

BOROUGH OF SOUTHMONT
148 WONDER STREET
JOHNSTOWN, PA 15905

MINUTES FOR MARCH 20, 2023

The pledge of allegiance was conducted, and the scheduled March 20, 2023 Council meeting was called to order by President Eric Muncert at 4:00 p.m.

Present: Council Members Eric Muncert, Doug Beri, Richard Burkert, Kevin Pile, Sheree Speicher, Bob Morgan, (entered 4:11 p.m.) Borough Manager Amanda Layton; Police Chief Ed Fisher; Det. Sgt. Michael Beblar; Fire Chief Edward Burkett; Assistant Fire Chief Jim Carbaugh; Solicitor Michael Carbonara; Engineer Brian Shura; Mayor Anthony Keiper; Street Commissioner Harry Lingenfelter

Absent: Asst. Sec. Debra Riek; Engineer Todd Banks

Visitors: Robert Walker (312 State St.); John A. Klanchar (104 Dahlia St.), Brian Curtis (422 State Street)

Public Comment:

Mr. Klanchar voiced concerns regarding the Johnstown Housing Authority requiring Prospect Homes to be vacated due to deficiencies stating the matter concerns everyone in the area and thought the borough may want to look into options to help such as providing low-income housing.

Mr. Walker stated he saw a list of grant recipients in the Tribune Democrat and was disappointed to not see Southmont Borough on the list. Mr. Walker stated he felt the borough should coordinate with utility companies when paving because the gas company has already come back and dug up the newly paved State Street. Mr. Walker also stated he noticed other municipalities advertising their paving bids and did not see Southmont Borough.

Correspondence Received

Mr. Muncert acknowledged email correspondence received from Mr. John A. Klanchar dated March 15, 2023.

Minutes

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve the February 20, 2023 council meeting minutes. Motion seconded by Mr. Pile. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

Police Chief's Report

The February 2023 Police Chief's Report was received. Sgt. Beblar and Mr. Beri discussed a recent grant application that Mr. Beri assisted the police department with noting they had requested \$190,000 and were approved for \$165,000.

Fire Company Report

The February 2023 Fire Chief's Report was received. A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve 2023 Jubilee Signage to be put up throughout the borough. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

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A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve the Volunteer Tax Credit Application submitted by Michael Butler in the amount of \$29.35. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

Engineer's Report

Mr. Shura reported the borough's flow reduction plan was submitted to DEP on March 1st and the Cheney Run Project construction is complete and a substantial completion inspection will be scheduled. Mr. Shura also reported that two flow meters will be re-installed this week on Southmont Blvd. and the intersection of Helen Street and Wonder Street.

Zoning Officer's Report

The February 2023 Zoning Officer's Report was received.

Street Commissioner's Report

The March 2023 Street Commissioner's Report was received and is on file. Mr. Lingenfelter reported the spring/summer equipment is being prepped for the upcoming season.

Solicitor's Report

Solicitor Carbonara reported on 942 Pine Grove Lane stating \$15,000 will be held in escrow until the exterior lateral from the foundation to the manhole is completed and as long as council is agreeable the closing can move forward. A motion was made by Mr. Beri to authorize the purchaser to proceed with closing on the sale of 942 Pine Grove Lane. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to authorize Solicitor Carbonara to proceed with filing action against the owner of 18 Harding Street for past due garbage and sewer maintenance fees and failure to comply with Ordinance No. 501 requiring a sewer certification certificate prior to sale. Motion seconded by Mr. Pile. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

Solicitor Carbonara stated a signed copy of the lease with Westmont Hilltop School District regarding the State Street soccer field has been received.

Borough Manager Report

The March 2023 Borough Manager's Report was received and is on file. A motion was made by Mr. Pile to approve attendance of elected officials to the Cambria County Borough's Association Spring Dinner on April 18, 2023 being hosted by Southmont Borough. Motion seconded by Mr. Ewald. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Morgan to approve mailing out grass cutting proposals to local lawn maintenance companies for 2023 grass cutting for 148 Wonder Street, Menoher Blvd. Triangle, Diamond Blvd. Playground, Bird Sanctuary and Cheney Oak Drive. Motion seconded by Mr. Beri. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

Mayor's Report

Mayor Keiper reported a concerned citizen requested his attendance at a public meeting held by Westmont Hilltop School District to discuss school safety and gun violence. Mayor Keiper stated he did attend the meeting and felt it was informational and went well.

Committees:

Administration: Nothing to report.

Audit: Mrs. Speicher reported the 2020-2021 liquid fuels fund audit was started and the committee will be meeting to discuss upcoming borough and fire company audits.

Budget/Tax Collection: Nothing to report.

Community Planning & Improvement: Mr. Burkert reported the County Planning Commission no longer provides comprehensive planning assistance and the committee will schedule a meeting in the near future to further discuss comprehensive planning for the borough.

Emergency Management: Nothing to report.

GJWA: Mr. Pile reported GJWA is still waiting on permits from DEP and are currently working on getting special bolts to help relieve the pressure at the bottom of North Form Dam. Mr. Pile reported GJWA is also working on demolishing the old Westmont water tank and will install a new one.

Grants: Mr. Beri responded to Mr. Walker's concern regarding grant funding stating that to access grant money the borough needs to have specific plans prepared and ready to go before applying. Mr. Beri noted Stiffler McGraw is currently working on plans for the borough building roof and security/office upgrades so the borough can apply for grants as they become available. Mr. Beri also noted a no-match grant is currently out that may cover the security upgrades and the committee is working with Stiffler McGraw to meet the April 28th application deadline.

Insurance: Nothing to report.

MS4/Stormwater:

Personnel: Mr. Muncert reported the committee is working on updates to the personnel policy.

Police: Nothing to report.

Property Maintenance and Streets: Nothing to report.

Shade Trees: Mr. Burkert reported the committee will be meeting to discuss Arbor Day plans and noted the borough was approved for the Bare Root Tree Grant for 8 large canopy trees and 2 small canopy trees, which should be available in mid-April.

New Business

A motion was made by Mr. Morgan to approve Ordinance No. 543, amending the traffic and roadway regulations. Motion seconded by Mrs. Speicher. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

Business Items

A motion was made by Mr. Morgan to approve ratification of payroll from February 21, 2023 through March 20, 2023 in the amount of \$12,523.86. Motion seconded by Mr. Pile. Roll call: Mr. Muncert, Mr. Beri, Mr. Burkert, Mr. Pile, Mrs. Speicher, and Mr. Morgan, Mr. Ewald. All in favor. Motion carried (7 - 0).

A motion was made by Mr. Morgan to approve payment of bills from February 21, 2023 through March 20, 2023 in the amount of \$117,396.74. Motion seconded by Mr. Pile. Roll call: Mr. Muncert, Mr. Beri, Mr. Burkert, Mr. Pile, Mrs. Speicher, Mr. Morgan, Mr. Ewald in favor. All in favor. Motion carried (7 -0).

A motion was made by Mr. Morgan to approve transfers from February 21, 2023 through March 20, 2023 in the amount of \$54,070.00. Motion seconded by Mrs. Speicher. Roll call: Mr. Muncert, Mr. Beri, Mr. Burkert, Mr. Pile, Mrs. Speicher, Mr. Morgan, Mr. Ewald in favor. All in favor. Motion carried (7 -0).

A motion was made by Mr. Morgan to approve the February 2023 treasurer's report in the amount of \$1,505,855.93. Motion seconded by Mr. Pile. Roll call: Mr. Muncert, Mr. Beri, Mr. Burkert, Mr. Pile, Mrs. Speicher, Mr. Morgan, Mr. Ewald in favor. All in favor. Motion carried (7 -0).

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to accept the Tax Collector's Report for February 2023. Motion seconded by Mr. Beri. All in favor. motion carried (7-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Muncert to enter an Executive Session at 4:52 p.m. to discuss legal matters relating to 18 Shady Lane. Motion seconded by Mrs. Speicher. All in favor, motion carried (7-0). Executive Session ended at 5:16 p.m. and council resumed its regularly scheduled meeting.

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve paying half of the police protection for the 2023 Jubilee. Motion seconded by Mr. Pile. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Pile for adjournment of the March 20, 2023 meeting at 5:17 p.m. Motion seconded by Mrs. Speicher. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Layton
Borough Manager