

BOROUGH OF SOUTHMONT
148 WONDER STREET
JOHNSTOWN, PA 15905

MINUTES FOR JUNE 15, 2020

The scheduled June 15, 2020 teleconference Council meeting was called to order by President Speicher at 4:00 p.m.

Present: Council President Sheree Speicher; Council Members Edward Danyluk, Richard Rodgers, Kevin Pile, Herb Ewald and Robert Morgan; Solicitor Michael Carbonara; Exec. Sec. Amanda Layton; Street Commissioner Harry Lingenfelter; Police Chief Michael Lose; Engineer Todd Banks

Absent: Mayor Mark Yonko; Council Member Gregory Paolini, Fire Chief Michael Butler

Correspondence: A letter was received from Robert Zellers at 313 Gardner Street thanking the borough for handling a sewer line backup in his basement. Council directed the borough office to send a letter noting there is a sag in the storm sewer line and it has been contracted out to be fixed.

A letter was received from Stephen Detwiler at 106 King Street concerning late night fires that aggravate his allergies due to the smoke going in his windows and requested Council review the burning ordinance to limit fires to specific times. Council will look at updating the current ordinance.

A letter was received from James Sestrich at 179 State Street regarding noise, dust and construction equipment in the area over the past few years due to the sewer project and the gas company construction and also requesting speed bumps on the 100 block of State Street due to vehicles speeding. Mr. Lingenfelter stated the gas company would be out of that area by next week and Council stated speed bumps are not viable due to snow plowing. Chief Lose stated the radar machine should be fixed soon and they will put it up in the area every once in awhile to deter speeding.

A letter was received from Eric Taylor at 215 Violet Street concerning the hazardous state of 211 Violet Street noting the property has been vacant for several years and proposed the borough demolish/remove the structure and then transfer the rights to him for \$1.00. Council directed the borough office send Mr. Taylor a letter stating he needs to contact the owner of the property since the borough does not own it.

A letter was received from David Carney at 123 Helen Street requesting permission to place three geocaches at the corner of Shady Lane and Susan Drive, Diamond Blvd. Playground and the Nature Trail. Council directed the borough office to send a letter of approval.

Meeting Agenda

A motion was made by Mr. Pile to approve the monthly council meeting minutes of May 18, 2020. Motion seconded by Mr. Rodgers. Roll call: Mr. Danyluk, Mr. Rodgers, Mr. Pile, Mr. Ewald, Mr. Morgan and Mrs. Speicher in favor. Mr. Paolini absent. All in favor, motion carried (6-0).

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Police Chief's Report

Chief Lose reported the recent vehicle thefts have been cleared up via arrest and due to COVID-19 the Open House has been cancelled for this year.

Fire Chief's Report

Chief Butler absent.

Engineer's Report

Mr. Banks reported the Tomato Alley bids were opened on June 10th and were reviewed by Stiffler McGraw noting the bids were as follows: Snyder Excavating \$39,752.50; Quaker Sales \$43,225.00. A motion was made by Mr. Pile to approve the bid of \$39,752.50 received from Snyder Excavating. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. Roll call: Mr. Danyluk, Mr. Rodgers, Mr. Pile, Mr. Ewald, Mr. Morgan and Mrs. Speicher in favor. Mr. Paolini absent. All in favor, motion carried (6-0).

Mr. Banks reported the lateral televising has been put on hold until the push camera is back from the repair shop noting they should be able to finish by next week. Mr. Banks stated to date they found one lateral with root penetration, one that looks like it was backfilled with bigger fill material and one with a sag. Mr. Banks noted the flow meters are in place and they are still waiting for a two year storm event.

Mr. Banks reported he met with Snyder Environmental Services regarding the storm water line issue on Mabel Street and they will give a price proposal for a cure in place repair of the pipe. Mr. Banks also stated Snyder Environmental should be back shortly to finish restoration work from the sewer project.

Mr. Banks reported the permit has been submitted for the Cheney Run Headwall Project.

Zoning Officer's Report

The May 2020 Zoning Officer's report was not received.

Street Commissioner's Report

Mr. Lingenfelter reported the public works department is finishing up crack sealing and getting caught up on grass cutting noting they cut the grass in the rear of 211 Violet Street due to several calls regarding snakes and rodents.

Solicitor's Report

Solicitor Carbonara reported a meeting will be held June 26th regarding the assessment appeal for Gelormino and noted the appeal for Mattre is pending due to Attorney Barbin being out for surgery. Solicitor Carbonara asked Mrs. Layton to contact the Zoning Hearing Board to schedule something for mid-July.

Solicitor Carbonara stated he sent a draft letter to Mrs. Speicher and Mr. Morgan that is awaiting review regarding the tree issue on Palliser Street with Mr. McIlwain and Mr. Drummey on Palliser Street.

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Solicitor Carbonara reported Greater Johnstown Water Authority requested the borough have a special meeting to approve an ordinance to amend the articles of incorporation to allow them to purchase the City of Johnstown's sewer system and GJWA offered to reimburse the borough for the cost of running the advertisement of the special meeting and ordinance. Council scheduled a special meeting for June 24, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. Solicitor Carbonara stated he will have a fee resolution for the street cutting ordinance available for the special meeting as well.

Executive Secretary's Report

Mrs. Layton reported the delinquent collections for past due garbage and sewer maintenance were put on hold due to winter weather and COVID-19 shut downs, but will resume as soon as possible.

A motion was made by Mr. Pile to approve forgiveness of \$3,191.48 in past due garbage and sewer maintenance penalties. Motion seconded by Mr. Ewald. Roll call: Mr. Danyluk, Mr. Rodgers, Mr. Pile, Mr. Ewald, Mr. Morgan and Mrs. Speicher in favor. Mr. Paolini absent. All in favor, motion carried (6-0).

Mayor's Report

Mayor Yonko absent.

New Business

A motion was made by Mr. Pile to approve advertising Ordinance No. 528, amending the Greater Johnstown Water Authority articles of incorporation to include ownership and operation of sanitary sewer facilities and to extend the term of existence of the authority fifty years. Motion seconded by Mr. Ewald. Roll call: Mr. Danyluk, Mr. Rodgers, Mr. Pile, Mr. Ewald, Mr. Morgan and Mrs. Speicher in favor. Mr. Paolini absent. All in favor, motion carried (6-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Pile to approve Ordinance No. 527, street cutting. Motion seconded by Mr. Rodgers. Roll call: Mr. Danyluk, Mr. Rodgers, Mr. Pile, Mr. Ewald, Mr. Morgan and Mrs. Speicher in favor. Mr. Paolini absent. All in favor, motion carried (6-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Rodgers to approve advertising the 2020 paving bids. Motion seconded by Mr. Pile. Roll call: Mr. Danyluk, Mr. Rodgers, Mr. Pile, Mr. Ewald, Mr. Morgan and Mrs. Speicher in favor. Mr. Paolini absent. All in favor, motion carried (6-0).

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- A. **Streets:** Nothing to report.
- B. **Administration:** Nothing to report.
- C. **Personnel:** A motion was made by Mr. Rodgers to approve hiring Noah Buchan for part-time seasonal work at \$9.00 per hour. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. Roll call: Mr. Danyluk, Mr. Rodgers, Mr. Pile, Mr. Ewald, Mr. Morgan and Mrs. Speicher in favor. Mr. Paolini absent. All in favor, motion carried (6-0).
- D. **Police:** Mr. Morgan reported the monthly commission meeting will be held on June 16th.
- E. **Budget/Tax:** Nothing to report.

- F. Shade Tree:** Mr. Morgan reported he sprayed the poison ivy covering the stump at the end of Otis Street noting Ideal Tree Service will cut down the rest of the stump, but will not grind it due to the poison ivy. Mr. Morgan made a list of stumps throughout the borough that need to be removed.
- Mr. Morgan reported he received several requests for tree work. Tim Rigby at 311 Thoburn Street requested approval to trim three shade trees, Joseph Balaschak requested removal of two dead trees, and Kirby Deater requested tree trimming or removal of three trees. Mr. Morgan stated he would approve Mr. Rigby and Mr. Balaschak's requests and didn't suggest any action on Mr. Deater's trees. Joe Polantz at 411 State Street requested approval to replace two shade trees that were taken out and approval to remove three trees located in a paper alley next to his house. A motion was made by Mr. Morgan to approve the request from Joe Polantz to replace the two shade trees and remove three trees in the paper alley. Motion seconded by Mr. Rodgers. Roll call: Mr. Danyluk, Mr. Rodgers, Mr. Pile, Mr. Ewald, Mr. Morgan and Mrs. Speicher in favor. Mr. Paolini absent. All in favor, motion carried (6-0).
- G. Building & Grounds:** Mr. Morgan reported he gave Mr. Lingenfelter a list of items that need to be addressed and Mr. Polantz on State Street will be obtaining estimates for fencing or shrubbery to beautify the old salt storage building area and will present his suggestions to council.
- H. Greater Johnstown Water Authority:** Mr. Pile reported GJWA is running a water line from Kernville to a new tank being put in at the Mound and North Fork Dam work is waiting on permits from the Department of Environmental Protection. Mr. Pile reported the City of Johnstown will vote on June 23rd regarding GJWA purchasing the sewer lines.
- I. Open Records:** Nothing to report.
- J. Borough Services:** Nothing to report.
- K. Audit:** Mr. Pile reported Kline Kimlin has completed the internal controls audit and met with the audit committee and Mrs. Layton to review noting they will have the 2019 audit report ready for the next meeting. Mr. Pile stated Kline Kimlin suggested the borough approve all transfers between accounts at each monthly meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Pile to approve transfers from June 1, 2020 through June 15, 2020 in the amount of \$47,828.00. Motion seconded by Mr. Ewald. Roll call: Mr. Danyluk, Mr. Rodgers, Mr. Pile, Mr. Ewald, Mr. Morgan and Mrs. Speicher in favor. Mr. Paolini absent. All in favor, motion carried (6-0).

Mr. Pile reported there are too many bank accounts and it was recommended that the borough merge or close accounts that are not needed and Mrs. Layton provided a list of recommendations. A motion was made by Mr. Pile to approve Mrs. Layton to move forward with merging and closing unnecessary borough accounts. Motion seconded by Mr. Rodgers. Roll call: Mr. Danyluk, Mr. Rodgers, Mr. Pile, Mr. Ewald, Mr. Morgan and Mrs. Speicher in favor. Mr. Paolini absent. All in favor, motion carried (6-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Pile to approve a transfer of \$49,782.96 from general fund to sewer fund to record funds due from 2019. Motion seconded by Mr. Rodgers. Roll call: Mr. Danyluk, Mr. Rodgers, Mr. Pile, Mr. Ewald, Mr. Morgan and Mrs. Speicher in favor. Mr. Paolini absent. All in favor, motion carried (6-0).

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L. Insurance: Mr. Paolini absent. Nothing to report.

M. Centennial: Mr. Morgan will get suggestions on how to use the leftover money before the Centennial Committee is disbanded.

Business Items:

A motion was made by Mr. Rodgers to approve ratification of payroll from May 19, 2020 through June 15, 2020 in the amount of \$12,453.34. Motion seconded by Mr. Pile. Roll call: Mr. Danyluk, Mr. Rodgers, Mr. Pile, Mr. Ewald, Mr. Morgan and Mrs. Speicher in favor. Mr. Paolini absent. All in favor, motion carried (6-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Rodgers to approve payment of bills from May 19, 2020 through June 15, 2020 in the amount of \$56,714.10. Motion seconded by Mr. Pile. Roll call: Mr. Danyluk, Mr. Rodgers, Mr. Pile, Mr. Ewald, Mr. Morgan and Mrs. Speicher in favor. Mr. Paolini absent. All in favor, motion carried (6-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Rodgers to approve the May 2020 Treasurer's Report in the amount of \$1,755,629.39. Motion seconded by Mr. Pile. Roll call: Mr. Danyluk, Mr. Rodgers, Mr. Pile, Mr. Ewald, Mr. Morgan and Mrs. Speicher in favor. Mr. Paolini absent. All in favor, motion carried (6-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Rodgers to note the receipt of the May 2020 tax collector's report in the amount of \$908.70. Motion seconded by Mr. Pile. Roll call: Mr. Danyluk, Mr. Rodgers, Mr. Pile, Mr. Ewald, Mr. Morgan and Mrs. Speicher in favor. Mr. Paolini absent. All in favor, motion carried (6-0).

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Rodgers for adjournment of the June 15, 2020 meeting at 5:40 p.m. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. Roll call: Mr. Danyluk, Mr. Rodgers, Mr. Pile, Mr. Ewald, Mr. Morgan and Mrs. Speicher in favor. Mr. Paolini absent. All in favor, motion carried (6-0).

Respectfully Submitted,

Amanda Layton
Executive Secretary

