

BOROUGH OF SOUTHMONT
148 WONDER STREET
JOHNSTOWN, PA 15905

MINUTES FOR MAY 17, 2021

The pledge of allegiance was conducted, and the scheduled May 17, 2021, Council meeting was called to order by President Speicher at 4:00 p.m.

Present: Council President Sheree Speicher; Council Members Richard Rodgers, Kevin Pile, Eric Muncert, Herb Ewald, Robert Morgan, and William Trevorrow; Solicitor Michael Carbonara; Exec. Sec. Amanda Layton; Street Commissioner Harry Lingenfelter; Police Sgt. Edward Fisher; Fire Assistant Chief Jim Carbaugh; Engineer Todd Banks

Absent: Mayor Mark Yonko

Visitors: Matt Thomas (301 Thoburn Street)

Public Comment

Mr. Thomas addressed council stating he received a letter regarding excess groundwater infiltration and wants to be certain that he actually has an infiltration issue before spending money on repairs because he has a split-level home and costs will be doubled. Mr. Thomas stated he had a plumber at his home, and they didn't find evidence of infiltration and he would ask the plumber for a written report. Mrs. Speicher informed Mr. Thomas the borough engineers would be back for more inspections during the next wet weather event, and they could reinspect his property at that time. Mr. Thomas asked if he should wait for a wet weather event since the deadline for repairs is coming up and he doesn't want to incur fines. Mrs. Speicher informed Mr. Thomas that council is more concerned with residents that refuse to make the repairs.

Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Ewald to approve the April 19, 2021 monthly meeting minutes. Motion seconded by Mr. Pile. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Ewald to approve the May 10, 2021 special meeting minutes. Motion seconded by Mr. Pile. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

Police Report

Chief Fisher reported the West Hills Regional Police Department collected 69.5 pounds of unwanted prescriptions during their annual take-back day on April 24th noting that since beginning the program in 2018 they have collected 449 pounds.

Chief Fisher informed council the District Attorney's office obtained grant money that will help police departments put extra officers on the streets for traffic enforcement noting there will be no cost to the police department.

Fire Company Report

Chief Butler absent. Assistant Chief Carbaugh asked what was happening with the Wonder Street soccer field because they noticed surveyors collecting data. Mrs. Speicher informed him that Westmont Hilltop

School District requested permission to hold throwing events for track and field at the soccer field, but it is an ongoing matter and council will keep the fire company updated.

Engineer Report

Mr. Banks reported they are finishing round 1 of excess flow inspections and the borough office is keeping a list of properties that need re-inspected and flow meters are still in place. Mr. Banks stated he received an email from PennVest stating they re-inventoried the Phase I loan and the monthly repayment amount was decreased to \$30,725.00.

A motion was made by Mr. Pile to approve application for a Pennsylvania Infrastructure Bank loan to fund the Cheney Run Headwall Project. Motion seconded by Mr. Ewald. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

Mr. Lingenfelter reported on an issue at 103 Violet Street noting the sewer lateral initially ran to Harshberger Road and Kukurin Contracting didn't reconnect the line when they did the sewer replacement on Harshberger Road so they redirected his lateral line to Violet Street, which started causing backup issues every few months. Mr. Lingenfelter stated Snyder Environmental Services tried to repair the issue since Phase I was already completed and the issue became worse backing up every few weeks. Mr. Banks reported a camera inspection showed terra cotta pipe at the foundation is shifted and the borough employees were going to slip a new pipe in and remove the trap to repair the issue, but the line is too deep, and they are not able to do it. Mr. Lingenfelter stated he contacted three contractors and received the following:

- Snyder Environmental Services – Not able to provide estimate
- Lenny's Excavating - \$3,000.00
- Jones's Construction & Supply, Inc. - \$1,000.00

A motion was made by Mr. Morgan to enter into an agreement with John and Jodi Pecze to pay the full amount of \$1,000.00 to Jones's Construction & Supply, Inc. to remove the trap from the lateral, back fill and seed with the understanding that Mr. and Mrs. Pecze 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 103 Violet Street, as well as an understanding that the work being performed is at Mr. and Mrs. Pecze's direction and the Borough is not responsible for any of the work performed by Jones's Construction & Supply, Inc. Motion seconded by Mr. Pile. Roll call: Mr. Rodgers, Mr. Pile, Mr. Ewald, Mr. Morgan, Mr. Trevorrow, Mr. Muncert and Mrs. Speicher in favor. Motion carried (7-0).

Zoning Report

Mr. Ewald inquired what the status of 424 Southmont Blvd. and 104 Dahlia Street was. Mrs. Layton will check with Mark Walker.

Street Commissioner Report

Mr. Lingenfelter reported he is down two part-time employees, so it is just him and Sam right now. A motion was made by Mr. Morgan to advertise for a part-time public works employee that could lead to full-time employment. Motion seconded by Mr. Muncert. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

Mr. Muncert stated he has a contact at Hiram G. Andrews for students that are trained to use lawn maintenance equipment and it would be at no cost to the borough. Mr. Lingenfelter will meet with Mr. Muncert to get more information.

Solicitor Report

Solicitor Carbonara reported the graduation parade request from Westmont Hilltop School District has been resolved and he sent a letter to the school district regarding a draft of the traffic signal agreement.

Solicitor Carbonara stated he received a response from Westmont Borough regarding the several properties along Menoher Blvd. and Luzerne Street that have their sewer laterals connected to Westmont Borough lines noting they were questioning what the adverse impact would be if the properties would be removed.

A motion was made by Mr. Ewald to approve advertising Ordinance No. 533, reinstating the borough manager position. Motion seconded by Mr. Rodgers. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

Executive Secretary Report

Nothing to report.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Yonko absent.

New Business

A motion was made by Mr. Morgan to approve Ordinance No. 532, amending the parking ordinance. Motion seconded by Mr. Muncert. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

Committees:

Streets: Nothing to report.

Administration: Nothing to report.

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: Nothing to report.

Open Records: Nothing to report.

Borough Services: Mr. Trevorrow reported he and Mr. Morgan attended a presentation at Westmont Hilltop School District suggesting Westmont Borough, Southmont Borough and Upper Yoder Township pass a resolution supporting their proposal to be a part of a recreation peer-to-peer study to gather input and identify opportunities and constraints with a cooperative approach to providing services for parks, recreation programs, trails, community center development and support, and other quality of life issues with each municipality agreeing to pay \$333.33 toward the cost of the Peer Study. A motion was made by Mr. Trevorrow to draft a letter thanking Westmont Hilltop School District for the invitation, but due to existing

May 17, 2021 Minutes – Page 4 of 4

obligations the borough cannot participate. Motion seconded by Mr. Rodgers. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

Audit: Nothing to report.

Insurance: Nothing to report.

Blighted Properties: Nothing to report.

Ballfield Improvement: Nothing to report.

Business Items

A motion was made by Mr. Rodgers to approve ratification of payroll from April 20, 2021 through May 17, 2021 in the amount of \$11,448.18. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. Roll call: Mr. Pile, Mr. Trevorrow, Mr. Rodgers, Mr. Ewald, Mr. Muncert, Mr. Morgan and Mrs. Speicher in favor. Motion carried (7-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Rodgers to approve payment of bills from April 20, 2021 through May 17, 2021 in the amount of \$126,137.07. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. Roll call: Mr. Pile, Mr. Trevorrow, Mr. Rodgers, Mr. Ewald, Mr. Muncert, Mr. Morgan and Mrs. Speicher in favor. Motion carried (7-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Morgan to approve transfers from April 20, 2021 through May 17, 2021 in the amount of \$80,845.87. Motion seconded by Mr. Rodgers. Roll call: Mr. Pile, Mr. Trevorrow, Mr. Rodgers, Mr. Ewald, Mr. Muncert, Mr. Morgan and Mrs. Speicher in favor. Motion carried (7-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Morgan to approve the April 2021 treasurer's report in the amount of \$1,376,398.12. Motion seconded by Mr. Rodgers. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Morgan to note the receipt of the April 2021 tax collector's report in the amount of \$224,225.03. Motion seconded by Mr. Rodgers. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

President Speicher called for an executive session at 5:41 p.m. to discuss legal matters. Executive session ended at 5:59 p.m. and council resumed its scheduled meeting.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Morgan for adjournment of the May 17, 2021 meeting at 5:59 p.m. Motion seconded by Mr. Trevorrow. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Layton
Executive Secretary