MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION OF COUNCIL

August 24, 2022

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Regular session of Borough Council convened at 6:00 pm. Present were Councilors Mike Matlos, Tim Sloss, Elizabeth Lape, Jennifer Riley, and Michael Zrenchak, Mayor Sikorski, Solicitor Matt Racunas and Engineer Laura Branthoover. Councilors Luke Riley and Chris Gretz were not in attendance.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**Amanda Rausch - 2704 C Street:** The Blight and Revitalization Committee met with Solicitor Racunas about a month ago. They were lost as to what they could or could not do as the Blight Committee; At his direction, they made up folders so they could start working on some of the blight that is happening in the borough, properties that are not being taken care of, and also to try and take care of some of the properties that back taxes are owed on but are still in good shape and they don’t want them to show up on the list of ones that are going to be condemned so they can get them back on the tax rolls. She presented to council 3 properties to be rehab and 3 properties to work on getting condemned. They looked at the taxes and the state of the property – some have holes in the roof. 201 Latrobe is a safety hazard. Also for condemnation is 2823 E Street and 2811 F Street. The 3 properties that have taxes owed on them but are still pretty nice properties are 305 Owens, 3404 Orchard, and 806 Elizabeth. These are the properties they would like to start with. She gave Mr. Zrenchak the folders and research they and Jamie Leber did on the taxes owed. Mr. Zrenchak stated that 201 Latrobe and 2823 E Street are already on the condemned list. He asked Jill Pack to froward them on to everyone for review. Solicitor Racunas stated that the properties for rehab need to be at least 3 years tax delinquent. He said that, in reality, the borough would not do the rehab. He said that, ideally, we could try to coordinate with the school district to try and get them to sheriff sale them. If they are in good shape, someone might be interested in investing in them and that would be the most effective and cost effective. Mrs. Kerklo asked about the companies who advertise to come in and buy houses as is, would that work here. Solicitor Racunas explained that these houses are owned by someone and the borough cannot transfer title on them so the process of going through a sheriff sale the tile can be transfer and the new owner can rehab that dwelling. Condemnation does not change title - it remains in the owner’s name. Condemnation and demolition is a way to remove a dangerous structure legally so now it is a vacant lot. Allegheny County has the Vacant Property Recovery Program so a neighbor can try and acquire that property.

**Lavina Kerklo – 3227 Liberty Way:** She asked Solicitor Racunas that the ordinances we have now are to be used as a guildline. He said they are on the books. Through codification, you rescind the unnecessary ordinances. The ones that are out of date should be nullified. That way you have a book of ordinances that you can enforce. Mrs. Kerklo said that someone told her that a fence was put up close to the road and it is hazard when you make the turn. Mr. Zrenchak stated that they would have had to get a building permit and a variance – it can only be so far from the front of the property and so high so they must not have checked. Ms. Pack said that Chris Harvey from BIU has already addressed this issue and cited him.

**Cathy Beadling – 2805 A Street:** She also had a question on the ordinances. She thought that she heard that there was an ordinance against keeping boats and RV’s in the front of your property. She thought that it had to be behind the house. There is more and more of that happening. She thought that during the summer time they could do that but in October they had to be move back or stored somewhere. The boat will be back on Washington Blvd and there is one on Memory Lane that is bigger than the houses up there. Then there are the 3 RV’s in the parking lot here and they should not be allowed to be there. Mr. Bogdan explained that there is no ordinance preventing this – the only place they are not allowed to park these vehicles is on the street. He said that the police have looked at the one on Washington Blvd and they do not think it is dangerous - it does not interrupt line of sight. The boat is completely off of the road. Mrs. Beadling says it blocks the marquee to the high school. Mr. Zrenchak stated that during the codification process, some of the old things out of there but some the other things on the books may not be addressed as things have changed. The need to be gone through and add things in or take things out as times change. Mrs. Beadling suggested that they put an ordinance in against putting big boats and things in front of your house. It is a seasonal thing that you should not have to look at year round. Mr. Zrenchak said that they will discuss it during the workshop session.

Another woman asked if there was an ordinance allowing you to park your vehicle in your front yard. Mr. Bogdan said yes. Mr. Zrenchak said that when these houses were built, people hand only one car. Now you have many cars and they are parking in the yard so not to park in front of the neighbors. It is not the ideal situation but how do you address it.

A man asked if the yellow line on Orchard Drive is enforced by the police. Mr. Zrenchak said that it should be. The man said that they are seeing more and more cars

**PROPERTY:** Chris Gretz

Mr. Gretz was not in attendance. Mr. Zrenchak did not receive a report from him.

**POLICE, FIRE and EMS:** Michael Zrenchak

Mr. Zrenchak read the July 2022 Fire Report:

Brush Fire 1

Stand By 1

Automatic Fire Alarm 4

Structure Fire 3

Vehicle Fire 1

Rubbish Fire 1

Carbon Monoxide 1

Total 12

**Motion to donate** $1,000 to the Liberty Borough Fire Department Festival for the stage.

**Motion:** Mr. Matlos **Second:** Mrs. Lape

All in favor. Motion carries.

Fire Chief Corey Derr thanked council for their donation. The Festival is on September 16 and 17. There will a band Friday night and fireworks Saturday night.

Mr. Zrenchak reported that the police did a traffic study on River Ridge. He will show it to whomever is interested.

**LEGISLATION:** Chris Gretz

Mr. Gretz was not in attendance. There was nothing to report.

**PARKS & RECREATION:** Jennifer Riley

Fun to Be a Kid Day is on September 24, 2022 at the Manor Field from 12pm to 3pm.

**HEALTH & ORDINANCE**: Luke Riley

Mr. Riley informed Mr. Zrenchak that he would not be able to attend due to work.

**LIGHTS:** Michael Matlos

There was nothing to report.

**FINANCE:** Elizabeth Lape

**Motion to Pay:** Bills for Ratification of $ 58,548.55 and List of Bills to Pay $16,678.89

**Motion: Mr. Matlos Second: Mr. Sloss**

**All in favor. Motion carries.**

Mr. Zrenchak abstained from voting on the invoices for Zrenchak Environmental Services.

**Bills for Ratification:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |
| 08/22/2022 |  | RACUNAS LAW GROUP LLC | 0.00 |
| 07/28/2022 | EFT | ADP | -4,446.14 |
| 07/28/2022 | EFT | ADP [CHECKS] | -12,923.42 |
| 08/05/2022 | EFT | ADP [INVOICE] | -92.51 |
| 08/12/2022 | EFT | ADP [CHECKS] | -11,939.13 |
| 08/12/2022 | EFT | ADP | -4,300.15 |
| 08/12/2022 | EFT | PA SCDU | -82.52 |
| 08/19/2022 | EFT | ADP [INVOICE] | -75.42 |
| 08/10/2022 | 4572 | DUQUESNE LIGHT CO | -3,385.67 |
| 08/10/2022 | 12411 | DUQUESNE LIGHT CO | -153.01 |
| 08/10/2022 | 12412 | PA MUNICIPAL SERVICE CO | -987.63 |
| 08/10/2022 | 12413 | PA ONE-CALL SYSTEM INC | -18.21 |
| 07/28/2022 | 22836 | AMERICAN NATURAL SUPPLY LLC | -4,333.55 |
| 07/28/2022 | 22837 | AQUA FILTER FRESH INC | -38.77 |
| 07/28/2022 | 22838 | AUTO PLUS | -9.96 |
| 07/28/2022 | 22839 | NORTH EASTERN UNIFORMS & EQUIP., INC. | -24.00 |
| 07/28/2022 | 22840 | PA AMERICAN WATER | -17.48 |
| 07/28/2022 | 22841 | RC WALTER & SONS INC | -26.32 |
| 08/08/2022 | 22842 | AFLAC | -223.36 |
| 08/10/2022 | 22843 | CENTER INDEPENDENT ENERGY | -35.49 |
| 08/10/2022 | 22844 | COMCAST | 0.00 |
| 08/10/2022 | 22845 | DERKAS AUTO SERVICE | -884.19 |
| 08/10/2022 | 22846 | DUQUESNE LIGHT CO | -633.53 |
| 08/10/2022 | 22847 | FIRST COMMONWEALTH BANK (CREDIT CARD) | -2,440.38 |
| 08/10/2022 | 22848 | GLENN ENGINEERING & ASSOC | -620.00 |
| 08/10/2022 | 22849 | HOME DEPOT | -126.35 |
| 08/10/2022 | 22850 | Mark C. Turnley | -1,950.00 |
| 08/10/2022 | 22851 | ONE DIGITAL | -40.00 |
| 08/10/2022 | 22852 | PA AMERICAN WATER | -1,158.51 |
| 08/10/2022 | 22853 | PEOPLES NATURAL GAS | -94.50 |
| 08/10/2022 | 22854 | Safsecur LLC | -808.34 |
| 08/10/2022 | 22855 | SPRINT | -112.39 |
| 08/10/2022 | 22856 | T-Mobile | -45.42 |
| 08/10/2022 | 22857 | Witmer Public Safety Group | -2,050.00 |
| 08/10/2022 | 22858 | COMCAST | -369.95 |
| 08/22/2022 | 22859 | Allegheny County Dept of Court Records | -102.25 |
|  |  |  | -54,548.55 |

**List of Bills to Pay:**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **AMERICAN WATER** |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | 07/13/2022 | 4000239868 |  | 210.00 |
|  | Total AMERICAN WATER |  |  |  | 210.00 |
|  | **AMTRUST NORTH AMERICA** |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | 08/12/2022 | 17594925 |  | 4,751.00 |
|  | Total AMTRUST NORTH AMERICA |  |  |  | 4,751.00 |
|  | **BUILDING INSPECTION UNDERWRITERS OF PA** |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | 08/10/2022 | 859 |  | 110.00 |
|  | Total BUILDING INSPECTION UNDERWRITERS OF PA |  |  |  | 110.00 |
|  | **Expert Outdoor Power** |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | 08/15/2022 | Repairs |  | 29.45 |
|  | Total Expert Outdoor Power |  |  |  | 29.45 |
|  | **H B SOUTH PRINTERS** |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | 08/16/2022 | 2544 |  | 119.00 |
|  | Total H B SOUTH PRINTERS |  |  |  | 119.00 |
|  | **JEFFERSON HILLS LAWN & EQUIP** |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | 08/12/2022 | 34322 |  | 61.69 |
|  |  | 08/19/2022 | 34478 |  | 49.98 |
|  | Total JEFFERSON HILLS LAWN & EQUIP |  |  |  | 111.67 |
|  | **MCI** |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | 08/22/2022 | 08648909459 |  | 31.38 |
|  | Total MCI |  |  |  | 31.38 |
|  | **Michele Ura** |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | 08/17/2022 | Face Painting |  | 100.00 |
|  | Total Michele Ura |  |  |  | 100.00 |
|  | **MR JOHN** |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | 07/21/2022 | INV-14904 |  | 262.00 |
|  |  | 07/21/2022 | INV-14903 |  | 131.00 |
|  | Total MR JOHN |  |  |  | 393.00 |
|  | **NAPA AUTO PARTS** |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | 08/12/2022 | 313758 |  | 135.66 |
|  |  | 08/17/2022 | 314339 |  | 19.99 |
|  | Total NAPA AUTO PARTS |  |  |  | 155.65 |
|  | **O'REILLY AUTO PARTS** |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | 08/04/2022 | 5108-275066 |  | 24.06 |
|  | Total O'REILLY AUTO PARTS |  |  |  | 24.06 |
|  | **PA AMERICAN WATER** |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | 08/16/2022 | 1024-210034877260 |  | 39.54 |
|  |  | 08/16/2022 | 1024-210033713752 |  | 290.27 |
|  |  | 08/16/2022 | 1024-210030156299 |  | 18.94 |
|  | Total PA AMERICAN WATER |  |  |  | 348.75 |
|  | **RACUNAS LAW GROUP LLC** |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | 04/01/2022 | 1539 |  | 1,770.00 |
|  |  | 05/01/2022 | 1540 |  | 1,608.00 |
|  | Total RACUNAS LAW GROUP LLC |  |  |  | 3,378.00 |
|  | **RICOH USA** |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | 08/16/2022 | 106441245 |  | 149.42 |
|  | Total RICOH USA |  |  |  | 149.42 |
|  | **SPRINT** |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | 08/12/2022 | 233328279-131 |  | 116.38 |
|  | Total SPRINT |  |  |  | 116.38 |
|  | **UPMC HEALTH PLAN** |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | 08/11/2022 | 020207 300 |  | 4,943.33 |
|  | Total UPMC HEALTH PLAN |  |  |  | 4,943.33 |
|  | **VERIZON GARAGE** |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | 08/09/2022 | 450-731-927-0001-53 |  | 57.80 |
|  | Total VERIZON GARAGE |  |  |  | 57.80 |
|  | **WESTCOM WIRELESS INC** |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | 08/15/2022 | 1190 |  | 55.00 |
|  | Total WESTCOM WIRELESS INC |  |  |  | 55.00 |
|  | **Who Rescued Who Humane Society** |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | 08/17/2022 | !st Qtr 2022 |  | 225.00 |
|  | Total Who Rescued Who Humane Society |  |  |  | 225.00 |
|  | **ZRENCHAK ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES INC** |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | 08/03/2022 | 198 |  | 350.00 |
|  |  | 08/03/2022 | 199 |  | 420.00 |
|  | Total ZRENCHAK ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES INC |  |  |  | 770.00 |
| **TOTAL** | |  |  |  | **16,078.89** |

**Motion to ratify** the action taken in accepting the proposal from Christie and Associates for Liability Insurance in the amount of $75,086.

**Motion: Mr. Matlos Second: Ms. Riley**

**All in favor. Motion carries.**

**PERSONNEL:** Jennifer Riley

**Motion to accept** Jill Pack’s employment contract retroactive to January 1, 2022.

**Motion: Mr. Matlos Second: Mrs. Lape**

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Mrs. Lape Yes**

**Mr. Sloss Yes**

**Mr. Matlos Yes**

**Ms. Riley Yes**

**Mr. Gretz Not Present**

**Mr. Riley Not Present**

**Mr. Zrenchak Yes**

**Motion carries.**

**STREETS AND SEWERS:** Tim Sloss

**Motion to adopt** Ordinance 2202-03 changing the sewage billing from quarterly to monthly.

**Motion: Mr. Matlos Second: Ms. Riley**

**All in favor. Motion carries.**

**Motion to accept the Snow and Ice** agreement between Allegheny County Public Works Department and Liberty Borough for street maintenance.through 2025.

**Motion: Mr. Matlos Second: Mrs. Lape**

**All in favor. Motion carries**

**MAYOR’S REPORT:** Larry Sikorski, Mayor

Mayor Sikorski did not receive a Police Activity Report.

Mayor Sikorski said that going up Liberty Way on the right hand side, people are having difficulty getting in and out of their driveway. A man from Allegheny County is going to meet with him this week to see if he can get the loose asphalt from migrating into the street and into the inlet and plugging it up. Eventually it will out into the street and be an ice jam.

**SOLICITOR’S REPORT:** Matt Racunas

There was nothing to report.

**ENGINEER’S REPORT:** Laura Branthoover

Ms. Branthoover stated that she had suggestions for the CD49 are the Glenn Avenue embankment and to pave Glenn Avenue from River Road up to intersection with upper Glenn Avenue. This is partially in Portvue and they have already agreed to do the other half so this would be 50/50.

**Motion to** authorize Glenn Engineering to submit CD49 pre-applications.

**Motion: Ms. Riley Second: Mr. Sloss**

**All in favor. Motion carries**

Ms. Branthoover reported that Swede Construction would be starting the Manor Park restrooms right after Labor Day with the interior demolition, They gave a quote to put on a metal roof instead of shingles for an additional $4,190. Mr. Zrenchak stated that is something for them to talk about.

Mr. Matlos provided additional inlets and they are waiting for COG to authorize them to advertise.

Mr. Glenn wanted give council a reminder of the 4 LSA grants submitted – street resurfacing on Glenn Avenue, E Street storm sewer, the slide on Liberty Way, and demolition. Those will be announced in November.

Glenn Engineering received a letter about 2850 Washington Boulevard. It is currently zoned as residential, and they want to add an additional unit to it. Mr. Glenn asked them for a survey. Once he gets that, it is something that they can look into getting a variance. Mr. Zrenchak stated that has to go in front of the zoning board.

Mr. Zrenchak asked Ms. Branthoover what the hold up is with the inlet project. Ms. Branthoover said that everything is ready to go. Don is just waiting on a letter.

**Motion to** authorize Glenn Engineering to prepare specs to install the pump station when it is delivered.

**Motion: Mr. Matlos Second: Mrs. Lape All in favor. Motion carries.**

A woman in attendance asked what exactly is happening with the bathrooms at the Manor ballfield. Mr. Zrenchak explained that they are completely rebuilding the bathroom making it handicap accessible. She asked if it is correct that it is going to be $140,000. Mr. Zrenchak said that it is getting completely gutted, the roof will be done, all new plumbing. Mrs. Kerklo asked who is paying for that. Mrs. Lape explained that the money is coming from the US Steel Community Trust. Mrs. Kerklo asked what it will be used for. Mr. Zrenchak said that the building is the bathrooms for the ballfield, and it should have been done 20 years ago. Mrs. Kerklo said that is a lot of money for bathrooms. Mr. Zrenchak explained that everything is expensive now and there is a lot of work that needs to be done in that building to bring it up to code. She asked if it is going to be used for something else. Mr. Zrenchak said that part of the building is for storage.

Mrs. Wall asked if they are working at Durabond because she had her windows open and she can hear work and banging at midnight. Mr. Matlos said that there shouldn’t be anyone working down there. Mrs. Kerklo said she heard it is the water company dumping gravel and stuff. Mr. Zrenchak said that they wanted to use that as a dump and were told no.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Motion to authorize** Keystone Collections Group to file liens against 18 properties for $60 per lien – total $1,080.

**Motion: Mr. Matlos Second: Ms. Riley**

**All in favor. Motion carries.**

**Motion to** donate $200 to the South Allegheny Fall Boosters.

**Motion: Mr. Matlos Second: Ms. Riley**

**All in favor. Motion carries**

That is for the sign at the stadium.

**Motion to donate** $500 to LBAA for uniforms.

**Motion: Mr. Matlos Second: Ms. Riley**

**All in favor. Motion carries.**

Mrs. Rausch asked if the Blight Committee could have a copy of the 18 properties on the lien list. Mr. Zrenchak said yes – it will just be the addresses.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

**Motion to accept** the typed minutes from the July 27, 2022 meeting.

**Motion: Mr. Matlos Second: Mr. Sloss**

**All in favor. Motion carries.**

Next meeting dates/times: Work Session, Wednesday September 14, 2022 at 6:00 pm – Regular Session, Wednesday, September 28, 2022 at 6:00 pm

**Motion** to adjourn

**Motion: Ms. Riley Second: Mrs. Lape**

**All in favor. Motion carries**

Respectfully submitted by:

Jill Pack

Borough Secretary