

BOROUGH OF SOUTHMONT
148 WONDER STREET
JOHNSTOWN, PA 15905

MINUTES FOR JANUARY 16, 2023

The pledge of allegiance was conducted, and the scheduled January 16, 2023 monthly council meeting was called to order by President Eric Muncert at 4:00 p.m.

Present: Council Members Eric Muncert, Doug Beri, Kevin Pile, Robert Morgan, Sheree Speicher, Richard Burkert, Solicitor Michael Carbonara; Borough Manager Amanda Layton; Street Commissioner Harry Lingenfelter; Police Chief Edward Fisher; Former Fire Chief Joel Weslager; Former Fire Asst. Chief Jim Carbaugh; Mayor Anthony Keiper; Engineer Todd Banks; Asst. Sec. Debra Riek

Absent: Council Member Herb Ewald

Visitors: John A. Klanchar (104 Dahlia St.); John G. Klanchar (104 Dahlia St.); Jo Arlene Klanchar (104 Dahlia St.), Anita Moore (408 State St.)

Public Comment:

Correspondence:

Mr. Banks reported on the request submitted by Alex Keklak at 89 Thoburn Street requesting reimbursement for extra work his contractor did to connect the under-slab lines to the exterior lateral line because he believed the excess fees charged by his contractor were due to the contractor that originally installed the exterior sewer laterals not connecting the exterior lateral to the foundation of the home. Mr. Banks stated the records show the lateral was connected at the foundation noting there is a porch and that would have been where the lateral would have stopped. The request was denied for lack of motion.

Mr. John A. Klanchar stated other local municipalities do not mandate garbage to be picked up by a certain company and every municipality thinks it is okay to legislate the water and requested that council waive the rule that the water can be shut off.

Mr. John G. Klanchar stated he has spent several thousand dollars over an ongoing issue with his neighbor over a paper alley between the properties, which Judge Creany has officially ruled on, and Mr. Klanchar feels the borough was wrong by not officially accepting the alley.

Mr. Klanchar stated he had an issue with Pro Disposal picking up all of his garbage. Mrs. Layton stated there is no bag limit, but Pro Disposal asks that they be given advanced notice of more than 6 bags. Mr. Klanchar stated he was not able to get through to Pro Disposal.

Mr. Klanchar inquired why the borough moved the handicap parking sign by his home. Mr. Lingenfelter stated that an evaluation was done on handicapped parking spaces and were moved to be in line with the front door of his home and the side of the street closest to the home is currently no parking. Mr. Klanchar requested the sign be moved back to where it was originally located.

Mr. Muncert and Mr. Pile commented they have never had an issue when calling Pro Disposal.

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Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Morgan to approve the December 12, 2022 regular monthly council meeting minutes. Motion seconded by Mr. Pile. Mr. Ewald absent. All in favor, motion carried (6-0).

Police Chief's Report

Chief Fisher reported the police department received a total of 358 calls for service during the month of December noting there have been a total of 5,014 calls so far this year, which is the first time in the history of the department that the number of calls exceeded 5,000. Chief Fisher also reported the department investigated 21 vehicle accidents due to recent weather conditions including the hit and run accident resulting in damage to the Menoher Blvd. traffic light electrical box noting they have not found the individual responsible yet.

Fire Company Report

The December 2022 Fire Chief's Report was received and is on file. Mr. Weslager reported the house fire at 468 Southmont Blvd. was a total loss, but the nearby homes were saved with little damage. Mr. Weslager stated there were rumors going around that the structure was lost due to issues with the fire hydrants. Mr. Weslager stated the home was being remodeled and was completely gutted, which allowed the fire to spread quickly, and the structure was completely engulfed when the fire department arrived, so they focused on keeping the fire from spreading. Mrs. Speicher and Mr. Muncert commended the fire department for doing an excellent job in controlling the fire.

Engineer's Report

Mr. Banks reported the Cheney Run Headwall Replacement Project is moving along, the 216R Leila Street sewer lateral connection issue has been resolved, and the flow meters will be re-installed in early March.

A motion was made by Mr. Pile to approve Mar-Allen Concrete Pay Estimate No. 2 for the Cheney Run Headwall Replacement Project in the amount of \$40,704.52. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. Mr. Ewald absent. All in favor, motion carried (6-0).

Zoning Officer's Report

The December 2022 Zoning Officer's Report was received and is on file.

Street Commissioner's Report

The December 2022 Street Commissioners Report was received and is on file.

Solicitor's Report

Solicitor Carbonara reported on the enforcement hearings noting all of the findings of fact notices were sent out via certified mail and a handful have completed the under-slab work since the hearings took place.

Borough Manager Report

The December 2022 Borough Manager's report was received and is on file. A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve reappointing the following Board, Commission & Authority Members: IPMC Appeal Board – Nicholas Antonazzo, Jim Moskal, Brian Curtis; Tax Appeal Board – Jim Moskal, Sheree Speicher,

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Doug Beri, Kevin Pile. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. Mr. Ewald absent. All in favor, motion carried (6-0).

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Keiper reported he received email correspondence from Mr. Klanchar and thanked Solicitor Carbonara and Mrs. Layton for their input in the response sent to Mr. Klanchar.

Committees:

Administration: A motion was made by Mr. Morgan to approve advertising Ordinance No. 542, authorizing participation in the property maintenance program of the Cambria County Building Code Enforcement Agency. Motion seconded by Mr. Pile. Mr. Ewald absent. All in favor, motion carried (6-0).

Audit: Mrs. Speicher stated the committee is looking into options and costs for the annual fire company audit that the borough has agreed to pay for.

Budget/Tax Collection: Nothing to report.

Community Planning & Improvements: Mr. Burkert reported the committee will be rescheduling a meeting for January 24, 2023, at 3:00 p.m.

Emergency Management: Nothing to report.

GJWA: Mr. Pile reported the Water Authority installed a new valve and are having issues with pressure between the old gate and new gate at North Fork Dam noting they are working on relieving that pressure. Mr. Pile reported there were not many water line breaks over the recent extremely cold weather noting in the future the Water Authority will be notifying residents with high water usage before they receive their monthly bill.

Grants: Mr. Beri reported his recent grant application for stormwater technical assistance was not approved noting he did not realize it was a grant for low-income areas.

Insurance: Nothing to report.

MS4/Stormwater: Mrs. Speicher reported there is an ordinance being put together to update the current stormwater management ordinance with the new stormwater management model ordinance. Mrs. Speicher stated there is talk of creating a regional stormwater management group to oversee and implement potential upcoming stormwater regulations.

Personnel: Mr. Muncert reported the 2023 personnel manual and job descriptions will be updated this year.

Police: Nothing to report.

Property Maintenance & Streets: Mr. Ewald absent. Mr. Muncert stated the committee will be reviewing the parking ordinance and will make recommendations for council to decide on at the next meeting.

Shade Trees: Mr. Burkert reported he met with Brian Wolyzniak from Penn State Extension to tour the borough with a list of problem trees reported by the residents to the borough office. Mrs. Layton reported she has submitted the initial Bare Root Tree Grant Application noting the full application will be emailed to applicants toward the end of January.

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New Business

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve Ordinance No. 541, setting the 2023 garbage fee at \$178.00. Motion seconded by Mr. Pile. Mr. Ewald absent. All in favor, motion carried (6-0).

Business Items

A motion was made by Mr. Morgan to approve ratification of payroll from December 13, 2022 through January 16, 2023 in the amount of \$20,550.52. Motion seconded by Mrs. Speicher. Roll call: Mr. Muncert, Mr. Beri, Mr. Morgan, Mr. Pile, Mrs. Speicher, Mr. Burkert. Mr. Ewald absent. All in favor, motion carried (6-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Morgan to approve payment of bills from December 13, 2022 through January 16, 2023 in the amount of \$73,533.72. Motion seconded by Mrs. Speicher. Mr. Ewald absent. Roll call: Mr. Beri, Mr. Muncert, Mr. Morgan Mrs. Speicher, Mr. Pile, Mr. Burkert. All in favor. Motion carried (6-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Morgan to approve transfers from December 13, 2022 through January 16, 2023 in the amount of \$69,148.00. Motion seconded by Mrs. Speicher. Mr. Ewald absent. Roll call: Mr. Muncert, Mr. Pile, Mr. Beri, Mr. Morgan, Mrs. Speicher, Mr. Burkert. All in favor. Motion carried (6-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Morgan to approve the December 2022 treasurer's report in the amount of \$1,551,322.50. Motion seconded by Mr. Pile. Roll call: Mr. Muncert, Mr. Morgan, Mr. Pile, Mr. Beri, Mrs. Speicher and Mr. Burkert. Mr. Ewald absent. All in favor. Motion carried (6-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Morgan to note the receipt of the December 2022 tax collector's report in the amount of \$9,086.60. Motion seconded by Mr. Pile. Mr. Ewald absent. All in favor. Motion carried. (6-0)

A motion was made by Mr. Morgan to enter an Executive Session at 4:55 p.m. to discuss legal matters regarding borough contracts. Motion seconded by Mr. Pile. Mr. Ewald absent. All in favor, motion carried (6-0). Executive session ended at 5:45 p.m. and council resumed the regularly scheduled meeting.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Pile to adjourn the January 16, 2023 meeting at 5:45 p.m. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. Mr. Ewald absent. Motion carried (6-0).

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Riek
Assistant Secretary