MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION OF COUNCIL

October 25, 2023

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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:**

**Eileen Wall – Orchard Drive:** Mrs. Wall asked what is going in where the old dairy store used to be. She heard that it was apartments and asked if they applied for permits. Mr. Zrenchak stated that they are not aware of anything. Mrs. Wall then asked about the Millers. She said that they did not think anyone was there. They don’t have electricity now. The guy came out of the house last night with his dog. There is nothing there. She feels sorry for them. Mr. Bogdan said that they are going to work on that agreement and get their water on. Mr. Bogdan said that them not having electricity is something new. Mrs. Wall said that the house is dark and they thought nobody was there. She thinks the dad is gone but the kid came out and her husband said there he is sitting on the porch. Mr. Bogdan said that the last he heard was that Craig got a full time job so he reached out and that since he has a full time job, he wants to work on getting the water turned on. Mike (Zrenchak) and he talked about coming up with an agreement to not only pay their current water bill but also pay a certain amount on their back bill but we have to get the paperwork together to do that with him. He said that is the first time he has heard about the electricity because when he went by last week the light was on.

**Scott DeCecco – 2800 E Street:** Mr. DeCecco asked if the residents of Liberty Borough have 24/7 police coverage with a Liberty Borough police officer/Liberty Borough police car. He also asked what the status is with the house at the corner of E and Southern. It is his understanding that there is a problem with the bank or whatever. Kids broke into it again a week or two ago and the front door is wide open. Mr. Zrenchak said the answer to his first question is right now at times we are short staffed. Our full time Officer in Charge resigned and we moved forward with a police chief. We have had a couple of part time officers come in, take positions then two weeks later they get full time positions and they move on. Right now, it is a problem everywhere with getting part time officers. The problem is that when you look at our roster, you have two officers that are full time in Port Vue and they take mandatory overtime in Port Vue. We are lucky if we get maybe one or two shifts out of them a month. Then we have another officer that is part time with us – he takes 32 to 40 hours per week with us plus he works in Clairton part time. Then we have guys that just don’t respond at all when we ask for availability. So, we have been short handed here and there. We may not have coverage with an officer at times with our own patrolman but we do have coverage – we have reached out to Port Vue. We are hoping that by hiring a chief and we have had some interest in positions and trying to think of other ways to do things outside the box. We are trying to get this so we do have enough staff to cover this because there are three options that all of the smaller departments face. It is either going to be that we have to do away with the police department and go with outside coverage. Second option is that we merge with somebody. And within ten years, the way Allegheny County is talking, and he said Solicitor Racunas you can correct him if he is wrong, the smaller departments are already starting to look at that. That is not something he agrees with and he cannot speak for the rest of council, he wants to keep our own. The other option is to go to a full time department but there will be costs that go along with that. Because again, it is not the salaries, you are looking at the healthcare, worker’s compensation and the biggest one is the Act 600 pension. That is one of the biggest driving factors because there are two things with the Act 600 pension that are mandated. It is the officer gets their average annual salary for their last three years of employment which is 50%. If something happens to them, their spouse gets 25% of that for the rest of their life. So we have to figure out how that would be financed. This is not something that any of us like. He can’t get people in the door. We have people come in the door then get a full time job and they are gone. He can’t force them to stay. Again, we tried to move the part timers up to a higher pay – last contract they were moved up to $21.00 per hour to try to entice them but nobody is going into policing. That is where we are with that.

Mr. Zrenchak addressed Mr. DeCecco’s second question about the house. He had Jamie pull together the information for it as for the back taxes that are owed on it. He would like to talk with council and he thinks they are going to work with the school district and recommend that house move forward with sheriff sale. He thinks that property they could recoup some money for it and get it back on the tax roster and have somebody fix it up and get it back to being useful. Because other than needing gutted the building inspector said that it is structurally sound. So that is what we are trying to do with that. He will have them reach out again to the bank to see what is going on there but that is what he can say for now about those two items.

**Susan Hanratty – 305 Nevada Street:** Mrs. Hanratty said that when you come up Elm Street, new people live in the corner house and they park on that side – they have three cars. People who live on this side have three cars. Sometimes it gets rough going through there. But the major thing is, when you come up this Elm Street to Locust, this Elm Street is kind of bent off to the side, they have a stop sign but the people from Locust Street don’t have a stop sign and neither does this Elm Street. Now people come flying up that alley – there is a bus every day that flies up that alley. One of these days he is going to smack a kid and it could be one of her grandkids because they walk down Elm Street. Is there any way to put a stop sign on Locust Street? The only thing is, there is a big tree there that would block it and the new people don’t cut their hedges so their hedges are sticking up. She and her daughter were coming up Elm Street and turned left on Locust and a lady in an SUV came flying up the alley and almost smacked the front of us. Mr. Zrenchak said that they talked about putting a stop sign over there. Mr. Matlos said that it would have to go on the left side of the road or the alley. Mr. Zrenchak asked if the curbs could be painted yellow to try to keep from parking there. Mr. Matlos said they could paint the corner. Mr. Zrenchak said to take a look at it and see what we can do. Mr. Matlos said that the other one can go across the street on top of the pole so if you are coming this way, there are none that way either heading back towards when you come up Latrobe and make the left. Mrs. Hanratty said that nobody really goes that way on Locust street. She asked if they could have one in the alley especially to stop that school bus driver – she is going too fast to begin with. Mr. Zrenchak said that Mr. Matlos will take a look at it to see where they are parking and if we can do a stop sign.

**Larry Medved – 2906 I Street:** Mr. Medved is having pigeon problems – large groups of pigeons (he brought pictures). There are anywhere from 25 to 30 at a time. They are eating seed from a bird feeder in the area. It started out as one or two that turned into four. Now they are perched on the line above the only place he can park his car. So he is parking up the street two houses up in front of a vacant house because he would have to wash his car every day. He put nails along his wooden fence because they were perching on the fence and crapping on original works of art he makes out of PVC plastic and he would have to wash that and his patio furniture all of the time. He is not complaining about feeding the birds but this has gotten out of hand. A couple birds were coming in the evening, no big deal. Now they are there all day long. When he comes out of the back door, he can’t see because of the fence, he makes a noise and there are 30 pigeons going 15 different ways. He has almost fallen and a fall could just change his life. He does not know what can be done. He is there representing a few neighbors too. He has stopped feeding them and a neighbor up the street had one close to her house and they never had pigeons in 21 years. This is out in the open, the people have no trees in their yard and pigeons fly high. They can see the feeders and that is what started bringing them. He mentioned it to the neighbor and his reply was that now that he knows that it bothers him, he is going to add more feeders and the next day he did. He doesn’t exchange words with him and he has nothing bad against him. We stopped feeding the birds since the pigeons came. Mr. Zrenchak deferred to Mr. Bogdan. Mr. Bogdan said that as he told him (the neighbor) at the time, legally there is nothing that we can do – there is no ordinance or law against feeding birds. He did send the gentleman a letter which said that even though you are not doing anything illegal, he has created a nuisance because of the amount of birds he is attracting to the area, they are defecating on people vehicles, outside equipment, furniture. In consideration of your neighbors, would you consider cutting back on the amount of feeding. He got an email from the man today which said that it is not illegal and until you stop the entire borough from feeding birds, he is not a nuisance, his neighbors are a nuisance and that Mr. Medved put a fence up without a permit and he will sue the borough before he stops feeding birds. Mr. Medved said that shooting pigeons is legal in Pennsylvania. Mr. Zrenchak said to let him do a little bit more research on this. Mr. Medved said Pest B Gone took out 17 different critters from his yard this summer. The deer were coming to the feeders in the evening. He had to put up fencing there because they were walking through eating his vegetables and apples off the trees. So they are bringing a lot of critters. He said that they are mad about the fence because he gave himself the good side which is legal. Mr. Zrenchak said that he will do some more research, reach out to some other communities to see what they do. Mr. Bogdan said that what concerned him was that when he reached out to this guy he now wants to escalate it further. Mrs. Wall said that they put owls out. Mr. Medved said they got used to that in one month. He looked online and they sell a radio controlled box that flickers and makes noises that they use on balconies in big cities and after a month they get used to that. They ae very smart, you can only spook them for so long. They hear a noise in the yard and they will circle three times and then you can see they are heading north to McKeesport. Mr. Zrenchak said that they will do some research to see what can be done.

**Chris Esack Peterson – 2725 B Street:**  Mrs. Peterson wanted to make a proposal to council to repair and clean the garage. On Sunday, Amanda and she cleaned the garage for the Halloween parade for the kids to come in and get their treats and for December 1st for Light up Night and Christmas party. It took just three hours for the two of them to clean up the garage. It looked so much better and she thought that it is a nice room, not just a garage. Her proposal is to spend some money – that corner is damp and needs fixed, around the side door needs fixed with plaster, see where the leak is coming from, deep clean it and paint it and do the floor. They can use it for events, sign-up parties for kids. We can’t always use the fire hall because they rent that all the time now. She doesn’t think it would take much time to do whatever they need to do but she thinks it would be a great space to clean up and use it. Mr. Zrenchak said that first of all they would have to see what is causing the leak which is the most important thing to take are of first. Mr. Matlos said he did not know what is leaking on the one side. The other side is the downspout. Mr. Zrenchak said they need to get somebody in here to take a look at the roof to see if they can figure out the leak because to do anything inside with that until that is fixed, that would be the issue. If it is leaking, we need to get that looked at sooner than later. We need to get a flat roof specialist out here to take a look at it and tell us what’s what. It may be something simple. He said to take a look at getting that fixed.

Mr. Zrenchak stated that he was going to take the agenda out of order. PennTex Ventures is in attendance tonight to speak about the proposed Dollar General. We have Zane (King) and Brian (Fischbach) to give us a little presentation on the proposed Dollar General. Brian Fischbach from Mackin Engineering said they have been hired by PenTex Ventures to develop a Dollar General located just up the street here at Owens and Liberty. Don (Glenn) has had the pleasure of reviewing our plans on a couple of occasions now that does involve subdivision of the property. One of which is where the Dollar General will sit and the other will remain in the ownership of the existing owner. He believes they have satisfied all of the ordinance requirements to this point. The county planning commission has reviewed it, Don has reviewed it, he thinks the residential sanitation control plan has been at least delivered to the conservation district – they have not yet received comments from them. They are in the process of trying to finalize a sewage facilities planning module which will be required. They have had some difficulty getting some information to complete that. He expects to have that information anytime now. Mr. Zenchak asked what is the proposed usage for that – how many gallons. Brian stated that the facility generates 52 gallons of water per day. Mr. Zrenchak said that he was surprised that they can’t get an exemption. Brian said the treatment plant has an organic or hydraulic overload associated with it. They were told that the planning waiver would not be applicable in this situation. They have to go through the process of getting the Allegheny County Health Department to sign off, your planning commission will have to sign off, and will have to pass a resolution. Mr. Zrenchak stated that it is interesting that they would say that because that plant was upgraded ten years ago because at the time, it was hydraulically overloaded and it is hydraulically overloaded again. It is interesting that 1 EDU would make a difference. Brian said that they assume that the waiver, especially with previous use on the property was probably generating more sewage than what is proposed. Brian said that you will see a portion of this project in front of you again to process the module. There is definitely water available, sewer is right there so it has all utilities and all the requirements for parking, Mr. Bogdan asked they are preceding with all of this but the land hasn’t been sold. Zane said that it is under agreement. Mr. Bogdan stated that he spoke with the owner of the property not even a month ago and he said he hadn’t heard a word from Dollar General in months. Zane said that he would not coordinate directly with Dollar General, he would coordinate with them. Zane said that if his real estate brokerage, if they haven’t updated him, he will get with them to do that. They are under agreement but they do not typically close until they get all the approvals.and subdivision approval – they can’t until they get subdivision approval. Brian said he (the owner) is party to the application – his information is on there and he will obviously have to sign the subdivision plan so nothing is going to happen unless that subdivision plan is processed. Ann Marie Sowa said that they are putting up Dollar Generals everywhere and 90% of the time they are either closed or closed to stock. She asked how long before they pick up and shut down because they can’t find employees because the bus line here and then we have a building here, yet another Dollar General building, which we have two right down the block. Zane said, again, they are not Dollar General, they are the developer – that is at their corporate level. As far as staffing,,they (PTV) have no control over that. They hear that complaint often. He goes to a lot of these meetings and they have that same concern. Unfortunately, there is not a lot they can do about that. Mayor Sikorski said that he has people come to him all of the time asking why they dug out that asphalt and piled up that lose dirt and did not put anything to contain it and the dirt washed down onto to the street into the sewer – what was the purpose of digging those two holes? Zane said that it was probably for the geotechnical part. Brian said that they did a couple perk tests, they drilled for a geotechnical report, foundation information. Mayor Sikorski then asked if they were going to have a fence – there are people that live right behind there – are they going to put a fence up between the building and the residence? Zane said that he thinks that is the plan. Mayor Sikorski asked if there will be a fire zone – the resident was concerned about having enough space between the building and his so his cars would not get burned. Mr. Zrenchak said that is for the resident and developer to work out. They were looking for a formal approval tonight and if they get approved tonight, then the plan is to move to the planning commission. Mr. Zrenchak asked Mr. Glenn if he had any concerns about moving forward. Mr. Glenn said that he has already told Mackin Engineering they we have the capacity to handle 1 EDU providing there is no storm water. Glenn Engineering had several comments and Mackin Engineering is an excellent engineering firm and tonight they gave him the plans and he is sure that the issues they had concerns about have been resolved. He will be sending a letter to the borough telling the borough council to proceed and he will give them direction. Mr. Glenn said that they could tonight, pass a motion subject to Glenn Engineering’s approval. Solicitor Racunas said that would be fine. He asked if it was for the land development or the subdivision. Brian said it should be two separate actions that they are asking approval for both. Someone asked when the potential completion would be. Zane said that if everything goes well, it should be completed by the second quarter of next year – June or July. Someone asked what kind of Dollar General it would be. Zane said that it will be a standard size Dollar General. Mr. Zrenchak said that Brian and Zane have never been to Liberty Borough – by the time they leave tonight, it will be entirely changed around because of the rumor mill. Mr. Zrenchak thanked them for being there tonight.

**PROPERTY:** Chris Ponchak

Mr. Ponchak reported that they have readvertised the property at the end of Jeffrey and Scene Ridge. Mrs. Matyasovsky asked how he readvertised the properties. He said that they were advertised in the paper. Amanda Rausch asked what other options were there besides a paper that nobody buys. Mr. Zrenchak said that they could get a realtor involved but they would have to pay money. Word of mouth is the best way and social media. If you get a realitor involved they would want a percentage. Someone suggested a sign that says For Sale by Owner. Mr. Zrenchak stated that they did that. The problem over there is that it is all slag. The other thing is, they did have a couple people that were interested in it but when they go to build there, it is his understanding was that there was nothing comparable in Liberty to put on there because when you go to tax what you are going to put the property tax, they may take from surrounding communities so you may take something from Jefferson something similar in size and they may end up tax wise. Solicitor Racunas said that plus that property, based on the value, is over the bid limit so the borough can’t just sell it. They have to advertise it for bid and solicit bidders. Mr. Zrenchak stated that before the properties were chopped up. That is when they did the subdivision to go ahead and take the two smaller properties – there were five total – so when you did the setbacks you would not have been able to build. So they took two of them and combined them in case someone wanted to build. Now there is room to build something without having to worry about setbacks. Someone asked if they would allow modular homes. Mr. Zrenchak said that modular homes are not allowed in Liberty’s regulations.

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

Mr. Ponchak read the Fire Report for September 2023:

Fires 5

Rescue & EMS 3

Service Call 3

Good Intent Call 2

False Alarm & False Call 3

Total Calls 16

Mr. Ponchak reported that the EMS responded to 13 calls in the borough and their average response time was 9.9 minutes.

Mr. Ponchak read the Police Vehicle Report for September 2023:

Vehicle 130 735 miles

Vehicle 131 642 miles

Vehicle 132 70 Miles

There was no vehicle maintenance performed.

**LEGISLATION:** David Sowa

Mr. Sowa said that anything he had would be covered under Health & Ordinance by Mr. Ponchak which will be the advertising of the bagsters and dumpsters for the ordinance.

**PARKS & RECREATION:** Janice Matyasovsky

Mrs. Matyasovsky reported that the Halloween Parade will be on October 31, 2023 in case anyone didn’t know when Halloween was in the borough. The parade starts at 5:15 at 600 Scene Ridge. Trick or Treat is from 6 to 8. There will be a Halloween Decorating Contest again this year. 3 winners will be chosen.

**HEALTH & ORDINANCE**: Chris Ponchak

**Motion to advertise** the ordinance for regulating dumpsters and portable storage units pending the final draft.

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

**All in favor. Motion carries.**

**LIGHTS:** Michael Matlos

Mr. Matlos reported that there were four lights out, three had been replaced and he is waiting on the last one to be replaced. Mr. Zrenchak asked if he found out anything on the other one. Mr. Matlos said that he put it out there but does not think anything is going to be done.

**FINANCE:** Elizabeth Lape

Mrs. Lape announced that they are going to start working on the budget so hopefully they will have something to advertise for next month.

**Motion to approve** the CAP Fund application for a generator for the pump station not to exceed $150,000.

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

**All in favor. Motion carries.**

**Motion to Pay:** Bills for Ratification $73,494.73 and List of Bills to Pay $11,221.80

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

**All in favor. Motion carries.**

**Bills for Ratification:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Payroll** |  |  |  |
| 10/03/2023 | EFT | PA SCDU | -82.52 |
| 10/05/2023 | EFT | ADP | -3,899.30 |
| 10/05/2023 | EFT | ADP [CHECKS] | -10,947.32 |
| 09/29/2023 | EFT | ADP [INVOICE] | -165.15 |
| 10/19/2023 | EFT | ADP | -4,014.11 |
| 10/19/2023 | EFT | ADP [CHECKS] | -11,401.20 |
| 10/18/2023 | EFT | PA SCDU | -82.52 |
| 10/13/2023 | EFT | ADP [INVOICE] | -88.19 |
| **Highway Fund** | |  |  |
| 10/11/2023 | 4588 | DUQUESNE LIGHT CO | -3,528.67 |
| **Sewer Fund** | |  |  |
| 10/11/2023 | 12496 | AMERICAN WATER | -79.22 |
| 10/11/2023 | 12497 | DUQUESNE LIGHT CO | -132.20 |
| 10/11/2023 | 12498 | GLENN ENGINEERING & ASSOC | -6,428.96 |
| 10/11/2023 | 12499 | PA MUNICIPAL SERVICE CO | -1,017.09 |
| 10/11/2023 | 12500 | PA ONE-CALL SYSTEM INC | -7.14 |
| **General Fund** | |  |  |
| 09/28/2023 | 23564 | AQUA FILTER FRESH INC | -33.30 |
| 09/28/2023 | 23565 | MCI | -30.48 |
| 09/28/2023 | 23566 | PSAB U/C PLAN | -673.87 |
| 09/28/2023 | 23567 | VOLUNTEER FIREMEN'S ASSOC OF LIBERTY | 0.00 |
| 09/28/2023 | 23568 | AMERICAN LEGAL SERVICES | -72.40 |
| 09/28/2023 | 23569 | VOLUNTEER FIREMEN'S ASSOC OF LIBERTY | -1,200.00 |
| 09/28/2023 | 23570 | VOLUNTEER FIREMEN'S ASSOC OF LIBERTY | -11,166.52 |
| 10/02/2023 | 23571 | TEAMSTERS LOCAL UNION #205 | -129.00 |
| 10/02/2023 | 23572 | PA MUNICIPAL RETIREMENT SYSTEM | -3,380.00 |
| 10/02/2023 | 23573 | COMMONWEALTH OF PA | -3,665.31 |
| 10/05/2023 | 23574 | AFLAC | -223.36 |
| 10/09/2023 | VOID | Department of Real Estate | 0.00 |
| 10/11/2023 | 23575 | ANDREWS & PRICE | -27.00 |
| 10/11/2023 | 23576 | CENTER INDEPENDENT ENERGY | -4.67 |
| 10/11/2023 | 23577 | City of McKeesport | -50.00 |
| 10/11/2023 | 23578 | COMCAST | -451.40 |
| 10/11/2023 | 23579 | DECARLO FRUIT MARKET | -14.97 |
| 10/11/2023 | 23580 | DUQUESNE LIGHT CO | -646.36 |
| 10/11/2023 | 23581 | ECONO SIGNS LLC | -128.73 |
| 10/11/2023 | 23582 | FIRST COMMONWEALTH BANK (CREDIT CARD) | -533.56 |
| 10/11/2023 | 23583 | GLENN ENGINEERING & ASSOC | -2,695.00 |
| 10/11/2023 | 23584 | MARTINS FLOWERS & SHRUBS | -229.49 |
| 10/11/2023 | 23585 | O'REILLY AUTO PARTS | -12.98 |
| 10/11/2023 | 23586 | ONE DIGITAL | -100.00 |
| 10/11/2023 | 23587 | ORKIN EXTERMINATING | -800.00 |
| 10/11/2023 | 23588 | PA AMERICAN WATER | -1,197.70 |
| 10/11/2023 | 23589 | PEOPLES NATURAL GAS | -70.17 |
| 10/11/2023 | 23590 | Pest b Gone | -300.00 |
| 10/11/2023 | 23591 | QUILL | -66.57 |
| 10/11/2023 | 23592 | RACUNAS LAW GROUP LLC | -2,175.00 |
| 10/11/2023 | 23593 | RC WALTER & SONS INC | -38.21 |
| 10/11/2023 | 23594 | Safsecur LLC | -828.62 |
| 10/11/2023 | 23595 | T-MOBILE | -175.81 |
| 10/17/2023 | 23596 | TEAMSTERS LOCAL UNION #205 | -129.00 |
| 10/17/2023 | 23597 | PA MUNICIPAL RETIREMENT SYSTEM | -371.66 |
|  |  | **Total Bills for Ratification** | -73,494.73 |

**List of Bills to Pay:**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **AMERICAN LEGAL SERVICES** |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | 10/18/2023 | 118-28062 | 65.16 |
|  | Total AMERICAN LEGAL SERVICES |  |  |  | 65.16 |
|  | **AMERICAN WATER** |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | 10/11/2023 | 4000269335 | 420.00 |
|  | Total AMERICAN WATER |  |  |  | 420.00 |
|  | **AMTRUST NORTH AMERICA** |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | 10/12/2023 | 17594925 | 3,886.00 |
|  | Total AMTRUST NORTH AMERICA |  |  |  | 3,886.00 |
|  | **BUILDING INSPECTION UNDERWRITERS OF PA** |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | 07/09/2023 | 1369 | 55.00 |
|  |  |  | 10/12/2023 | 1512 | 165.00 |
|  | Total BUILDING INSPECTION UNDERWRITERS OF PA |  |  |  | 220.00 |
|  | **MCI** |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | 10/16/2023 | 08648909459 | 31.74 |
|  | Total MCI |  |  |  | 31.74 |
|  | **MR JOHN** |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | 10/13/2023 | INV-73702 | 266.00 |
|  |  |  | 10/13/2023 | INV-73701 | 133.00 |
|  | Total MR JOHN |  |  |  | 399.00 |
|  | **PA AMERICAN WATER** |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | 10/17/2023 | 1024-210034877260 | 73.61 |
|  |  |  | 10/17/2023 | 1024-210030156299 | 20.17 |
|  |  |  | 10/17/2023 | 1024-210033713752 | 138.72 |
|  | Total PA AMERICAN WATER |  |  |  | 232.50 |
|  | **PC TIRE & FOAMFILL SPECIALISTS** |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | 10/13/2023 | 1444 | 607.98 |
|  | Total PC TIRE & FOAMFILL SPECIALISTS |  |  |  | 607.98 |
|  | **QUILL** |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | 10/18/2023 | 35209007 | 115.58 |
|  |  |  | 10/18/2023 | 35206957 | 74.99 |
|  |  |  | 10/23/2023 | 35281536 | 7.49 |
|  | Total QUILL |  |  |  | 198.06 |
|  | **RICOH USA** |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | 10/16/2023 | 107625270 | 149.42 |
|  | Total RICOH USA |  |  |  | 149.42 |
|  | **SHERWIN WILLIAMS CO** |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | 10/03/2023 | 6508-3 | 627.35 |
|  |  |  | 10/12/2023 | 6800-4 | 533.85 |
|  |  |  | 10/17/2023 | 6975-4 | 84.50 |
|  | Total SHERWIN WILLIAMS CO |  |  |  | 1,245.70 |
|  | **UPMC HEALTH PLAN** |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | 10/13/2023 | 020207 300 | 3,649.97 |
|  | Total UPMC HEALTH PLAN |  |  |  | 3,649.97 |
|  | **VERIZON GARAGE** |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | 10/09/2023 | 450-731-927-0001-53 | 61.27 |
|  | Total VERIZON GARAGE |  |  |  | 61.27 |
|  | **WESTCOM WIRELESS INC** |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | 10/13/2023 | 1190 | 55.00 |
|  | Total WESTCOM WIRELESS INC |  |  |  | 55.00 |
| **TOTAL** | |  |  |  | **11,221.80** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

**PERSONNEL:** Tim Sloss

**Motion to ratify** the hiring of Michael Lynch as Chief of the Liberty Borough Police Department effective October 16, 2023.

**Motion: Mrs. Matyasovsky Second: Mrs. Lape**

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Mrs. Lape Yes**

**Mr. Sloss Yes**

**Mr. Matlos Present**

**Mr. Ponchak Present**

**Mr. Sowa Yes**

**Mrs. Matyasovsky Yes**

**Mr. Zrenchak Yes**

At this point in the meeting, Mr. Zrenchak introduced Chief Lynch. Mayor Sikorski performed the swearing in of Chief Lynch.

Chief Lynch provided a quick bio of himself. He attended Catholic schools for 8 years. He started high school at Mt. Lebanon High School. He did not have the money to go to college – his dad was a trucker. He ended up joining the 82nd Airborne as a paratrooper. Spent time in the Army in the 2nd Infantry Division in Korea. He was a recruiter in the military also. After he got out, he ended up in the International Guard. He was deployed twice as far as Operation Southern Watch and Operation (inaudible) Freedom. He retired from the International Guard. His police experience, he started back in the 90’s in the City of Pittsburgh. He left there after 3 ½ years and went to the City Swat Team. He then moved on to Monroeville PD where he did 23 years so he has 26 years of police experience. He was a patrol supervisor, shift commander on a day to day basis. He retired as a Sargent. Just recently after he left, he worked in the Federal Courthouse for a little bit for the US Marshal Service protecting judges and people who come inside the courthouse. He got a degree from Point Park – he put himself through college. He addressed the resident’s question about having full police coverage. He said that as of this week, there was only 1 shift not covered. Next week they are trying to get there, hopefully we will be the same if not we will have them all covered. Tomorrow he said he is meeting with a new police officer to see if he wants to come on board here as far as hours and such. He talked to the Chief in Homestead that he knows – Chief Lynch is on the Board of Directors for the Fraternal Order of Police for Allegheny County but he is stepping down from that position early next year. He knows a lot of people in law enforcement. He was able to find out a lot of information on this individual and he thinks he will be a good officer and he is hoping to get him on board after his interview tomorrow. That should help even more to fill in some of the gaps. He has been filling in a lot of the slots since he started last Monday. So he is learning the area, learning the job and trying to get people on board. Just give him a little time and hopefully things will work out to be OK as far as personnel.

**Motion to accept** Christopher Abraham’s resignation from the Liberty Borough Police Department effective October 5, 2023.

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

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Mrs. Lape Yes**

**Mr. Sloss Yes**

**Mr. Matlos Yes**

**Mr. Ponchak Yes**

**Mr. Sowa Yes**

**Mrs. Matyasovsky Yes**

**Mr. Zrenchak Yes**

**Motion to accept** Erik Labby’s resignation from the Liberty Borough Police Department effective October 16, 2023.

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

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Mrs. Lape Yes**

**Mr. Sloss Yes**

**Mr. Matlos Yes**

**Mr. Ponchak Yes**

**Mr. Sowa Yes**

**Mrs. Matyasovsky Yes**

**Mr. Zrenchak Yes**

**Motion to accept** Michael Shook’s resignation from the Liberty Borough Police Department effective October 21, 2023.

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

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Mrs. Lape Yes**

**Mr. Sloss Yes**

**Mr. Matlos Yes**

**Mr. Ponchak Yes**

**Mr. Sowa Yes**

**Mrs. Matyasovsky Yes**

**Mr. Zrenchak Yes**

Mr. Zrenchak explained that Officer Shook said that he could take as many shifts as we wanted. They got him trained and put him on the schedule – he could take 2 or 3 days then all of a sudden he was full time somewhere else. Officer Labby hasn’t taken a shift or given any availability for months. So that is why we are the boat that we are in. Officer Abrahm wanted 1 day a week but he wants a random shift, and it is never available so that is the end of that. It is very frustrating.

**STREETS AND SEWERS:** Tim Sloss

Mr. Sloss had nothing to report.

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

Mayor Sikorski read the September 2023 Police Report in its entirety. A copy of the report is available in the borough office.

Mrs. Matyasovsky asked what happened to the speed sign. Mr. Zrenchak said that it needs a battery and they need to get a battery tender for it. It was supposed to be done already. They will follow up on that. He will let the Chief know to get a battery and a battery tender for it.

**SOLICITOR’S REPORT:** Matt Racunas

Solicitor Racunas had 2 items for Council’s consideration.

**Motion to amend** the agenda to include a motion to approve the proposed subdivision for the Dollar General conditioned on engineer approval.

**Motion to amend** the agenda to include the proposed land development of the Dollar General conditioned on engineer approval.

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

**All in favor. Motion carries.**

**Motion to approve** the proposed subdivision of Dollar General conditioned on engineer approval.

**Motion: Mr. Matlos Second: Mr. Sowa**

**All in favor. Motion carries.**

**Motion to approve** the proposed land development of Dollar General conditioned on engineer approval.

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

**All in favor. Motion carries.**

**ENGINEER’S REPORT:** Don Glenn

Mr. Glenn reported that the re-bid of the Liberty Way Slide bids will be opened November 13, 2023 at 10:00 am at the borough building. Also, bids to replace the existing pump station will be opened November 20, 2023 at 10:00 am at the borough building.

Mr. Glenn stated that the Borough requested $153,905 from to be reimbursed from Harrisburg for the pump station. The Borough received $130.000 (approximately) which is 85% of that amount.

Mr. Glenn said LSA grant applications are due November 30th. Last month they talked about a truck to apply for. He needs specs or tell him what kind of truck they want. Mr. Matlos said that he cannot find a chassis. Mr. Zrenchak said that he will make a couple of phone calls. Mr. Matlos said that he gave Mr. Glenn the specs for the backhoe. Mr. Zrenchak said that they need a couple items for the workshop to apply for a couple LSA grants. Mr. Zrenchak said that he will see if the place he just bought one from can find a chassis and cab.

Mr. Glenn said that he is going to meet with Mike next week to discuss a grant application for the drainage problem we have on Liberty Way. We are going to put in a retention pond and correct the drainage we have now so it flows free over Liberty Way.

Mr. Glenn reported that he received plans tonight from Mackin Engineering. Solicitor Racunas made the motions and he will start the review tomorrow and he will give a report to Council and whatever his appropriate report is, which should be favorable, to approve the plans.

**Motion to ratify payment** to Neveah Pipe Burstng in the amount of $70,220 for the inlet replacement project.

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

**All in favor. Motion carries.**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

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

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Mr. Zrenchak reported that Action Housing has announced a second round for the Whole Home Repairs Program. There are flyers on the table if anyone is interested. Prior applicants need to recertify their applications. This program is worthwhile looking into because there are not a lot of restrictions. The actual income thresholds are pretty high so there is a lot of leeway there compared to some of the other programs.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

**Motion to accept** the typed minutes from the September 27, 2023 meeting.

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

**All in favor. Motion carries.**

Next meeting dates/times: Work Session, Wednesday November 8, 2023 at 6:00 pm – Regular Session, Wednesday, November 22, 2023 at 6:00 pm.

Mr. Zrenchak stated that they had the Clean Up Day on Saturday. It was busy from 9am to noon when they closed down. They filled 2 dumpsters plus an electronics dumpster ¾ of the way. It was pretty successful. We will do it again in the spring and keep advertising it.

**Motion** to adjourn.

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

**All in favor. Motion carries.**

Meeting adjourned at 6:57 PM

Respectfully submitted by:

Jill Pack

Borough Secretary