

BOROUGH OF SOUTHMONT
148 WONDER STREET
JOHNSTOWN, PA 15905

MINUTES FOR OCTOBER 19, 2020

The pledge of allegiance was conducted, and the schedule October 19, 2020 Council meeting was called to order by President Speicher at 4:00 p.m.

Present: Council President Sheree Speicher; Council Members Edward Danyluk, Richard Rodgers, Kevin Pile, Herb Ewald, Robert Morgan and William Trevorrow; Solicitor Michael Carbonara; Exec. Sec. Amanda Layton; Street Commissioner Harry Lingenfelter; Police Chief Michael Lose

Absent: Mayor Mark Yonko, Fire Chief Michael Butler; Engineer Todd Banks

Visitors: Robert Walker (312 State Street), Russ O'Reilly (Tribune Democrat), Michelle Trevorrow (455 Orchard Street)

Public Comment

Mr. Walker addressed council stating he spoke with Mark Walker regarding the compost pile violation at 308 State Street and was informed a notice was sent and Mark Walker also spoke with the owner of the property who stated this is the first he has heard about the issue. Mr. Walker stated only a small amount has been removed from the compost pile so far.

Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Pile to approve the council meeting minutes of September 21, 2020. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

Police Report

The September 2020 Police Chief's report was received and is on file. Chief Lose reported four individuals have been charged in the recent vehicle break-ins.

Chief Lose stated all member municipalities will be participating in Trick-or-Treat this year on October 31st from 6pm-8pm and the Westwood Kiwanis Annual Halloween Parade will be held at the Westwood Plaza on October 31st at 2pm noting there will not be a parade, but treats will be handed out.

Chief Lose announced the West Hills Police will be holding their annual drug take back day on October 24th from 10am-2pm noting last year they collected approximately 88 pounds.

Fire Company Report

Chief Butler absent. Mrs. Layton stated she spoke with Jim Carbaugh regarding bulk mailing permits and they are looking into possibly sharing the bulk mail permit and splitting the cost with the fire company.

Engineer's Report

Mr. Banks submitted a report to be read at the meeting in his absence.

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- A substantial completion inspection with Snyder Excavating will be scheduled for Tomato Alley.
- All sewer lateral repairs on the list have been completed by Snyder Environmental with the exception of 301 Gardner Street. There is a hairline crack in the top of the pipe adjacent to the foundation at a depth of 9 feet and the contractor advised the restoration costs to restore the area would be expensive because of the landscaping and hardscaping features. Also, the property owner did not want the line dug up. Snyder still has to complete the yard restorations at these properties.
- The closest storm event to the required 2 year storm event was on August 28, 2020 in which we measured 0.88" of rain over a period of one hour. The 2 year equivalent storm is 1.20" of rain in one hour. There was precipitation in 5 of 6 days preceding this rain event. The total flow attributable to Southmont through the meter that day was 360,000 gallons, which is well below the 625 gpd per EDU defined in the consent order. However, the consent order and agreement requires compliance on a peak hourly basis with Southmont's maximum hourly flow allowed being 29,500 gallons. The peak hourly flow on August 28th attributable to Southmont was 43,764 gallons and the maximum hourly flow was exceeded by 14,264 gallons which equates to 238 gallons per minute.
- Approximately 56 notices were sent out in February 2020 advising property owners excessive flows were identified in their laterals during construction of the project. The letter did not require owners to correct deficiencies until the Borough determined additional work was required to achieve the desired flow rates. These property owners should be notified to correct the deficiencies in their laterals to remove the excessive wet weather flows from the system. Wet weather OB stack inspections need completed for entire service area and to date approximately 20% of the system has been completed. Ideally these inspections should be completed when the ground is saturated because for example on March 19th there was 0.87" of rain recorded and the total flow through the bottom meter was 1,385,368 gallons and this event followed a period in which precipitation was measured in 9 of 10 days preceding the event. On July 16th there was 0.87" of rain recorded and the total flow through the bottom meter was 319,472 gallons. No rain preceded this event and the saturated ground conditions contributed an additional 1,065,896 gallons of clear water to the system.

Zoning Officer's Report

The August 2020 Zoning Officers report was received and is on file. Council discussed the issue at 308 State Street and Solicitor Carbonara stated that Mark Walker informed him that a notice was sent to the owner in September and the owner has stopped collecting any further material in the compost pile and has slowly begun removing it. A motion was made by Mr. Pile to allow Mark Walker to file a citation against Mark and Renee Selders of 308 State Street with the District Magistrate. Motion seconded by Mr. Ewald. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

Street Commissioner's Report

The Street Commissioner's Report was received and is on file. Nothing further to report.

Solicitor's Report

Solicitor Carbonara reported there are two pending reassessment appeals and he will keep council informed on the progress. Solicitor Carbonara is also working with Todd Banks on the Department of Environmental Protection order issues and will send a letter asking for additional time.

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Executive Secretary's Report

A motion was made by Mr. Pile to approve advertising the 2021 tentative budget will be reviewed and approved at the November 16, 2020 monthly meeting. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Pile to approve merging the truck and backhoe funds at First Commonwealth Bank and to close the Money Market fund at First Commonwealth Bank with the funds to be deposited into the Cheney Run fund. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Yonko absent. Nothing to report.

Committees:

Streets: Nothing to report.

Administration:

Personnel: Nothing to report.

Police: Nothing to report.

Budget/Tax Collection: Nothing to report.

Shade Trees: Nothing to report.

Bldg & Grounds: Nothing to report.

GJWA: Mr. Pile reported GJWA is waiting for permits for North Fork Dam work and will be replacing water lines in front of Conemaugh Hospital at the same time new sewer lines are being installed.

Mr. Trevorror reported there is an ongoing water pressure issue in Westmont noting GJWA was made aware of the issue several years ago while he was a member of the Westmont School Board and nothing has been done. Mr. Trevorror referenced a recent fire on St. Clair Road in Westmont Borough and asked Mrs. Trevorror to contribute. Mrs. Trevorror stated she was listening to the police scanner and heard the chaos of firefighters trying to tap into hydrants along with firefighters trapped in the structure. Mr. Trevorror stated water tanks had to be brought in from Westmoreland, Somerset and Cambria Counties and it was noted that a potential issue may be the underground water tank along St. Clair Road not providing enough water pressure. Mr. Pile will investigate the issue.

Open Records: Nothing to report.

Borough Services: Nothing to report.

Audit: Mr. Pile reported Tom Kimlin of Kline Kimlin would like to meet with council and Mrs. Layton to review the progress on the internal procedures checklist on October 27th at 4:00 p.m.

Insurance: Nothing to report.

Blighted House: Mr. Trevorror reported they have chosen two test properties, 407/409/411 Southmont Blvd. and 211 Violet Street, within the borough noting someone has bid on at least one of the properties. Solicitor Carbonara checked with the county and they refused to tell him who submitted the bid, so it is tough to intervene at the moment. Solicitor Carbonara stated he prepared a partial search order for 211 Violet Street when Mr. Trevorror is ready to have a contractor perform a walk-through inspection.

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A motion was made by Mr. Ewald to file liens against 407, 409 and 411 Southmont Blvd. for past due garbage and sewer maintenance fees as well as grass cutting services. Motion seconded by Mr. Pile. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

Ballfield Improvement: Nothing to report.

Business Items:

A motion was made by Mr. Pile to approve ratification of payroll from September 24, 2020 through October 21, 2020 in the amount of \$11,221.84. Motion seconded by Mr. Rodgers. Roll call: Mr. Danyluk, Mr. Rodgers, Mr. Pile, Mr. Ewald, Mr. Morgan, Mr. Trevorrow and Mrs. Speicher in favor. Motion carried (7-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Morgan to approve payment of bills from September 22, 2020 through October 19, 2020 in the amount of \$127,391.14. Motion seconded by Mr. Pile. Roll call: Mr. Danyluk, Mr. Rodgers, Mr. Pile, Mr. Ewald, Mr. Morgan, Mr. Trevorrow and Mrs. Speicher in favor. Motion carried (7-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Morgan to approve transfers from September 22, 2020 through October 19, 2020 in the amount of \$113,549.00. Motion seconded by Mr. Rodgers. Roll call: Mr. Danyluk, Mr. Rodgers, Mr. Pile, Mr. Ewald, Mr. Morgan, Mr. Trevorrow and Mrs. Speicher in favor. Motion carried (7-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Morgan to approve the September 2020 Treasurer's Report in the amount of \$1,382,134.22. Motion seconded by Mr. Pile. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Morgan to note the receipt of the September 2020 Tax Collector's Report in the amount of \$808.17. Motion seconded by Mr. Pile. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

Public Comment

Mr. Walker asked whether shale is needed in alleys instead of plowing because he gets shale washing into his yard. Mr. Lingenfelter stated he does not use anti-skid in alleys only at the intersections of alleys and roadways.

Mr. Walker stated there were not as many complaints with Phase I of the sanitary sewer replacement project as there were with Phase II and inquired if the borough was required to accept the lowest bid. Solicitor Carbonara informed Mr. Walker that the borough is required to accept the lowest responsible bidder and when the bid was approved for Phase II there were no outstanding issues to look at.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Pile for adjournment of the October 19, 2020 meeting at 4:54 p.m. Motion seconded by Mr. Trevorrow. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

Respectfully Submitted,

Amanda Layton
Executive Secretary