

BOROUGH OF SOUTHMONT
148 WONDER STREET
JOHNSTOWN, PA 15905

MINUTES FOR JANUARY 24, 2022

The pledge of allegiance was conducted and the re-scheduled January 24, 2022 meeting was called to order by Vice President Eric Muncert at 4:00 p.m.

Present: Council Members Kevin Pile, Eric Muncert, Sheree Speicher, Doug Beri, Richard Burkert; Borough Manager Amanda Layton; Police Officer Dean West; Mayor Anthony Keiper; Asst. Sec. Debra Riek.

Absent: Council President Bill Trevorrow; Councilmen Herb Ewald; Street Commissioner Harry Lingenfelter; Fire Chief Joel Weslager; Solicitor Michael Carbonara; Engineer Todd Banks.

Visitors: Rudd Johnson (207 Mabel Street), Robert Walker (312 State St.), Joni Keiper and Colby Keiper (17 Harding Street)

Public Comment

Mr. Walker addressed council regarding an issue he is experiencing with ground water since the sewer project has been completed. Mr. Walker stated he has installed two sump pumps that run constantly when it rains noting he no longer gets water in his basement, but there is still a stream going through his yard and onto the sidewalk when it rains, which is a hazard. Mrs. Layton stated Mr. Lingenfelter looked at the issue and is considering adding an inlet in front of Mr. Walker's property in the future to help give the water somewhere to go and will discuss it with the borough engineers.

Mr. Johnson requested council review the current garbage ordinance and consider adding a provision to require residents to have garbage cans with lids noting he has had issues with neighbors leaving garbage out all week or not cleaning up garbage after rodents get into their trash. Mr. Muncert suggested that the borough place an article in the next newsletter to remind residents that garbage cans are not allowed to be left at the curb other than designated collection days and residents are responsible for keeping their garbage cleaned up.

Mrs. Speicher expressed her appreciation to the council, staff and the fire company for the kindness and condolences in the passing of her father and former council member Richard Rodgers.

Correspondence

Council reviewed correspondence received from the Cambria County Community Arts Center requesting the borough allocate \$1,000.00 from the American Rescue Plan funds. A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to set aside \$1,000.00 of the American Rescue Plan funds to be donated to the Community Arts Center. The motion died for lack of a second motion.

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve the handicapped parking request submitted by Joanne Carbaugh of 206 Violet Street. Motion seconded by Mr. Beri. Mr. Trevorrow and Mr. Ewald absent. All in favor, motion carried (5-0).

Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Pile to approve the December 13, 2021 council meeting minutes. Motion seconded by Mr. Burkert. Mr. Trevorrow and Mr. Ewald absent. All in favor, motion carried (5-0).

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve the January 3, 2022 Reorganization Meeting Minutes. Motion seconded by Mr. Pile. Mr. Trevorrow and Mr. Ewald absent. All in favor, motion carried (5-0).

Police Chief's Report

The December 2021 Police Chief's Report was received. Mrs. Speicher asked why the "Stop" sign council had approved to install at the corner of Luzerne Street and Diamond Blvd. going toward the Inclined Plane was removed. Mrs. Layton stated at the time council approved the "Stop" sign, Westmont Borough was going to approve adding a "Stop" sign coming from the opposite direction, but ultimately decided against it. Mrs. Layton stated the West Hills Regional Police have received numerous complaints that the sign was causing confusion since Westmont did not install one on their side and asked that the borough remove the sign to avoid an accident.

Officer West stated that Ring doorbells have been very helpful in assisting the Officers in investigations and they have implemented a new system for residents to submit doorbell footage. It was suggested that the borough include an article in the next newsletter explaining how to submit footage.

Fire Company Report

Chief Weslager absent. The December 2021 Fire Chief's Report and 2021 Annual Fire Chief's Report were received.

Engineer's Report

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve the 2022 Engineering Service Agreement. Motion was seconded by Mr. Pile. Mr. Trevorrow and Mr. Ewald absent. All in favor, motion carried (5-0).

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve the Southmont Sanitary Sewer System Replacement Project Change Order No. 8. Motion was seconded by Mr. Pile. Mr. Trevorrow and Mr. Ewald absent. All in favor, motion carried (5-0).

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve Snyder Environmental Services Final Pay Estimate No. 19. Motion seconded by Mr. Pile. Mr. Trevorrow and Mr. Ewald absent. All in favor, motion carried (5-0).

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve Pennvest Payment Requisition No. 19. Motion seconded by Mr. Pile. Mr. Trevorrow and Mr. Ewald absent. All in favor, motion carried (5-0).

Mrs. Layton stated that there are approximately 98 properties left that received a notice of excess flow and still need action taken. Mr. Pile requested that a letter with a deadline to submit a signed contract or pressure test result be compiled by Solicitor Carbonara for the next meeting.

Zoning Officer's Report

Mr. Walker informed council he had a hearing with the Magistrate for a falling porch at 27 Harding Street noting the owner is to receive help from a non-profit organization to repair or remove the porch roof by March 3, 2022.

Mr. Walker reported he spoke with the owner of 104 Dahlia Street noting there is a pending hearing between the neighbors on the use of the alley. Mrs. Speicher questioned why the borough had to wait for the pending hearing to move forward with the junk vehicles on the property and Mr. Walker stated he was waiting to see if the issue would be resolved at the upcoming hearing to save the borough money. Council decided to have Mr. Walker move forward regardless of the pending hearing between the neighbors.

Mr. Walker reported he has not received any updates on the status of 200 State Street and the house fire is still under investigation.

Mr. Walker reported the property maintenance violations at 1046 Menoher Blvd. have been taken care of and 888 Franklin Street cleaned up the garbage, but still has unregistered vehicles. Mr. Walker will keep an eye on both. Mr. Walker reported a notice was sent to 100 Milton Street/723 Diamond Blvd. for unregistered vehicles and the retaining wall has fallen and is laying on the sidewalk and he will send a violation notice in the spring. Mr. Walker stated he will also investigate four vans with no license plates along Langhorne Avenue.

Mr. Pile asked Mr. Walker if Grimaldi Garage had any uninspected vehicles left to remove. Mr. Walker stated several vehicles have been removed noting there are three vehicles on the property that are not registered and belong to Grimaldi and the rest belong to clients. Mr. Pile directed Mr. Walker to move forward with the unregistered vehicles.

Mr. Muncert inquired if a fence could be installed to hide the condition of the property. Mr. Pile stated a council member had looked into having Grimaldi install a fence or arborvitae many years ago and it never got off the ground floor. Mr. Pile asked if Grimaldi was paying mercantile tax on Grimaldi Garage and Grimaldi Excavating at that location. Mrs. Layton stated she believed he was only paying for one business and would look into it.

Street Commissioner's Report

Mr. Lingenfelter absent. Mr. Muncert stated that Mr. Lingenfelter and his crew have done a good job with the plowing and salting the streets.

Solicitor's Report

Solicitor Carbonara absent.

Borough Manager Report

Mrs. Layton updated council on an incident along Langhorne Avenue where two dogs were abandoned in a vehicle noting the West Hills Police obtained a search warrant and worked with the Cambria County Humane Society to rescue the dogs. Mrs. Layton stated a \$30.00 fee was incurred from Deyarmin's Garage assisting in unlocking the vehicle. A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to pay Deyarmins

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Garage invoice in the amount of \$30.00. Motion seconded by Mr. Pile. Mr. Trevorrow and Mr. Ewald absent. All in favor, motion carried (5-0).

Mrs. Layton reported the 2003 Ford F-550 sale has been finalized and the new municipal building sign has been installed and the post caps and landscaping for the sign will be completed in the spring.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Keiper had nothing to report.

Committees:

Administration: Nothing to report.

Audit: Nothing to report.

Ballfield Improvement: Nothing to report.

Borough Services: Nothing to report.

Budget/Tax Collection: Mr. Pile reported the finances are in the black and he will have better figures for the next meeting.

Building & Grounds: Nothing to report.

Emergency Management: Nothing to report.

GJWA: Mr. Pile reported that everything is going very well at this time, and they are waiting on permits to continue with the dam work.

Grants: Mr. Beri asked Mrs. Layton to send him all information on proposed projects.

Insurance: Mr. Muncert stated things are proceeding well with switching insurance brokers to FWF Insurance.

MS4/Stormwater: Nothing to report.

Open Records: Nothing to report.

Personnel: Nothing to report.

Police: Nothing to report.

Shade Trees: Mr. Burkert asked about the process to remove two stumps in the front of his property and replant. Mrs. Layton told him at this time he just needs to fill out a request form for the Shade Tree Committee to review and she will send him the request forms.

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Streets: Nothing to report.

New/Old Business

A motion was made by Mr. Beri to approve the Municipal Allocation in the amount of \$182.12 to Cambria County Tax Collection Committee. Motion was seconded by Mr. Pile. Mr. Trevorrow and Mr. Ewald were absent. All in favor, motion carried (5-0).

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher for Resolution 2022-01, Disposition of Records. Motion was seconded by Mr. Pile. Mr. Trevorrow and Mr. Ewald were absent. All in favor, motion carried (5-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Pile to approve Ordinance No. 537 setting the 2022 Garbage Fee. Motion seconded by Mrs. Speicher. Mr. Trevorrow and Mr. Ewald were absent. All in favor, motion carried (5-0).

Council discussed the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers inspection of Cheney Run and Mrs. Speicher noted the inspection report was much better than it had been in previous years.

Mrs. Layton reported the two easements for the Cheney Run Headwall Project have not been signed yet because the property owners had a counteroffer. The owner of 110 Leon Street asked for more than one dollar and the owner of 505 State Street asked that the permanent easement area be shrunk on the north side of the headwall, installation of a retaining wall to create a level driveway to access the headwall that the owner could utilize, plantings added along the northern side of the wall, replacement of any plantings removed along Leon Street, and protection of the large arborvitae trees. Mrs. Layton stated Mr. Banks felt the shrinking of the permanent easement area could not be accommodated and the addition of a level driveway is unnecessary.

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to send the owner of 505 State Street a revised easement agreeing to replace any removed plantings and return the property to its natural state when the project has been completed. Motion seconded by Mr. Pile. Mr. Trevorrow and Mr. Ewald absent. All in favor, motion carried (5-0).

The proposed Southmont Borough Mission Statement was tabled for the February Meeting when Mr. Trevorrow could be present.

The council discussed ways to acknowledge the service of Robert Morgan and Richard Rodgers and suggested planting trees in their honor for the 2022 Arbor Day Ceremony.

Business Items

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve ratification of payroll from December 14, 2021 through January 17, 2022 in the amount of \$18,456.23. Motion seconded by Mr. Pile. Mr. Trevorrow and Mr. Ewald absent. Roll call: Mr. Pile, Mr. Muncert, Mrs. Speicher Mr. Beri and Mr. Burkert in favor. Motion carried (5-0)

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve payment of bills from December 14, 2021 through January 17, 2022 in the amount of \$113,408.13. Motion seconded by Mr. Pile. Mr. Trevorrow and Mr.

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Ewald absent: Roll call: Mr. Pile, Mr. Muncert, Mrs. Speicher Mr. Beri and Mr. Burkert in favor. Motion carried (5-0).

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve transfers from December 14, 2021 through January 17, 2022 in the amount of \$ 660,578.31. Motion seconded by Mr. Pile. Mr. Trevorrow and Mr. Ewald were absent. Roll call: Mr. Pile, Mr. Muncert, Mrs. Speicher, Mr. Beri and Mr. Burkert in favor. Motion carried (5-0).

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve the December 2021 treasurer's report in the amount of \$1,468,331.77. Motion seconded by Mr. Pile. Mr. Trevorrow and Mr. Ewald absent. Roll call: Mr. Pile, Mr. Muncert, Mrs. Speicher Mr. Beri and Mr. Burkert in favor. Motion carried (5-0).

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve note the receipt of the December 2021 tax collector's report in the amount of \$6,912.17. Motion seconded by Mr. Pile. Mr. Trevorrow and Mr. Ewald absent. All in favor, motion carried (5-0).

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mrs. Speicher for adjournment of the January 24, 2022 meeting at 5:10 p.m. Motion seconded by Mr. Pile. Mr. Trevorrow and Mr. Ewald absent. All in favor, motion carried (5-0).

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Riek
Assistant Secretary