

BOROUGH OF SOUTHMONT  
148 WONDER STREET  
JOHNSTOWN, PA 15905

MINUTES FOR APRIL 17, 2023

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The pledge of allegiance was conducted, and the scheduled April 17, 2023 Council meeting was called to order by President Eric Muncert at 4:00 p.m.

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**Present:** Council Members Eric Muncert, Doug Beri, Kevin Pile (via telephone), Robert Morgan, Sheree Speicher, Herb Ewald, Richard Burkert, Solicitor Michael Carbonara; Borough Manager Amanda Layton; Street Commissioner Harry Lingenfelter; Police Chief Edward Fisher; Fire Chief Edward Burkett; Asst. Sec. Debra Riek

**Absent:** Mayor Anthony Keiper; Engineer Todd Banks

**Visitors:** John A. Klanchar (104 Dahlia St.); Robert Walker (312 State St.) Thomas Halza (505 State St.)

**Public Comment:**

Council reviewed an estimate from Stuvvers Riverside Nursery in the amount of \$3,456.38 that was provided by Mr. Thomas Halza for landscaping restoration on his property from the Cheney Run Project. Mr. Muncert stated the borough was grateful to Mr. Halza for allowing the borough access on his property to complete the Cheney Run Project. A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve reimbursing Mr. Halza \$3,456.38 after the landscaping restoration at 505 State Street is completed. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

Mr. John A. Klanchar stated he is running for Southmont Borough Council and questioned Solicitor Carbonara about his political party affiliations.

Mr. Robert Walker questioned who will be responsible for the care of the State Street Field. Mr. Muncert stated that the Westmont Hilltop School District will be maintaining the field.

**Minutes**

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

**Police Chief's Report**

The March 2023 Police Chief's Report was received and is on file. Police Chief Fisher reported there were 471 calls in the month of March and 88 were for Southmont Borough noting there have been several car break-ins and people need to remove valuables and lock their cars. Police Chief Fisher stated Saturday, March 22, 2023, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., is the annual drug take back day, which allows the public to drop off all unused prescription drugs they may have in their homes.

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**Fire Company Report**

The March 2023 Fire Chief's Report was received and is on file. Fire Chief Burkett reported they are receiving a \$15,000.00 state grant, which will help pay off Fire Engine 26 by June. Fire Chief Burkett stated they are approving the purchase of 2 iPads for emergency use, which will enable the department to check addresses and take emergency pictures at the scene. Mrs. Speicher congratulated Chief Burkett and the department for being able to pay off the loan for the fire truck early.

A motion was made by Mr. Morgan to approve the Volunteer Service Tax Credit application for T. James Dailey. Motion seconded by Mrs. Speicher. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

**Engineer's Report**

Mr. Banks absent. Mr. Lingenfelter reported the sewer lateral for 942 Pine Grove Lane was completed.

A motion was made by Mr. Morgan to approve the Mar-Allen pay estimate No. 4 Cheney Run Project in the amount of \$40,704.53. Motion seconded by Mrs. Speicher. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

**Zoning Officer's Report**

March 2023 Zoning Officer's Report was received and is on file.

**Street Commissioner's Report**

Mr. Lingenfelter stated they have been working on cleaning up trees in the borough from the recent storm that went through the area and will be street sweeping and patching potholes in the future. There will be a meeting of the Street Committee to develop the list of streets to be reviewed by PennDOT for paving this year.

**Solicitor's Report**

A motion was made by Mr. Morgan to approve Resolution 2023-05 to open a sewer escrow account at Somerset Trust Company for 942 Pine Grove Lane. Motion seconded by Mrs. Speicher. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

Solicitor Carbonara stated that Attorney Benjamin from Westmont Hilltop School District will be reviewing the field lease with the Southmont Volunteer Fire Company and the lease will be finalized for the Fire Department as soon as possible.

Solicitor Carbonara updated the council on the status of the properties for the sewer maintenance and garbage liens noting there are presently 10 to 15 individuals to be notified and liens posted against the properties.

**Borough Manager Report**

The Borough Manager's report was received and is on file. Mrs. Layton reported several proposals for 2023 grass cutting were received noting WB Landscaping was the cheapest at a total of \$315.00 per cut for the Municipal Building, Menoher Blvd. Triangle, Diamond Blvd. Playground, Bird Sanctuary and Cheney Oak Drive reservoir. A motion was made by Mr. Morgan to approve the Grass Cutting Proposal for WB Landscaping. Motion seconded by Mr. Ewald. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

**Mayor's Report:** The Mayor is absent. Nothing to report.

**Committees:**

**Administration:** Nothing to report.

**Audit:** Nothing to report.

**Budget/Tax Collection:** Nothing to report.

**Community Planning & Improvements:** Mr. Burkert asked Mrs. Layton how the security of the building is coming along with Stiffler McGraw Company. Mrs. Layton reported that they did a walk through and are working on the security plan and roof replacement plan for the municipal building. Mr. Burkert reported the committee will be working on planning needs for the borough and he will be scheduling a meeting in May and will attempt to bring in the Cambria County Planning Commission for help and advice.

A motion was made by Mr. Beri for authorization to apply for a no-match grant through PEMA for the building security upgrades. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

**Emergency Management:** Nothing to report.

**GJWA:** Mrs. Speicher reported the Water Authority is continuing work on the North Fork Dam and the old water tank in Westmont was removed and a new one will be installed in the near future.

**Grants:** Mr. Beri reported he is working on a grant for the Police Commission and will be working on the PEMA security upgrade grant for the municipal building.

**Insurance:** Nothing to report.

**MS4/Stormwater:** A motion was made by Mr. Ewald to approve advertising MS4 Ordinance No. 544. Motion seconded by Mr. Beri. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

**Personnel:** Mr. Muncert reported the 2023 personnel manual has been updated. A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve the updated Personnel Policy. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

**Police:** Nothing to report.

**Property Maintenance & Streets:** Mr. Ewald stated the borough is looking better and all work is being completed as requested.

**Shade Trees:** Mr. Burkert stated that there will be a committee meeting in May to organize Arbor Day and review proposed tree work. Mrs. Layton reported the ten trees received through the Bare Root Tree Grant are being picked up in Greensburg and will be planted shortly after noting most are planned to be planted along Diamond Blvd. to replace trees that have been removed.

**New Business**

A motion was made by Mr. Ewald to approve the externship agreement with Hiram G. Andrews. Motion seconded by Mrs. Speicher. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve applying the remaining balance of the ARPA account toward Mar-Allen Pay Estimate No. 4 and to approve closing of the ARPA account at Somerset Trust Company afterwards. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

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**Business Items**

A motion was made by Mr. Morgan to approve ratification of payroll from March 21, 2023, through April 17, 2023, in the amount of \$13,186.01. Motion seconded by Mr. Ewald. Roll call: Mr. Muncert, Mr. Beri, Mr. Morgan, Mr. Pile, Mrs. Speicher, Mr. Burkert. Mr. Ewald. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Morgan to approve payment of bills from March 21, 2023, through April 17, 2023, in the amount of \$117,708.55. Motion seconded by Mr. Ewald. Roll call: Mr. Beri, Mr. Muncert, Mr. Morgan Mrs. Speicher, Mr. Ewald, Mr. Pile, Mr. Burkert. All in favor. Motion carried (7-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Morgan to approve transfers from March 21, 2023, through April 17, 2023, in the amount of \$69,118.00. Motion seconded by Mr. Ewald. Roll call: Mr. Muncert, Mr. Pile, Mr. Ewald, Mr. Beri, Mr. Morgan, Mrs. Speicher, Mr. Burkert. All in favor. Motion carried (7-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Morgan to approve the March 2023 treasurer's report in the amount of \$1,605,517.66. Motion seconded by Mr. Ewald. Roll call: Mr. Muncert, Mr. Ewald, Mr. Morgan, Mr. Pile, Mr. Beri, Mrs. Speicher and Mr. Burkert. All in favor. Motion carried (7-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Morgan to note the receipt of the March 2023 tax collector's report in the amount of \$105,226.80. Motion seconded by Mr. Ewald. All in favor. Motion carried. (7-0).

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to adjourn the April 17, 2023, meeting at 4:39 p.m. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. Motion carried (7-0).

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Riek  
Assistant Secretary