

BOROUGH OF SOUTHMONT  
148 WONDER STREET  
JOHNSTOWN, PA 15905

MINUTES FOR SEPTEMBER 21, 2020

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The pledge of allegiance was conducted, and the scheduled September 21, 2020 Council meeting was called to order by President Speicher at 4:00 p.m.

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**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; Engineer Todd Banks; Police Chief Michael Lose; Fire Chief Michael Butler

**Absent:** Mayor Mark Yonko

**Visitors:** Robert Walker; Matt and Jeanine Matse; Ed Cernic

**Correspondence:** A letter was received from Harold Platt on Goucher Street thanking council for having Tomato Alley paved and thanking Mrs. Layton for keeping him up-to-date on the progress.

**Public Comment:**

Mr. Walker addressed council stating he submitted a complaint to the borough over a year ago regarding an improper compost pile on his neighbor's property that is sitting against his fence. Mrs. Layton stated a Mark Walker dropped off a copy of a certified letter sent to 308 State Street regarding the compost pile giving them 15 days from the date of receipt to remedy the issue noting she will check to see if Mark Walker has received a certified mail receipt yet.

Mr. Cernic addressed council stating he was attending on behalf of the Cambria County Controller's Office to provide the borough with the 12th annual edition of the Citizen's Financial Report because Southmont Borough is featured this year.

**Minutes**

A motion was made by Mr. Morgan to approve the council meeting minutes of August 17, 2020. Motion seconded by Mr. Ewald. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

**Police Report**

Chief Lose stated Westmont Borough and the other municipalities are holding Trick-or-Treat on October 31<sup>st</sup> from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. A motion was made by Mr. Pile to approve Southmont Borough Trick-or-Treat to be held Saturday, October 31, 2020 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Motion seconded by Mr. Ewald. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

**Fire Company Report:**

Chief Butler reported the fire company is still moving forward with a country music fundraiser concert and are looking at an approximate cost of \$20,000 for new radios in 2021. Chief Butler informed council they

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are responding to downed trees even in nice weather and suggested the trees in the borough be inspected. Mr. Morgan stated he has done an inspection on the shade trees in the borough and has a list of hazardous trees that are being taken care of. Chief Butler stated Mr. Lingenfelter has been great with assisting the fire company remove downed trees noting this is the best relationship the borough and fire company have had in a while.

**Engineer's Report:**

Mr. Banks reported Snyder Environmental Services is expected to be in the borough beginning the week of October 5<sup>th</sup> to start working on the list of outstanding Phase II sewer project complaints.

Mr. Banks reported the change order to use Pennvest funds for the Mabel Street storm water project has been submitted.

Mr. Banks reported Snyder Excavating has completed the Tomato Alley project and he will perform the substantial completion inspection. A motion was made by Mr. Morgan to approve payment of \$33,956.90 to Snyder Excavating upon completion of the substantial completion inspection. Motion seconded by Mr. Rodgers. Roll call: Mr. Pile, Mr. Trevorrow, Mr. Morgan, Mr. Rodgers, Mr. Ewald, Mr. Danyluk and Mrs. Speicher in favor. Motion carried (7-0).

Mr. Banks reported the general permit to replace the Cheney Run Headwall has been received and the estimated cost is \$131,000. Mr. Banks suggested council wait until early 2021 to bid the project in hopes of lower bids. Mr. Lingenfelter stated an inspection of Cheney Run is scheduled for mid-October noting they are working to clear vegetation and repair fencing along Cheney Run and the grate across Olive Street is deteriorating and will need repaired.

**Zoning Officer's Report:**

Nothing to report.

**Street Commissioner's Report:**

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

**Solicitor's Report:**

Council reviewed a proposal received from Matt and Jeanine Matse in response to council's proposal on August 31, 2020 to contribute \$1,000.00 toward the bid of \$2,975.00 received from Dan's Backhoe Service to install a drainage pipe on their property at 112 Mabel Street to alleviate a drainage issue caused by a spring house that was going into a broken sewer main line and after the sewer replacement project the water is no longer flowing into the sewer main line and is flowing onto 112 Mabel Street. Mr. and Mrs. Matse requested council reconsider the initial offer of \$1,000.00 since the drainage issue did not exist prior to the completion of the sewer project. A motion was made by Mr. Rodgers to enter into an agreement with Matt and Jeanine Matse to pay the full amount of \$2,975.00 to Dan's Backhoe Service to install a drainage pipe at 112 Mabel Street with the understanding that Mr. and Mrs. Matse will release the Borough from any and all claims arising out of or relating to the sewer work performed by the Borough in the public right-of-way, agree that the Borough and its contractors in no way admit any wrong doing, fault or causation to the drainage problem at 112 Mabel Street, as well as an understanding that the work being performed is at Mr. and Mrs. Matses direction and the Borough is not responsible for any of the work performed by Dan's

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Backhoe Service. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. Roll call: Mr. Danyluk, Mr. Rodgers, Mr. Pile, Mr. Ewald, Mr. Morgan, Mr. Trevorror and Mrs. Speicher in favor. Motion carried (7-0).

**Executive Secretary's Report:**

A motion was made by Mr. Rodgers to approve the 2021 Minimum Municipal Obligation for the Pension Plan. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

Mrs. Layton reported approximately \$40,000 in garbage and sewer maintenance fees was collected since the August 2020 meeting.

**Mayor's Report:**

Mayor Yonko absent. Nothing to report.

**Committees:**

**Streets:** Nothing to report.

**Administration:** Nothing to report.

**Personnel:** Nothing to report.

**Police:** Mr. Morgan reported the third addendum to the West Hills Regional Police Commission agreement will go into effect January 1, 2021 noting the new contributions are based on tax assessment values in each municipality.

**Budget/Tax Collection:** Mr. Pile reported the budget committee is working on the 2021 budget. Mrs. Layton stated she will contact Senator Wayne Langerholc's office for assistance in applying for grants.

**Shade Trees:** Mr. Morgan reported Tree Expert is working through his list of hazardous trees.

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

**GJWA:** Mr. Pile reported GJWA is waiting on permits for North Fork Dam.

Mr. Pile reported there is an open member-at-large seat on the GJWA noting Westmont Borough approved Jim White and the City of Johnstown approved Charles Arnone. A motion was made by Mr. Pile to nominate Charles Arnone for the member-at-large seat on the Greater Johnstown Water Authority. Motion seconded by Mr. Ewald. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

**Open Records:** Mr. Danyluk reported one open records receipt received from Janis Farese for a list of 2019 vendor information.

**Borough Services:** Nothing to report.

**Audit:** Mr. Rodgers reported the borough received several suggestions in the internal procedures audit noting the borough office is approximately 75% completed with the internal procedures audit suggestions.

**Insurance:** Nothing to report.

**Blighted House:** Mr. Trevorror reported the committee is working with Solicitor Carbonara to handle blighted properties noting two options are to either demolish or rehabilitate the property. Mr. Trevorror stated they are discussing picking two properties in the borough to try both options. Mr. Trevorror stated

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Solicitor Carbonara is speaking with the County regarding any assistance they could provide, but noted the borough would need to own the property and there is also a law that allows the borough to petition the court to be named trustee's of the property. A motion was made by Mr. Pile to approve starting the rehabilitation process with 211 Violet Street and to start the demolition process with 407, 409 & 411 Southmont Blvd. Motion seconded by Mr. Trevorrow. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

**Ballfield Improvement:** Nothing to report.

**Business Items:**

A motion was made by Mr. Rodgers to approve ratification of payroll from August 18, 2020 through September 23, 2020 in the amount of \$16,698.71. Motion seconded by Mr. Ewald. 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. Rodgers to approve payment of bills from August 18, 2020 through September 21, 2020 in the amount of \$177,391.36. Motion seconded by Mr. Ewald. 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 August 18, 2020 through September 21, 2020 in the amount of \$196,553.64. 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 August 2020 Treasurer's Report in the amount of \$1,745,997.60. 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 note the receipt of the August 2020 Tax Collector's Report in the amount of \$580.14. 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).

President Speicher called for an Executive Session at 5:21 p.m. to discuss personnel matters. Executive Session ended at 6:17 p.m. and council resumed its regularly scheduled meeting.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Rodgers for adjournment of the September 21, 2020 meeting at 6:17 p.m. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

Respectfully Submitted,

Amanda Layton  
Executive Secretary