

**MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION OF COUNCIL
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2020**

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Regular session of Borough Council convened at 7:34 pm. Present were Councilors Janice Matyasovsky, Mike Matlos, Jennifer Riley-McClelland, Elizabeth Lape, and Michael Zrenchak; Mayor Larry Sikorski; Solicitor John Rushford; and Engineer Don Glenn.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS.**

**Rodney Naccarato, 823 Elizabeth Street**, explained that he had a problem with the Borough a few years ago. It was about a trench they dug out on his property and it is causing his hillside to fall into the trench. He said every year the yard fills up the trench and every year the borough comes through and digs up the trench. Mr. Naccarato's other concern at that time was the health hazard it is creating because there is standing water lying there and this is also a liability issue for him because of the 5 inches of water that is always there. At the time that the borough did the excavation, Mr. Naccarato pegs were removed. He recently paid \$280 to have the pegs put back in. Mr. Naccarato stated that the information that he is giving Council wasn't just pulled out of a hat. His daughter went to WVU Statler College of Engineering. She is a civil engineer and she deals with this every day. He said his daughter couldn't be present because she was still at work. Mr. Naccarato printed off the PA One Call that shows his property line and that the trench the borough is digging to have the water run through is actually on his property. He said the ordinance states that you are supposed to be 3 feet away from adjoining property and you're supposed to give the property owner a 30 day notice. He said that he has never received any kind of notice. Mr. Naccarato had pictures to show Council what was going on and that the trench is on his property. The pictures also show the water on his property from the trench that is dug. He also took measurements of how much water was there and it was 5 ½ inches of water. He also explained that with the water comes tadpoles, and with tadpoles comes frogs. He said that the frogs are all through his yard and his dog is eating them and getting sick. Mr. Naccarato said that when you are damaging someone's property, you are supposed to build a retaining wall and that the borough has not done any of the requirements.

Mr. Zrenchak asked to see the photos and if he could have a copy of them. Mr. Naccarato said he could keep those ones. Mr. Zrenchak said that he would look into this issue and will have answers by next month's meeting or sooner. Mr. Naccarato said that his daughter deals with erosion and sorts and that she can see what is happening to his property. Mr. Zrenchak said that he needs a little time to look into it and do some research since he is fairly new to Council and this is the first time he is hearing of this.

**Madeline Lake, 2841 Washington Blvd**, said that she brought up at last month's meeting about the house at 2845 Washington Blvd and she was wondering if the house inspector had a chance to get up to that property. Mr. Zrenchak asked Mr. Bogdan to explain to her what was going on. Mr. Bogdan informed Ms. Lake that a couple days after the meeting, the building inspector and himself visited the house. The building

inspector condemned the house and marked it uninhabitable. Mr. Bogdan said that they found out that there was a change of ownership last September (2019), which they just found out about. They sent the new owner the violation letter and the new owner sent an appeal letter back to the inspector claiming that he is going to fix up the house to sell it. The new owner owns a construction business and that his main business is flipping houses. He buys them, fixes them and sales them. The letter claims that he will have the outside fixed up by September of this year (2020). It also claims that the reason it is taking so long is because there is a driveway on his property that the neighbor to the other side is using so he doesn't have access to the property and that he was having a hard time getting a surveyor to come and survey the property lines. He finally hired a surveyor so they should be done with that by April and he can start working on the house. Mr. Bogdan explained that the building inspector spoke with the new owner and told him he had to board up the house so nothing can go in or out and the new owner agreed. Ms. Lake said that at one time that whole hill was one family, and the houses in between was given to the son. Mr. Bogdan explained that the driveway is on the new owner property and the only other access to the house is to drive down Ms. Lake driveway over to the old garage. Ms. Lake said that yes she owns that long driveway. The new owner doesn't want to go down her driveway and that is why he waiting for the survey to get done so he has access and can start renovating the house. Mr. Bogdan said that they are keeping an eye on the property and if it looks like things are not getting started than they will contact the owner right away. Ms. Lake said thank you, she would like to put her house on the market in May. She understands it takes time and she doesn't expect miracles but she glad to know that something is being done so she can tell people who come to look at her house to buy it know that they are not going to get stuck looking at that mess of a house next to her.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS.**

**PROPERTY.** Mrs. Lape, Chairman reporting.

There was nothing to report.

**POLICE, FIRE, AND EMS.** Mr. Sloss, Chairman and Chris Gretz, Chairman.

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

Vehicle mileage:

|               | BEGIN | END   | MILEAGE |
|---------------|-------|-------|---------|
| Unit #130     | 6099  | 7350  | 1251    |
| Unit #131     | 43500 | 44088 | 588     |
| Unit #132     | 75475 | 75890 | 415     |
| Total mileage |       |       | 2254    |

Vehicle Maintenance:

Unit 130

- No Report

Unit 131

- No Report

Unit 132

- No Report

Mr. Zrenchak read the fire report as follows:

- |                                              |                                    |
|----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 3 – Building Fires                           | 1 – Trash, Rubbish Fire            |
| 1 – Medical Assist, Assist EMS crew          | 1 – Gas Leak (natural or LPG)      |
| 1 – Motor Vehicle accident w/ no injuries    | 2 – Public Service Assistance      |
| 1 – Motor Vehicle accident w/ injuries       | 1 – Cover Assignment, standby,     |
| 1 – Malicious, mischievous false call        | 1 – Alarm system activated no fire |
| 1 - Local alarm system sounded, malfunction  |                                    |
| 1 – Smoke detector activated, no fire        |                                    |
| 1 – Carbon Monoxide detector activated no CO |                                    |

Mr. Zrenchak said that Liberty Borough Volunteer Fire Department are having three upcoming events this month: The first is the craft show on March 15, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.; The Family Feud sponsored by the LBVFD and the Liberty Borough Vets Club on March 21, the doors will open at 6:00 p. m. The tickets are \$20.00; The Fish Fry is on Friday April 3, 2020 from 11:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

**LEGISLATION.** Mr. Gretz, Chairman.

There was nothing to report.

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

Mrs. McClelland wanted to remind everyone about the Census event that is occurring on March 27, 2020 from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at the South Allegheny High/Middle School. She said if you need transportation to please reach out to your specific municipalities. Mrs. McClelland said that Liberty Borough was going to coincide the

times with the other municipalities but that those times had not been released yet. She suggested if anyone needed transportation to reach out as soon as possible. Mr. Zrenchak explained that the Census event was put together by Glassport, Lincoln, Port Vue, SA School District and Liberty. That they reached out to Jefferson Regional Foundation and that the foundation gave us \$7,000.00 Grant to use for this event. Mr. Zrenchak said that they are finalizing the transportation. He said to call the Borough building if you need a ride up to the school on that day. Mr. Zrenchak explained to the residents why the Census is so important to our communities. He said if we don't do this counting; there is a lot to be lost in this Census. If a family of five that does not report the numbers, then we lose \$100,000.00 in funding over the next ten years. This funding goes into our schools, roads, and senior citizens programs. There are a whole bunch of programs that the Census can have impact on the funding that our communities will see. Also, if our population is low because not everyone filled out the Census then they can start taking our legislators away from us. We need the legislators in our area to help us achieve funding. Mr. Zrenchak said the reason we are doing this event is because the Census wants to do it electronically. The kids will be up at the school with the chrome books if anyone would need assistance. Mr. Zrenchak stressed how important the Census is.

Mrs. McClelland announced the Community Easter Egg Hunt for Liberty Borough. She said the event will be at the Liberty Borough Fire hall on Sunday, March 29, 2020 from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

**HEALTH & ORDINANCE.** Mrs. Lape, Chairman, reporting.

There was nothing to report.

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

Mr. Matlos informed every one that they are looking into the LED streetlight conversion.

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

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

|                                                             |          |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Aflac – short-term disability [February]                    | \$ 40.60 |
| Allegheny League of Municipalities (2020 Spring Conference) | 1,900.00 |
| American Legal Services – police insurance [March]          | 36.20    |
| AmTrust – Worker’s Comp installment                         | 4,433.00 |
| Caito, Nicholas – Uniform Allowance                         | 500.00   |
| Caito, Nicholas – Bank return fee                           | 12.00    |
| Comm of PA – PennVest loan payment (March)                  | 5,643.28 |
| First Commonwealth Bank – loan payment [PW truck]           | 1,301.99 |
| First Commonwealth Bank – loan payment [2015 street paving] | 3,686.14 |
| HTM Designs                                                 | 170.00   |

|                                                       |                    |
|-------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| MCI – long distance                                   | 28.60              |
| Orkin – sewers                                        | 253.12             |
| PA American Water – shut-offs / reconnects            | 68.53              |
| PA American Water – EMS                               | 15.92              |
| PA American Water – garage                            | 52.44              |
| PA American Water – Municipal Building                | 69.99              |
| Ricoh – copier lease [2/4/20 – 3/3/20]                | 149.42             |
| Seven Springs (2020 Spring Conference)                | 600.00             |
| Sprint – mobile laptop                                | 40.24              |
| UPMC Health Plan – health insurance [March]           | 4,252.23           |
| Verizon (FEB 2020 & MARCH 2020)                       | 106.98             |
| WestComm Wireless – radio maintenance [3/1/20-4/1/20] | 55.00              |
| <b>TOTAL RATIFIED BILLS</b>                           | <b>\$23,415.68</b> |

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

|                                                             |            |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| American Natural                                            | \$ 2872.35 |
| Aqua Filter Fresh – bottled water                           | 57.97      |
| Cargill – salt                                              | 3,574.97   |
| Center Independent Oil Stores                               | 15.00      |
| Dave Collura – wildlife control [February]                  | 175.00     |
| Comcast – phones/Internet                                   | 292.19     |
| Comcast – police Internet                                   | 163.81     |
| Derkas Auto Body – wire& connectors, sensors (2012 Tahoe)   | 337.50     |
| Derkas Auto Body – torque strut mount (2014 Impala)         | 108.21     |
| Dravosburg Truck & Auto oil change 2017 Chevy 3500          | 261.07     |
| Direct Energy – EMS                                         | 26.17      |
| Direct Energy – garage                                      | 34.95      |
| Direct Energy – Municipal Building                          | 193.10     |
| Direct Energy – pump station                                | 137.76     |
| Duquesne Light – street lights                              | 3,189.75   |
| Duquesne Light – EMS                                        | 43.77      |
| Duquesne Light – garage                                     | 50.50      |
| Duquesne Light – Municipal Building                         | 81.92      |
| Duquesne Light – pump station                               | 109.27     |
| EconoSigns – street signs                                   | 1,036.42   |
| Glenn Engineering -- final invoice for Penn Vest            | 13,163.33  |
| Glenn Engineering – general engineering                     | 1,341.25   |
| Glenn Engineering –pump station reports                     | 445.00     |
| Glenn Engineering – Act 537 reviewing 2019 Alcosan database | 240.00     |
| Home Depot – misc supplies                                  | 270.40     |
| Jahinie Productions (Easter 2020)                           | 470.00     |
| Mon Valley Independent – employment ad (Borough Secretary)  | 78.00      |
| O'Reilly Auto Parts – misc supplies                         | 84.51      |

|                                                   |           |
|---------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Orkin – municipal building (February)             | 207.92    |
| PA American Water -- Sewage                       | 88,714.92 |
| PA American Water – consumption data              |           |
| PA American Water – fire hydrants                 | 1,097.18  |
| PA Municipal Service – bankruptcy claim           | 58.70     |
| Peoples Gas – EMS                                 | 137.41    |
| Peoples Gas – garage                              | 149.22    |
| Peoples Gas – Municipal Building                  | 253.39    |
| Quill – paper, tape, toner, file folders          | 163.94    |
| Racunas Law Group, LLC – Solicitor fees [January] | 2,508.00  |
| RC Walter & Sons Inc – misc supplies              | 5.66      |
| Russell Standard Corp.--- cold patch              | 494.75    |
| Sloss, Cara flowers for boro & memorial           | 121.39    |
| Sprint – cell phones (Feb)                        | 69.24     |
| TEC Benefits One Digital                          | 30.00     |
| Witmer Public Safety -- Ammunition                | 388.22    |
| Zrenchak Environmental Services Inc (Jan & Feb)   | 700.00    |

**TOTAL BILLS**

**\$123,954.11**

Mrs. Matyasovsky called for a motion to accept the ratified bills and to pay the list of bills. The motion was made by Mr. Matlos, seconded by Mrs. McClelland. Roll call vote; Mrs. Matyasovsky, yes; Mr. Matlos, yes; Mrs. McClelland, yes; Mrs. Lape, yes; Mr. Zrenchak abstains from paying bills because of Zrenchak Environmental Services. Motion carried.

The receipts for the month of February are as follows:

**GENERAL FUND**

|                                       |           |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| Real Estate Tax – Aquilante           | 1,495.12  |
| Fire Tax – Aquilante                  | 0.00      |
| Delinquent Real Estate Tax – Keystone | 4,699.23  |
| Act 77 Tax Refund                     | 6,709.08  |
| Real Estate Transfer Tax              | 1,185.80  |
| Earned Income Tax – Keystone          | 27,327.33 |
| Local Services Tax                    | 2,652.56  |
| Zoning/Building Permits               | 84.12     |
| Zoning/Occupancy Permits              | 90.00     |
| Dye Test Permits                      | 100.00    |
| Police Fines                          | 721.04    |
| No Lien Letters                       | 80.00     |

|                                          |                     |
|------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Employee Contribution – Health Insurance | 40.00               |
| COBRA – TEC Benefits                     | 156.25              |
| Police Reports                           | 30.00               |
| COMCAST (cable franchise)                | 13,366.17           |
| <b>TOTAL RECEIPTS FOR THE MONTH</b>      | <b>\$ 58,736.70</b> |

**GENERAL FUND**

**REGISTER BALANCE** **\$ 21,761.17**

**GENERAL FUND SAVINGS**

Interest \$91.54  
**REGISTER BALANCE** **\$ 572,304.41**

**SEWER FUND**

Customer Payments \$5,676.68  
PA Municipal Service Deposits \$78,695.42  
**REGISTER BALANCE** **\$118,646.64**

**HIGHWAY AID FUND**

Interest \$6.00  
**REGISTER BALANCE** **\$ 33,441.14**

**SINKING FUND [2018 NOTE]**

Surcharge \$11,272.99  
Penn Vest Loan Proceeds \$5,643.28  
**REGISTER BALANCE** **\$ 112,567.52**

**PERSONNEL.** Mrs. McClelland, Chairman, reporting.

Mrs. McClelland called for a motion to hire John Harrison as a part-time police officer for the Liberty Borough Police Department. The motion was made by Mr. Matlos, seconded by Mrs. Matyasovsky. Roll call vote: Mrs. Matyasovsky, yes; Mr. Matlos, yes; Mrs. McClelland, yes; Mrs. Lape, yes; Mr. Zrenchak, yes. Motion carried.

Mrs. McClelland called for a motion to accept Sergeant Don Harrison resignation for retirement. The motion was made by Mr. Matlos, seconded by Mrs. Matyasovsky. Roll call vote; all yes. Motion carried.

Mrs. McClelland took a moment to say that living in such a small community, she thinks there is far less than a sixth degree of separation here. She said growing up with close relation to the police station gave her a bunch of honorary uncles when she was little. Officer Harrison was one of them. Mrs. McClelland said that the borough is very fortunate to have a lot of great employees. She said that when Sergeant Harrison is on duty, he isn't only doing police work, but he is also doing that customer service piece that is so important to a community like ours. Mrs. McClelland gave an example of when Sergeant Harrison patrols Liberty Borough he has dog treats with him and he rides around and passes out the dog treats to all the neighborhood dogs. She said that if that isn't an amazing testimony to who we are as a community than she doesn't know what is.

Mrs. McClelland called for a motion to adopt a resolution to extend thanks and appreciation to Sergeant Don Harrison for his thirty-two years of outstanding service as a police officer in the Borough of Liberty from 1988 through 2020.

Mrs. McClelland presented Sergeant Harrison with a plaque acknowledging his hard work and dedication for the last 32 years in the Borough of Liberty. The entire chambers clapped in recognition of Sergeant Harrison.

Chief Riley told the residents that Sergeant Harrison and himself have been together for so long. He said that it wasn't just here, that the two of them used to work for the County Housing Police. They were there during the McKees Rocks Riots in the late eighties. Chief Riley said that him and Sergeant Harrison have a lengthy history together and as much as he hates to see him leave, he loves to see Harrison's son take over his place. Liberty Borough will not be without a Harrison. If John Harrison is anything like his father, he will in Liberty Borough until he is 75 years old also.

Mr. Zrenchak read the entire Resolution 2020-03 to the public. He congratulated Sergeant Harrison.

Sergeant Harrison said it has been a long thirty two years. He met Chief Riley in the projects working for the county. Sergeant Harrison said that Chief Riley said that they have been together for so long that they are going to have to file for divorce. Everyone laughed. Sergeant Harrison said that since he is the first to leave, the divorce papers are in the mail. Chief Riley said hopefully he isn't far behind him. Sergeant Harrison talked about how much he has enjoyed his 32 years in the borough. He said he has met a lot of good people up here. He made a lot of good friends. He mentioned his canine deputies that he does indeed like to give treats to. Sergeant Harrison told a story about how when he pulls up the canines know it is him and he would ask the dog's owner if the dog was allowed to have treats and the owner would say yes. So, he would get out of the car and tell the dog that by accepting these treats they are now officially sworn in as his deputies and when the red and blue lights come on they have to take a bite out of



crime. Sergeant said that it has been a pleasure serving up here. He said he retire 2 ½ years ago from a federal position and it was easy. He said he took his badge and plaque and walked out the door and didn't even look back. Sergeant Harrison said up here, in the borough, it is tough; too many good people. He said he made a lot of friends, had a few arrests, wrote some tickets. He said he only had to write tickets to them after warnings had been given. He said it is going to be rough not having to get up when the alarm goes off to get ready and go off to work. Friday, March 13 is going to be my last day. He said he will be taking rides through town to check on his deputies and make sure everything is running smooth. Sergeant Harrison thanked Liberty for the opportunity to serve them and Liberty Borough Council thanked him for all the great years of service.

Mr. Zrenchak called for a motion to adopt a resolution to extend thanks and appreciation to Sergeant Don Harrison for his thirty-two years of outstanding service as a police officer in the Borough of Liberty from 1988 through 2020. The motion was made by Mrs. McClelland, seconded by Mrs. Matyasovsky. Roll call vote; all yes. Motion carried.

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

Mr. Zrenchak reported that we have three change orders for the Penn Vest Project for sewer system rehabilitation project. He said these are the final three change orders that close out the project. Mr. Zrenchak called for a motion for Contract #1 Conventional excavation in the amount of \$20,284.00. Mr. Zrenchak called for a motion for Contract #4 Alternate Manhole Rehabilitation in the amount of \$423.00. Mr. Zrenchak called for a motion for Contract #2 Trenchless Technology in the amount of \$53,945.00. He said this will be coming out of the money that we borrowed from Penn Vest. He explained to the residents that this is what your \$5.00 a month surcharge covers. The motion was made by Mr. Matlos, seconded by Mrs. McClelland. Roll call vote; all yes. Motion carried.

**MAYOR SIKORSKI'S REPORT.**

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

|                            |   |     |
|----------------------------|---|-----|
| Total Call Activity        |   | 111 |
| Domestic Complaints        | 2 |     |
| Juvenile Complaints        | 0 |     |
| Suspicious Person/Vehicles | 2 |     |
| Alarms                     | 2 |     |
| Missing Persons            | 1 |     |
| Animal Complaints          | 4 |     |
| Disturbances               | 2 |     |

|                             |    |    |
|-----------------------------|----|----|
| Local Ordinance Complaint   | 6  |    |
| Assaults                    | 6  |    |
| Welfare Checks              | 3  |    |
| Traffic Complaints          | 2  |    |
| Harassment Complaint        | 0  |    |
| Criminal Mischief Complaint | 0  |    |
| Theft Report                | 1  |    |
| Traffic Accidents           | 4  |    |
| Driving Under the Influence | 0  |    |
| Traffic Stops               | 9  |    |
| Traffic Citations           | 13 |    |
| Non-Traffic Citations       | 0  |    |
| Assist Fire                 |    | 3  |
| Assist Other Departments    |    | 16 |
| Assist By Other Department  |    | 7  |
| Assist EMS                  |    | 12 |

The fines for the month were \$721.04

**ENGINEER GLENN'S REPORT.** – Mr. Glenn, Engineer, reporting.

Mr. Glenn said all of his items were discussed and taken care of at the workshop session and Council passed the motion for Penn Vest invoices.

**OLD BUSINESS.**

Mr. Zrenchak informed public that we still advertising for planning and zoning board openings. He said they have received two letters and one inquiry Mr. Zrenchak said that if anyone was interested to please submit a letter to the borough office. He would like to get these boards up and running. It is very important so we can start to revitalize Main Street.

Mr. Zrenchak asked Mrs. Matyasovsky about the Clairton Trust Fund meeting. Mrs. Matyasovsky didn't have anything specific to tell about the meeting since it is just getting started.

**NEW BUSINESS.**

Mr. Zrenchak mentioned that it is our year to host the Memorial Day Parade. He said that we are looking into speakers and coordinate activities. Council is going to reach to

the Liberty Borough Vets Club again. The date for the parade is tentatively Saturday, May 23, 2020. He told the public that any help or suggestions will be greatly appreciated

**CORRESPONDENCE.**

None.

Mr. Zrenchak called for a motion to accept typed minutes from Wednesday, February 12, 2020. The motion was made by Mr. Matlos, seconded by Mrs. McClelland and passed unanimously.

The next meeting date and time will be on Wednesday, April 8, 2020. The workshop session will be at 6:00 pm. The regular session is at 7:30 pm.

**SOLICITOR RUSHFORD REPORT.**

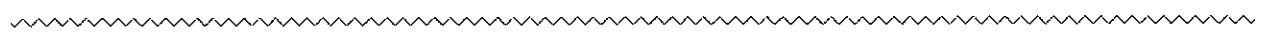
Mr. Rushford introduced himself and informed them that he was filling in for Matt Racunas. He said that it has been a pleasure meeting and working with everyone tonight.

Mr. Rushford called for a motion to advertise with the intent to adopt Ordinance 2020-02 creating handicap parking and prescribing penalties for violation thereof for 3108 Woodrow Street, McKeesport 15133. The motion was made by Mr. Matlos, seconded by Mrs. McClelland and passed unanimously.

Mr. Rushford stated that the remainder of his report was discussed in workshop session.

Mr. Zrenchak called for a motion to adjourn. The motion was made by Mrs. Lape, seconded by Mrs. McClelland and passed unanimously.

The above borough business concluded at 8:12m.



Respectfully submitted,

Jamie Leber  
Office Assistant