

BOROUGH OF SOUTHMONT
148 WONDER STREET
JOHNSTOWN, PA 15905

MINUTES FOR JULY 19, 2021

The pledge of allegiance was conducted, and the scheduled July 19, 2021, meeting was called to order by President Speicher at 4:00 p.m.

Present: Council President Sheree Speicher; Council Members Richard Rodgers, Kevin Pile, Herb Ewald, William Trevorrow, Eric Muncert, Robert Morgan; Solicitor Michael Carbonara; Exec. Sec. Amanda Layton; Engineer Todd Banks; Police Sgt. Michael Beblar; Fire Chief Michael Butler; Asst. Sec. Debra Riek.

Absent: Mayor Mark Yonko; Street Commissioner Harry Lingenfelter.

Visitors: Rudd Johnson (207 Mabel Street), Samantha Hartland (119 Wonder Street), Iyana Bailey (465 Edward Street), Patrice Singleton (409/411 Southmont Blvd.), Ijah Bailey (465 Edward Street).

Public Comment

Mr. Johnson inquired if potholes could be patched near his home on Mabel Street and whether anyone else was required to have a pressure test.

Mrs. Hartland stated she heard the borough decided to decline involvement in the recreation commission, so she was hoping to get more information about that noting that she provided a letter and list of residents interested in the same. Mrs. Hartland asked if the borough would be interested in reconsidering or providing more information on why they declined. Mrs. Speicher stated it would be discussed later in the meeting.

Correspondence

A letter was received from Mr. Donald Kasprzyk from The Boulevard Grill & Warehouse stating he is interested in maintaining and beautifying the area of Menoher Blvd. and Barnett Street that was previously maintained by the Garden Club. A motion was made by Mr. Trevorrow to accept Mr. Kasprzyk's offer to beautify and maintain the Barnett Street triangle. Motion was seconded by Mr. Morgan. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

A letter was received from Patrice Singleton requesting forgiveness of the garbage & sewage maintenance bill on the properties at 409 Southmont Blvd. in the amount of \$8,077.01 and 411 Southmont Blvd. in the amount of \$8,360.84 that she recently purchased at a sheriff sale. A motion was made by Mr. Trevorrow to deny the request. Motion seconded by Mr. Pile. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

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Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Pile to approve the June 21, 2021, council meeting minutes. Motion seconded by Mr. Rodgers. All in favor, motion carried (7-0)

Police Chief's Report

Sgt. Beblar reported the speed trailer was set up on Shady Lane per councils' request noting 855 vehicles were recorded and only 2 of those vehicles were stoppable. Sgt. Beblar stated they believe the 2 vehicles were police cruisers testing the speed trailer after it was set up. Sgt. Beblar also reported the speed trailer was set up at the corner of State Street and Leon Street for four days noting 1,300 vehicles were recorded and 4 of those vehicles were stoppable.

Sgt. Beblar mentioned they are getting 8-10 reports per day reporting unemployment fraud and residents also need to be aware of vehicles being stolen in the borough and surrounding areas.

Fire Company Report

Chief Butler stated the new radios being required by the 911 center are expected to cost approximately \$46,000.00 noting they were approved along with other fire departments for a grant through Cambria County two years ago to help with the cost. Chief Butler stated he has not been able to get the information on how to proceed for purchasing the radios noting the grant money was received, but the money won't be released until they can produce invoices. Solicitor Carbonara said he would send a letter to the county to help get the problem resolved.

Chief Butler stated they are planning fund raising to help financially due to not being able to have the jubilee this year noting the Fremont Club has given them permission to hold a fundraiser during one of their festival days on August 29th noting they will receive the profits from food sales and gambling booths.

Engineer's Report

Mr. Banks reported there are about 35 properties left for wet weather testing and will be completed soon.

Mr. Banks reported the Department of Environmental Protection approved the change order for stormwater repairs to two corrugated metal pipes that rusted out in certain places and caused a sink hole on Mabel Street and is now waiting on Snyder Environmental to get the work on their schedule.

Mr. Banks stated he just finished the cost estimates for the Olive Street concrete box repairs noting it is expected to be approximately \$100,000.00 and added with the Cheney Run Headwall Project would total approximately \$250,000.00. Mr. Banks suggested bidding the headwall repairs as the prime contract and do an add alternate for the concrete repairs so we will receive two amounts and could approve or deny the alternate.

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A motion was made by Mr. Pile to bid the Cheney Run head wall project and the Olive Street concrete box repairs for 60 days and then an additional 30 days. Motion seconded by Mr. Ewald. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

Zoning Officer's Report

The June 2021 zoning report was received and is on file. It was suggested that Mr. Walker be present every quarter to update council on work being done and completed.

Street Commissioner's Report

Mr. Lingenfelter was absent. The report was received and accepted.

Solicitor's Report

A motion was made by Mr. Pile to approve Resolution 2021-06, approving an account being opened at Somerset Trust Company for the American Rescue Plan funds. Motion seconded by Mr. Rodgers. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Rodgers to approve Resolution 2021-07, making application for the traffic signal and light on Menoher Blvd. Motion seconded by Mr. Pile. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

Solicitor Carbonara stated he drafted a letter to give residents that have violations and have not fixed their under-slab lines notice that the current ordinance will be amended to penalize them for not completing the repairs by December 1, 2021 and advises if a contract is in place the borough will be willing to approve extensions on a case by case basis. A motion was made by Mr. Rodgers made a motion to send the letter to noncompliant residents. Motion seconded by Mr. Pile. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

The council tabled the discussion on the County Commissioners Release of Prothonotary Fees until Attorney Carbonara can research the refund numbers.

Solicitor Carbonara informed council the Sunshine Act is changing and will go into effect as of the September monthly meeting noting the agenda will need to be posted 24 hours before the meeting and no additional items can be added or action taken unless it is an emergency or business that arises within 24 hours before the meeting and deminimus in nature. Solicitor Carbonara will put together a memo summarizing the Sunshine Act changes.

Solicitor Carbonara reported he sent a letter to Westmont Hilltop School District regarding the ballfield and to Westmont Borough regarding the several properties along Menoher Blvd. and Luzerne Street that received a letter informing them to pay Westmont Borough sewer fees instead of Southmont Borough sewer fees and he has not received a response from either yet.

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Executive Secretary Report

Mrs. Layton was reporting on rubber mulch for the playground on Diamond Blvd. It was suggested to research on the safety and cost and will be reviewed at a later date.

A motion was made by Mr. Morgan to advertise on Indeed and ZipRecruiter for up to \$500 to post for a part-time public works position that could become full-time. Motion seconded by Mr. Trevorrow. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Morgan to approve Resolution 2021-08, establishing procedure to sell equipment valued under \$2000.00. Motion seconded by Mr. Trevorrow. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

Mrs. Layton reported the first installment of the American Rescue Plan was received in the amount of \$108,646.64.

Mayor's Report

Mr. Yonko was absent. Nothing to report.

Committees:

Streets: Mr. Morgan stated the Peoples Gas Company is working around Orchard Street and will repair the street when finished. Mrs. Speicher stated the paving they did on Leila Street was excellent so Orchard Street should be the same when finished.

Administration: Nothing to report.

Personnel: Mr. Trevorrow said there would be an executive session at the end of the meeting to discuss personnel.

Police: Nothing to report.

Budget/Tax Collection: Mr. Pile stated there were some accounts that were closed and monies moved and the truck and backhoe accounts were consolidated per the internal audit suggestions and assets are down approximately \$94,000 from last year.

Shade Trees: Mr. Morgan reported Jim Smay will be back in to grind more stumps.

Bldg. & Grounds: Mr. Morgan reported the recycling shed needs improvements and Mr. Polantz has complained several times about the old salt building area noting some fencing or planting needs to be done. Mr. Morgan reported the roof above the small garage is leaking and the entire borough building roof needs to be replaced.

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GJWA: Mr. Pile reported there are permits needed for work at North Fork Dam and Dalton Dam will need worked on sooner than expected.

Open Records: Nothing to report.

Borough Services: Mr. Pile reported on the letter received from Mrs. Hartland and stated council is not against recreation, but because of past experiences, council is not interested at this time in being a member of the recreation commission. Mr. Pile stated the only thing Southmont Borough got out of the recreation commission was putting in fibar at the Diamond Blvd. Playground one time and residents weren't using the programs very much. Mr. Pile also noted the borough was donating around \$11,000 per year to the recreation commission and when asked for an audit to see where the money was being used, they refused even though Southmont Borough offered to pay for the audit. Mr. Pile stated the borough would like to focus on using funds to provide recreation in Southmont Borough for its residents and not have the money used in other municipalities. Mr. Pile informed Mrs. Hartland that currently any resident that would like to participate in activities provided by the recreation commission can submit their receipt of non-member rate fees to the borough office and will be reimbursed the difference between the member and non-member fee. Mr. Trevorrow stated the same members are on the recreation commission that were on there when we had the previous issues. Mr. Muncert stated he felt the \$333 to have the independent study done would help the borough identify needs in the area and doesn't mean we would be obligated to join the recreation commission.

Audit:

Mr. Rodgers reported the 2020 audit was completed for the cost of \$5,900 and they have asked for \$7,500, which is an increase of 26%, for the 2021 audit. A meeting of the audit committee will be held Tuesday, July 27, at 3:00 p.m. at the borough building to review the 2020 audit and 2019 internal audit.

Insurance: Mrs. Speicher named Eric Muncert as chairman of the insurance committee.

Blighted Properties: Nothing to report.

Ballfield Improvement: Nothing to report.

Business Items

A motion was made by Mr. Trevorrow to approve ratification of payroll from June 22, 2021 through July 19, 2021 in the amount of \$10,571.56. Motion seconded by Mr. Rodgers. Roll call: Mr. Morgan, Mr. Muncert, Mr. Ewald, Mr. Pile, and Mrs. Speicher in favor. Motion carried (7-0)

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A motion was made By Mr. Trevorrow to approve payment of bills from June 22, 2021 through July 19, 2021 in the amount of \$142,580.54. Motion seconded by Mr. Rodgers. Roll call: Mr. Morgan, Mr. Muncert, Mr. Ewald, Mr. Pile, and Mrs. Speicher in favor. Motion carried (7-0)

A motion was made by Mr. Morgan to approve transfers from June 22, 2021 through July 19, 2021 in the amount of \$55,255.00. Motion seconded by Mr. Ewald. Roll call: Mr. Muncert, Mr. Trevorrow, Mr. Rodgers, Mr. Pile, and Mrs. Speicher. Motion carried (7-0)

A motion was made by Mr. Morgan to approve the June 2021 treasurer's report in the amount of \$1,528,470.96. Motion seconded by Mr. Ewald. Roll call: Mr. Muncert, Mr. Trevorrow, Mr. Rodgers, Mr. Pile, and Mrs. Speicher. Motion carried (7-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Morgan to note the receipt of the June 2021 tax collector's report in the amount of \$32,119.92. Motion seconded by Mr. Ewald. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

President Speicher called for an executive session at 5:56 p.m. to discuss personnel matters. Executive Session ended at 6:36 p.m. and council resumed its scheduled meeting.

There being no further business, a motion was made my Mr. Morgan for adjournment of the July 19, 2021 meeting at 6:36 p.m. Motion seconded by Mr. Pile. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Riek
Assistant Secretary