

BOROUGH OF SOUTHMONT  
148 WONDER STREET  
JOHNSTOWN, PA 15905

MINUTES FOR March 21, 2022

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The pledge of allegiance was conducted and the March 21, 2022 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; Solicitor Michael Carbonara; Borough Manager Amanda Layton; Police Chief Ed Fisher; Fire Chief Joel Weslager; Street Commissioner Harry Lingenfelter; Mayor Anthony Keiper; Asst. Sec. Debra Riek.

**Absent:** Council members Herb Ewald, Kevin Pile and Sheree Speicher; Engineer Todd Banks.

**Visitors:** Robert Walker (312 State St.), Joni Keiper and Colby Keiper (17 Harding Street)

**Minutes**

A motion was made by Mr. Muncert to approve the February 21, 2022 Council Meeting Minutes. Motion seconded by Mr. Beri. Mr. Pile, Mrs. Speicher, and Mr. Ewald absent. All in favor, motion carried (4-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Muncert to approve the February 28, 2022 Special Meeting Minutes. Motion seconded by Mr. Beri. Mr. Pile, Mrs. Speicher, and Mr. Ewald absent. All in favor, motion carried (4-0).

**Police Chief's Report**

The March 2022 Police Chief's Report was received. Chief Fisher reported that the Annual Drug Take Back program would be taking place again this year.

**Fire Company Report**

The March 2022 Fire Chief's Report was received. Chief Weslager updated council on the status of the ISO rating appeal noting the appeal was denied and the low rating was due to the Westmont ladder truck being out of service.

**Engineer's Report**

Mr. Banks was absent. Solicitor Carbonara reported that he had spoken to Mr. Walters about his easement for the Cheney Run Headwall Project and believed any questions and reservations Mr. Walters may have had, have been resolved and the easement papers are to be signed, although he has not received the signed easement at this time.

A motion was made by Mr. Beri to approve the Annual Chapter 94 Waste Load Management Annual Report. Motion seconded by Mr. Muncert. Mr. Pile, Mrs. Speicher, and Mr. Ewald absent. All in favor, motion carried (4-0).

**Zoning Officer's Report**

Mr. Trevorrow reported he spoke with Mark Walker about the policy and procedures the borough is implementing and believes Mr. Walker will move forward to expedite procedures.

**Street Commissioner's Report**

Mr. Lingenfelter reported things are going well noting the street sweeper will be repaired and working this week.

**Solicitor's Report**

Solicitor Carbonara reported he has not received anything on the Department of Environmental Protection Consent Order and Agreement at this time. Solicitor Carbonara has been in communication with Mr. Beatty and Farmers of Marble about the 200 State Street house fire noting the insurance company admitted an oversight on their end by not putting funds into a fire escrow fund with the borough. Mr. Beatty submitted a building permit application for repairing the home with an estimated start date of July 2022 and an estimated end date of December 2022. Solicitor Carbonara stated Farmers of Marble were willing to put funds into a fire escrow fund if Mr. Beatty was not agreeable to submitting the funds himself. Solicitor Carbonara also stated 200 State Street was on the list of inflow and infiltration violations noting the sewer work will need to be done before any permits are approved.

**Borough Manager Report**

Mrs. Layton informed council about the request to remove the sewer trap at 115 Orchard Street. A motion was made by Mr. Muncert to get estimates for removal of the trap at 115 Orchard Street. Motion seconded by Mr. Beri. Mr. Pile, Mrs. Speicher, and Mr. Ewald absent. All in favor, motion carried (4-0).

**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:** Mr. Pile was absent. Mrs. Layton stated she inquired about the cost for the services of the Cambria Humane Society Animal Control for the borough. It would cost \$1,100.00 a year and \$65 for ancillary service in the borough. Based on the information, Mr. Trevorrow stated the need for other animal, not just cats and dog in the borough would be a concern, and to enter a contract with the Humane Society would not be a cost benefit for the borough.

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

**Building & Grounds:** Mr. Trevorrow stated that it will be too costly this year to make the restrooms handicap accessible in the borough building, so it will be put on hold until next year. Mr. Trevorrow reported to the council that the cost to do any repairs to the old fireman's metal building on Diamond Blvd. is not cost justified. Mr. Lingenfelter stated that the borough work crew would be able to demolish the building. Mr. Trevorrow asked for all reusable material to be saved and stored for future use. A motion was made by Mr. Beri to tear down the metal barn building. Motion seconded by Mr. Muncert. Mr. Pile, Mrs. Speicher, and Mr. Ewald absent. All in favor, motion carried (4-0).

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**Emergency Management:** Nothing to report.

**GJWA:** Mr. Trevorrow shared with the council his concerns for the Vision 2025 and the direction it is headed. He has been researching documents to understand the position of the committee. He has a concern of a conflict of interest for Mr. Michael Kerr being a member of the Greater Johnstown Water Authority and a voting member of for the Vision 25 committee.

**Grants:** Mr. Beri reported due to the time deadlines and cost of the grants he was researching; he will have to wait until a later date to submit the grants needed for the borough. He will continue looking into other grants available for the borough this year.

**Insurance:** Nothing to report.

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

**Open Records:** Nothing to report.

**Personnel:** Nothing to report.

**Police:** Mr. Trevorrow stated that equipment and upgrades for the West Hills Police Department are needed. Mr. Beri stated that there are few grants available for government agencies. Mr. Trevorrow believes if a non-profit group should be formed as Friends of West Hills Police so more grants would be available. This would help in being able to update computers, cars, weapons whatever the need.

**Shade Trees:** Mr. Muncert stated that he will be reviewing a request for tree and stump removal.

**Streets:** Nothing to report.

### **New/Old Business**

A motion was made by Mr. Beri to accept the resignation of Sheree Speicher from borough council. Motion seconded by Mr. Muncert. Mr. Pile, Mrs. Speicher, and Mr. Ewald absent. All in favor, motion carried (4-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Muncert to advertise in for the council vacancy. Motion seconded by Mr. Burkert. Mr. Pile, Mrs. Speicher, and Mr. Ewald absent. All in favor, motion carried (4-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Muncert to approve new check signer list removing Sheree Speicher and adding Mr. Bill Trevorrow and Mr. Doug Beri. Motion seconded by Mr. Burkert. Mr. Pile, Mrs. Speicher, and Mr. Ewald absent. All in favor, motion carried (4-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Muncert to approve the attendance to Cambria County Borough's Association Dinner April 19, 2022. Motion seconded by Mr. Burkert. Mr. Pile, Mrs. Speicher, and Mr. Ewald absent. All in favor, motion carried (4-0).

Mrs. Layton reported to the council that the Application for Aid funding from the Cambria County was also in part from last year. \$15,000 for the year of 2021 and \$5,600 for this year 2022.

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A motion was made by Mr. Beri to approve 2022 County Aid Application for \$20,600. Motion seconded by Mr. Muncert. Mr. Pile, Mrs. Speicher, and Mr. Ewald absent. All in favor, motion carried (4-0).

### **Business Items**

A motion was made by Mr. Beri to approve ratification of payroll from February 22, 2022 through March 21, 2022 in the amount of \$12,671.29. Motion seconded by Mr. Muncert. Mr. Pile, Mrs. Speicher, and Mr. Ewald absent. Roll call: Mr. Trevorrow, Mr. Muncert, Mr. Beri and Mr. Burkert in favor. Motion carried (4-0)

A motion was made by Mr. Beri to approve payment of bills from February 22, 2022 through March 21, 2022 in the amount of \$109,906.02. Motion seconded by Mr. Muncert. Mr. Pile, Mrs. Speicher, and Mr. Ewald absent: Roll call: Mr. Trevorrow Mr. Muncert, Mr. Beri and Mr. Burkert in favor. Motion carried (4-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Beri to approve transfers from February 22, 2022 through March 21, 2022 in the amount of \$ 54,356.38. Motion seconded by Mr. Muncert. Mr. Pile, Mrs. Speicher and Mr. Ewald were absent. Roll call: Mr. Trevorrow, Mr. Muncert, Mr. Beri and Mr. Burkert in favor. Motion carried (4-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Beri to approve the March 2022 treasurer's report in the amount of \$1,519,186.45. Motion seconded by Mr. Muncert. Mr. Pile, Mrs. Speicher, and Mr. Ewald absent. Roll call: Mr. Trevorrow, Mr. Muncert, Mr. Beri and Mr. Burkert in favor. Motion carried (4-0).

A motion was made by Beri to approve note the receipt of the March 2022 tax collector's report in the amount of \$0.00. Motion seconded by Mr. Muncert. Mr. Pile, Mrs. Speicher, and Mr. Ewald absent. All in favor, motion carried (4-0).

### **Public Comment**

Mr. Muncert is concerned in the condition of the sidewalks throughout the borough. Mr. Walker asked if the responsibility of the homeowners is to keep their sidewalks clean and in repair. Mr. Beri stated that there are many dangerous sidewalks in areas he walks frequently. Mr. Trevorrow stated that due to the cost of the sewer project for some residence, the sidewalks have been put on hold but will be addressed this year.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Muncert for adjournment of the March 21, 2022 meeting at 5:05 p.m. Motion seconded by Mr. Beri. Mr. Pile, Mrs. Speicher, and Mr. Ewald absent. All in favor, motion carried (4-0).

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Riek  
Assistant Secretary