MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION OF COUNCIL

August 23, 2023

**~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~**

Regular session of Borough Council convened at 6:00 pm. Present were Councilors Mike Matlos, Tim Sloss, Janice Matyasovsky, David Sowa, Chris Ponchak, Elizabeth Lape and Michael Zrenchak, Mayor Sikorski, Solicitor Matt Racunas, and Engineer Don Glenn.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**Vicki Underwood – 407 Southern Avenue:** She stated that she was not going to talk about the dirt alley or 2823 E Street. She wanted to know what steps the borough was taking to manage the Spotted Lantern Flies. Mr. Zrenchak stated that everybody is complaining. He just saw a couple of articles saying that certain areas are really infested and you can’t even sit on your back porch. He said he would have to look further into it. There were a couple schools of thought in the one article – one said that they are a nuisance but they don’t cause any problems and the other one said that they are a problem. He said he doesn’t know what we can do – we can look and see what we can do, we can reach out to the county or Penn State. Ms. Underwood said she called the county and they referred her to Penn State. They told her that you really have to control their food source meaning trees. They told her the Tree of Heaven and the Pittsburgh Palm are their main sources of food. She had someone come out and cut down all of her shrubs which made a huge difference and on that day she sprayed as well. We have such an overgrowth of shrubbery and trees at 2823 she thinks that may be a source somehow. Mr. Zrenchak started that you have the houses against the woods who are going to see more. He noticed that when they had the stink bugs a couple years back, if you were against the woods it was worse. He said that we can do a little bit more research on it. Ms. Underwood said the girl from Penn State said to actually get a shop vac. She said the people on Owens are having a lot because of the woods in the back. Mr. Ponchak said that they are everywhere. He said that on the side of the hospital there were tens of thousands on the brick wall of the hospital. It is not just our backyards. Mr. Zrenchak said that maybe we can put something out on our website to say these are some of the things you can do to combat them. Ms. Underwood also commented on Fun To Be A Kid Day. She said it was delightful.

**PROPERTY:** Chris Ponchak

**Motion to re-advertise** the Scene Ridge properties for sale.

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

**All in favor. Motion carries.**

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

Mr. Ponchak read the vehicle report for July 2023:

Unit 130 950 miles

Unit 131 772 miles

Unit 132 176 miles

Unit 130: 4 New Tires / Mounting

Unit 131: Routine washes/details

Unit 132: Routine washes/details

Mr. Ponchak read the EMS Report for July 2023:

There were 25 total calls in the Borough and the average response time was 9.4 minutes- those were E0 and E1 types of calls.

**LEGISLATION:** David Sowa

Mr. Sowa had nothing to report.

**PARKS & RECREATION:** Janice Matyasovsky

Mrs. Matyasovsky stated there were about 50 kids at Fun to Be a Kid Day and they seemed to have a really good time. It was very nice and the weather was beautiful.

The next event will be the Halloween parade on October 31st. Mrs. Matyasovsky said that they are going to try to make it a little longer. She asked if people remembered when they used to start the parade at the old clover farm and then maybe go down to the tattoo shop.

**HEALTH & ORDINANCE**: Chris Ponchak

Mr. Ponchak reported that council has discussed 3404 Orchard Drive. He asked Mr. Bogdan to give his report. Mr. Bogdan said that they have actually made progress in the past 3 weeks. He has been working closely with the Older Adult Protective Services of Allegheny County and Allegheny Protective Services. Two investigators actually made contact with the Millers and they are responding back. They realize now that they are in serious trouble and they are working with them now to get the property cleaned up and getting the water restored. There has been more progress in the last 3 weeks than in the last 3 months. Mr. Zrenchak asked if they were still following up with that on Friday. Mr. Bogdan replied yes.

**LIGHTS:** Michael Matlos

Mr. Matlos reported that the light on Memory Lane was replaced. The one on River Ridge was a steady burn and it was repaired. The light on the corner of Hayes and B has finally been replaced

**FINANCE:** Elizabeth Lape

**Motion to Pay:** Bills for Ratification $57,237.53 and List of Bills to Pay $91,037.62

**Motion: Mr. Matlos Second: Mr. Ponchak**

**All in favor. Motion carries.**

**Bills for Ratification:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 07/27/2023 | EFT | ADP [CHECKS] | -15,234.01 |
| 07/27/2023 | EFT | ADP [CHECKS] | -2,371.53 |
| 07/27/2023 | EFT | ADP | -857.97 |
| 07/27/2023 | EFT | ADP | -5,505.12 |
| 07/27/2023 | EFT | ADP [CHECKS] | -111.82 |
| 07/27/2023 | EFT | ADP | -69.04 |
| 07/28/2023 | EFT | PA SCDU | -82.52 |
| 08/04/2023 | EFT | ADP [INVOICE] | -215.19 |
| 08/09/2023 | EFT | PA SCDU | -82.52 |
| 08/10/2023 | EFT | ADP | -4,251.13 |
| 08/10/2023 | EFT | ADP [CHECKS] | -11,766.87 |
| 08/07/2023 | 4586 | DUQUESNE LIGHT CO | -3,531.64 |
| 08/07/2023 | 12482 | GLENN ENGINEERING & ASSOC | -300.00 |
| 08/07/2023 | 12483 | PA MUNICIPAL SERVICE CO | -1,016.61 |
| 08/07/2023 | 12484 | PA ONE-CALL SYSTEM INC | -32.13 |
| 08/07/2023 | 12485 | AMERICAN WATER | -229.43 |
| 08/07/2023 | 12486 | DUQUESNE LIGHT CO | -164.00 |
| 07/27/2023 | 23457 | PA MUNICIPAL RETIREMENT SYSTEM | -527.16 |
| 07/27/2023 | 23458 | TEAMSTERS LOCAL UNION #205 | -125.00 |
| 07/27/2023 | 23459 | PETTY CASH | -144.53 |
| 08/07/2023 | 23460 | AQUA FILTER FRESH INC | -50.80 |
| 08/07/2023 | 23461 | CENTER INDEPENDENT ENERGY | -29.08 |
| 08/07/2023 | 23462 | FIRST COMMONWEALTH BANK (CREDIT CARD) | -738.59 |
| 08/07/2023 | 23463 | GLENN ENGINEERING & ASSOC | -1,645.00 |
| 08/07/2023 | 23464 | HOME DEPOT | -105.94 |
| 08/07/2023 | 23465 | MATHESON TRI-GAS INC | -240.80 |
| 08/07/2023 | 23466 | MON VALLEY INDEPENDENT | -1,514.00 |
| 08/07/2023 | 23467 | MR JOHN | -399.00 |
| 08/07/2023 | 23468 | Nuttal Public Safety Equipment, LLC | -87.98 |
| 08/07/2023 | 23469 | O'REILLY AUTO PARTS | -39.43 |
| 08/07/2023 | 23470 | ONE DIGITAL | -317.91 |
| 08/07/2023 | 23471 | ORKIN EXTERMINATING | -207.92 |
| 08/07/2023 | 23472 | RC WALTER & SONS INC | -106.53 |
| 08/07/2023 | 23473 | T-MOBILE | -175.81 |
| 08/07/2023 | 23474 | ONE DIGITAL | -75.00 |
| 08/07/2023 | 23475 | Safsecur LLC | -839.90 |
| 08/07/2023 | 23476 | AFLAC | -223.36 |
| 08/07/2023 | 23477 | ANDREWS & PRICE | -270.00 |
| 08/07/2023 | 23478 | DUQUESNE LIGHT CO | -797.05 |
| 08/07/2023 | 23479 | PA AMERICAN WATER | -1,197.70 |
| 08/07/2023 | 23480 | PEOPLES NATURAL GAS | -47.37 |
| 08/07/2023 | 23481 | Pest b Gone | -300.00 |
| 08/09/2023 | 23482 | JANICE R MATYASOVSKY | -236.10 |
| 08/09/2023 | 23483 | CARL'S SIGNS | -192.00 |
| 08/09/2023 | 23484 | Jill Pack | -17.94 |
| 08/10/2023 | 23485 | Jamie R. Leber | -174.70 |
| 08/13/2023 | 23486 | Triple "A" Express 'n More LLC | -500.00 |
| 08/14/2023 | 23487 | Jamie R. Leber | -89.40 |
|  |  |  | -57,237.53 |

**List of Bills to Pay:**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **AMTRUST NORTH AMERICA** |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | 08/11/2023 | 17594925 |  | 3,886.00 |
|  | Total AMTRUST NORTH AMERICA |  |  |  |  | 3,886.00 |
|  | **BARRIER PROTECTION SYSTEMS INC** |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | 08/03/2023 | 244905 |  | 149.95 |
|  | Total BARRIER PROTECTION SYSTEMS INC |  |  |  |  | 149.95 |
|  | **CHER-BAN TIRE SERVICE** |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | 08/07/2023 | 25191 SS |  | 455.00 |
|  | Total CHER-BAN TIRE SERVICE |  |  |  |  | 455.00 |
|  | **CHRISTIE AND ASSOCIATES** |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Motion on agenda for renewal |  | 08/18/2023 | 2023-2024 Insurance |  | 81,315.00 |
|  | Total CHRISTIE AND ASSOCIATES |  |  |  |  | 81,315.00 |
|  | **City of McKeesport** |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | 08/04/2023 | July 2023 |  | 50.00 |
|  | Total City of McKeesport |  |  |  |  | 50.00 |
|  | **COMCAST** |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | 08/10/2023 | 8993209080009060 |  | 457.01 |
|  | Total COMCAST |  |  |  |  | 457.01 |
|  | **HTM DESIGNS** |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | 08/07/2023 | 8720223 |  | 135.00 |
|  | Total HTM DESIGNS |  |  |  |  | 135.00 |
|  | **JEFFERSON HILLS LAWN & EQUIP** |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | 08/07/2023 | 41167 |  | 66.72 |
|  | Total JEFFERSON HILLS LAWN & EQUIP |  |  |  |  | 66.72 |
|  | **NATIONAL HYDRAULICS, INC** |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | 08/15/2023 | Cyinder |  | 720.00 |
|  | Total NATIONAL HYDRAULICS, INC |  |  |  |  | 720.00 |
|  | **O'REILLY AUTO PARTS** |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | 08/07/2023 | 5219-228104 |  | -1.21 |
|  |  |  | 08/08/2023 | 5108-3025555 |  | 18.98 |
|  |  |  | 08/11/2023 | 5108-302871 |  | 28.72 |
|  | Total O'REILLY AUTO PARTS |  |  |  |  | 46.49 |
|  | **ONE DIGITAL** |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | 08/17/2023 | 46940 |  | 1,080.08 |
|  |  |  | 08/17/2023 | 10205-000121 ver.2 |  | 100.00 |
|  | Total ONE DIGITAL |  |  |  |  | 1,180.08 |
|  | **PEOPLES NATURAL GAS** |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | 08/01/2023 | 2000008770279 |  | 23.97 |
|  | Total PEOPLES NATURAL GAS |  |  |  |  | 23.97 |
|  | **QUILL** |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | 08/09/2023 | 33947253 |  | 97.47 |
|  | Total QUILL |  |  |  |  | 97.47 |
|  | **RC WALTER & SONS INC** |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | 08/08/2023 | 758838 |  | 15.03 |
|  | Total RC WALTER & SONS INC |  |  |  |  | 15.03 |
|  | **UPMC HEALTH PLAN** |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | 08/10/2023 | 020207 300 |  | 2,102.34 |
|  | Total UPMC HEALTH PLAN |  |  |  |  | 2,102.34 |
|  | **VERIZON GARAGE** |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | 08/09/2023 | 450-731-927-0001-53 |  | 57.56 |
|  | Total VERIZON GARAGE |  |  |  |  | 57.56 |
|  | **WESTCOM WIRELESS INC** |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | 08/14/2023 | 1190 |  | 55.00 |
|  | Total WESTCOM WIRELESS INC |  |  |  |  | 55.00 |
|  | **Who Rescued Who Humane Society** |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | 06/30/2023 | 2nd Qtr 2023 |  | 225.00 |
|  | Total Who Rescued Who Humane Society |  |  |  |  | 225.00 |
| **TOTAL** | |  |  |  |  | **91,037.62** |

**PERSONNEL:** Tim Sloss

**Motion to accept** Nicholas Caito’s resignation from the Liberty Borough Police Department effective July 14, 2023.

**Motion: Mr. Matlos Second: Mr. Ponchak**

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Mrs. Lape Yes**

**Mr. Sloss Abstained (Voted present)**

**Mr. Matlos Yes**

**Mr. Ponchak Yes**

**Mr. Sowa Yes**

**Mrs. Matyasovsky Yes**

**Mr. Zrenchak Yes**

**6 Yes 1 Abstain. Motion carries.**

**Motion to accept** Ryan Drohn’s resignation from the Liberty Borough Police Department effective August 9, 2023.

**Motion: Mr. Matlos Second: Mr. Ponchak**

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Mrs. Lape Yes**

**Mr. Sloss Yes**

**Mr. Matlos Yes**

**Mr. Ponchak Yes**

**Mr. Sowa Yes**

**Mrs. Matyasovsky Yes**

**Mr. Zrenchak Yes**

**All in favor. Motion carries.**

**STREETS AND SEWERS:** Tim Sloss

**Motion to adopt** Ordinance 2023-03 creating a handicap parking space in front of 303 Owens Avenue.

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

**All in favor. Motion carries.**

Mr. Zrenchak reported that the pump station was delivered Monday after almost a year. Don is currently putting bid specs together and that will go out for bid. Once we get bid specs back, we can move forward with getting that installed. They told us initially 16 to 34 weeks but with the supply chain – he signed the paperwork in May 2022 – so it has been over 52 weeks.

Cathy Beadling said her catch basin needs cleaned out. Mr. Matlos said it has been done.

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

Mayor Sikorski read the Police Report for July 2023:

Animal complaints 5

Assist other agencies 10

Assist person 1

Missing juvenile 2

PFA 1

PFA Service 2

Shots fired 1

Traffic stops 5

There was a total of 53 calls

Incidents:

Weapons possession 1

Domestic disturbance 1

Arrests:

Simple assault 1

Trespass 1

Total persons arrested 1

**SOLICITOR’S REPORT:** Matt Racunas

Solicitor Racunas had nothing to report this evening.

**ENGINEER’S REPORT:** Don Glenn

Mr. Glenn reported that he received plans for the proposed Dollar General on Liberty Way. In conjunction with that matter, he has 17 comments that they need to address and correct in regards to the plans.

Mr. Glenn stated they had the Liberty Way Slide bid opening. There was controversy with regard to that matter. After reviewing the specs - there were 3 bidders – none of the bidders met the specifications. It is his recommendation that they readvertise that project. They can talk about it at the workshop meeting. Also at the workshop meeting, they can talk about the E Street project and readvertising that. Eventually there needs to be a motion to reject the slide bids. Mr. Zrenchak said they can take care of it right now.

**Motion to amend** the agenda to include a motion to reject all bids for the Liberty Way Slide.

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

**All in favor. Motion carries**.

**Motion to reject** all bids for the Liberty Way Slide.

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

**All in favor. Motion carries.**

Mr. Glenn stated the next item he has concerns the CD 50, the LSA grant application that is coming up and also a third grant that is out now – the GEDTF grant. He said that is the same grant they got last year. We received $70,000 for the inlets which, he has been told, that project is underway. Mr. Glenn needs council to decide what applications they want to apply for CD 50, the LSA which is not due until September but the CD 50 is due early in September and the GEDTF is also due early in September. So there are 3 grant applications for which he will need direction. He will work with council if they have any questions and he will be happy to put in the applications. Mr. Zrenchak clarified that it is the CDBG and the GEDTF they need to act on quickly and then they have to work on the LSA. Mr. Zrenchak asked council to start to think about potential projects so they can get that done. Mr. Glenn reminded them that they are due in early September so they can’t waste any time.

The final item Mr. Glenn has is, as Mr. Zrenchak stated, they received the pump station and he will work with Jill to get reimbursed for the grant – we got a $200,000 grant and the pump station was about $135,000 so we will put that application together.

The last item Mr. Glenn has – Mr. Zrenchak had him review some lights for the (Manor) ballfield – he thought he would have the report done for tonight but he did not. He will have it for council shortly.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Council is asking for Letters of Interest for the Zoning Board (1 Seat).

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Motion to ratify** the renewal of the liability insurance with Christie & Associates in the amount of $81,315.00.

**Motion: Mr. Matlos Second: Mr. Ponchak**

**All in favor. Motion carries.**

**Motion to authorize** the donation to the SA Fall Boosters in the amount of $200.

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

**All in favor. Motion carries.**

Mr. Zrenchak had a request from LBAA regarding a lot of mosquitoes at the fields.They asked if they were permitted to get the fields sprayed for mosquitoes. LBAA will pay for that. There were no objections to that.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

**Motion to accept** the typed minutes from the July 26, 2023 meeting.

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

**All in favor. Motion carries.**

Next meeting dates/times: Work Session, Wednesday September 13, 2023 at 6:00 pm – Regular Session, Wednesday, September 27, 2023 at 6:00 pm.

**Motion** to adjourn.

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

**All in favor. Motion carries.**

Meeting adjourned at 6:17pm

Respectfully submitted by:

Jill Pack

Borough Secretary