

BOROUGH OF SOUTHMONT
148 WONDER STREET
JOHNSTOWN, PA 15905

MINUTES FOR OCTOBER 21, 2024

The pledge of allegiance was conducted, and the scheduled October 21, 2024 Council meeting was called to order by President Doug Beri at 4:00 p.m.

Present: Council Members Doug Beri, Richard Burkert, Herb Ewald, Bob Morgan, Sheree Speicher, Eugene Kupchella, Matthew McVicker, Borough Manager Amanda Layton; Police Chief William (B.J.) Newman; Solicitor Eric Hochfeld; Engineer Todd Banks; Mayor Anthony Keiper; Street Commissioner Sam McAdams; Asst. Sec. Debra Riek.

Absent: Fire Chief Steve Costic.

Visitors: John A. Klanchar (104 Dahlia St.), Roxanne Hauger (314 Cheney Oak Drive), Russ O'Reilly (Tribune Democrat).

Public Committee

Mrs. Roxanne Hauger informed council of several issues on Cheney Oak Drive noting issues of light pollution and light trespass from the use of a spotlight pointing from Cheney Oak Drive toward Susan Drive, nuisance violations due to leaves being blown and vehicles being washed in the early morning hours between 3:00 a.m. and 5:00 a.m. Mrs. Hauger questioned whether the borough has a bag limit for garbage collection and stated she has seen on social media that other residents of the borough are having similar issues.

Mr. John Klanchar stated that he believes he does not receive the help he requests from the borough and the police department because of the way he speaks, noting he also has reported the use of a snowblower at midnight to the police in the past and they refused to issue a citation.

Minutes

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve the September 16, 2024 Council Meeting Minutes. Motion seconded by Mr. Burkert. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve the October 8, 2024 MS4 & Finance Committee Minutes. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

Police Chief's Report

The Police Chief's report was received. Police Chief Newman stated that there were 363 calls for the month of September making 768 for the year noting there were 8 traffic citations for the month of September. Chief Newman also reported a vehicle stolen in Southmont Borough that was recovered in Upper Yoder Township.

Fire Company Report

Chief Costic absent. The September 2024 Fire Chief's Report was received.

Engineer's Report

Mr. Banks reported that the flow meters will be removed before the November monthly meeting. Mr. Banks stated he had provided information needed to submit a grant application that Cambria County has agreed to sponsor which would provide funding to stabilize the streambank along Shady Lane.

Zoning Officer's Report

The September 2024 Zoning and Property Maintenance Reports were received.

Solicitor's Report

Solicitor Hochfeld reported that there has not been a decision made on the Hannevig v. Southmont Borough Zoning Hearing Board hearing case. Solicitor Hochfeld stated that as soon as Judge Kiniry makes his court decision he will inform the board.

Street Commissioner's Report

The September 2024 Street Commissioner's Report was received and is on file. Mr. McAdams stated the fuel pump on the utility truck is being replaced and should be back shortly.

Borough Manager Report

Borough Manager's report was received. A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve the purchase of the solar power radar sign for RadarSign for \$3,953.00. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. Mr. Ewald opposed. Motion carried (6 – 1).

Mayor's Report

Nothing to report

Committees:

Administration: Nothing to report.

Community Planning & Improvement:

Mr. Burkert stated there is no update on the Active Transportation Plan and he has submitted a request for \$5,500 to the budget committee for 2025 to be used as a grant match for the multi-municipal comprehensive plan.

Emergency Management:

Nothing to report.

Finance: Mrs. Speicher stated that the draft budget for 2025 is completed noting three properties filed tax appeals with Cambria County and were reduced by about half noting the borough will not receive approximately \$2,330 in tax revenue due to the approved appeals. Mrs. Speicher stated that last year there

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were 6 approved appeals and each year the borough receives less money from tax appeals. Mrs. Speicher stated that the council may want to consider the public works department doing the grass cutting in 2025 since we no longer maintain the soccer field, noting we would need to purchase a zero-turn mower, but would save on costs in the long run.

GJWA:

Mr. Kupchella stated that the letters that were to have been sent out to the public regarding lead line replacements have been put on hold. Mr. Kupchella stated the EPA rules on lead line replacements just came out and it was unclear on what portion is GJWA's responsibility, so Attorney Barbin is reviewing the rules and the letters will be sent to the public after the solicitor reports his findings to the authority.

MS4/Stormwater: A motion was made by Mr. Morgan to approve Stiffler McGraw & Associates to complete stormwater system mapping to comply with MS4 regulations. Motion seconded by Mrs. Speicher. All in favor motion carried (7 – 0)

Personnel: Nothing to report.

Police: Nothing to report.

Property Maintenance and Streets: Mr. McVicker stated that he will be having a meeting to look into what will be needed in the borough sidewalk program.

Shade Trees: Mr. Burkert stated that Barb Hage, a landscape architect, will do a tree survey digitizing the maintenance program. An application will need to be submitted by April 1, 2025. The borough will be responsible for 20% of matching funds. Mrs. Speicher stated that there is \$5,500.00 in the budget and not the \$10,000.00 that would be needed for the program.

New Business

Business Items

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve ratification of payroll from September 17, 2024 through October 21, 2024 in the amount of \$21,211.49. Motion seconded by Mr. McVicker. Roll call: Mr. Beri, Mr. Burkert, Kupchella, Mr. Ewald, Mrs. Speicher, Mr. Morgan and Mr. McVicker. All in favor. Motion carried (7 -0).

A motion was made by Mr. Pile to approve payment of bills from September 17, 2024 through October 21, 2024, in the amount of \$143,403.26. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. Roll call: Mr. Beri, Mr. Burkert, Mr. Kupchella, Mrs. Speicher, Mr. Ewald, and Mr. Morgan All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve transfers from September 17, 2024 through October 21, 2024 in the amount of \$ 88,608.00. Motion seconded by Morgan. Roll call: Mr. Beri, Mr. Burkert, Mr. Kupchella, Mr. Ewald, Mrs. Speicher, and Mr. Morgan All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

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A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve the September 2024 treasurer's report. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. Roll call: Mr. Beri, Mr. Burkert, Mr. Kupchella, Mr. Ewald, Mr. Morgan, and Mrs. Speicher. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to accept the Tax Collector's Report for September 2024. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

Mr. Ewald stated that individuals have approached him about having a streetlight installed on Dahlia Street. Mrs. Layton said she would look into the matter.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mrs. Speicher for adjournment of the September 18, 2024 meeting at 4:30 p.m. Motion seconded by Mr. Kupchella. All in favor, motion carried (7-0)

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Riek
Assistant Secretary