

BOROUGH OF SOUTHMONT
148 WONDER STREET
JOHNSTOWN, PA 15905

MINUTES FOR NOVEMBER 16, 2020

The pledge of allegiance was conducted, and the scheduled November 16, 2020 Council meeting was called to order by President Speicher at 4:00 p.m.

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

Visitors: Eric Muncert (1046 Luzerne Street – Stop Sign), Sam Ross (116 Violet Street – General Issues), Bob Walker (312 State Street – observing), Russ O'Reilly (Tribune Democrat)

Public Comment

Eric Muncert informed council the reason of his visit was to request a stop sign at the corner of Luzerne Street and Diamond Blvd. heading toward the Inclined Plane noting he has already spoken to Westmont Borough about installing stop sign going the opposite way and they are taking it into consideration. Mr. Muncert stated he has lived here for over 30 years and the amount and speed of traffic has increased in that area noting there is a 15-m.p.h. sign that is not adhered to. A motion was made by Mr. Rodgers to draft an ordinance to add a stop sign at the corner of Luzerne Street and Diamond Blvd. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

Sam Ross addressed council stating he has several issues on Violet Street starting with uninspected vehicles parked on the street and being driven illegally. Mr. Ross noted he has spoken with the West Hills Police and they informed him there was nothing they could do unless they caught them in the act of driving the uninspected vehicles. Mr. Ross stated there was an unregistered junk truck parked on Queen Street that had been tagged by the police and has since been removed. Mr. Ross also informed council that residents at 111 Violet Street have visitors over that are using Violet Street to do burn outs in their vehicles at all hours noting he has photos of tire marks on the street and 114 Violet Street has a basketball hoop in Lettuce Alley that hangs out so far that the garbage truck almost takes out the neighbors fence trying to get around it and they have two dogs that are constantly barking. Mr. Ross stated there are also vehicles that are parking on both sides of Queen Street, which blocks traffic and will create an issue for plowing in the winter.

Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Morgan to approve the council meeting minutes of October 19, 2020. Motion seconded by Mr. Pile. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

Police Report

Chief Lose reported the West Hills Regional Police participated in the DEA drug take back on Oct 24th and collected 117 pounds between 10am-2pm noting since 2018 over 370 pounds have been collected.

Fire Company Report

Chief Butler reported a low water pressure issue during a structure fire on St. Clair Road has been an ongoing issue for probably 30 years noting he has provided a list of problem hydrants to the borough office. Chief Butler informed council the fire company will have an ISO inspection on December 3rd, which will set the insurance rating for the borough for the next 10 years noting water pressures have been requested for the inspection, which haven't been updated since 1995. Chief Butler stated he contacted GJWA to have flow pressure testing done and hasn't heard anything back for two years. Mr. Pile will contact GJWA to request the testing.

Chief Butler reported during Trick of Treat night the fire engine drove on every street noting the engine was not able to get through Queen Street, King Street, Leon Street and Milton Street due to vehicles parking on both sides. Solicitor Carbonara will draft an ordinance to add one sided parking on those streets.

Chief Butler informed council the fire alarm system in the municipal building is not operable noting it used to be monitored by Tercek Electric, went to 9-1-1 and then went to Gittings. Chief Butler noted the system had been malfunctioning and then shut off completely. Mrs. Layton will contact Tercek Electric to test and upgrade the system and find someone to monitor the alarms.

Engineer's Report

Mr. Banks reported the substantial completion inspection for Tomato Alley has been done and the final pay estimate is \$1,787.21. A motion was made by Mr. Ewald to approve Pay Estimate No 2 in the amount of \$1,787.21. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. Roll call: Mr. Danyluk, Mr. Pile, Mr. Morgan, Mr. Trevorrow, Mr. Ewald, Mr. Rodgers, and Mrs. Speicher in favor. Motion carried (7-0).

Mr. Banks stated letters were sent to 56 residents in February 2020 to inform them that they were noted as having excess water flows while contractors were replacing lateral lines during the sewer replacement project. Mr. Banks reported crews were out doing wet weather OB stack inspections noting all of phase one and half of phase two have been inspected and there are approximately 30% contributing wet weather flow to the sanitary sewer system. A motion was made by Mr. Rodgers to send letters to property owners that fail the wet weather inspection to require repairs to be done within one year. Motion seconded by Mr. Pile. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

Zoning Officer's Report

The September 2020 Zoning Officer's report was received and is on file.

Street Commissioner's Report

Mr. Lingenfelter reported the public works department has been out collecting leaves but are currently repairing the leaf machine again and will need to look into purchasing a new leaf machine before next leaf collection season.

Mr. Lingenfelter stated he will work on a timeline for painting curbs and installing no parking signs.

Solicitor's Report

Solicitor Carbonara stated council approved and signed the third addendum to the West Hills Regional Police contract in October 2019 and council asked that the contract and all addendums be compiled into one document, but he hasn't heard anything else about it.

Executive Secretary's Report

Mrs. Layton reported the internal procedures report from Kline Kimlin suggested the borough approve a purchase order policy and accounts receivable policy, which council had received a draft of.

A motion was made by Mr. Ewald to approve the Purchase Order Policy as presented. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Ewald to approve the Accounts Receivable Collection Policy as presented. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

Mrs. Layton reported the employee health plan is up for renewal with a 3% increase noting there were two options. Option one coverage would remain the same with the 3% increase of \$1,062.84 and option two coverage would change the prescription plan to a 15/30/50 copay instead of 10/20/40, which would save the borough \$660.48 making the total increase \$402.36. A motion was made by Mr. Ewald to approve the health plan renewal with option two. Motion seconded by Mr. Pile. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Morgan to approve the 2021 CamTran municipality assessment with the 5% increase for a total amount of \$4,621.22. Motion seconded by Mr. Rodgers. Roll call: Mr. Danyluk, Mr. Pile, Mr. Trevorrow and Mr. Ewald opposed. Mr. Morgan, Mr. Rodgers and Mrs. Speicher in favor. Motion denied (4-3).

Mayor's Report

Nothing to report.

New Business:

Mr. Pile stated the 2021 police budget has increased over \$15,000, which is more than one-half mill and we also need to plan for big projects such as paving, Cheney Run repairs, building repairs, etc. A motion was made by Mr. Rodgers to approve the 2021 tentative budget with a 3 mill increase. Motion seconded by Mr. Pile. Roll call: Mr. Danyluk, Mr. Pile, Mr. Morgan, Mr. Trevorrow, Mr. Ewald, Mr. Rodgers, and Mrs. Speicher in favor. Motion carried (7-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Morgan to approve advertising the 2021 tentative budget. Motion seconded by Mr. Pile. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Pile to approve advertising Ordinance No. 529, 2021 tax millage. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

Mrs. Speicher requested to reopen the CamTran 2021 municipality assessment stating elderly and others may not have other ways to get out of their home to get to the store or doctors appointments and asked if those that were opposed would be willing to reconsider. Mr. Pile and Mr. Trevorrow agreed to change their vote under protest because CamTran received CARES Act funding and they feel the funds were not appropriated correctly. A motion was made by Mr. Morgan to retract the motion to approve the 2021 CamTran municipality assessment with the 5% increase for a total amount of \$4,621.22. Motion seconded by Mr. Rodgers. All in favor, motion carried (7-0). A motion was made by Mr. Morgan to approve the 2021 CamTran municipality assessment with the 5% increase for a total amount of \$4,621.22. Motion seconded by Mr. Rodgers. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

Committees:

Streets: Mr. Trevorrow stated trench line repairs from the sewer projects are not holding up. Mr. Banks will look into it and see if we can move forward.

Administration: Mrs. Speicher reported the committee reviewed the audit internal procedures suggestions and everything is looking good.

Personnel: Nothing to report.

Police: Nothing to report.

Budget/Tax Collection: Mr. Pile reported the current budget is in good shape and we should finish the year in the black.

Shade Trees: Nothing to report.

Bldg & Grounds: Nothing to report.

GJWA: Mr. Pile reported GJWA is waiting for permits from the Department of Environmental Protection for the North Fork Dam Project. Mr. Pile stated GJWA upper management met with fire chiefs in response to an issue with low pressure while fighting a fire on St. Clair Road noting they are now aware of where the low-pressure hydrants are and noted with the Shady Lane tank being taken out the pressure is actually better than when the tank was there. Mr. Pile stated the Franklin Street sewer project should begin soon and is just awaiting permission to start from the state noting it has to be done by the end of April.

Open Records: Nothing to report.

Borough Services: Nothing to report.

Audit: Mr. Rodgers reported Kline Kimlin has sold their audit clients to Kotzan CPA & Associates noting Caryn Ondesko had previously performed the borough audits under Kline Kimlin and has now moved with the work to Kotzan CPA & Associates. Mr. Rodgers noted an audit engagement letter was received from Kotzan, which would include the same auditing services at a cost of \$5,900.00. A motion was made by Mr. Rodgers to approve the audit engagement letter with Kotzan CPA & Associates. Motion seconded by Mr. Pile. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

Insurance: Nothing to report.

Blighted House: Nothing to report.

Ballfield Improvement: Nothing to report.

Business Items:

A motion was made by Mr. Morgan to approve ratification of payroll from October 22, 2020 through November 16, 2020 in the amount of \$6,639.52. Motion seconded by Mr. Pile. Roll call: Mr. Danyluk, Mr. Pile, Mr. Morgan, Mr. Trevorrow, Mr. Ewald, Mr. Rodgers, and Mrs. Speicher in favor. Motion carried (7-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Pile to approve payment of bills from October 20, 2020 through November 16, 2020 in the amount of \$193,602.78. Motion seconded by Mr. Rodgers. Roll call: Mr. Danyluk, Mr. Pile, Mr. Morgan, Mr. Trevorrow, Mr. Ewald, Mr. Rodgers, and Mrs. Speicher in favor. Motion carried (7-0).

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A motion was made by Mr. Pile to approve transfers from October 20, 2020 through November 16, 2020 in the amount of \$158,494.82. Motion seconded by Mr. Danyluk. Roll call: Mr. Danyluk, Mr. Pile, Mr. Morgan, Mr. Trevorrow, Mr. Ewald, Mr. Rodgers, and Mrs. Speicher in favor. Motion carried (7-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Rodgers to approve the October 2020 treasurer's report in the amount of \$1,451,384.67. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Rodgers to note the receipt of the October 2020 tax collector's report in the amount of \$2,332.77. 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 November 16, 2020 meeting at 5:07 p.m. Motion seconded by Mr. Trevorrow. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

Respectfully Submitted,

Amanda Layton
Executive Secretary