

**MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION OF COUNCIL  
WEDNESDAY, JULY 12, 2017**

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

**PUBLIC COMMENTS.**

**Stacey Salzmman, 3108 Valley Ridge Rd**, had submitted a written statement to council regarding a stray cat that bit her dog and neighbor, and has tested positive for rabies. Since the letter was given, she was informed that she, her husband, and daughter must get rabies shots, also. Mrs. Salzmman had several questions regarding the animal control officer and how calls are answered. Mr. Racunas asked Mrs. Salzmman to write all of her questions down, and he will submit them to the animal control officer. Mr. Sikorski said they need stronger laws against cats. **Sherri Peterson, 3106 Valley Ridge Rd**, said she was the neighbor who was bitten twice by the cat, and she is going through the rabies shots. Ms. Peterson said they were bit on Monday; Officer Johnson called the animal control officer. Since she didn't hear anything, Ms. Peterson called the animal control officer on Wednesday, who yelled at her and said she was so tired of people yelling at her. Ms. Peterson said she hadn't heard anything and was afraid. She didn't know what she was supposed to do; that is why she called Ms. Gaydos-Behanna. Ms. Gaydos-Behanna told Ms. Peterson that "no news is good news". Ms. Peterson thanked Stacey (Salzmman) for giving her name and phone number to the Health Department; if it wasn't for them, no one would have called her. Lt. Johnson was in the audience and said he had forwarded a copy of the police report to Ms. Gaydos-Behanna, so she had all of the information, and she said she would handle the situation. Mr. Sikorski said it is a shame that there has to be a catastrophe before we move on something. Mr. Sikorski thinks we should pass laws similar to what is in place for dogs. **Cathy Beadling, 2805 A Street**, said she researched cat laws. Some states have laws. If the County does not have laws, the borough can do it. Allegheny County does not have laws. Mrs. Beadling said something needs to be done. Mr. Sikorski said the Code of Ordinances should be adopted at the next meeting; we need stricter laws for animals. Donna Priselac said she does not live here now, but this is her home town, and it breaks her heart to see what is going on. She belongs to a homeless cat management team, which Traps, Neuters, and Releases (TNR) cats. This eliminates more kittens and takes care of the rabies issue. If you try to eradicate feral cats, it creates a vacuum effect, and in six months, there will be just as many back. By using TNR, the cats are not reproducing, and the number will dwindle down. This is another option. So they could move on with the meeting, Mr. Racunas recommended that Ms. Priselac get in touch with the Mayor, and they can set up a Q & A meeting.

**Robert Black, 2801 Liberty Way**, said he had three feet of sewage in his basement during the storm and is still trying to recover from it. He has \$25,000-\$30,000 in damage, and it is still growing. Mr. Black asked what the borough is going to do about it. Mr. Black said he understands that the problem started about fifteen years ago when

they relined the sewers; the plastic pipe was undersized and causes periodic flooding. Mr. Black said he heard they are going to have a bond issue to repair all the sewage lines, since there are illegal cross ties between the storm and sewage lines. Mr. Sikorski said he had a copy of Mr. Black's complaint form, but it only referenced the catch basin on Roberts Street. Mr. Sikorski said they are working on relining the pipes and doing what is necessary to bring the sewer system up to Act 537 specifications. There are several steps we must take. First, we have to appropriate the money. Second, we are going to need a time extension. Mr. Glenn said that of the last 64 dye tests performed, there were 26 violations. The 8" sewer line is well able to handle all of the sewage, but there are lots of homes where the storm water is directed into the sanitary sewer, which it cannot handle. The borough is doing dye testing, which will mandate that people with illegal discharge to the sewage lines remove it. We had borough inlets which were illegally tapped into the sanitary sewer; we are taking them out. Mr. Black said there are also problems with the catch basins. At the corner of Roberts Street and Liberty Way, a sink hole that started last year with the line coming down from F Street undermined his yard, which left a 3' sink hole, and also left a sink hole in the cross-walk, which has gotten bigger. The temporary solution was to throw cold patch in there, but the leak has got to be addressed. Mr. Sikorski said he will send that complaint to Street Department; he did see another one at Roberts Street. The old style catch basins were made with bricks, and some have caved in. The replacements are made as a one-piece unit, so they will not have that problem. Mr. Sikorski said he also has been pressing to get the dye testing done; there are only two guys on the Street Department, so they hired another one to cut grass.

**Dennis Skotnicki, 2419 Latrobe Street**, asked if that complaint form is picked up at the borough building; Mr. Sikorski said yes. Mr. Skotnicki said he has been up here several times, but no one told him about it. From the June 13 storm, he had four and one-half feet of water in his garage and basement; this can't keep happening. On other occasions, he has had 10-14" of water. Mr. Skotnicki said he has two french drains, which can handle normal rain fall. When the street was re-asphalted, they made the point of least resistance his driveway, so when it rains and the two catch basins can't take all of the water, it overflows and goes towards his driveway. Mr. Sikorski said our crew has built up curbs in other areas when they have received complaints; they could do the same there. Mr. Skotnicki said he has asked for cold patch, but the Street Department told him the Engineer monitors the paving and there is nothing wrong with it. Mrs. Weigand asked Mr. Ponchak to talk with the guys tomorrow. Mr. Skotnicki said his insurance won't cover the damage; this can't continue. He was able to salvage his furnace and hot water heater.

**Jesse Lape, 1027 Glenn Avenue**, had some questions about the flooding on June 13 and 15. The borough dredged it out, but the road is still caving in and there is still garbage all through the drainage channel. Every time it rains, it comes over the hillside; he has pictures of it. It's going to continue happening, and he wondered if there had been any communications with Port Vue about it. Mr. Sikorski said that Port Vue doesn't have a meeting in July, so he has to wait until they get back into session. He had talked with a few of the councilors, and they were interested in working with us to get done what is needed, and will split the bills with us. We will probably need to do a

survey on the income, and apply for a grant. Mrs. Weigand had asked Mr. Glenn about it at the Work Session. Mr. Glenn said there is not going to be any FEMA or PEMA grant money at this time; the county needed to have \$4.2 million countywide to qualify, and they didn't achieve it. DEP has been out and there has been some dialogue between them and Port Vue. Mr. Glenn said he has sent RFPs out regarding damage to the street; he should have the report next week. Mr. Lape asked if they would include the drain pipe that comes through his yard to the drain channel; Mr. Glenn said it will include the Rip-Rap. Mr. Lape said a drainage channel comes down from Kollar Drive and Washington Blvd. The previous owner of his property piped into an 18" line, into Port Vue's drainage channel, which is in front of his house. That 18" pipe isn't big enough for what comes down over the hill. Mr. Lape said he had talked with Don Glenn and Joe Dursa about it; also, the catch basin needs replaced, Mrs. Morgan asked Mr. Lape if he has addressed Port Vue about the dump; Mr. Lape said yes. DEP and the Health Department are aware, also. Mr. Lape says he knows it is a process, but Port Vue is bringing down garbage to Liberty Borough residents and wanted council to be aware of it. He couldn't sell his house if he wanted to. Mr. Sikorski said Mr. Glenn informed them they are not permitted to dredge the creek, but can only remove debris. It is a complicated process to dredge, and they would have to obtain a \$2,000 permit. Mr. Sikorski said they won't let this situation die. Mr. Lape asked if there were any other routes to get money. Mr. Sikorski said there are channels to go through, and everyone tells us there is no money. Port Vue has to be involved.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS.**

**PROPERTY.** Mr. Gretz, Chairman, reporting.

Mr. Gretz made a motion to authorize \$150 for an appraisal of borough property. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Matyasovsky and passed unanimously.

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

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

Vehicle mileage:

|               | BEGIN | END   | MILEAGE |
|---------------|-------|-------|---------|
| Unit #130     | 63353 | 65026 | 1673    |
| Unit #131     | 16216 | 16954 | 738     |
| Unit #133     | 44506 | 46000 | 1494    |
| Total mileage |       |       | 3905    |

Vehicle Maintenance:

Unit 130

- Replaced burnt bulb

Unit 131

- Battery

Unit 132

- Oil change; rotate tires; front brakes and rotors; storm damage repair

Other Equipment:

- None

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

Total calls: 40

|                     |    |
|---------------------|----|
| Fires               | 2  |
| Rescue and EMS      | 5  |
| Hazardous Condition | 4  |
| Service Call        | 2  |
| Good Intent Call    | 5  |
| False Alarm/Call    | 2  |
| Severe Weather      | 20 |

Mr. Ponchak said there were prior questions about the Fire Department response times. To date for 2017, calls averages 3 minutes, 49 seconds per the county CAD, and 3 minutes 32 seconds so far this month. John Lewis, a resident in the audience, asked where he can get that information. Mr. Derr said he can see him.

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

Mr. Ponchak had nothing to report.

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

Mrs. Morgan had nothing to report.

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

Mrs. Matyasovsky had nothing to report, but made a motion to designate the Valley Mirror as the official newspaper of the Borough. Jen Burke, a reporter from the Valley Mirror, is here tonight. We don't have the Daily News anymore. The paper is printed once a week, and is available on Thursdays. Mr. Sikorski said the paper can be bought at the Dairy Store and gas station. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Morgan and passed unanimously.

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

Mr. Sikorski had nothing to report.

**FINANCE.** Mr. Sloss reporting.

Mr. Sloss presented the Bills for Ratification, as follows:

|                                                                   |          |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| American Legal Services – police insurance [July]                 | \$ 43.44 |
| Am Trust North America – Worker's Comp insurance                  | 3,916.60 |
| Blue Ridge Nursery – top soil [Municipal Bldg]                    | 36.38    |
| First Commonwealth Bank – loan payment [PW truck]                 | 1,301.99 |
| First Commonwealth Bank – loan payment [2015 street paving]       | 3,686.14 |
| Gaydos-Behanna Kennel – animal control [April]                    | 75.00    |
| Gaydos-Behanna Kennel – animal control [May]                      | 75.00    |
| MCI – long distance                                               | 29.91    |
| PA American Water –consumption data                               | 64.68    |
| PA American Water – EMS                                           | 16.11    |
| PA American Water – garage                                        | 73.36    |
| PA American Water – Municipal Building                            | 35.16    |
| Racunas Law Group, LLC – Solicitor fees [May]                     | 2,976.00 |
| Ricoh – copier maintenance                                        | 38.22    |
| Russell Standard – cold patch                                     | 269.28   |
| Sprint – mobile laptop                                            | 40.24    |
| Thir Heating & Cooling – replace capacitor on both A/C roof units | 530.00   |
| UPMC Health Plan – health insurance [July]                        | 2,261.39 |
| Verizon – pump station                                            | 33.49    |
| WestComm Wireless – police radios                                 | 55.00    |
| Zrenchak Environmental Services – pump station inspection [May]   | 315.00   |

**TOTAL RATIFIED BILLS** **\$ 15,872.39**

Mr. Sloss presented the list of bills, as follows:

|                                                                  |           |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Allegheny County Conservation District – PennVest Project        | \$ 700.00 |
| American Natural – diesel                                        | 651.40    |
| American Natural – gasoline                                      | 1,688.59  |
| Aqua Filter Fresh – bottled water                                | 19.93     |
| Collura, Dave – wildlife control [June]                          | 140.00    |
| Comcast – phones / Internet                                      | 283.57    |
| Comcast – Internet [police office]                               | 123.81    |
| Commonwealth of PA – wastewater system annual service fee        | 65.00     |
| Conney Safety – items for Public Works                           | 152.29    |
| Direct Energy – EMS                                              | 66.84     |
| Direct Energy – garage                                           | 82.19     |
| Direct Energy – Municipal Building                               | 386.60    |
| Direct Energy – pump station                                     | 165.35    |
| Duquesne Light – street lights                                   | 3,177.36  |
| Gilmore, Edward M – removal of seven trees/debris [storm damage] | 1,550.00  |
| Glenn Engineering – engineering                                  | 580.00    |
| Glenn Engineering – Act 537                                      | 210.00    |
| Glenn Engineering – MS4s                                         | 367.50    |
| Glenn Engineering – PennVest                                     | 4,375.00  |
| Glenn Engineering – 2017 flooding                                | 2,260.00  |

|                                                          |          |
|----------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Mr John – Latrobe Park [6/23/17 – 7/20/17]               | 118.00   |
| Mr John – (2) Manor Park [6/23/17- 7/20/17]              | 236.00   |
| O'Reilly Auto Parts – Ford truck parts                   | 37.98    |
| PA American Water – fire hydrants                        | 1,173.57 |
| PA Municipal Service Co – sheriff sale claims (2 @ \$50) | 100.00   |
| PA One Call – notices                                    | 3.60     |
| Paul's Auto Service – police vehicles                    | 1,740.16 |
| Peoples Gas – EMS                                        | 21.26    |
| Peoples Gas – garage                                     | 20.51    |
| Peoples Gas – Municipal Building                         | 22.03    |
| PSAB – 2 <sup>nd</sup> quarter unemployment tax          | 848.09   |
| Quill – copy paper and police toner                      | 95.35    |
| Quill – name plate [Sloss]                               | 11.79    |
| RC Walter – Ground Clear and sprayer                     | 78.77    |
| Ricoh – copier lease                                     | 114.95   |
| Sherwin Williams – supplies for line painting            | 51.17    |
| Sprint – cell phones                                     | 124.70   |
| Steel Rivers COG – street sweeper [2.5 hours @ \$85]     | 212.50   |
| TEC Benefits – benefits admin [August]                   | 30.00    |
| TEC Benefits – deductible reimbursement [Takaht]         | 4.50     |
| TruGreen – treatment at fields                           | 452.07   |
| TruGreen – grub control at fields                        | 678.10   |

**TOTAL BILLS** **\$23,220.53**

Mr. Sloss made a motion to accept the ratified bills and the list of bills. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ponchak and passed unanimously.

Mr. Sloss made a motion to pay the following three additional bills:

- Municipal Authority of West Newton, \$ 625.00
- Edward M Gilmore, \$3,480.00
- PA Turnpike Commission, \$26.95

The motion was seconded by Mrs. Morgan and passed unanimously.

The receipts for the month of June are as follows:

**GENERAL FUND**

|                                       |            |
|---------------------------------------|------------|
| Real Estate Tax – Aquilante           | 231,253.57 |
| Fire Tax – Aquilante                  | 40,809.43  |
| Delinquent Real Estate Tax – Keystone | 4,555.07   |
| Act 77 Tax Refund                     | 6,108.16   |
| Real Estate Transfer Tax              | 2,655.80   |
| Earned Income Tax – Keystone          | 30,135.86  |
| Local Services Tax                    | 0.00       |

|                                       |          |
|---------------------------------------|----------|
| Zoning/Building Permits               | 30.00    |
| Zoning/Occupancy Permits              | 120.00   |
| Dye Test Permits                      | 150.00   |
| Police Fines                          | 1,301.68 |
| No Lien Letters                       | 60.00    |
| Reimburse Electric – ETA EMS          | 143.46   |
| Police Reports                        | 30.00    |
| Sale of 2004 Dump Truck – Paul’s Auto | 3,556.00 |

**TOTAL RECEIPTS FOR THE MONTH \$ 320,909.03**

**GENERAL FUND**

**REGISTER BALANCE \$ 62,216.21**

**GENERAL FUND SAVINGS**

Interest 14.30

**REGISTER BALANCE 430,723.83**

**SEWER FUND**

Customer Payments 25,940.24

Surcharge 2,772.84

Transfer from General Fund 1,500.00

**REGISTER BALANCE \$ 118.22**

**HIGHWAY AID FUND**

Interest .85

**REGISTER BALANCE \$ 49,659.31**

**PERSONNEL.**

There was nothing to report.

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

Mr. Gretz made a motion to have the wet well cleaned and the #2 vacuum pump replaced at the pump station. It is essential that it is done, and Mr. Zrenchak estimates the cost to be around \$2,700-\$3,000. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ponchak and passed unanimously.

**MAYOR WEIGAND'S REPORT.**

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

|                              |    |
|------------------------------|----|
| Calls for Service            | 58 |
| Crimes Against Persons       | 3  |
| Property Crimes              | 4  |
| Traffic Related Incidents    | 38 |
| Summary of Arrests           | 25 |
| Traffic Citations Issued     | 6  |
| Non-Traffic Citations Issued | 19 |
| Assist Other Departments     | 27 |
| Assist By Other Departments  | 12 |

**SOLICITOR RACUNAS'S REPORT.**

Mr. Racunas presented Resolution 2017-09, appointing Timothy Sloss as a member of council for the seat vacated by Dave Cochran. Mrs. Morgan made a motion to adopt the resolution. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Matyasovsky and passed unanimously.

Mr. Racunas presented a Memorandum of Understanding with South Allegheny School District and the borough Police Department. This is an item that is approved every two years and addresses police incidents at the school and who will respond. Mrs. Matyasovsky made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Morgan and passed unanimously.

**ENGINEER GLENN'S REPORT.**

All items were discussed at the Work Session.

**OLD BUSINESS.**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS.**

None.

**CORRESPONDENCE.**

None.



Mr. Ponchak made a motion to accept the typed minutes from the Regular Session on June 14, 2017. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Morgan and passed unanimously.

Mr. Sikorski set the next meeting date and times for Wednesday, August 9, 2017, with the Work Session at 6:00 pm, and the Regular Session at 7:30 pm.

Mr. Ponchak said in regards to the cat situation, Lt. Johnson called Ms. Gaydos-Behanna and she will be out with traps.

Resident Lavina Kerklo was in the audience and wanted to commend Mrs. Morgan on the nice job she did with the Memorial Service held for the veterans.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Morgan and seconded by Mr. Gretz. All were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra L. Helderlein  
Borough Secretary