

MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION OF COUNCIL WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14, 2017

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Regular session of Borough Council convened at 7:30 pm. Present were Councilors Jennifer Riley-McClelland, Melissa Morgan, Chris Ponchak, Janice Matyasovsky, and Larry Sikorski; Mayor Jane Weigand; Solicitor Matt Racunas; and Engineer Don Glenn.

Council received a letter from Dave Cochran today, resigning his seat on Council. Mrs. Matyasovsky made a motion to accept the resignation. The motion was seconded by Mrs. McClelland and passed unanimously.

Mrs. McClelland made a motion to appoint Tim Sloss to the vacant seat. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Morgan and passed unanimously. Mayor Weigand administered the Oath of Office to Mr. Sloss, and he took his place at the Council table.

### PUBLIC COMMENTS.

**Jesse Lape, 1027 Glenn Avenue**, had some issues after the storm yesterday. All the water from the woods and the storm water from the street drains from Liberty and Port Vue to Glenn Avenue, in the Hollow. He has a video of the storm, if anyone wants to see it. It washed the road out in various spots. It still needs a ton of work down there, and the catch basins need to be cleaned out. The previous owner of his property piped to the creek; it overflows at his house, and all the way down, and brings debris, glass, and garbage. Mrs. McClelland asked for clarification of the location of his house. Mr. Lape said he's at the "Y" in the road, pretty far back. Mr. Lape said the water was up to his porch, and there was four feet of water on Glenn Ave. He is aware this was a really bad storm, but there is a fix. They need more sediment ponds to slow the water down, and they need to work with Port Vue to stop the garbage from coming down. Mr. Lape said he is a geo-technical engineer, and is offering his services free of charge. Mr. Lape said Bruce Takaht "did a heck of a job today". Mr. Glenn said the county workers are due back tomorrow. Mr. Sikorski said Glenn Avenue is on the line between Port Vue and Liberty. We are trying to approach FEMA from two communities with a similar problem. Mr. Glenn said Port Vue was out this afternoon, also. Mr. Lape said we should have some communication, since Mr. Glenn is Engineer for both boroughs. **Stan Gavron** said he has lived in the Hollow all his life, and they never had this problem until they built the Elementary School. Port Vue's old garbage dump is up there, also, and it washes things down. Port Vue needs to take responsibility. Mr. Sikorski said they need to have it combined as a single disaster and whoever is responsible, can apply for grants. Mrs. McClelland suggested that the residents talk to Port Vue as well. Mr. Lape said that since he has the pipe going through his yard, he would like to be involved. The two catch basins there need to be cleaned and maintained. Mr. Gavron said Mrs. Miller, who was in the audience, has lived there for a long time, and never had a problem with water in the house; she had two feet of water this time.

**Dan McClelland, 3300 Oakland Drive**, said he got flooded again last night; he had over 3½ feet of water in his house. It has been an ongoing issue over the past few

years, and asked what is going to get done; council has known about it but hasn't taken care of it. Don Glenn had some ideas, but nothing has been done. Mr. Sikorski said he was down there, and the basement was full. **Greg Black, 3216 Monaca Drive,** said they went on record saying the pipe was undersized, and they have done nothing about it. Mr. Glenn said he had provided council a report with recommendations. He doesn't recall the details, but thinks it did address an increased capacity. He will review the information, and report back to council. Mr. McClelland said they were told the pipe was undersized. Only one catch basin was put in, but nothing else was taken care of. Mr. Glenn can prepare as many reports as he wants, but nothing gets done. Mr. Black asked how much money was set aside over the 4½ years; Mrs. McClelland said not a whole lot. She did the budget and will go over it with him.

**Cathy Jo Husar, 619 Owens Avenue,** said she is aware of issues of negligence, and with the deficiencies, the rates went up. At the corner where she lives, Liberty Way at Owens, every time it rains she gets sewage backup in her basement and garage. Ms. Husar asked, what is the plan to fix the sewage backup? Mr. Sikorski said they have been working on it. They had talked to DEP and PennVest, and are trying to secure a \$1 million loan to try to fix the sewer system, which is under a mandate to be fixed by the end of this year. Ms. Husar said she talked with Mr. Sikorski on December 8, 2014 and was told they would look into it; now it is 2017. Mr. Sikorski said they have to prove they can re-pay the loan, which has not yet been approved. He has had some resistance from council to borrow the money. The dye testing should have been done over the past five years, which will correct any storm water that is going into the sewer lines. If we get the loan, we will enhance the price of our sewer system, by fixing the deficiencies. We are 50 years behind. Since they put all of the new flatlands in, such as at the school, the ground is not absorbing the water, and it is all coming down the valley. People with sloping driveways will have to put a sump pump in, to take the storm water out of the sewer lines. Mrs. McClelland said if pits are put in, there would be less going into the sewer system; she is so sorry this has happened. Mr. Glenn said we recognize sanitary sewers are the borough's; most are 8" capacity lines, which are oversized to take care of sewage. If it was just raw sewage going into the lines, you would never have a backup. Many people, especially where you see sloping driveways, have their storm water going into the sanitary sewers. There were some storm inlets tied in, which we have taken out. We are under an Act 537 mandate to take all of the storm water out of the system, and to repair all of the lines, which is estimated to cost \$1.2 million. We are in process with PennVest to obtain a low interest loan, and hopefully a grant. Council is trying to address the problem; the sewer lines are only overburdened because of the storm water in there. The resident at 3300 Oakland Drive said we haven't done anything there; that is not true. Council spent thousands of dollars to fix the line that was crushed behind the park. We had two contracts to replace those lines. Council has taken some steps. He'll pull his report out, and refresh council. Cathy Husar asked if there was any help for homeowners since we are under a State of Emergency. Mr. Glenn said Corey Derr spent a lot of time with Allegheny County Emergency Management yesterday. We are collecting data from Port Vue, Liberty, and Dravosburg to show there was a severe disaster in several communities; FEMA will not come out just to look at Liberty. Ms. Husar asked how they will be notified if there is any help for homeowners; Mr. Glenn said to keep in touch with the

borough. Mr. McClelland said when they paved Oakland, they didn't mill it, so it lowered the curb height 2" more. That has added to his problem. Mr. Glenn said they did put a wedge curb in. They don't mill the street before paving for two reasons – first, it cost as much to mill it as it does to pave it, and second, it weakens the street. Mr. Glenn said Mr. McClelland can adjust his pipe to come out to the curb. Mrs. McClelland said the catch basin in at the top of their driveway; there isn't a curb there anymore. Mr. McClelland recalled that the report to council said that the pipe was undersized. Mr. Glenn said it was four years ago; he doesn't recall the details. Mrs. McClelland said the storms are getting progressively worse. Mr. Glenn said this recent storm event had 2" in one hour. Mr. Sikorski said there is only so much money; we don't have businesses here to bring money in. Mr. Black said they should have been putting money away over the years. Mrs. McClelland said this is not Mr. Sikorski's fault. He didn't have enough support and couldn't move forward for years. He's been fighting for eight years to fix the sanitary sewers, but didn't have the support. Mr. Sikorski said there is no increase of money coming in; the budget is not an easy thing to do. Mr. Black said he hopes the borough has paid its insurance. Mrs. McClelland said she has mentioned to some of them, but someone had unlocked the lock at the dump, and Duquesne Light and COG were dumping there. She knows that it was because of the flooding, but council had agreed as a group that it would be closed until Mr. Glenn deemed it safe. Who authorized it to be opened? No one person should be able to override all of council and authorize it. There are pipes under there, and she hopes they did not get crushed. **Cathy Beadling, 2805 A Street**, said she has been flooding for 48 years, but they don't do anything. There is a pothole about six feet long and three feet deep on Roberts Street; it is a safety issue and needs to be fixed. Mrs. McClelland asked if there were any cones put up; Mrs. Beadling said no. Mr. Lape said there was not one cone put up on Glenn Avenue. **Brent Mansfield**, whose mother lives on Glenn Avenue, said it is a disgrace down there; the fire truck could never get through. There was so much water, it undermined the road. Mr. Lape said council needs to drive down and look at it; the road is still buckled. Mr. Lape asked if Port Vue declared an emergency; no one knew for sure. Mr. Lape questioned Mr. Glenn's explanation in regards to paving. Mr. Glenn said they put a scratch coat and 1½" of pavement.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS.

### PROPERTY.

Mr. Sikorski said the borough was accepting bids for the property at 3214 Jeffrey Drive. Only one bid was received, in the amount of \$5,000.01 from Hibiscus Realty Group. Mrs. McClelland made a motion to accept the bid. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Morgan and passed unanimously.

### POLICE. Mr. Ponchak, Chairman, reporting.

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

Vehicle mileage:

|               | BEGIN | END   | MILEAGE |
|---------------|-------|-------|---------|
| Unit #130     | 61909 | 63353 | 1444    |
| Unit #131     | 15392 | 16216 | 824     |
| Unit #133     | 43300 | 44506 | 1206    |
| Total mileage |       |       | 3474    |

Vehicle Maintenance:

Unit 130

- Engine light on – diagnostic test / replaced purge canister

Unit 131

- Oil change; rotate tires; checked brake

Unit 132

- Oil change; replaced front rotors

Other Equipment:

- None

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

Total calls: 7

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| Rescue and EMS   | 3 |
| Service Call     | 2 |
| Good Intent Call | 2 |

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

Mr. Ponchak had nothing to report.

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

Mrs. Morgan made a motion to authorize \$600 towards a stage for the Fire Department's Fall Festival. The motion was seconded by Mrs. McClelland. There were some snickers from the audience and Mrs. Weigand spoke up to say that the Fire Hall is made up of volunteers, and when they have their functions to raise money to be able to put out house fires, she doesn't think they have to snicker that the borough designates some funds to help out. They were out all last night and worked very hard. Mrs. McClelland said they pumped her house out last night and she was very appreciative. Roll call was then taken and the motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Morgan said that on Saturday, June 17, Operation Payback is scheduled. They will hike the trail from Confluence to Boston, and sleep at the ball field. Parade line-up is at 1:00 pm, at the corner of River Ridge at Scene Ridge, and starts at 1:30 pm. The event benefits homeless veterans, and veterans with PTSD. The man in charge of it is Charlie Moon. This is the first time they are doing this, and they are asking for lots of

support. The parade with stop at the Memorial for a small service, and end at the Vet's Club on C Street, where they will have food and bands. The cost is a \$20 donation.

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

Mrs. Matyasovsky made a motion to ratify the action taken in accepting the low bid from Eveready Contracting LLC in the amount of \$19,650 for the demolition of the house and garage at 2620 C Street, and committing to cover all excess costs as a local share, which is expected to be \$2,467.30. The motion was seconded by Mrs. McClelland and passed unanimously.

The final draft of the Code of Ordinances is ready. We have forty five days to review it. Our code book has not been updated since 1998, so this has been nineteen years in the making.

By August 1, the Elizabeth Township EMS and Jefferson Hills Ambulance Service should be combined.

**LIGHTS.** Mr. Sikorski, Chairman, reporting.

Mr. Sikorski had nothing to report.

**FINANCE.** Mrs. Morgan reporting.

Mrs. McClelland said she was not able to attend the Work Session, and passed the Finance Committee reporting on to Mrs. Morgan.

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

|                                                                                                   |          |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| American Legal Services – police insurance [June]                                                 | \$ 43.44 |
| American Natural – gas hose                                                                       | 144.00   |
| Am Trust North America – Worker's Comp insurance                                                  | 3,916.60 |
| Best Buy – computer / printer [to be used by the Tax Collector]                                   | 481.48   |
| Blue Ridge Nursery – top soil [Memorial]                                                          | 74.90    |
| Building Inspection Underwriters (BIU) – building inspection [April]                              | 110.00   |
| Center Independent Oil (Double Car Wash) – police vehicles [April]                                | 40.00    |
| Christie and Assoc – net amount due for addition of 2017 Chevy truck<br>and deletion of 1995 Jeep | 76.00    |
| Christina Conroy Photography – officials and Mayor photos [3/8/17]                                | 50.00    |
| CNH Capital (Groff Tractor) – backhoe parts                                                       | 87.16    |
| Comcast – office Internet / phones                                                                | 283.74   |
| First Commonwealth Bank – final loan payment [police cars]                                        | 1,429.43 |
| First Commonwealth Bank – loan payment [PW truck]                                                 | 1,301.99 |
| First Commonwealth Bank – loan payment [2015 street paving]                                       | 3,686.14 |
| Mariani & Richards, Inc – exterior building repairs [final payment]                               | 2,869.00 |
| Martin's Flowers – plants [Memorial]                                                              | 154.75   |
| PA American Water – shut-offs/on                                                                  | 30.00    |

|                                                                    |                    |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| PA American Water – EMS                                            | 22.45              |
| PA American Water – garage                                         | 67.00              |
| PA American Water – Municipal Building                             | 30.92              |
| Postmaster – 2 rolls of stamps                                     | 98.00              |
| RA Foster – janitor supplies                                       | 126.50             |
| Racunas Law Group, LLC – Solicitor fees [April]                    | 2,454.00           |
| Ricoh – copier maintenance                                         | 38.22              |
| Rotellica – inspection / replace stabilizer link [2011 Ford truck] | 554.35             |
| RRJ Inc (Ziebart) – annual inspection [Tahoe]                      | 155.90             |
| RRJ Inc (Ziebart) – annual inspection [unmarked Impala]            | 155.90             |
| Russell Standard – cold patch                                      | 131.12             |
| S & D Calibration – Acutrak certification                          | 29.57              |
| Sprint – mobile laptop                                             | 40.24              |
| UPMC Health Plan – health insurance [June]                         | 2,261.39           |
| Verizon – garage                                                   | 50.67              |
| Verizon – pump station                                             | 33.49              |
| WestComm Wireless – police radios                                  | 55.00              |
| Zrenchak Environmental Services – pump station inspection [April]  | 280.00             |
| <b>TOTAL RATIFIED BILLS</b>                                        | <b>\$21,363.35</b> |

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

|                                                                     |          |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Aqua Filter Fresh – bottled water                                   | 46.98    |
| Bender, John – real estate tax refund [2016]                        | 116.57   |
| Building Inspection Underwriters (BIU) – building inspection [May]  | 246.00   |
| Center Independent Oil (Double Car Wash) – police vehicles [May]    | 35.00    |
| Christopher Ponchak – reimburse Bluetooth speaker [Memorial Day]    | 213.88   |
| Christopher Ponchak – reimburse material for wreaths [Memorial Day] | 72.00    |
| Christopher Ponchak – reimburse PW truck lettering                  | 54.86    |
| Collura, Dave – wildlife control [May]                              | 140.00   |
| Comcast – phones / Internet                                         | 283.74   |
| Comcast – Internet [police office]                                  | 123.81   |
| Direct Energy – EMS                                                 | 47.06    |
| Direct Energy – garage                                              | 83.79    |
| Direct Energy – Municipal Building                                  | 317.76   |
| Direct Energy – pump station                                        | 142.45   |
| Duquesne Light – street lights                                      | 3,165.97 |
| General Code – Code of Ordinances [partial payment]                 | 2,519.30 |
| Glenn Engineering – engineering                                     | 825.00   |
| Glenn Engineering – Act 537                                         | 3,657.50 |
| Glenn Engineering – MS4s                                            | 75.00    |
| Glenn Engineering – PennVest                                        | 4,462.50 |
| Home Depot – flags / buildings / equipment                          | 507.66   |
| Law Enforcement Systems – case files                                | 105.00   |
| Lico – weed spray                                                   | 295.00   |

|                                                                              |                   |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| MCI – long distance                                                          | 28.52             |
| McKeesport, City of – prisoner detainment [May]                              | 25.00             |
| Mr John – Latrobe Park [5/26/17 – 6/22/17]                                   | 118.00            |
| Mr John – (2) Manor Park [5/26/17- 6/22/17]                                  | 236.00            |
| Municipal Authority, City of McKeesport – 1 <sup>st</sup> quarter sewage     | 115,836.84        |
| Napa Auto Parts – power washer part                                          | 14.68             |
| O’Reilly Auto Parts – backhoe and Chevy truck parts                          | 261.76            |
| Office Depot – laser cartridge [office printer]                              | 71.99             |
| Orkin – sewers [May and June]                                                | 415.84            |
| PA American Water – consumption data                                         | 63.92             |
| PA American Water – fire hydrants                                            | 1,173.57          |
| PA Municipal Retirement System – Police Pension [2 <sup>nd</sup> qtr]        | 1,040.00          |
| PA Municipal Retirement System – Non-Uniformed Pension [2 <sup>nd</sup> qtr] | 2,340.00          |
| PA Municipal Service Co – 1 <sup>st</sup> quarter sewage billing             | 1,007.21          |
| PA One Call – notices                                                        | 16.51             |
| Paul’s Auto Service – police vehicles                                        | 515.30            |
| Peoples Gas – EMS                                                            | 30.97             |
| Peoples Gas – garage                                                         | 28.72             |
| Peoples Gas – Municipal Building                                             | 51.26             |
| Pittsburgh Post-Gazette – ads [3214 Jeffrey Dr / 2004 dump truck bids]       | 965.55            |
| RC Walter – supplies for flag brackets and catch basin                       | 81.37             |
| Ricoh – copier lease                                                         | 114.95            |
| Settlement Engine, Inc – real estate tax refund [2017]                       | 32.92             |
| Sloss, Timothy – reimburse for (2) flags [Memorial]                          | 164.00            |
| Sprint – cell phones                                                         | 123.49            |
| Steel Rivers COG – reimburse for demolition ad                               | 41.30             |
| TEC Benefits – benefits admin [July]                                         | 30.00             |
| TruGreen – treatment at fields                                               | 452.07            |
| Volunteer Firemen’s Assn – semi-annual payment                               | 32,000.00         |
| Witmer Public Safety Group – ammunition                                      | 1,918.93          |
| <b>TOTAL BILLS</b>                                                           | <b>176,737.50</b> |

Mrs. Morgan made a motion to accept the ratified bills and the list of bills. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Matyasovsky and passed by a vote of 5 to 1, with Mrs. McClelland voting no, since she was not at the Work Session and had some questions on the bills.

The receipts for the month of May are as follows:

**GENERAL FUND**

|                                       |           |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| Real Estate Tax – Aquilante           | 95,030.99 |
| Fire Tax – Aquilante                  | 16,770.17 |
| Delinquent Real Estate Tax – Keystone | 6,890.88  |
| Act 77 Tax Refund                     | 6,633.58  |

|                                       |           |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| Real Estate Transfer Tax              | 51.49     |
| Earned Income Tax – Keystone          | 23,748.99 |
| Local Services Tax                    | 1,662.71  |
| Zoning/Building Permits               | 186.95    |
| Zoning/Occupancy Permits              | 180.00    |
| Dye Test Permits                      | 300.00    |
| Police Fines                          | 1,088.47  |
| No Lien Letters                       | 105.00    |
| Sale of 1995 Jeep – Steinkopf         | 250.00    |
| Right-of-Way Permits – Duquesne Light | 70.00     |
| Political Signs                       | 10.00     |
| Cable TV – Comcast                    | 14,569.86 |

**TOTAL RECEIPTS FOR THE MONTH \$ 167,549.09**

**GENERAL FUND**

**REGISTER BALANCE \$ 117,914.34**

**GENERAL FUND SAVINGS**

Interest 13.23

**REGISTER BALANCE 155,709.53**

**SEWER FUND**

Customer Payments 103,105.72

Surcharge 12,713.56

Interest 1.10

**REGISTER BALANCE \$ 101,299.31**

**HIGHWAY AID FUND**

Interest .91

**REGISTER BALANCE \$ 52,824.43**

**PERSONNEL.**

There was nothing to report.

**STREETS & SEWERS.**



Mr. Racunas called for a motion to authorize an amendment to our Articles of Agreement with Cargill, to give the borough an additional six months (until 12/31/17) to meet our tonnage requirements. Mrs. Matyasovsky made the motion. The motion was seconded by Mrs. McClelland and passed unanimously.

Mr. Racunas called for a motion to set the salt estimate quantity at 500 tons for the 2017-2018 winter season. Mr. Ponchak made the motion. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Matyasovsky and passed unanimously.

### **MAYOR WEIGAND'S REPORT.**

Mrs. Weigand highlighted the following police activity from the May report:

|                              |    |     |
|------------------------------|----|-----|
| Total Call Activity          |    | 246 |
| Calls for Service            | 28 |     |
| Assist EMS                   | 15 |     |
| Crimes Against Persons       | 2  |     |
| Property Crimes              | 21 |     |
| Traffic Related Incidents    | 54 |     |
| Summary of Arrests           | 60 |     |
| Traffic Citations Issued     |    | 51  |
| Non-Traffic Citations Issued |    | 2   |
| Assist Other Departments     |    | 21  |
| Assist By Other Departments  |    | 12  |

Mrs. Weigand thanked the Fire Department, EMS, Street Department, and Police Department for all they did after the flooding; it was a long night. Mrs. Weigand said she was there with Mr. Glenn and personnel from the county. The Early Childhood Center was open until 1:00 am.

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

Mr. Racunas had nothing to report.

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

All items were discussed at the Work Session. Mr. Glenn asked council to set a date for the Public Hearing that is required as part of the process in obtaining a PennVest loan. Mr. Sikorski said they want to proceed on the \$1 million loan, and the Public Hearing must be held to inform the public. Mrs. McClelland made a motion to hold the Public Hearing at 7:00 pm on Monday, June 26, 2017. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ponchak and passed unanimously.

Mr. Racunas said two bids were received for the 2004 Public Works Dump Truck, but one of the bids did not meet the criteria set in the ad. Therefore, the bid from Paul Beisler in the amount of \$3,556.00 is the only one that can be considered. Mrs. McClelland made a motion to accept the bid from Mr. Beisler. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ponchak and passed unanimously.

**OLD BUSINESS.**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS.**

Mrs. Morgan made a motion to retain Marshall Dennehey as Special Council effective July 4, 2017. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Matyasovsky, and passed by a vote of 5 to 1, with Mrs. McClelland voting no, since she was not at the Work Session to know the details.

**CORRESPONDENCE.**

None.

Mrs. Matyasovsky made a motion to accept the typed minutes from the Regular Session on May 10, 2017. The motion was seconded by Mrs. McClelland and passed unanimously.

Mr. Sikorski set the next meeting date and times for Wednesday, July 12, 2017, with the Work Session at 6:00 pm, and the Regular Session at 7:30 pm.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. McClelland and seconded by Mrs. Morgan. All were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra L. Helderlein  
Borough Secretary