

BOROUGH OF SOUTHMONT  
148 WONDER STREET  
JOHNSTOWN, PA 15905

MINUTES FOR JULY 17, 2023

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The pledge of allegiance was conducted, and the scheduled July 17, 2023 Council meeting was called to order by Vice President Sheree Speicher 4:00 p.m.

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**Present:** Council Members Doug Beri, Richard Burkert, Kevin Pile, Sheree Speicher, Bob Morgan, Eugene Kupcheella, Herb Ewald (entered 4:05 p.m.) Borough Manager Amanda Layton; Police Chief Ed Fisher; Mayor Anthony Keiper; Asst. Sec. Debra Riek

**Absent:** Solicitor Michael Carbonara; Engineer Todd Banks

**Visitors:** Robert Walker (312 State St.); John A. Klanchar (104 Dahlia St.); John G. Klanchar (190 Woodland Road); Lary Koval (336 Orchard St.); Mary Ann Kory (332 Orchard St.)

**Public Comment:**

Mr. Robert Walker stated he is concerned about yard signs such as advertisements for landscaping companies, noting he feels it is a terrible look in the borough. Mr. Walker stated he was also concerned if the council had any plans to control the number of deer that roam in the borough. Mr. Walker reported Richland Township has speed limit signs with a solar speed reader and was hoping there may be a grant available to install them in the borough.

Mr. Lary Koval addressed the council on the slow response regarding his concerns with the intersection of Orchard Street and Olive Street noting it is his belief that there is a need for a stop sign to be installed at the top of Olive Street to control speeding. Mrs. Speicher stated that the intersection is being addressed.

Mr. John G. Klanchar stated he had a recent incident with a council member while driving through Lettuce Alley noting he stopped to ask the council member if he had a permit for what Mr. Klanchar believed was a fence being installed. Mr. Klanchar stated he felt the council member threatened him and a police report has been filed. Mr. Klanchar stated he believes the council member should resign.

Mr. John A. Klanchar referenced a property maintenance complaint form that was submitted to Laurel Municipal Inspection Agency stating he believes the borough should enforce codes based on facts and not feelings. Mr. Klanchar stated he feels borough council is harassing him unnecessarily and needs to leave him and his family alone and that he sees the items in his yard as art and sculpture.

**Bids**

A motion was made by Mr. Pile to open and review the bids for street paving of Cheney Street, Upper Diamond Blvd, and Upper State Street. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

The paving bids were as follows: Quaker Sales Corporation \$170,033.75 and HRI, Inc. \$181,399.00

A motion was made by Mr. Ewald to accept the paving bid from Quaker Sales Corporation in the amount of \$170,033.75, pending review of the solicitor. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

**Correspondence**

A motion was made by Mr. Pile to accept the request from Khaled Eissa to return 201 Leila Street to a single dwelling due to verification being received by the borough that the property has had one line for all utilities since 2014 and to forgive \$7,169.54 in previous garbage and sewer maintenance fees that was charged to the property. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

**Minutes**

A motion was made by Mr. Morgan to approve the June 19, 2023 Council Meeting Minutes. Motion seconded by Mr. Pile. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

**Police Chief's Report**

The June 2023 Police Chief's report was received. Chief Fisher stated the department received a total of 389 calls in the month of June and the speed trailer has been repaired and will be back out on the streets soon. Mr. Pile suggested the department investigate Mr. Walker's suggestion for solar powered road signs.

**Fire Company Report**

The June 2023 Fire Chief's Report was received.

**Zoning Officer's Report**

The June 2023 Zoning Officer's Report was received. Mrs. Layton reported the agreement with Laurel Municipal Inspection Agency for zoning/building code enforcement is being finalized and Mr. Walker will continue services until then.

**Solicitor's Report**

Solicitor Carbonara was absent.

**Borough Manager Report**

The Borough Manager's report was received and is on file. Mrs. Layton stated that the sweep cleaner is down for repairs and noted a new layer of mulch will be added to the playground in the near future.

**Mayor's Report**

Mayor Anthony Keiper reported that he received emails from Mr. John A. Klanchar and Mr. Lary Koval noting Mr. Klanchar's right to know requests will be responded to by July 21<sup>st</sup> and council is working on a solution to Mr. Koval's concerns regarding the intersection of Olive Street and Orchard Street. Mr. Keiper noted he spoke with the resident at the corner of Olive Street and Orchard Street noting the resident stated they also have concerns of traffic speeding in that area because they have small children.

**Committees:**

**Administration:** Nothing to report.

**Audit:** Nothing to report.



**Budget/Tax Collection:** Nothing to report.

**Community Planning & Improvement:** Mr. Burkert stated he will be scheduling a meeting to have Mr. Chris Allison from Cambria County Planning Commission give a presentation.

**Emergency Management:** Nothing to report.

**GJWA:** Mr. Pile stated that the Greater Johnstown Water Authority is waiting for permits needed to continue their projects at the dam and they are proceeding with the lead pipe removal project currently.

**Grants:** Nothing to report.

**Insurance:** Nothing to report.

**MS4/Stormwater:** Nothing to report.

**Personnel:** Mrs. Speicher stated that there will be an executive session to discuss personnel matters.

**Police:** Nothing to report.

**Property Maintenance and Streets:** Mr. Ewald reported the borough is looking better and things are getting finished. Mr. Ewald will be looking into getting sidewalk inspections started again.

**Shade Trees:** Mr. Burkert asked Mr. Morgan to give Mrs. Layton the photos he has of trees that need trimmed and trees that need to be removed in the borough noting a committee meeting will be scheduled soon.

#### **Business Items**

A motion was made by Mr. Pile to approve Turn the Towns Teal by Bishop McCort Catholic High School. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Pile to approve ratification of payroll from June 20, 2023 through July 17, 2023 in the amount of \$9,648.08. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. Roll call: Mr. Beri, Mr. Burkert, Mr. Pile, Mrs. Speicher, Mr. Morgan, Mr. Ewald, and Mr. Kupchella. All in favor. Motion carried (7-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Pile to approve payment of bills from June 20, 2023 through July 17, 2023 in the amount of \$115,010.28. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. Roll call: Mr. Beri, Mr. Burkert, Mr. Pile, Mrs. Speicher, Mr. Morgan, Mr. Ewald, and Mr. Kupchella. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Pile to approve transfers from June 20, 2023 through July 17, 2023 in the amount of \$61,775.00. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. Roll call: Mr. Beri, Mr. Burkert, Mr. Pile, Mrs. Speicher, Mr. Morgan, Mr. Ewald, and Mr. Kupchella. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Pile to approve the June 2023 treasurer's report. Motion seconded by Mrs. Morgan. Roll call: Mr. Beri, Mr. Burkert, Mr. Pile, Mr. Morgan, Mrs. Speicher, Mr. Ewald, and Mr. Kupchella. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

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A motion was made by Mr. Morgan to accept the Tax Collector's Report for June 2023. Motion seconded by Mr. Pile. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Beri to enter an Executive Session at 4:42 p.m. to discuss personnel matters. Motion seconded by Mr. Pile. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

Executive Session ended at 4:59 p.m. and council resumed its regularly scheduled meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Beri to hire Samuel McAdams as Street Commissioner for a 90-day probationary period with a salary of \$35,360.00. Motion seconded by Mr. Burkert. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Pile to hire John Butler as full-time Public Works for a 90-day probationary period at \$14.00 per hour. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Pile to approve a pay increase for Joshua Blasko to a total of \$15.00 per hour. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Pile for adjournment of the July 17, 2023 meeting at 5:02 p.m. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

Respectfully submitted,  
Debra Riek  
Assistant Secretary