

BOROUGH OF SOUTHMONT
148 WONDER STREET
JOHNSTOWN, PA 15905

MINUTES FOR OCTOBER 16, 2023

The pledge of allegiance was conducted, and the scheduled October 16, 2023, Council meeting was called to order by President Doug Beri at 4:00 p.m.

Present: Council Members Doug Beri, Richard Burkert, Kevin Pile, Sheree Speicher, Bob Morgan, Eugene Kupchella; Borough Manager Amanda Layton; Police Detective Dean West, Fire Assistant Chief Jim Carbaugh; Solicitor Michael Carbonara; Mayor Anthony Keiper; Street Commissioner Sam McAdams; Asst. Sec. Debra Riek

Absent: Herb Ewald; Engineer Todd Banks

Visitors: Robert Walker (312 State St.); John G. Klanchar; John A. Klanchar (104 Dahlia St.), Lary Koval (336 Orchard St.); Carol Hickman (103 Dahlia St.); Jayce Pecze (103 Violet St.); Russ O'Reilly (Tribune-Democrat)

Public Comment:

John G. Klanchar addressed council regarding his concerns on the recent large vehicle and trailer ordinance and inquired if anyone else had been notified of being in violation.

John A. Klanchar addressed council regarding his displeasure with the recent large vehicle and trailer ordinance.

Lary Koval addressed council regarding concerns that the recent stop sign placed at the intersection of Orchard Street and Olive Street is not easily seen due to a speed limit sign.

Carol Hickman addressed council regarding her concerns on the behavior of another resident at recent meetings. Solicitor Carbonara stated he has ongoing dialogue with the District Attorney and suggested those feeling offended by recent language and behavior at the meetings should leave their contact information with Detective West after the meeting.

Correspondence Received

Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Morgan to approve the September 18, 2023, council meeting minutes. Motion seconded by Mr. Pile. Mr. Ewald absent. All in favor, motion carried (6-0).

Police Chief's Report

The September 2023 Police Chief's Report was received. Chief Fisher stated that 82 calls were received in the month of September and the reported number of calls is down. Chief Fisher suggested that the speed limit sign going up Olive Street be relocated because it is difficult to see the stop sign at Olive and Orchard Streets and also suggested a stop bar be painted to make it more noticeable since it is new. A

motion by Mr. Pile to have public works paint stop bars in the borough next spring with the stop sign located on Olive Street at the intersection with Orchard Street being top priority. Motion seconded by Mrs. Speicher. Mr. Ewald absent. All in favor, motion carried (6-0).

Fire Company Report

The September 2023 Fire Chief's Report was received. Mr. Carbaugh thanked Solicitor Carbonaro for assisting in the soccer field lease agreement with the Westmont Hilltop School District noting the lease has been approved and signed.

Engineer's Report

Mr. Banks absent.

Zoning Officer's Report

The September 2023 Zoning Officer's Report was received.

Solicitor's Report

Solicitor Carbonara stated that the lawsuit against the Westmont Hilltop School District can now be withdrawn because the issue regarding the soccer field has been resolved. A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to dismiss litigation against the Westmont Hilltop School District. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. Mr. Ewald was absent. All in favor, motion carried (6-0).

Solicitor Carbonaro requested an Executive Session to follow the meeting to discuss legal issues.

Street Commissioner's Report

The September 2023 Street Commissioner's Report was received and is on file.

Borough Manager Report

The September 2023 Borough Manager's Report was received and is on file. Mrs. Layton reported that several residents were notified of being in violation of the recent large vehicle and trailer ordinance noting all have been resolved and there is one more notice being sent out regarding a camper along Lettuce Alley.

Mayor's Report

Nothing to report.

Committees:

Administration: Nothing to report.

Audit: Nothing to report.

Budget/Tax Collection: Mrs. Speicher reported there will be one additional committee meeting to finalize the 2024 tentative budget for approval at the November meeting.

Community Planning & Improvement: Mr. Burkert stated there will be a committee of the whole meeting with Chris Allison, Director of the County Planning Commission, noting this will help with comprehensive planning for the borough.

Emergency Management: Nothing to report.

GJWA: Mr. Pile reported DEP approved the permits and they are ready to move forward on the North Fork Dam. Mr. Pile reported the City of Johnstown and Westmont Borough are moving forward with their sewer work and DEP has approved an extension for several more years in order to finish the project.

Grants: Mr. Beri reported a resolution is on the agenda to apply for an LSA grant for the roof and interior renovations project.

Insurance: Nothing to report.

MS4/Stormwater: Nothing to report.

Personnel: Nothing to report.

Police: Nothing to report.

Property Maintenance and Streets: Mr. Ewald absent. Mayor Keiper reported the committee has started working on sidewalk inspections.

Shade Trees: Mr. Burkert reported Tree Expert will be providing a list of prioritized tree work that needs done and the borough will apply for 20 trees next year through the Bare Root Tree grant.

New Business

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve Trick or Treat for October 31, 2023, from 6 p.m. to 8 p. m. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. Mr. Ewald absent. All in favor. Motion carried (6-0).

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve sending a letter of support on senate Bill 191 and House Bill 1128, relieving municipalities under 2,500 residents of subsurface drainage repair costs on state highways. Motion seconded by Mr. Pile. Mr. Ewald absent. All in favor. Motion carried (6-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Pile to approve Resolution 2023-07 to apply for a Local Share Assessment Grant in the amount of \$334,423.00 for a reroof and interior renovation project and authorizing officials to execute documents and agreements. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. Mr. Ewald absent. All in favor. Motion carried (6-0).

Business Items

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve ratification of payroll from September 19, 2023, through October 16, 2023, in the amount of \$ 12,969.02. Motion seconded by Mr. Pile. Roll call: Mr. Beri, Mr. Burkert, Mr. Pile, Mrs. Speicher, Mr. Morgan, and Mr. Kupchella. Mr. Ewald absent. All in favor. Motion carried (6 -0).

A motion was made by Mr. Morgan to approve payment of bills from September 19, 2023, through October 16, 2023, in the amount of \$128,545.34. Motion seconded by Mr. Pile. Roll call: Mr. Beri, Mr. Burkert, Mr. Pile, Mrs. Speicher, Mr. Morgan, and Mr. Kupchella. Mr. Ewald absent All in favor. Motion carried (6 -0).

October 16, 2023 Minutes – Page 4 of 4

A motion was made by Mr. Pile to approve transfers from September 19, 2023, through October 16, 2023, in the amount of \$81,149.00. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. Roll call: Mr. Beri, Mr. Burkert, Mr. Pile, Mrs. Speicher, Mr. Morgan, and Mr. Kupchella. Mr. Ewald absent. All in favor. Motion carried (6 -0).

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve the September 2023 Treasurer's Report. Motion seconded by Mr. Pile. Roll call: Mr. Beri, Mr. Burkert, Mr. Pile, Mrs. Speicher, Mr. Morgan, Mr. Kupchella. Mr. Ewald absent. All in favor. Motion carried (6 -0).

A motion was made by Mr. Pile to accept the Tax Collector's Report for September 2023. Motion seconded by Mrs. Speicher. Mr. Ewald absent. All in favor. motion carried (6-0).

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to enter an Executive Session for Legal issues at 4:34 p.m. to discuss legal matters. Motion seconded by Mr. Pile. Mr. Ewald absent. All in favor, motion carried (6-0). Executive Session ended at 4:50 p.m. and council resumed its regularly scheduled meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Kupchella to table the Westmont Hilltop School District crossing guard appointment issue. Motion seconded by Mrs. Speicher. Mr. Ewald absent. All in favor, motion carried (6-0).

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Kupchella for adjournment of the October 16, 2023 meeting at 4:51 p.m. Motion seconded by Mrs. Speicher. Mr. Ewald absent. All in favor, motion carried (6-0).

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Riek
Assistant Secretary