and ready for service by the end of this week noting residents are requested to place leaves between the sidewalk and the easement, loose and not bagged and any branches are to put to the side, not with the leaves.

Borough Manager Report

A motion was made by Mr. Morgan to approve the 2023 MMO Worksheet. Motion seconded by Mr. Ewald. All in favor carried, (7-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Morgan to approve attendance to the Cambria County Borough's Association Fall Dinner attendance in October. Motion seconded by Mr. Ewald. All in favor carried, (7-0).

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Mrs. Layton stated that on November 4, 2023, JVS Environmental will hold an electronics recycling event in Southmont Borough noting a dumpster will be available behind the municipal building from 10am to 2pm.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Anthony Keiper reported Mr. Truscello wanted to thank the council for approving his request for handicap parking on Langhorne Avenue.

Committees:

Administration: Nothing to report.

Audit: Nothing to report.

Budget/Tax Collection: Nothing to report.

Community Planning & Improvement: Mr. Burkert stated he will be scheduling a new meeting with Mr. Chris Allison from Cambria County Planning Commission due to having to cancel the previous meeting.

Emergency Management: Nothing to report.

GJWA: Mrs. Speicher reported that the Greater Johnstown Water Authority will be turning off the water service to residents that are 24 months behind on their water bill in the City of Johnstown and they will remove the water lines to blighted properties in the City so new buyers will have to replace and complete all needed work requirements.

Grants: Mrs. Layton is working on the WalkWorks grant and will be getting the information for the building changes from the engineer in the near future.

Insurance: Nothing to report.

MS4/Stormwater: Nothing to report.

Personnel: Nothing to report.

Police: Nothing to report.

Property Maintenance and Streets: Mr. Ewald stated the borough is looking good. He will be looking into getting sidewalk inspections started soon.

Shade Trees: Mr. Burkert reported Mr. Smay proposed a daily rate of \$2,300.00 to remove trees that are blighted and need taken down. A motion was made by Mr. Morgan to approve Mr. Smay's proposal of \$2,300.00 for two days worth of tree removals. Motion seconded by Mr. Burkert. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

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Business Items

A motion was made by Mr. Morgan to approve Ordinance No. 545 prohibiting parking of large vehicles, trucks, and trailers on borough roadways. Motion seconded by Mr. Pile. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Ewald to approve Ordinance No. 546 authorizing placement of parking signs. Motion seconded by Mr. Pile. All in favor motion carried (7-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Ewald to approve Resolution 2023-05, updating the fee schedule. Motion seconded by Kupchella. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

After some discussion a motion was made by Mr. Morgan to approve the Traffic Signal Maintenance Agreement with PennDOT for the lights located at Luzerne Street/Gardner Street/Menoher Blvd. and Diamond Blvd./Menoher Blvd. Motion seconded by Mr. Ewald. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Morgan to approve Resolution 2023-06, Submission of Traffic Signal Maintenance Agreement. Motion seconded by Mr. Ewald. Motion carried (7-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Morgan to approve ratification of payroll from August 22, 2023 through September 18, 2023 in the amount of \$12,474.68. Motion seconded by Mr. Ewald. Roll call: Mr. Beri, Mr. Burkert, Mr. Pile, Mrs. Speicher, Mr. Morgan, Mr. Ewald, and Mr. Kupchella. All in favor. Motion carried (7-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Morgan to approve payment of bills from August 22, 2023 through September 18, 2023 in the amount of \$225,416.32. Motion seconded by Mr. Burkert. Roll call: Mr. Beri, Mr. Burkert, Mr. Pile, Mrs. Speicher, Mr. Morgan, Mr. Ewald, and Mr. Kupchella. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Morgan to approve transfers from August 22, 2023 through September 18, 2023 in the amount of \$180,897.00. Motion seconded by Mr. Ewald. Roll call: Mr. Beri, Mr. Burkert, Mr. Pile, Mrs. Speicher, Mr. Morgan, Mr. Ewald, and Mr. Kupchella. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Morgan to approve the August 2023 treasurer's report. Motion seconded by Mr. Ewald. Roll call: Mr. Beri, Mr. Burkert, Mr. Pile, Mr. Morgan, Mrs. Speicher, Mr. Ewald, and Mr. Kupchella. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Morgan to accept the Tax Collector's Report for August 2023. Motion seconded by Mr. Ewald. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Morgan for adjournment of the September 18, 2023, meeting at 5:00 p.m. Motion seconded by Mr. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

Respectfully submitted,
Debra Riek
Assistant Secretary