

BOROUGH OF SOUTHMONT  
148 WONDER STREET  
JOHNSTOWN, PA 15905

MINUTES FOR NOVEMBER 15, 2021

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The pledge of allegiance was conducted, and the scheduled November 15, 2021 Council meeting was called to order by President Pro-Tem Robert Morgan at 4:00 p.m.

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**Present:** Council Members Eric Muncert, Herb Ewald, Robert Morgan and William Trevorrow; Solicitor Michael Carbonara; Exec. Sec. Amanda Layton; Street Commissioner Harry Lingenfelter; Police Sgt. Michael Beblar; Fire Chief Michael Butler; Engineer Todd Banks

**Absent:** Mayor Mark Yonko; Council President Sheree Speicher; Council Members Richard Rodgers and Kevin Pile

**Visitors:** Robert Walker (312 State Street), Joan Dill (402 State Street), Doug Beri (127 Daisy Street)

Mrs. Layton requested a motion to amend the agenda to add discussion and approval of a resolution to open a new bank account for depositing funds related to insurance proceeds toward the demolition of 200 State Street. Mrs. Layton explained there was a house fire at 200 State Street last week and the insurance company made contact with Mark Walker and the borough office on the morning of November 15, 2021 to inform us they would be sending the insurance proceeds to the borough in accordance with our fire escrow ordinance.

A motion was made by Mr. Ewald to add to the agenda discussion and approval of Resolution 2021-11, approving the opening of a bank account to separately maintain insurance proceeds for the demolition of 200 State Street, Cambria County, Johnstown, PA 15905 in accordance with Southmont Borough Ordinance No. 392. Motion seconded by Mr. Muncert. Mrs. Speicher, Mr. Rodgers and Mr. Pile absent. All in favor, motion carried (4-0).

### **Correspondence**

Council reviewed correspondence received from Pennsylvania Department of Transportation informing council the traffic signal request results indicated traffic signal control is not warranted at this time and as part of the upcoming resurfacing project along PA 271, the Department will install pedestrian activated flashing warning devices to assist in crossing the highway, which is a push system activated system that includes pedestrian crossing signs and rectangular rapid flashing beacons. The letter also noted that after installation and successful completion of the 30-day operational test, operating and maintaining the flashing warning device will be the responsibility of Southmont Borough. It was noted an agreement was signed with Westmont Hilltop School District agreeing to reimburse Southmont Borough for the cost of maintenance.

### **Minutes**

A motion was made by Mr. Trevorrow to approve the October 18, 2021 regular monthly meeting minutes. Motion seconded by Mr. Ewald. Mrs. Speicher, Mr. Rodgers and Mr. Pile absent. All in favor, motion carried (4-0).

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A motion was made by Mr. Trevorrow to approve the October 27, 2021 special meeting minutes. Motion seconded by Mr. Muncert. Mrs. Speicher, Mr. Rodgers and Mr. Pile absent. All in favor, motion carried (4-0).

### **Police Chief's Report**

The October 2021 Police Chief's Report was received and is on file. Police Sgt. Beblar reported they collected 88 pounds of unwanted prescription drugs at the recent Drug Take Back Day noting there has been a total of over 500 pounds collected since the program began and they are still working on the recent vehicle break-ins.

### **Fire Company Report**

The October 2021 Fire Chief's Report was received and is on file. Fire Chief Butler reported the fire at 200 State Street was fully involved by the time the first unit arrived on scene and had burnt for awhile before it was discovered noting it was in the middle of being remodeled. Fire Chief Butler noted the fire company and the police department requested the Fire Marshall respond to the scene noting that no one came out.

Fire Chief Butler informed council this would be his last meeting as Fire Chief because he has an upcoming surgery and has decided not to run again next year noting there are currently four members running for the position. Fire Chief Butler thanked council for all their assistance over the years and council thanked Fire Chief Butler for his many years of service with a well-deserved round of applause.

### **Engineer's Report**

Mr. Banks informed council the Engineering Service Agreement Supplement No. 3 is to address a cost over-run for inspection services that exceeded the original agreement amount by \$30,300.00 and approval would allow us to get PennVEST money to reimburse the borough because we have already paid out these monies. A motion was made by Mr. Ewald to approve Engineering Services Agreement Supplement No. 3. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. Mrs. Speicher, Mr. Rodgers and Mr. Pile absent. All in favor, motion carried (4-0).

Mr. Banks reported two easements along the Cheney Run Headwall are still needed before the project can be bid noting he, Solicitor Carbonara and Mrs. Layton will attempt to contact the property owners to inquire whether they plan to sign the easements.

Mr. Banks reported Snyder Environmental Services has received the materials for the Mabel Street stormwater repairs and they are expected to begin next week.

### **Zoning Officer's Report**

The October 2021 Zoning Officer's Report was received and is on file. Council reviewed the report and questioned why the borough was being charged for answering sanitary sewer questions. Council directed Mrs. Layton to have Mark Walker send general zoning and codes questions to the borough office to save on fees.

### **Street Commissioner's Report**

Mr. Lingenfelter reported the camo trucks have been removed from the storage barns, the bed, plow and spreader have been installed on the new plow truck, the new flagpole has been delivered and the new hole dug and he is awaiting an estimate from SR&G regarding repairs or demolition of the front storage barn.



**Solicitor's Report**

Solicitor Carbonara reported he spoke with Department of Environmental Protection and they claimed they did not have proof that the borough had received approval for televising. Solicitor Carbonara provided them with email correspondence as proof noting DEP claimed the person had retired so they did not have access to his email account.

Solicitor Carbonara reported he sent correspondence to West Hills Regional Police Commission as directed by Mr. Trevorrow informing them they have not met their obligations under Article V of the Agreement dated December 31, 1992, which states the Commission shall prepare an annual budget which shall be submitted for consideration and comment by each of the member municipalities not later than October 1<sup>st</sup> of each proceeding year and he has not received a response back yet.

**Executive Secretary Report**

The November 2021 Executive Secretary's Report was received and is on file.

A motion was made by Mr. Trevorrow to approve Resolution 2021-11, approving the opening of a bank account to separately maintain insurance proceeds for the demolition of 200 State Street, Cambria County, Johnstown, PA 15905 in accordance with Southmont Borough Ordinance No. 392. Motion seconded by Mr. Ewald. Mrs. Speicher, Mr. Rodgers and Mr. Pile absent. All in favor, motion carried (4-0).

**Mayor's Report**

Mayor Yonko absent.

**Committees:**

**Streets:** Nothing to report.

**Administration:** Mrs. Speicher absent.

**Personnel:** Mr. Trevorrow reported the public works department is down one part-time employee and one full-time employee is currently out with covid.

**Police:** Mr. Morgan reported the next meeting will be held tomorrow at 5:00 p.m.

**Budget/Tax Collection:** Mr. Pile absent.

**Shade Trees:** Nothing to report.

**Bldg. & Grounds:** Nothing to report.

**GJWA:** Mr. Pile absent.

**Open Records:** Nothing to report.

**Borough Services:** Mr. Pile absent.

**Audit:** Mr. Rodgers absent.

**Insurance:** Mr. Muncert reported he is working with various insurance companies to find savings for health care and liability insurances.

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**Blighted Properties:** Nothing to report.

**Ballfield Improvement:** Nothing to report.

**New Business**

A motion was made by Mr. Muncert to approve advertising for bids on the 2003 Ford F-550 plow truck and plow. Motion seconded by Mr. Trevorrow. Mr. Ewald. Mrs. Speicher, Mr. Rodgers and Mr. Pile absent. All in favor, motion carried (4-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Trevorrow to approve the 2022 tentative budget with no increase in taxes. Motion seconded by Mr. Muncert. Mr. Ewald. Mrs. Speicher, Mr. Rodgers and Mr. Pile absent. All in favor, motion carried (4-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Muncert to approve advertising the 2022 final budget to be discussed and approved at the December 13, 2021 meeting. Motion seconded by Mr. Ewald. Mr. Ewald. Mrs. Speicher, Mr. Rodgers and Mr. Pile absent. All in favor, motion carried (4-0).

**Business Items**

A motion was made by Mr. Trevorrow to approve ratification of payroll from October 19, 2021 through November 15, 2021 in the amount of \$12,274.45. Motion seconded by Mr. Muncert. Roll call: Mr. Trevorrow, Mr. Ewald, Mr. Muncert, and Mr. Morgan in favor. Mr. Rodgers, Mrs. Speicher and Mr. Pile absent. Motion carried (4-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Trevorrow to approve payment of bills from October 19, 2021 through November 15, 2021 in the amount of \$138,046.69. Motion seconded by Mr. Muncert. Roll call: Mr. Trevorrow, Mr. Ewald, Mr. Muncert, and Mr. Morgan in favor. Mr. Rodgers, Mrs. Speicher and Mr. Pile absent. Motion carried (4-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Trevorrow to approve transfers from October 19, 2021 through November 15, 2021 in the amount of \$104,916.70. Motion seconded by Mr. Muncert. Roll call: Mr. Trevorrow, Mr. Ewald, Mr. Muncert, and Mr. Morgan in favor. Mr. Rodgers, Mrs. Speicher and Mr. Pile absent. Motion carried (4-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Trevorrow to approve the October 2021 treasurer's report in the amount of \$1,583,556.81. Motion seconded by Mr. Muncert. Roll call: Mr. Trevorrow, Mr. Ewald, Mr. Muncert, and Mr. Morgan in favor. Mr. Rodgers, Mrs. Speicher and Mr. Pile absent. Motion carried (4-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Trevorrow to note the receipt of the October 2021 tax collector's report in the amount of \$0.00. Motion seconded by Mr. Muncert. Roll call: Mr. Trevorrow, Mr. Ewald, Mr. Muncert, and Mr. Morgan in favor. Mr. Rodgers, Mrs. Speicher and Mr. Pile absent. Motion carried (4-0).

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Ewald for adjournment of the November 15, 2021 meeting at 4:43 p.m. Motion seconded by Mr. Trevorrow. Mr. Ewald. Mrs. Speicher, Mr. Rodgers and Mr. Pile absent. All in favor, motion carried (4-0).

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Layton  
Executive Secretary