MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION OF COUNCIL

January 24, 2024

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Regular session of Borough Council convened at 6:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. Present were Councilors Mike Matlos, Elizabeth Lape, Tim Sloss, Janice Matyasovsky, Chris Ponchak, Michael Zrenchak, Solicitor Matt Racunas, and Borough Engineer Lou Corrales.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**EILEEN WALL 3403 ORCHARD DRIVE:**  Mrs. Wall explained that her neighbor has a camera behind his house and that on January 17, 2024, the camera caught a man with a bag walking behind their homes at ten o’clock at night. Mrs. Wall said that they called the Police and the Police said that you can not stop people from walking in the woods behind your house. Mrs. Wall was wondering if that was true, and she was expressing her concerns about whether this is allowed to happen. Mr. Zrenchak asked Mrs. Wall to verify the facts once more. Mr. Zrenchak wrote down all the facts. Mrs. Wall stated that the man had a shopping bag. She said that it was cold, only 17 or 18 degrees out. She said that if she were home alone, she would have been scared. Mr. Zrenchak said that he will talk with the Police and see what was going on and will get some answers for her.

**SCOTT DECECCO 2800 E STREET:** Mr. Dececco asked why the minutes were not posted on the website like he has asked in the past. Mr. Dececco said he understood that the meeting minutes from the month before cannot be posted until they are approved by Council but that they are not being posted on time after that approval. Mr. Zrenchak asked Ms. Leber if she could take care of that. Ms. Leber said that she would gladly take care of that but now they are currently a little understaffed. Mr. Zrenchak informed Mr. Dececco that we do not have a Borough Secretary currently and that Ms. Leber is only working part time, two days a week. Ms. Leber asked if we were only missing November’s minutes. She said that she will get November and December’s Minutes on the website tonight.

**GLORIA DUVAL 3334 ORCHARD DRIVE:** Ms. Duval asked if Council could give them any information on the PUC Meeting that was taking place on January 29, 2024, in Port Vue about the PA American Water Company rate increases. Mr. Zrenchak explained that the PUC meetings are there to take public comment. He said that they have eight meetings across the state for anybody to express their concerns on the rate increases from PAWC. He said that you can attend the meeting to speak or just to listen to what is being said about the PAWC rate increases. Ms. Duval asked if anyone could attend the meeting, not just Port Vue. Mr. Zrenchak explained that anyone is allowed to attend the meeting because it involves rates across the state. They just picked Port Vue as the centralized area for people to attend. Mr. Zrenchak said he was attending but was not sure which session he was attending. He was interested to see what is going to be said about the PAWC rate increases. Mr. Zrenchak explained that the meeting is on January 29, 2024, and that there are two meeting times, either at 1:00 pm or 6:00 pm. There are having two meetings that day, to give the option for everyone to attend depending on whether they can go in the day or the evening.

**PROPERTY:** Chris Ponchak

**Motion to sale** the Scene Ridge Properties with Jason Ruzich as the realtor.

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

**All in favor. Motion carries.**

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

Mr. Zrenchak explained that there is a motion for the Police Union Contract, and he wanted to know if anyone had any discussions or questions before they proceeded. The Council did not have anything to discuss.

**Motion to accept** the Liberty Borough Police Department Union Contract.

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

**All in favor. Motion carries.**

Mr. Ponchak read the Fire Department Report for January 2024 submitted by Fire Chief Corey Derr:

Fires 1

Motor Vehicle accident with no injuries 1

Gas Leak (natural gas or LPG) 2

Electrical Wiring/Equipment problem 1

Public Service Assistance 2

Good Intent Call, other 1

Dispatched & Cancelled en route 1

Smoke Detector activation (No fire) – Unintentional 1

Total Incidents 11

Mr. Ponchak did not receive a Police Report or an EMS Report.

Mr. Ponchak stated that he wants to remind everyone on behalf of the Fire Department and Council that they would like all residents to check their smoke detectors and Carbon Monoxide Detectors. Mr. Ponchak explained that it is always important to have functional detectors but that the winters months seem to be the most important.

Mr. Zrenchak stated that Mr. Ponchak covered the Legislation Committee for Mr. Sowa because he could not attend the meeting because he is recovering from surgery.

**LEGISLATION:** David Sowa -- Absent

None.

**PARKS & RECREATION:** Janice Matyasovsky

Mrs. Matyasovsky stated that all she has is the tentative dates for the year 2024 events. She said Easter Egg Hunt will be March 23, 2024, weather permitting. Senior Citizen Dinner is moved to April 11, 2024. The movie night will be July 19, 2024. She asked if anyone could come up with a good movie, she would gladly take the recommendation. National Night Out will be on August 6, 2024, and we must discuss this with the Police. Our Fun to be a Kid Day will be August 11, 2024. Halloween will be Halloween, October 31, 2024. Light Up Night will be December 6, 2024. Mrs. Matyasovsky said these dates will be here before we know it.

**HEALTH & ORDINANCE**: Chris Ponchak

**Motion to advertise** Ordinance for regulating dumpsters and portable storage units.

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

**All in favor. Motion carries.**

**LIGHTS:** Michael Matlos

Mr. Matlos reported that the light is still out on Delrose. He stated that there is now one light out on Monaca and that Duquesne Light Company has been notified of both.

**FINANCE:** Elizabeth Lape

**Motion to adopt** the Liberty Borough Public Works Union Contract.

**Motion: Mr. Ponchak Second: Mrs. Matyasovsky**

**Mr. Matlos Abstain due to Employee off Public Works**

**Mrs. Lape Yes**

**Mr. Sloss Yes**

**Mrs. Matyasovsky Yes**

**Mr. Ponchak Yes**

**Mr. Zrencak Yes**

**Motion carries.**

**Motion to accept the** Resolution setting the pay rates for the year 2024.

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

**All in favor. Motion carries.**

**Motion to Pay:** Bills for Ratification of $133,658.01 and List of Bills to Pay $41,168.99

**Motion: Mr. Ponchak Second: Mrs. Matyasovsky**

**Mr. Matlos Abstain due to Uniform Allowance**

**Mrs. Lape Yes**

**Mr. Sloss Yes**

**Mrs. Matyasovsky Yes**

**Mr. Ponchak Yes**

**Mr. Zrenchak Abstain due to Environmental Service Bill**

**Motion carries.**

**Bills for Ratification:**

**Payroll**

01/05/2024 EFT ADP[INVOICE] - 81.45

12/28/2023 EFT ADP[CHECKS] - 13,250.33

01/12/2024 EFT ADP[CHECKS] - 13,393.43

12/28/2023 EFT ADP - 4,425.42

01/12/2024 EFT ADP - 4,351.46

**Sewer Fund**

12/22/2023 12512 PA AMERICAN WATER -133,618.67

12/27/2023 12515 ZRENCHAK ENVIRONMENTAL - 2,695.00

01/12/2024 12516 AMERICAN WATER - 79.22

01/12/024 12517 PA MUNICIPAL SERVICE CO - 1,064.13

01/12/2024 12518 PA ONE CALL SYSTEM INC - 5.95 01/12/2024 12519 ZRENCHAK ENVIRONMENTAL - 420.00

**General Fund**

12/21/2021 23707 WOLTZ & WIND FORD - 62,405.00

12/26/2023 23709 ALOM - 920.00

12/26/2023 23709 DERKAS AUTO SERVICE - 284.13 12/26/2023 23710 FASTENAL - 55.32

12/26/2023 23711 ORKIN EXTERMINATING - 207.92

12/26/2023 23712 PA AMERICAN WATER - 96.49

12/26/2023 23713 PA MUNCIPAL RETIREMENT - 120.00

12/26/2023 23714 PA STATE MAYORS ASSC - 70.00

12/26/2023 23715 RACUNAS LAW GROUP - 2,085.00

12/26/2023 23716 RC WALTERS & SONS - 17.09

12/26/2023 23717 UPMC HEALTHPLAN - 3,777.75

12/26/2023 23718 VERIZON GARAGE - 59.85

12/26/2023 23719 WESTCOM WIRELESS - 55.00

12/26/2023 23720 PA MUNICIPAL RETIREMENT - 107.83

01/04/2024 23721 JOLYNNS PIZZA - 150.00

01/12/2024 23722 AARON ARTZ - 475.00

01/12/2024 23723 AFLAC - 125.84

01/12/2024 23724 ALAN LINDSEY - 500.00

01/12/2024 23725 ALLEGHENY COUNTY TREASURER - 50.00

01/12/2024 23726 ALOM - 500.00

01/12/2024 23727 AMERICAN LEGAL SERVICES - 57.92

01/12/2024 23728 AMTRUST NORTH AMERICA - 7,876.00

01/12/2024 23729 AQUA FILTER FRESH INC - 50.80

01/12/2024 23730 AXON ENTERPRISE INC - 370.50

01/12/2024 23731 BRUCE TAKAHT - 250.00

01/12/2024 23732 COMCAST - 928.27

01/12/2024 23733 DUQUESNE LIGHT COMPANY - 297.31

01/12/2024 23734 DUQUESNE LIGHT COMPANY - 3,920.33

01/12/2024 23735 FASTENAL CO - 55.32

01/12/2024 23736 FIRST COMMONWEALTH -1,266.02

01/12/2024 23737 GLENN ENGINEERING - 615.00

01/12/2024 23738 KERRY DIBATTISTA LST REFUND - 52.00

01/12/2024 23739 LBAA - 500.00

01/12/2024 23740 MATTHEW MCDANEL - 500.00

01/12/2024 23741 MCI - 31.74

01/12/2024 23742 MICHAEL BIRCHFIELD - 500.00

01/12/2024 23743 MICHAEL KEMPLE - 425.00

01/12/2024 23744 MICHAEL MATLOS - 500.00

01/12/2024 23745 MON VALLEY INDEPENDENT - 80.60

01/12/2024 23746 O’REILLY AUTO PARTS - 30.45

01/12/2024 23747 ORKIN EXTERMINATING - 270.84

01/12/2024 23748 PEOPLES NATURAL GAS - 333.30

01/12/2024 23749 QUILL - 500.71

01/12/2024 23750 RICOH USA - 149.42

01/12/2024 23751 SAFESECUR LLC - 832.50

01/12/2024 23752 SHERWIN WILLIAMS CO - 50.16

01/12/2024 23753 SOUTHEAST REGIONAL EMS - 11,775.00

01/12/2024 23754 SPECIALTY CLEANING SERVICE - 240.00

01/12/2024 23755 POSTMASTER - 132.00

01/12/2024 23756 JAMES MARTIS/SCOTT LAUTNER - 12,500.00

01/12/2024 23757 T-MOBILE - 175.83

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**List of Bills to Pay:**

**Sewer Fund**

01/24/2024 PA AMERICAN WATER - 1,152.92

**Highway Fund**

01/24/2024 CARGRILL - 9,467.12

**General Fund**

01/24/2024 AMERICAN NATURAL SUPPLY - 2,815.56

01/24/2024 CMA - 250.00

01/24/2024 DERKAS AUTO SERVICE - 4,952.94

01/24/2024 NOGA SERVICES - 580.72

01/24/2024 ONE DIGITAL - 100.00

01/24/2024 PA AMERICAN WATER - 1,195.78

01/24/2024 PEST B GONE - 300.00

01/24/2024 SINGER PAINT & GLASS IN - 14,698.00

01/24/2024 STEEL RIVERS COG - 4,927.40

01/24/2024 SUMMIT FIRE & SAFETY - 673.55

01/24/2024 WESTCOM WIRELESS - 55.00

**PERSONNEL:** Tim Sloss

**Motion to ratify** the hiring of part time police officer Joseph Pocsatko for the Liberty Borough Police Department effective January 2, 2024**.**

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

**All in favor. Motion carries.**

**Motion to ratify** the hiring of part time police officer Frank Barreiro for the Liberty Borough Police Department effective January 2, 2024**.**

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

**All in favor. Motion carries.**

**Motion to ratify** the hiring of part time police officer Andrew Telegdy for the Liberty Borough Police Department effective January 16, 2024**.**

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

**All in favor. Motion carries.**

**Motion to ratify** the hiring of part time police officer Matthew Mayersky for the Liberty Borough Police Department effective January 16, 2024**.**

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

**Motion to ratify** the hiring of part time police officer Scott Kercher for the Liberty Borough Police Department effective January 16, 2024**.**

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

**All in favor. Motion carries.**

Mr. Sloss stated that the Borough of Liberty is still accepting applications for the full-time Borough Secretary.

**STREETS AND SEWERS:** Tim Sloss

Mr. Sloss had nothing to report.

Mr. Zrenchak informed everyone that the new pump station was installed last Thursday, January 18, 2024, and is online. He said there are still some minor tweaks such as the electric board and paving. They are waiting for the weather to break to finish the project up. Mr. Matlos said they are also putting up the fence soon.

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

Mr. Zrenchak informed everyone that Mayor Sikorski is not present tonight so that there will not be a report from the Chief of Police.

**SOLICITOR’S REPORT:** Mr. Racunas

Solicitor Mr. Racunas had no action items for this month.

**ENGINEER’S REPORT:** Lou Corrales

Mr. Corrales reported that E & Robert Street Storm Sewer rebid was advertised on January 18, 2024, and the bid opening will be on February 5, 2024, at 10:00 am.

Mr. Corrales stated that the notice of award was sent to Paliotto Contracting for the Liberty Way Slide. He said that have received the contract, insurance certificates, and performance bonds, which he will provide to Liberty Borough tonight. Glenn Engineering has sent a notice to proceed, and Mr. Corrales will notify the Borough of the start date of the project. Once the Liberty Borough Slide Project is completed, they will move forward with the paving of Liberty Way from Glenn Avenue to bend at Latrobe Street

Mr. Corrales reported that Glenn Engineering has completed all the specs and plans for the Walnut Storm Sewer Project. The advertisement went out for bids on January 18 and 25, 2024, and the bid openings will be on February 5, 2024, at 10:15 am. He said they are still figuring out the MS4 credits for the mandates that we should be able to receive for that when that project is completed. Mr. Corrales also stated that we applied for some LSA Grants in the amount of $510, 171.00 and we will know whether we received any of them in late 2024. He said that Mr. Zrenchak already gave the report on the pump station. Mr. Corrales said that Glenn Engineer received plans on dugouts for LBAA and they are reviewing, and they looked good. He will get the plans and letter over to Liberty as soon as he can. He asked if anyone had any questions.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Mr. Zrenchak stated that Council is asking for Letters of Interest for the Zoning Board (1 Seats) and Planning Commission (2 seats). Mr. Zrenchak said if anyone was interested in volunteering for any of these seats to please submit a letter to Ms. Leber.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Motion to exonerate** the Liberty Borough tax collector from delinquent taxes and to forward all the delinquent taxes to the delinquent tax collector Keystone Collection Group.

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

**All in favor. Motion carries.**

Mr. Zrenchak asked if anyone had any other items they would like to discuss.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

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

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

**All in favor. Motion carries.**

**Motion to accept** the typed minutes form the January 2, 2024, Reorganization Meeting

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

**All in favor. Motion carries**.

Next meeting dates/times: Work Session Meeting – Wednesday, February 14, 2024, and the Regular Session Meeting -- Wednesday, February 28, 2024, at 6:00 pm.

**Motion** to adjourn at 6:16 p.m.

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

**All in favor. Motion carries.**

**Meeting adjourned at 6:16 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted by:

Jamie Leber

Office Assistant