

**MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION OF COUNCIL  
WEDNESDAY, November 13, 2019**

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Regular session of Borough Council convened at 7:31 pm. Present were Councilors Janice Matyasovsky, Tim Sloss, Mike Zrenchak, Jane Weigand, Mike Matlos, Melissa Morgan, and Chris Ponchak; Mayor Larry Sikorski; Solicitor Matt Racunas; and Engineer Don Glenn.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS.**

**David Deliman, 1390 Washington Boulevard**, spoke on behalf of his wife and children Seth, 21; Haley, 18; Zach, 8 and the issues that they are having with Liberty Borough's part-time police officer Brice P. Joll. Mr. Deliman explained that there was an incident outside of our community several months ago. He was not sure if Mr. Joll used his Liberty Borough police badge or another community's police badge, but Mr. Joll was off duty and in his personal vehicle. Mr. Deliman said that there is way more to this incident, and that he isn't discussing the incident due to it was not a Liberty Borough problem but that this Officer is targeting his family. He said that this is now becoming an issue in Liberty Borough, because Mr. Deliman's son was pulled over by Officer Joll at South Allegheny High School for speeding and he isn't sure what device he used to detect that his son was speeding. While Officer Joll had Mr. Deliman's son pulled over, he proceeded with taking pictures of the car and speaking to the young man inappropriately and accused him of laughing. Officer Joll released his son giving or not giving him a citation at the scene. On Saturday, November 9, 2019, they received a certified letter in the mail for citations for speeding and illegal devices on his Subaru. Mr. Deliman was then concerned if this was stemming from the other incident outside of the Liberty Borough community, which he cannot discuss because they are two different communities, and Officer Joll's mental state. Mr. Deliman started to look further into Officer Joll's life and found that Officer Joll did not have many good things about him and his behavior. He even heard bad things about this officer from the Lieutenant that the officer obtained a full time position with. Mr. Deliman was looking into Officer Joll's background and found some obscene Facebook posts that Office Joll posted on the All about Elizabeth Forward Area (Uncensored) Facebook page. Mr. Deliman had pictures of these posts on his phone and he shared them with everyone at the meeting. Mr. Deliman found more and more negativity about this officer the further he looked into him. He cannot understand how Mr. Joll is allowed to be law enforcement officer. Mr. Deliman wishes that Liberty Borough Council would look further into Officer Joll's background, even as far back as when he lived in North Carolina, and what Officer Joll's mental state is. Mr. Deliman stated that Mr. Joll should not be an officer for any community. He said he respects Liberty Borough Police and Council and this is why he is attending the meeting. He wants to inform Liberty Borough and their residents about what is going on with their part time police officer. He also wants to fill out a complaint with your highest ranking official and to let you know that this is going to be mentioned in the report with the District Attorney's office. Mr. Deliman thanked Council for listening and asked them to look into this more so that they can protect their residents.

Mr. Racunas thanked Mr. Deliman for the information that he provided. Mr. Racunas said that there will be no comment since it is a personnel matter. He said that they have been made aware of some of the issues and it is under investigation by Liberty Borough Council.

**Dan McClelland, 3300 Oakland Drive**, wondered if Council could reach out to the owner of the Family Dollar building at 3107 Liberty Way and have him clean up his parking lot. Mr. McClelland said that there are a bunch of tires built up down there and junk all over the lot.

Mrs. Morgan informed Mr. McClelland that the owner does not return phone calls. She told him that when Family Dollar store was moving out, they had made several attempts to reach, Mr. Mezrahi, the owner. They wanted to try to negotiate a way to keep a store in the borough and could not reach him. Council informed Mr. McClelland that they are pretty sure that the mess is most likely from the kids playing in the parking lot. It looks like the kids put up ramps and jumps for their bikes. Mrs. Morgan explained that she seen the kids playing on that lot and she caught them in the dumpster so she asked Chief Riley to go over and check it out. She thinks the kids pulled the tires out of the dumpster. Mr. McClelland said that the parking lot looks trashy; Mrs. Morgan agreed but explains the owner refuses to call anyone back or answer letters. Mr. Racunas told the code enforcement officer to write Mr. Mezrahi a notice to clean up the area. He said to do it like a high grass notice and give him 10 days to comply. Council will go from there. Mr. McClelland also said that he understood that the rest of the yellow lines could not be painted because of the cold but was wondering if they could give him a copy of the map that Mr. Ponchak had completed. Mr. Ponchak said that he had the map completed and he will get Mr. McClelland a copy of the map.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS.

### PROPERTY.

There was nothing to report.

### POLICE. Mr. Ponchak reporting.

Mr. Ponchak read Lieutenant Johnson's report on police equipment for the month of October, as follows:

Vehicle mileage:

|           | BEGIN | END   | MILEAGE |
|-----------|-------|-------|---------|
| Unit #130 | 221   | 1184  | 963     |
| Unit #131 | 46636 | 47525 | 889     |
| Unit #132 | 73936 | 74932 | 996     |

|               |      |
|---------------|------|
| Total mileage | 2848 |
|---------------|------|

Vehicle Maintenance:

Unit 130

- No Report.

Unit 131

- No Report

Unit 132

- No Report

Mr. Ponchak read Fire Chief Derr's report for the month of October, as follows:

Total calls: 12

|                                          |   |
|------------------------------------------|---|
| Building Fire                            | 3 |
| Medical Assist, assist EMS crew          | 1 |
| Motor vehicle, accident with no injuries | 1 |
| Water problem, other                     | 1 |
| Cover assignment, standby, move up       | 2 |
| Dispatched & cancelled en route          | 1 |
| Smoke scare, odor of smoke               | 2 |
| Smoke detector activated, unintentional  | 1 |

Mrs. Matyasovsky read the EMS report for the month of October. The EMS had 26 calls in Liberty Borough and their call response time was an average 9 minutes and 6 seconds.

Mrs. Morgan called for a motion, seconded by Mr. Matlos to ratify the action taken on October 21, 2019 to advertise for a full-time police officer. Motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Morgan called for a motion, seconded by Mr. Ponchak to advertise the sale of the 2014 white Chevy Impala police vehicle with Municibid with the minimum bid beginning at \$4,000.00. Motion passed unanimously.

**LEGISLATION.** Mr. Ponchak, Chairman, reporting.

There was nothing to report.

**PARKS & RECREATION.** Mrs. Morgan, Chairman, reporting.

Light up night will take place Friday, December 6, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. We will start at the Liberty Borough building. Santa will come on the firetruck, and light the tree. We will follow the firetruck over to the fire hall to have pizza and drinks. There will be some

activities for the kids and families. Mrs. Morgan extended the invitation for the residents to join them for the evening. She also thanked the Liberty Borough Fire Department for helping out with light up night again this year.

**HEALTH & ORDINANCE.** Mr. Sloss, Chairman, reporting.

There was nothing to report.

**LIGHTS.** Mr. Matlos, Chairman, reporting.

There was nothing to report.

**FINANCE.** Mrs. Matyasovsky, Chairman, reporting.

Mrs. Matyasovsky presented the Bills for Ratification, as follows:

|                                                             |           |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Aflac – short-term disability [October]                     | \$ 40.60  |
| American Legal Services – police insurance [November]       | 50.68     |
| American Natural – gasoline and fuel                        | 2483.95   |
| Auto Zone – Silverado                                       | 24.99     |
| Blue Ridge Supply – top soil for Tot Lot                    | 137.99    |
| Christie and Associates – renewal of insurance policy       | 63,191.00 |
| Christopher Ponchak – reimburse for police vehicle supplies | 27.25     |
| City of McKeesport – prisoner detainment                    | 25.00     |
| Comcast – internet and phones                               | 291.29    |
| Comm of PA – PennVest loan payment                          | 5,643.28  |
| Dave Collura – wildlife control                             | 175.00    |
| Dearborn National – life insurance [11/1/19 – 1/31/19]      | 194.29    |
| Direct Energy – EMS                                         | 16.60     |
| Direct Energy - garage                                      | 40.05     |
| Direct Energy – municipal building                          | 277.32    |
| Direct Energy – pump station                                | 37.65     |
| Econo Signs – street signs                                  | 1152.55   |
| First Commonwealth Bank – loan payment [PW truck]           | 1,301.99  |
| First Commonwealth Bank – loan payment [2015 street paving] | 3,686.14  |
| Gaydos-Behanna Kennel – second quarter bill                 | 360.00    |
| Gaydos-Behanna Kennel – third quarter bill                  | 360.00    |
| Gilmore, Edward – trees at Memorial on Liberty Way          | 2475.00   |
| Glenn Engineering – PennVest                                | 1,899.29  |
| Glenn Engineering - PennVest                                | 1,665.87  |
| Lehigh Hanson – asphalt for Jeffrey Drive                   | 166.16    |
| MCI – long distance                                         | 31.15     |
| Mr. John – 1 @ Latrobe Park [10/14/19 – 11/10/19]           | 120.00    |

|                                                                       |           |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Mr. John – 2 @ Manor Park [10/14/19 – 11/10/19]                       | 240.00    |
| PA American Water - consumptions                                      | 66.81     |
| PA American Water – shutoffs/reconnects                               | 120.00    |
| PA American Water – EMS                                               | 15.68     |
| PA American Water – garage                                            | 70.17     |
| PA American Water – Municipal Building                                | 53.49     |
| Petty Cash – Halloween Parade Winners                                 | 64.00     |
| Racunas Law Group, LLC – solicitors fee [September]                   | 3273.00   |
| Ricoh – copier lease                                                  | 114.95    |
| Ricoh – copier maintenance                                            | 38.22     |
| Synder of Berlin - Halloween                                          | 90.00     |
| Sprint – mobile laptop                                                | 40.24     |
| State Pipe Services, Inc. – PennVest                                  | 21,495.10 |
| State Pipe Services, Inc. – PennVest                                  | 24,507.00 |
| Steel Rivers COG – October Dinner                                     | 20.49     |
| Stone & Co. – materials for Jeffrey Drive catch basin                 | 605.47    |
| TEC Benefits – deductible reimbursement [Helderlein]                  | 40.96     |
| Turner Dairy - Halloween                                              | 81.00     |
| UPMC Health Plan – health insurance [November]                        | 2,262.45  |
| Verizon – garage                                                      | 54.31     |
| WestComm Wireless – radio maintenance [11/1/19 – 12/1/19]             | 55.00     |
| Zrenchak Environmental Services, Inc. – pump station inspection[Sept] | 280.00    |

**TOTAL RATIFIED BILLS**

**\$139,463.43**

Mrs. Matyasovsky presented the list of bills, as follows:

|                                         |          |
|-----------------------------------------|----------|
| Aqua Filter Fresh – bottled water       | 43.07    |
| Barrier Protection Systems, Inc.        | 240.00   |
| Comcast – police Internet               | 163.81   |
| Duquesne Light – street lights          | 3,179.67 |
| Duquesne Light – EMS                    | 27.49    |
| Duquesne Light – garage                 | 47.03    |
| Duquesne Light – Municipal Building     | 125.23   |
| Duquesne Light – pump station           | 85.54    |
| Glenn Engineering – general engineering | 1,886.25 |
| Glenn Engineering – sewage              | 296.25   |
| Home Depot –                            | 589.73   |
| Jefferson Hills Lawn & Equipment        | 168.93   |
| Jordan Tax Service Inc.                 | 387.00   |
| Lawson Excavating                       | 3,250.00 |
| Mon Valley Independent – Advertising    | 641.50   |
| Orkin Exterminating                     | 207.92   |
| PA American Water – fire hydrants       | 1,097.18 |
| PA Municipal Service Co                 | 935.32   |

|                                          |        |
|------------------------------------------|--------|
| PA One Call – notices                    | 14.28  |
| Peoples Gas – EMS                        | 24.56  |
| Peoples Gas – garage                     | 43.14  |
| Peoples Gas – Municipal Building         | 54.97  |
| Real Stats – service for 2020            | 630.00 |
| Ricoh USA, Inc.                          | 114.95 |
| Russell Standard Corp                    | 190.95 |
| Schell Electric                          | 450.00 |
| Sherwin Williams Co                      | 161.22 |
| Sprint – cell phones                     | 69.64  |
| TEC Benefits – benefits admin [December] | 20.00  |
| Trugreen Chemlawn                        | 431.56 |

**\$15,577.19**

**TOTAL BILLS**

Mrs. Matyasovsky called for a motion to accept the ratified bills and to pay the list of bills. The motion was made by Mrs. Weigand, seconded by Mr. Matlos. Mrs. Matyasovsky, yes; Mr. Sloss, yes; Mr. Zrenchak makes motion to pay all the bills but abstains for the payment of Zrenchak Environmental Services; Mrs. Weigand, yes; Mr. Matlos, yes; Mr. Ponchak, yes; and Mrs. Morgan, yes. Motion passed.

The receipts for the month of October 2019 are as follows:

**GENERAL FUND**

|                                          |           |
|------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Real Estate Tax – Aquilante              | 473.55    |
| Fire Tax – Aquilante                     | 67.65     |
| Delinquent Real Estate Tax – Keystone    | 1,528.52  |
| Act 77 Tax Refund                        | 7,064.69  |
| Real Estate Transfer Tax                 | 2,170.70  |
| Earned Income Tax – Keystone             | 14,022.35 |
| Local Services Tax                       | 0.00      |
| Zoning/Building Permits                  | 0.00      |
| Zoning/Occupancy Permits                 | 90.00     |
| Street Opening Permits                   | 240.00    |
| Dye Test Permits                         | 150.00    |
| Police Fines                             | 611.29    |
| PURTA – Comm of PA                       | 863.35    |
| No Lien Letters                          | 60.00     |
| Employee Contribution – Health Insurance | 20.00     |
| COBRA – TEC Benefits                     | 156.25    |
| Police Report                            | 15.00     |

|                                             |                     |
|---------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Refund – Office Depot                       | 3.73                |
| Political Signs – Bryan Meyers              | 10.00               |
| Lien for grass cutting – Assured Settlement | 485.30              |
| <b>TOTAL RECEIPTS FOR THE MONTH</b>         | <b>\$ 28,032.38</b> |

|                            |                     |
|----------------------------|---------------------|
| <b><u>GENERAL FUND</u></b> |                     |
| <b>REGISTER BALANCE</b>    | <b>\$ 25,667.24</b> |

|                                    |                   |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|
| <b><u>GENERAL FUND SAVINGS</u></b> |                   |
| Interest                           | 111.55            |
| <b>REGISTER BALANCE</b>            | <b>625,331.74</b> |

|                          |                  |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| <b><u>SEWER FUND</u></b> |                  |
| Customer Payments        | 7,542.31         |
| <b>REGISTER BALANCE</b>  | <b>36,963.77</b> |

|                                |                     |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| <b><u>HIGHWAY AID FUND</u></b> |                     |
| Interest                       | 9.32                |
| <b>REGISTER BALANCE</b>        | <b>\$ 53,466.61</b> |

|                                        |                      |
|----------------------------------------|----------------------|
| <b><u>SINKING FUND [2018 NOTE]</u></b> |                      |
| Surcharge                              | 684.21               |
| Pennvest Loan Proceeds                 | 49,567.26            |
| <b>REGISTER BALANCE</b>                | <b>\$ 106,818.84</b> |

Mrs. Matyasovsky called for a motion to accept the Ricoh Copier Proposal. The motion was made by Mr. Matlos, seconded by Mr. Ponchak, and passed unanimously.

**PERSONNEL.** Mrs. Matyasovsky, Chairman, reporting.

Mrs. Matyasovsky called for a motion to ratify the action taken to hire Josh Takaht effective September 20, 2019 at a rate of \$12.35 an hour. The motion was made by Mr. Matlos, seconded by Mrs. Morgan, and passed unanimously.

Mrs. Matyasovsky called for a motion to hire Nicholas Caito as the full-time police officer at a rate of \$22.00 an hour. The motion was made by Mr. Ponchak, seconded by Mr. Matlos, and passed unanimously.

Mrs. Matyasovsky called for a motion to increase our custodian, Bill Wall, hourly rate to \$12.00 an hour as of 01/01/2020. The motion was made by Mr. Matlos, seconded by Mrs. Morgan, passed unanimously.

**STREETS & SEWERS.** Mr. Zrenchak, Chairman, reporting.

Mr. Zrenchak says there wasn't much to report, however they were looking into Small Water and Sewer grant applications for the pump station upgrades and replacements. He is getting prices for that. Mr. Zrenchak brought it to everyone's attention that the auto dialer system for the pump station, the current system uses 2G/3G cell service; it is being phased out as of December 31<sup>st</sup> of this year. He has given everyone a couple of options to look at to replace the systems that are cost effective. This is something that needs to be taken action on soon. Mr. Zrenchak discussed the plowing and salting of the roads with the snow season starting. He just wants to make sure that everyone is aware that public works are still having an issue getting through the streets while plowing. He stated that the cars and parking makes it harder for them to clear the street and keep everyone safe.

**MAYOR SIKORSKI'S REPORT.**

Mr. Sikorski highlighted the following police activity from the October report:

|                             |    |     |
|-----------------------------|----|-----|
| Total Call Activity         |    | 102 |
| Calls for Service           |    | 21  |
| Domestic Complaints         | 3  |     |
| Suspicious Person/Vehicles  | 3  |     |
| Alarms                      | 3  |     |
| Animal Complaints           | 9  |     |
| Disturbances                | 2  |     |
| Local Ordinance Complaint   | 1  |     |
| Assaults                    | 4  |     |
| Narcotics                   | 1  |     |
|                             | 1  |     |
| Harassments Complaints      | 1  |     |
| Criminal Mischief Complaint | 2  |     |
| Traffic Accidents           | 2  |     |
| Traffic Stops               | 15 |     |
| Traffic Citations Issued    |    | 3   |
| Assist Fire                 |    | 2   |



|                            |    |
|----------------------------|----|
| Assist Other Departments   | 9  |
| Assist By Other Department | 15 |
| Assist EMS                 | 16 |

The fines for the month were \$611.29

Mayor Sikorski said we don't arrest people for money. We spend far more money on other things.

Mayor Sikorski said that some of the animal complaints are because people just leave their dog outside while they are at work or out shopping. He said that the people let their dogs outside just staring at the sky and barking for hours and hours. Mayor Sikorski thinks that this is very inconsiderate of the neighbors who leave their dogs out and he thinks that some neighbors try to be nice and put up with the barking without complaining but that should not be the case because the borough has laws that say residents don't have to put up with such noise. He said some people are sick, some are old, and some people just want to go to sleep because they were up all night and this is why people should take a look at their animal and see how much noise they make. He said that this is so unfair to the residents to have to listen to this.

#### **SOLICITOR RACUNAS'S REPORT.**

Mr. Racunas called for a motion to adopt Ordinance 2019-06, to advertise for handicap parking. The motion was made by Mrs. Morgan, seconded by Mr. Matlos, and passed unanimously.

#### **ENGINEER GLENN'S REPORT.**

Mr. Glenn said that all his items were discussed at the workshop.

There was nothing to report.

Mrs. Morgan called for a motion to accept the bid in the amount of \$57,000.00 to Allegheny City Electric for the generator for the Volunteer Fire Department. The motion was made by Mrs. Matyasovsky, seconded by Mr. Zrenchak, and passed unanimously.

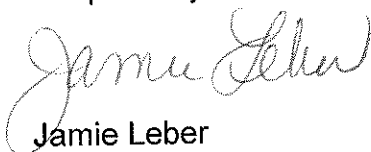
Mrs. Morgan called for a motion, seconded by Mrs. Weigand to approve the Mulholland subdivision as recommended by the Planning Board. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Ponchak called for a motion to accept typed minutes from the Regular Session on October 9, 2019. The motion was made by Mr. Matlos, seconded by Mr. Sloss, and passed unanimously.

The next meeting date is Wednesday, December 11, 2019; Work Session at 6:00 pm and Regular Session at 7:30 pm.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Morgan, seconded by Mr. Zrenchak. All were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 7:48 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jamie Leber".

Jamie Leber  
Office Assistant