MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION OF COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2021

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Regular session of Borough Council convened at 7:28 pm. Present were Councilors Tim Sloss, Michael Zrenchak, Christopher Gretz, and Janice Matyasovsky; Mayor Larry Sikorski; Solicitor Matt Racunas; and Engineer Don Glenn.

Mr. Zrenchak informed the public that Mrs. Lape would not be joining us for public meeting due to the passing of her mother-in-law. Mr. Zrenchak offered his condolences on behalf of Council and himself. He also stated that Mrs. McClelland called to inform Council that she would not be attending due to her not feeling well. Mr. Zrenchak also informed the public that Mr. Matlos was present for the workshop meeting but had to be dismissed due to the snow. He had to go to work and maintain the roads.

PUBLIC COMMENTS.

SHANE LAWSON, 1124 PORTSMOUTH DRIVE, PORT VUE: Mr. Lawson introduced himself and stated that he owned Lawson Excavating on Washington Blvd. He said he currently lives in Port Vue and that he and his wife are looking into moving back to Liberty Borough. He said they have been looking around and he notice over by the Orchard Park area that Liberty Borough owns that land. Mr. Lawson was wondering if the parcel was for sale. He said he knows that the parcel is around 54 acres or so, and he was wondering if they would be willing to look into selling him acres from that parcel.

Mrs. Matyasovsky asked if that was the SIMMS property over by Spanbauers. Mr. Lawson said that it was and explained that he has the map and that property runs all the way over to River Road. He technically doesn’t want the entire parcel but if that was what he had to do, he would be willing to discuss it. He said he would prefer a 5-acre parcel and was wondering what Council thought about allowing him to do so and if they did where we would start to get the plan started.

Mr. Zrenchak said that Council would gladly look into it and get back to him. He wanted to know if Mr. Lawson was okay with that, and Mr. Lawson said that was acceptable and he would wait to hear from them.

COMMITTEE REPORTS.

**PROPERTY.**  Mr. Zrenchak, Chairman, reporting on behalf of Mrs. Lape.

Mr. Zrenchak stated that Mrs. Lape emailed him and the only thing for property was that she was looking into the new Blight Program to help towards demolishing the school. Mr. Zrenchak stated that we already have a CITF grant in the amount of $155,000.00 to demolish the old school. This blight grant would let us encompass trying to get more money to take that school down. Mr. Zrenchak stated that we can also wrap the other homes in the community that need demolished into that blight grant. He stated that the Blight Grant is a grant that is through Allegheny County and Steel River COG called Act 152 Demolishing Program. He explained that any property that transfers in Allegheny County is paying a $15.00 deed transfer fee that is put into a pot of money for demolitions and they are hoping that in time it will fund up to three million dollars towards demolishing vacant condemned homes in Allegheny County. It was also determined that if surrounding communities wanted to work together and apply as one that would be accepted. Mr. Zrenchak said the nice thing about this program is that the asbestos surveys are included in the demolition in the application. Those surveys and permits are expensive when you are trying to demolish a home, so it is appreciated that those are included in the Act 152 Demolition Program.

POLICE. Mr. Sloss, Chairman, reporting.

Mr. Sloss called for a motion to accept the membership agreement between Liberty Borough and Steel Rivers COG permitting members of the Agency’s Police Department to use the SRCOG Regional Training Complex. The motion was made by Mr. Gretz, seconded by Mrs. Matyasovsky and passed unanimously.

Mr. Sloss called for a motion hire Alex Appleby as a part time police officer for the Liberty Borough Police Department. Mr. Gretz made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Matyasovsky. Roll call vote: Mr. Sloss, yes; Mr. Zrenchak, yes; Mr. Gretz, yes; Mrs. Matyasovsky, yes; Mrs. Lape, Mr. Matlos, and Mrs. McClelland, absent. Motion carried.

Fire Chief supplied the fire report for Council for the month of January 2021,

 Total Incidents 9

 Outside rubbish, trash, or waste fire 1

 Motor vehicle accident with injuries 1

 Gas leak (natural gas or LPG) 1

 Cover Assignment, standby, move up 1

 Dispatched & cancelled en route 3

 Smoke detector activation, no fire (unintentional) 1

 Alarm system activation, not fire (unintentional) 1

LEGISLATION. Mr. Gretz, Chairman, reporting.

 There was nothing to report.

PARKS & RECREATION. Mr. Zrenchak, Chairman, reporting on behalf of Mrs. McClelland.

There was nothing to report.

HEALTH & ORDINANCE. Mr. Zrenchak, Chairman, reporting on behalf of Mrs. Lape.

There was nothing to report.

LIGHTS. Mr. Zrencahk, Chairman, reporting on behalf of Mr. Matlos.

Mr. Zrenchak explained that Mr. Matlos has been working with the Duquesne Light Company on replacing the streetlights with LED lights. We have 218 streetlights in the borough, and we have replaced 10 lights so far. The borough budgeted for 100 new lights for the 2021 year.

Mr. Zrenchak called for a motion to move forward installing 100 new LED streetlights. The motion was made by Mr. Sloss, seconded by Mr. Gretz and passed unanimously.

FINANCE. Mrs. Matyasovsky, Chairman, reporting.

Mrs. Matyasovsky called for a motion to accept and to pay the list of bills {$22,965.14) and the ratified bills {$42,785.59}. The motion was made by Mr. Gretz, seconded by Mr. Sloss and passed unanimously.

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

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| --- | --- |
| ALLEGHENY COUNTY PUMP REGIS  | $ 50.00 |
| AMERICAN WATER  | 68.53 |
| AMTRUST NORTH AMERICA | 5,220.00 |
| AQUA FILTER FRESH INC | 80.30 |
| COMCAST | 163.81 |
| DERKAS AUTO SERVICE | 489.95 |
| DUQUESNE LIGHT CO 9723-500-000 | 3,146.28 |
|  3993-430-000 | 73.09 |
|  1744-720-000 | 54.45 |
|  0823-500-000 | 47.37 |
|  0744-720-000 | 75.31 |
| FIRST COMMONWEALTH BANK (CREDIT CARD) | 311.18 |
| GAYDOS-BEHANNA KENNEL | 250.00 |
| GENERAL CODE | 995.00 |
| GLENN ENGINEERING & ASSOCIATES 21-02-12 | 866.25 |
|  21-02-101 | 310.00 |
| HOME DEPOT | 138.55 |
| JEFFERSON HILLS LAWN & EQUIPMENT | 29.33 |
| JOHN MAYERNIK SUPPLIES | 40.40 |
| O’REILLY AUTO PARTS | 45.94 |
| ONE DIGITAL 10205-000091 ver.1 | 40.00 |
|  7555 | 56.71 |
| ORKIN EXTERMINATING | 207.92 |
|  | 270.84 |
| PA MUNICIPAL SERVICE COMPANY | 922.10 |
| PEOPLE NATURAL GAS | 226.42 |
|   | 321.99 |
|    | 147.00 |
| RACUNAS LAW GROUP LLC  | 3408.00 |

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| --- | --- |
| SHELLEY AQUILANTE COMPUTER REPAIRS | 38.21 |
| SPRINT |  52.62 |
| UPMC | 4,817.59 |
|  |  |
| **TOTAL BILLS** | **$22,965.14**  |

Mrs. Matyasovsky presented the ratified bills, as follows:

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| --- | --- |
| ADP [INVOICE] | $ -246.40 |
| ADP [INVOICE]  | -74.34 |
| ADP [CHECKS] | -17, 441.83 |
| ADP | -6,882.65 |
| ADP [INVOICE] | -85.05 |
| CARGRILL INC | -3,686.77 |
| AFLAC | -34.28 |
| AMTRUST NORTH AMERICA | -5,205.00 |
| ONE DIGITAL | -834.41 |
| PSAB U/C PLAN | -524.87 |
| UPMC HEALTH PLAN | -4,817.59 |
| AMERICAN LEGAL SERVICES | -57.92 |
| CENTER INDEPENDENT ENERGY | -12.14 |
| COLLURA, DAVE | -175.00 |
| DEARBORN LIFE INSURANCE CO. | -186.98 |
| DIRECT ENERGY BUSINESS | -363.00 |
| HB SOUTH PRINTERS | -185.00 |
| MCI | -31.09 |
| PA AMERICAN WATER | -189.28 |
| PRODUCTIVITY PLUS ACCOUNT | -90.48 |
| Final Score Trophies – name plate [Lape] | -189.40 |
| First Commonwealth Bank (charge) **–** USTIF Capacity Fee [December] | -149.42 |
| Glenn Engineering – general engineering  | -87.23 |
| Glenn Engineering – sewage | -1,038.00 |
| H B South - #10 window envelopes [1000] | -55.00 |
| Home Depot – new lock/keys [file storage room] | -101.86 |
| McRo Tank Division – storage tank inspection  | -40.60 |
|  |  |
| **TOTAL RATIFIED BILLS** | **-$42,785.59** |

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| --- | --- |
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**PERSONNEL.** Mr. Zrenchak, Chairman, reporting on behalf of Mrs. McClelland.

Mr. Zrenchak said that Mrs. McClelland was going to motion for the hire of Alex Appleby, but Mr. Sloss handled it earlier under the police committee.

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

Mr. Zrenchak updated Mr. Attanucci about the alley across from his home on Southern Avenue. Mr. Zrenchak informed him that he was still looking into it. He said that Council did reach out to Nick Pisciottano and he has agreed to work with us. Mr. Zrenchak said that Council is looking into that low volume road grant to try and address the issue. Mr. Zrenchak met up with Mr. Attanucci, Mr. Glenn and Mrs. Underwood to look at the alley. He said that there is more than just a paving issue. He said we have to address the water issue first. Mr. Attanucci said that Pisciottano’s office called and said they were going to come up and take a look at the alley within a week or so to see what kind of money they can grant us for the project. Mr. Attanucci said Mrs. Underwood just received a call from Nick’s office. Mr. Zrenchak said that was fine, but we are still working on it and he is still keeping the paving of the alley on the agenda. Mr. Attanucci said he appreciates it.

Mr. Zrenchak stated that Liberty Borough signed the documents for the $200,000.00 small water and sewer grant for the pump station replacement. He said that he reached out to W.C. Weil Company to get more particulars on the replacement station and they are supposed to reach out to the manufacturer, Smith and Loveless, to get more information on that. Mr. Zrenchak said once that is completed, we would have an idea of what our ballpark price is. Then he told Mr. Glenn after that is done, we can move forward with the bidding and the permitting and anything that we need to do.

Mr. Zrenchak took this time to thank our public works guys, Mike Matlos, Bruce Takaht, and Josh Takaht for all their hard work keeping our streets clean. He said he knows that we haven’t had this kind of snow for a couple of winters but that they guys have really done a wonderful job this winter and we really appreciate it.

MAYOR SIKORSKI’S REPORT.

Mr. Sikorski highlighted the following police activity from the January 2021 report:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Total Call Activity |  |  | 41 |
|  |  |  |  |

Abandoned Vehicles 2

Alarm-Panic (Residential) 2

Alarm (False Business) 3

Animal Complaint 1

Assist Citizen 1

Assist EMS Agency 1

Assist Fire Department 1

Assist Glassport Police 2

Assist Lincoln Police 2

Assist Port Vue Police 6

Check Residence 1

Check Welfare (Person) 2

General Report 1

Icey Roads 2

Miscellaneous 1

Ordinance Complaint 3

Traffic Contact (Warning) 1

Traffic Stop – Verbal 4

Traffic Stop – Warning 2

Traffic Stop 1

Utility Complaint 1

Vehicle (Parking Violation) 1

Mayor Sikorski commented on the residents speeding on Liberty Borough streets. He said that we have been pretty laxed on the speeding throughout the neighborhood. The residents on Orchard want 25 MPH signs put up, however the mayor said that there is speeding on all of the streets. The speed limit is 25 mph on all of Liberty Borough’s streets. We haven’t been fining anybody unless they are going well over 40 because of the arguments about where the speed lines are, the officer judging distance equals rate times the time and so on. At this point, residents are going to get one warning about speeding. Mayor Sikorski has spoken to several of our officers and they are going to start picking up the pace about putting a stop to the violations. The mayor said that they need to start taking this seriously because we have people walking on the streets and we have to slow down. He said that he is getting a lot of complaints and we have to start cracking down on the speeders and drivers running the stop signs. He understands the urged to go through the stop sign when you can see all the roads clearly but the stop signs are there for a reason and residents need to come to a complete stop. Mayor Sikorski put out a warning to the residents: that if you do not adhere to the speed limit or the stop signs the officers are going to start some paperwork.

SOLICITOR RACUNAS’S REPORT.

Mr. Racunas expressed that everything he had to discuss with Council was handled in the workshop.

ENGINEER GLENN’S REPORT.

Mr. Glenn echoed Mr. Racunas, however he said that he was going to give the office the paperwork (a hard copy) for the CITF Grant application that we applied for the next day.

**OLD BUSINESS.**

Mr. Zrenchak asked Mr. Sloss if he had the Barrier Protections Quotes for the Borough doors. Mr. Sloss said the bid was $2,987.00 for new security doors with key fobs and other locks.

Mr. Sloss called for a motion to purchase the new door locks and key fobs to update the building. The motion was made by Mr. Gretz, seconded by Mrs. Matyasovsky and passed unanimously.

Mr. Zrenchak stated that we have been talking about a new computer system for the office. He said that we have not received enough quotes to make a final decision on that. Mr. Zrenchak said hopefully next month, we can go ahead and move forward on this and bring the computers and the building up to the 21st century.

**NEW BUSINESS.**

There is no new business to discuss.

Mr. Zrenchak called for a motion to accept the minutes from the January 13, 2021 meeting. The motion was made by Mr. Gretz, seconded by Mrs. Matyasovsky and passed unanimously.

The next meeting dates and times are Wednesday, March 10, 2021 – Work Session at 6:00 pm; Regular Session at 7:30 pm.

Mr. Zrenchak called for a motion to adjourn. The motion was made by Mr. Sloss, seconded by Mr. Gretz and passed unanimously.

The above borough business concluded at 7:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jamie Leber

Office Assistant