

BOROUGH OF SOUTHMONT  
148 WONDER STREET  
JOHNSTOWN, PA 15905

MINUTES FOR SEPTEMBER 19, 2022

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The pledge of allegiance was conducted, and the scheduled September 19, 2022 Council meeting was called to order by President Eric Muncert at 4:00 p.m.

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**Present:** Council Members Eric Muncert, Doug Beri, Richard Burkert, Herb Ewald, Bob Morgan, Kevin Pile, Sheree Speicher, Borough Manager Amanda Layton; Police Chief Ed Fisher; Police Officer Dean West; Engineer Todd Banks; Mayor Anthony Keiper; Street Commissioner Harry Lingenfelter, Asst. Sec. Debra Riek.

**Absent:** Fire Chief Joel Weslager; Solicitor Michael Carbonara.

**Visitors:** Robert Walker (312 State St.); John G. Klanchar (104 Dahlia St.); Jo Arlene Klanchar (104 Dahlia St.); John A. Klanchar (104 Dahlia St.)

**Public Comment:**

John G. Klanchar stated he submitted a letter regarding his past due garbage and sewer maintenance bill stating he cannot fulfill the down payment and monthly payments. Mr. Klanchar stated he dropped off a payment with the borough office in good faith so far. After some discussion it was agreed that Mr. Muncert and Mrs. Layton would meet and come up with a monthly payment schedule for Mr. Klanchar. Mr. Muncert stated that if any payments are missed the water will be disconnected to the property. A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve not shutting off the water to 104 Dahlia Street home until a payment agreement is signed and as long as all payments are being made. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. All in favor, motion carried. (7-0).

John A. Klanchar read a statement he prepared informing council he has lived in the borough for many years and feels he is being harassed by the council and his neighbors.

Bob Walker asked if the work crew from Cambria County would be returning to continue work that needs done throughout the borough. Mr. Muncert stated that the work crew would be returning on a regular basis.

**Correspondence**

Ann Furlong wrote the Council a thank you letter for working on an agreement with Greater Johnstown Water Authority regarding the sewer lateral work at the properties along Menoher Blvd.

**Minutes**

A motion was made by Mr. Pile to approve the August 15, 2022, Council Meeting Minutes. Motion seconded by Mr. Beri. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Morgan to approve the August 30, 2022, Special Meeting Minutes with the following corrections: Mrs. Speicher was opposed to the motion to send water shut-off notices to properties

identified as having excess flow that have not eliminated the inflow and infiltration. Mrs. Speicher was in favor of the motion to decline the request from John Klanchar to reconsider his original payment plan. Motion seconded by Mr. Pile. Mr. Beri abstained due to being absent at the August 30, 2022 meeting. All in favor, motion carried (6-0)

**Police Chief's Report**

Chief Fisher reported they received 500 calls this past month for the second month in a row noting 152 traffic citations were issued due to their aggressive driving campaign funded through the County. Chief Fisher stated that one license plate reader is being installed at TRN Communications and the second will be installed on a new cruiser being purchased with grant money provided by Representative Burns.

**Fire Company Report**

Chief Weslager absent. Fire Chief's Report was received. Mr. Muncert asked Mr. Lingenfelter to set up a meeting with Chief Weslager ato review street parking in the borough to determine what streets may need to have restricted parking for the purpose of emergency service vehicles and plowing.

**Engineer's Report**

Mr. Banks reported the Cheney Run project is ready to begin and they will be starting at the Olive Street location next week and are expected to be completed in 4-6 weeks. Mr. Banks stated there would be a final inspection of Phase Two Sewer Project from PennDOT noting Stiffler McGraw requested the inspection in August 2019. Mrs. Speicher inquired if there was any funding for the work that needs to be done at the old management club on Pine Grove Lane and the other various properties that have not had the exterior sewer lateral work done. Mr. Banks stated Pennvest will be sending approximately \$70,000 back to the borough once the project has been closed out and they are also going to reamortize the loan based upon the actual amount utilized which will lower the monthly payments. Mr. Banks also mentioned a small projects loan application that are available at the county cap interest rate of 1.74% and has a quick turnaround.

**Zoning Officer's Report**

Zoning Officer's report was received.

**Street Commissioner's Report**

Street Commissioner's report was received. Mr. Lingenfelter reported the leaf machine was sent out to West Central Equipment for repairs for approximately \$15,000 and he is working on finding a liner for it also. A motion was made by Mr. Ewald to approve the repair of the leaf machine by West Central Equipment. Motion seconded by Mr. Pile. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

**Solicitor's Report**

Solicitor Carbonara absent.

**Borough Manager Report**

Borough Manager's report was received. Motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve the 2023 Minimum Municipal Obligation for the Pension Plan. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

Mrs. Layton reported she inspected R67 Gardner Street as directed at the August 15, 2022 meeting noting the property does not have water service and is uninhabitable. A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to temporarily remove Garbage/Sewer Maintenance from R67 Gardner Street until the owner decides to return the property to a second dwelling. Motion seconded by Mr. Ewald. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

**Mayor's Report**

Nothing to report. Mr. Keiper asked about the progress of the weeds and overgrowth at 20 Harding Street. Mr. Muncert stated that the Cambria County work crew would be cleaning the overgrowth in the near future.

**Committees:**

**Administration:** Nothing to report.

**Audit:** Nothing to report.

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

**Community Planning & Improvement:**

Mr. Burkert is scheduling a meeting for October 25, 2022. He may be asking for some volunteers to help with future planning.

**GJWA:** Mr. Pile stated things are moving slowly on the North Fork project, but nothing new to report.

**Grants:** Mr. Beri reported there are special grants available for playgrounds and pavilions. A motion was made by Mr. Ewald to apply for the DCNR Grant. Motion seconded by Mrs. Speicher. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

**Insurance:** Nothing to report.

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

**Personnel:** A motion was made by Mr. Pile to approve hiring part-time Fall public works employees, as needed, at \$9.50 per hour unskilled, and \$11.65 skilled. Motion seconded by Mrs. Speicher. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

**Police:** Mr. Morgan stated that there will be a meeting September 20, 2022.

**Property Maintenance and Streets:**

Mr. Ewald reported a tour was done of borough properties last week and they were impressed with the improvement within the past month noting a list of work to be done at the Diamond Blvd. barns was made and the crew will keep working to complete it as they get time. Mr. Ewald stated he and Mr. Lingenfelter will be working on the v-box salt spreader to get it working for resale.

**Shade Trees:** Nothing to report.



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**Streets:** Mr. Muncert reported that there is patching needed on Susan Drive. Mr. Beri stated that on Southmont Blvd. by the medical buildings there is a sink hole forming. Mr. Lingenfelter said he would look into the issues.

**New/Old Business**

**Business Items**

A motion was made by Mr. Pile to approve Resolution 2022-03, adopting Cambria County Hazard Mitigation Plan. Motion seconded by Mr. Beri. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

Mr. Muncert stated that the Cambria County Borough's Association 2022 Fall Dinner will be on October 18, 2022, at 5:00 p.m. A motion was made by Mr. Pile to approve the attendance of council members at the Cambria County Borough's Association Fall Dinner. Motion was seconded by Mrs. Speicher. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve the Westmont Hilltop School District Parade Request for the Soccer Booster Senior Day Parade. Motion seconded by Pile. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Pile to approve ratification of payroll from August 16, 2022 through September 19, 2022 in the amount of \$11,182.68. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. Roll call: Mr. Muncert, Mr. Beri, Mr. Burkert, Mr. Pile, Mr. Ewald, Mrs. Speicher, and Mr. Morgan All in favor. Motion carried (7 -0).

A motion was made by Mr. Pile to approve payment of bills from August 16, 2022 through September 19, 2022, in the amount of \$160,668.03. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. Roll call: Mr. Muncert, Mr. Beri, Mr. Burkert, Mr. Pile, Mrs. Speicher, Mr. Ewald, and Mr. Morgan All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Pile to approve transfers from August 16, 2022 through September 19, 2022 in the amount of \$96,168.00. Motion seconded by Mrs. Speicher. Roll call: Mr. Muncert, Mr. Beri, Mr. Burkert, Mr. Pile, Mr. Ewald, Mrs. Speicher, and Mr. Morgan All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Pile to approve the August 2022 treasurer's report in the amount of \$1,656,287.38. Motion seconded by Mrs. Speicher. Roll call: Mr. Muncert, Mr. Beri, Mr. Burkert, Mr. Pile, Mr. Ewald, Mr. Morgan and Mrs. Speicher. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Pile to accept the Tax Collector's Report for August 2022. Motion seconded by Mrs. Speicher. All in favor. motion carried (7-0).

Mr. Muncert called for an Executive Session at 4:57 p.m. to discuss legal matters with Greater Johnstown Water Authority and enforcement of Inflow and Infiltration. Executive Session ended at 5:27 p.m. and council resumed its regularly scheduled meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Pile to approve having Stiffler McGraw inspect the list of 25 properties that did not have the sewer lateral replaced as part of the sewer project and come back to council with an estimate of costs to have the work done and verify all properties have a signed easement on file with the borough. Motion seconded by Mrs. Speicher. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

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A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to have the property owner of 942 Pine Grove Lane do the interior sewer line and issue a modified sewer certificate with the borough to come in at a later date to complete the exterior sewer lateral. Motion seconded by Mr. Pile. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Pile to allow Solicitor Carbonara to move forward with an agreement with Greater Johnstown Water Authority for the seven properties in Southmont Borough that have sewer lateral lines running to Westmont Borough. Motion seconded by Mr. Burkert. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Pile for adjournment of the September 19, 2022 meeting at 5:36 p.m. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Riek  
Assistant Secretary