

**MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION OF COUNCIL  
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 8, 2018**

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Regular session of Borough Council convened at 7:30 pm. Present were Councilors Janice Matyasovsky, Tim Sloss, Mike Zrenchak, Mike Matlos, Chris Ponchak, and Melissa Morgan; Mayor Larry Sikorski; Solicitor Matt Racunas; and Engineer Don Glenn.

Four representatives from Duquesne Light were present: David Lauteri, Matthew Bucek, P.E., Lawrence Wallace, and Earl Elder. They were here to present some information and answer questions. Mr. Lauteri said they acknowledge the outages and the issues with the grid here. They want to work with us and explain some of the issues. Mr. Bucek thanked the borough for the opportunity to come out and explain. There were a number of outages affecting the area. During last night's storm, there were about 8-10 lightning strikes. They have been working to collect data and do an evaluation of their facilities in the area. One of the largest causes of outages has been vegetation. Off right-of-way trees and hillsides in private yards may cause the problem, but they don't have the right to cut them. They did come around to maintain the lines, by cutting brush back. Usually, they do vegetation management every five years, and next year is the fifth year, so they will be coming back for more aggressive cutting then. They have also evaluated repairs on the distribution system; they identified some items that needed to be repaired. Mr. Wallace said it is not just a visual evaluation. They have state-of-the-art technology, infrared equipment, and it checks every circuit that is involved with Liberty Borough, and identifies where they can make repairs. All repairs were expedited and are done; there were multiple crews working here. Mr. Bucek said council had mentioned that there were some questions about the new substation, which was replaced in June 2017 due to a failure. The substation is actually a bigger version of a transformer; it doesn't create power. It does have circuit breakers and if there are lightning strikes around the facility, which they verify with AcuWeather, there will be a fault and the breaker will trip. Once they verify that everything is safe, they will re-energize the lines. If a line is down due to a motor vehicle accident, they will de-energize the service. Mr. Wallace said they had a report of a tree down in last night's storm. If there is no specific place to go to start the restoration, they start at the substation and look at the circuit before they re-energize. But they first have to confirm there is no other issue. Mr. Bucek said there are three different circuits that service Liberty Borough. They then opened the floor for questions and comments from the audience.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS.**

**Robert Black, 2801 Liberty Way,** asked what progress has been made since last month on the sewage issues. Mr. Zrenchak said he understands that PA American has put in to rebuild the Port Vue pump station; currently they are running a generator/pump in there, so they should not lose power. During last night's storm, Mr. Zrenchak said he was riding around checking inlets, to see where some of the flows are going, so they can address these issues and start to build a plan. You have to get out there during a

storm to see what is going on. You don't want to dwell in the past, but this problem has existed for 60 some years. A lot of the blocks, near Woodrow and Valley Ridge, there can be 700' to 800' with no inlets. During a storm, the water picks up speed and shoots over the top of the inlet. No one wants to hear that the weather is changing, but it is true. Mostly everything he saw last night was taking in what it is supposed to. He would like to get some inlets cleaned. Mrs. Morgan said Mr. Glenn will touch on this in his report, also. Mr. Black said that storm water is bad enough; sewer backups are totally different.

**Donna Giles, 2717 A Street**, said she is right beside the landslide. Now there is no curb in front of her driveway, and the water runs down Roberts and A Streets into a ditch in front of her driveway, about 2' wide and 1' deep, and it is undermining the street. It is getting worse every time it rains. The gravel in her driveway has washed away. Is there anything they can do? Mrs. Morgan said it was discussed at the Work Session, and Mr. Glenn will look into it.

**Lavina Kerklo, 3227 Liberty Way**, said that last night when it was lightning and thundering, the lightning came down and she thought it struck her house. The sky was completely filled with orange light; she thought it might be a fire, but she didn't know what to do. Mrs. Morgan said she saw it also; it was the flame from Irvin Works.

**Ann Marie Sowa, 2900 Valley Street**, said she was walking with the dog, and a lot of the sewer system grates where the sewers run through have grass growing very high. Mr. Zrenchak said they are storm sewer inlets. Mr. Zrenchak said he saw some issues when he was out during the storm and will take care of it. Mrs. Sowa thanked Mr. Zrenchak.

**Rick Gobel, 185 Wunderley Drive**, inquired if there has been any progress with the old Liberty Way School. Mrs. Morgan said it is still in bankruptcy. Mr. Gobel said the solicitor can verify, but he believes the bankruptcy court would turn it over to the borough. Mr. Zrenchak asked why would the borough want to take possession of a building that is going to cost \$ 650,000 to take it down? Mr. Gobel said he heard it has asbestos, but that is just kicking the can down the street; that problem is always going to be there. Mr. Zrenchak said the owner needs to be addressed to do something. Mr. Gobel said to work on getting a grant. Mr. Zrenchak said that would be a waste of grant money; he would prefer to put the money into the storm sewer system to correct some of the issues people are having, not in tearing a building down that we have no use of.

**Scott Wilks**, whose mother lives at 725 Elm Street, thanked the borough and Street Department for taking care of the no name alley, so she can get her vehicle out of the garage. Recently, the alley has become overgrown with vegetation, mostly grass, and mud from the storm and it makes it difficult for her to get out. Water is running down the alley, onto her driveway and into the garage. Mr. Wilks said he thinks the alley just needs scraped to get rid of the vegetation and asked if the Street Department can look at it; he would appreciate it.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS.**

**PROPERTY.**

There was no report in absence of Mrs. Weigand.

**POLICE.** Mr. Ponchak, Chairman, reporting.

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

Vehicle mileage:

|               | BEGIN | END   | MILEAGE |
|---------------|-------|-------|---------|
| Unit #130     | 82131 | 83248 | 1117    |
| Unit #131     | 26323 | 27768 | 1445    |
| Unit #132     | 55839 | 56467 | 628     |
| Total mileage |       |       | 3190    |

Vehicle Maintenance:

Unit 130

- Fan replaced

Unit 131

- Oil change, brakes, and rotors

Unit 132

- None

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

Total calls: 20

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| Fires               | 6 |
| Rescue & EMS        | 5 |
| Hazardous Condition | 2 |
| Service Call        | 2 |
| Good Intent         | 2 |
| False Alarm/Call    | 3 |

Mr. Ponchak made a motion to hire Craig Gibson as a part-time police officer, with a one-year probation period, effective immediately. The motion was seconded by Mr. Matlos and passed unanimously.

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

There was nothing to report.

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

Mrs. Morgan made a motion to donate \$600 for a stage for the Firemen's Fall Festival on September 14 and 15, as they have done in the past. The motion was seconded by Mr. Matlos and passed unanimously.

**HEALTH & ORDINANCE.** Mr. Sloss, Chairman, reporting.

There was nothing to report.

**LIGHTS.** Mr. Matlos, Chairman, reporting.

There was nothing to report.

**FINANCE.** Mrs. Matyasovsky, Chairman, reporting.

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

|                                                                   |          |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| American Legal Services – police insurance [August]               | \$ 43.44 |
| Barrier Protection Systems – keys for Maintenance Garage and pump | 20.17    |
| Building Inspection Underwriters – building inspection [June]     | 220.00   |
| CNH Capital (Groff Tractor) – latch for backhoe                   | 14.10    |
| Dearborn National – life insurance [8/1/18 – 10/31/18]            | 232.20   |
| Dickman Directories – Criss-Cross Directory [police]              | 201.60   |
| Direct Energy – EMS                                               | 38.13    |
| Direct Energy – garage                                            | 92.86    |
| Direct Energy – Municipal Building                                | 387.15   |
| Direct Energy – pump station                                      | 180.77   |
| Dravosburg Truck & Auto – hydro hose / labor                      | 415.90   |
| EconoSigns – post / bracket / street sign                         | 234.51   |
| First Commonwealth Bank – loan payment [PW truck]                 | 1,301.99 |
| First Commonwealth Bank – loan payment [2015 street paving]       | 3,686.14 |
| Liberty Boro Auto Sales – oil change [unmarked]                   | 54.88    |
| MCI – long distance                                               | 29.47    |
| Orkin – sewers                                                    | 207.92   |
| PA American Water – consumption data                              | 66.04    |
| PA American Water – EMS                                           | 16.75    |
| PA American Water – garage                                        | 183.74   |
| PA American Water – Municipal Building                            | 42.86    |
| Racunas Law Group, LLC – Solicitor fees [June]                    | 2,697.00 |
| Ricoh – copier maintenance                                        | 38.22    |
| S & D Calibration – Acutrak certification                         | 26.00    |
| SA Football Boosters – program ad                                 | 50.00    |
| Sprint – mobile laptop                                            | 40.24    |
| TruGreen – grub control (ball fields)                             | 695.05   |
| TruGreen – lawn service (ball fields)                             | 463.37   |
| UPMC Health Plan – health insurance [August]                      | 2,485.26 |
| Verizon – garage                                                  | 54.58    |

|                                                                  |        |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| WestComm Wireless – radio maintenance                            | 55.00  |
| Zrenchak Environmental Services – pump station inspection [June] | 805.00 |

**TOTAL RATIFIED BILLS** **\$15,080.34**

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

|                                                                  |             |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| American Natural – diesel                                        | \$ 709.68   |
| American Natural – gasoline                                      | 1,644.98    |
| Am Trust North America – Worker’s Comp installment               | \$ 4,099.00 |
| Aqua Filter Fresh – bottled water                                | 56.47       |
| Collura, Dave – wildlife control [July]                          | 140.00      |
| Comcast – Internet [police office]                               | 163.81      |
| Commonwealth of PA – annual service fee, Wastewater System       | 65.00       |
| Duquesne Light – street lights                                   | 3,183.73    |
| EconoSigns – signs                                               | 51.07       |
| EconoSigns – signs                                               | 282.15      |
| Glenn Engineering – general engineering                          | 2,865.00    |
| Glenn Engineering – sewage                                       | 435.00      |
| Home Depot – supplies for Street Dept                            | 169.16      |
| Mr. John – 1 @ Latrobe Park [7/20/18 – 8/16/18]                  | 118.00      |
| Mr. John – 2 @ Manor Park [7/20/18 – 8/16/18]                    | 236.00      |
| O’Reilly Auto Parts – garage supplies                            | 76.43       |
| Office Depot – police toner / general office supplies            | 341.65      |
| PA American Water – shut-offs / reconnects                       | 120.00      |
| PA American Water – fire hydrants                                | 1,097.18    |
| Partyka, Jim – reimburse commode seat                            | 22.45       |
| PA Municipal Service Co – 2 <sup>nd</sup> quarter sewage billing | 911.84      |
| Peoples Gas – EMS                                                | 21.21       |
| Peoples Gas – Municipal Building                                 | 21.21       |
| Peoples Gas – garage                                             | 21.21       |
| RA Foster & Son – janitor supplies                               | 168.50      |
| RC Walter - garage supplies                                      | 22.41       |
| Ricoh – copier lease                                             | 114.95      |
| Sprint – cell phones                                             | 89.16       |
| TEC Benefits – benefits admin                                    | 30.00       |
| Zrenchak Environmental Services – pump station inspection [July] | 490.00      |

**TOTAL BILLS** **\$17,767.25**

Mr. Ponchak made a motion to accept the ratified bills and the list of bills. The motion was seconded by Mr. Matlos and passed, with Mr. Zrenchak abstaining on the bills for Zrenchak Environmental Services in the amounts of \$ 805 and \$ 490.

The receipts for the month of July are as follows:

**GENERAL FUND**

|                                       |           |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| Real Estate Tax – Aquilante           | 40,906.12 |
| Fire Tax – Aquilante                  | 5,843.72  |
| Delinquent Real Estate Tax – Keystone | 5,152.12  |
| Act 77 Tax Refund                     | 6,988.17  |
| Real Estate Transfer Tax              | 1,190.70  |
| Earned Income Tax – Keystone          | 11,269.23 |
| Local Services Tax                    | 57.04     |
| Zoning/Building Permits               | 80.15     |
| Zoning/Occupancy Permits              | 0.00      |
| Dye Test Permits                      | 0.00      |
| Police Fines                          | 118.86    |
| No Lien Letters                       | 0.00      |
| Police Reports                        | 0.00      |
| Fun-To-Be-A-Kid Day Donations         | 500.00    |
| Right-of-Way – Duquesne Light         | 210.00    |
| Right-to-Know Request                 | 1.50      |
| Annual Dividend – EMC Insurance       | 187.76    |

**TOTAL RECEIPTS FOR THE MONTH** **\$ 72,505.37**

**GENERAL FUND**

**REGISTER BALANCE** **\$ 22,605.02**

**GENERAL FUND SAVINGS**

Interest 177.07

**REGISTER BALANCE** **654,587.29**

**SEWER FUND**

Customer Payments 6,145.38

Surcharge 533.70

**REGISTER BALANCE** **\$ 62,019.63**

**HIGHWAY AID FUND**

Interest 14.34

**REGISTER BALANCE** **\$ 46,630.91**

Mrs. Matyasovsky called for a motion to accept the proposal for the liability insurance package from Allied Public Risk in the amount of \$59,716. Mr. Matlos made the motion, seconded by Mr. Zrenchak, and the motion passed unanimously.

**PERSONNEL.** Mrs. Matyasovsky, Chairman, reporting.

There was nothing to report.

**STREETS & SEWERS.** Mr. Zrenchak, Chairman, reporting.

The contracts for the PennVest loan project were sent over and signed by the borough. There will be a pre-construction meeting next Wednesday at 10:00 am.

Mr. Glenn updated his study on storm sewer issues at the Oakland-Glendale areas for a 100-year storm event. Mr. Zrenchak will review it and update at next month's meeting.

Council will review the streets for paving and inform Mr. Glenn of their decision.

Mr. Zrenchak is recommending cleaning some inlets, especially Liberty Way, since it was tarred and chipped.

**MAYOR SIKORSKI'S REPORT.**

Mr. Sikorski highlighted the following police activity from the July report:

|                          |    |    |
|--------------------------|----|----|
| Calls for Service        |    | 20 |
| Alarms                   | 13 |    |
| Crimes Against Persons   |    | 8  |
| Harassment Complaints    | 5  |    |
| Assaults                 | 3  |    |
| Property Crimes          |    | 5  |
| Traffic Accidents        | 1  |    |
| Traffic Violations       | 14 |    |
| Traffic Citations Issued |    | 5  |
| Junk/Abandoned Vehicles  |    |    |
| Removed by Owner         |    | 1  |

**SOLICITOR RACUNAS'S REPORT.**

There was nothing to report.

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

There was a snag with the permit for the fuel tanks; DEP will not issue the permit since the fuel delivery system is a pressurized system. Mr. Glenn worked with the fuel delivery people for the last three months; three different people were out. Mr. Glenn inquired if the fuel could be delivered under a gravity system, but it can't be done. It has to be a pressurized system, so we will have to replace two overfill valves. Unless they are replaced, DEP will not give us a permit. Total Tank Works, who did preliminary work on the system, provided a proposal in the amount of \$3,500. Mr. Glenn called for a motion to accept the proposal, if council wishes to proceed. Mr. Zrenchak said he would like to add to the motion that they get a second quote from McRo in Elizabeth, which is the firm that did the training. Mr. Zrenchak made the motion, seconded by Mr. Matlos, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Glenn said he completed the 100-year storm event study for the Oakland/Glendale area, which was originally prepared in 2014, based on a 25-year storm event, and has turned the report over to council. If the project is implemented, the cost is estimated at about one-half million dollars. There is another 12" line that may be ours, that has to do with a retention pond. He will have to do some research, and if it is the borough's responsibility, another \$200,000 to \$300,000 will have to be added to the estimate. Mr. Zrenchak said these costs are just to touch one little area. It is not touching what is going on all over the borough. Everywhere the attitude has been out of sight, out of mind. By not raising taxes or rates slightly each year, no money has been put aside for these projects. We have to get all the facts before just jumping in. If we proceed without knowing all the facts, and after the first rain event we find out it didn't correct the issue, we are back in the same boat. It isn't going to happen overnight. The permitting process alone will take from 9-18 months. There is a lot involved. When you are talking about that sum of money, you want it fixed correctly, so there is no problem moving forward.

There was no Old Business, New Business, or Correspondence.

Mr. Ponchak made a motion to accept the typed minutes from the Regular Session on July 11, 2018. The motion was seconded by Mr. Matlos and passed unanimously.

The next meeting date is September 12, 2018, with the Work Session at 6:00 pm and the Regular Session at 7:30 pm.

Before adjourning, Mrs. Morgan wanted to remind everyone that Fun-To-Be-A-Kid Day will be held on Saturday, August 18, behind the Fire Hall. There will be no cost to the borough; all funds came from donations. We have over \$3,100 to date.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Morgan, seconded by Mr. Ponchak. All were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra L. Helderlein  
Borough Secretary