MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION OF COUNCIL

September 28, 2022

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Regular session of Borough Council convened at 6:00 pm. Present were Councilors Mike Matlos, Tim Sloss, Elizabeth Lape, and Michael Zrenchak, Mayor Sikorski, Solicitor Matt Racunas and Engineer Laura Branthoover.

Mr. Zrenchak introduced Jason Ivcic from Pa American Water. He graciously agreed to attend the meeting to address the Memory Lane paving.

**Dan Romanelli – 3034 Memory Lane:** Mr. Romanelli thanked Mr. Zrenchak for keeping in touch with him regarding the paving of Memory Lane. He stated that the water line work was completed in March and the road is not paved yet. Some of his neighbors have driveway sections that need concreted. He is concerned that the weather is going to change and the paving and concrete work will not be done. He would like an explanation what has taken so long. Mr. Ivcic stated that the project was started late 2021. The contractor laid the pipe and then the services got done and that is when the driveways got dug up. Mr. Ivcic said, yes, they are backed up – they started a lot of work at the end of 2021 and the beginning of 2022. They take care of all southwest PA – Mon Valley, McMurray area, Uniontown, Connellsville, and Brownsville. They have 3 pavers who do the repairs. He said that Memory Lane slipped through the cracks. Mr. Ivcic said that they will be here the week of the October 17th to start with the milling, trenchwork, paving, the concrete work then the rest of the restoration – topsoil and seed. Mr. Romanelli asked again why this has taken so long and will the asphalt bind to the base because the ground is going to be cold and next year, when it lifts, are they going to have this same discussion. Mr. Ivcic said that they can pave down to 40 degrees. There is a 2 year guarantee from the contractors. Mr. Romanelli asked again what happened between when the work was done and now. Liberty Way in Lincoln was paved – why not Memory Lane. Mr. Ivcic explained again that they will be there the week of the October 17th. Mr. Zrenchak stated that Mr. Romanelli’s street is not the only one. Mr. Bogdan stated that there has been no paving in the Borough by the water company. Mr. Romanelli asked again why other communities are getting paving and Liberty Borough, as a whole, is not. Mr. Zrenchak stated that there is a lack of staff to perform the work and trying to juggle jobs and it may have been an oversight in the pavers’ scheduling. He said that it does not make it right, but they are trying to get this resolved before winter. Mr. Ivcic said that it will be taken care of. Mr. Romanelli said that he will take his work for now but if they are not there on the 17th, he will have the news here. Mr. Ivcic gave out his phone number and said he answers his phone 24/7. Mr. Romanelli said that when they do the reclamation the topsoil they use is garbage – his grass is spotty and not grown in spots. Mr. Ivcic said that when they start the project, he will be there and rectify the problem.

A gentleman in attendance told Mr. Ivcic that at Roberts and C Street they did water lines and there is a dip in the road. He bottoms his car out going 5 mph every time. Mr. Ivcic said that he will look at It with Mr. Zrenchak and see what they can do.

**Pat Paris – 313 Scene Ridge Road:** She stated that she complained about a year ago about her neighbor next door has 4 dogs. What can be done. She cannot open her kitchen door because the dogs leave a mess on the porch, they bark through the night. Solicitor Racunas said that with a nuisance ordinance, she can call the police. She asked how many pets can be in one household. Mr. Bogdan said that they can 3 pets. Mr. Bogdan asked for the address – she told him 311 Scene Ridge.

**Craig Gretz – 2904 H Street:** Mr. Gretz stated that there were issues with the weather in the beginning of this year and a telephone pole right by his house on the corner. He called Duquesne Light – they said it was a Verizon problem – they are bouncing back and forth. It is a pole scabbed to another pole with wires – it is not safe. It looks like something they would do in McKeesport and not in Bethel Park. Mr. Matlos said that they have to transfer the cable line to a new pole. He said that there a couple poles in the borough like that. They do not move very quickly. Solicitor Racunas said that his just had this issue in West Elizabeth Borough. There are multiple companies that have their line on the pole and each of the companies have to come and do their work in a specific order. It can take a long time for those companies to coordinate. It took them months.

**Eileen Wall – Orchard Drive:** Mrs. Wall asked if they were doing flu shots here. Ms. Pack stated that they are still working on getting a grant so we do not know yet.

**Cathy Beadling – 2805 A Street:** She saw on the news that Elizabeth Borough got a grant for $40,000 for the corner where they took down the Moose – several communities put in for this grant. She asked if council knew about it. Mrs. Beadling did not know what the grant was for. Ms. Branthoover stated that if it was something that pertained to the borough, Glenn Engineering would have applied for it. Ms. Rausch read that it was a grant from T-Mobile. Ms. Branthoover said that was an old grant and they applied for it a year or two ago. Mr. Zrenchak stated that he sees the state grants but wasn’t sure if they see the private company grants. Ms. Branthoover said that if they hear of these types of grants they pass them on to council to see if they have anything for which to apply.

**PROPERTY:**

**Blight Committee**:

Mr. Zrenchak reported that the Blight Committee came to the August meeting with recommendations on house to rehab and house to condemn. Council talked about it – they did their homework. A couple houses they had to condemn have already been on the condemnation list. It is a matter of finding the money to do the demolition. Council talked about trying to put something in the budget to demo once a year – they just have to see what is available in the budget. The big thing is depending on what is costs per house. The houses to rehab – council will look at different options to get them back on the tax rolls.

Mr. Zrenchak stated that the time-line on the school has been pushed back. Don Glenn said enough is enough. Ms. Branthoover said she has called COG 4 or 5 times now. All she has gotten from them now is they promised that we will be first – there are two people trying to get demo and all she got from them is that we would be next. As far as them getting it done any sooner, she is not sure. Mr. Zrenchak asked if she had heard from the contractor. He does not want us to lose anything. Ms. Branthoover said that we will not lose anything. She will try and reach out to the contractor directly, but she thinks that the only way we would lose anything is if we pull out. She said that is how the contract is written. He told her that he does not have enough people to go any faster.

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

Mr. Zrenchak read the Fire Report for August 2022:

Structure Fires 2

Standby 3

EMS Assist 2

Rescue 2

Landing zone 1

Vehicle accident 3

Illegal fire 1

Electrical fire 1

Total Incidents 15

Mr. Zrenchak reported that the EMS has been asking for donations. They sent out a contract asking for $5 per head based on the census. He wants Solicitor Racunas to see it. They will talk about it at the workshop meeting with regard to the budget. A woman in the audience asked if that was what she received. Mr. Zrenchak explained that is their funding drive but that still does not cover their costs. It is very expensive to run. He went on to say that the $5 is for them to be the Borough’s EMS provider.

**Motion to ratify** hiring Erik Labby as a part-time Liberty Borough police officer.

**Motion: Mr. Matlos Second: Mr. Sloss**

**All in favor. Motion carries**

**Motion to purchase** a building sign for the Police Department from Carl’s Signs in the amount of $720.

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

**All in favor. Motion carries.**

**Motion to purchase** a tent for events for the Police Department from Carl’s signs in the amount of $1,195.

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

**All in favor. Motion carries**

**LEGISLATION:**

There is nothing to report

**PARKS & RECREATION:**

The Halloween parade will be on Monday, October 31st at 5:30 pm. Trick or Treat will follow from 6 pm to 8 pm.

There be a Halloween decorating contest. 3 prizes will be awarded.

Light Up Night is being planned. The date and time will be announced at a later date. There will be a holiday decorating contest as well.

Mr. Zrenchak wanted to thank everyone who came out and helped with Fun To Be A Kid Day this last Saturday.

**HEALTH & ORDINANCE**:

Mr. Zrenchak stated that council discussed the possibility of an ordinance regarding parking vehicles in the front yard and, also an ordinance for parking RV’s and boats in driveways. We asked the Solicitor to look into the legalities of that and to see what other communities do. When they get some information back, they will pass it on to everyone.

**LIGHTS:** Michael Matlos

Mr. Matlos said that there were 3 issues and they were passed on to Duquesne Light.

**FINANCE:** Elizabeth Lape

**Motion to Pay:** Bills for Ratification of $187,424.96 and List of Bills to Pay $17,998.25

**Motion: Mr. Matlos Second: Mr. Sloss**

**All in favor. Motion carries.**

**Bills for Ratification:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |
| 08/26/2022 | EFT | PA SCDU | -82.52 |
| 08/26/2022 | EFT | ADP [CHECKS] | -13,472.50 |
| 08/26/2022 | EFT | ADP | -4,800.86 |
| 09/08/2022 | EFT | ADP | -4,440.02 |
| 09/08/2022 | EFT | ADP [CHECKS] | -12,247.07 |
| 09/07/2022 | EFT | PA SCDU | -82.52 |
| 09/20/2022 | EFT | PA SCDU | -82.52 |
| 09/02/2022 | EFT | ADP [INVOICE] | -90.37 |
| 09/16/2022 | EFT | ADP [INVOICE] | -77.56 |
| 09/22/2022 | EFT | ADP [CHECKS] | -15,201.95 |
| 09/22/2022 | EFT | ADP | -5,480.59 |
| 09/14/2022 | 4573 | DUQUESNE LIGHT CO | -3,382.18 |
| 09/14/2022 | 12418 | AMERICAN WATER | -74.28 |
| 09/14/2022 | 12419 | DUQUESNE LIGHT CO | -143.51 |
| 09/14/2022 | 12420 | PA AMERICAN WATER | -110,919.17 |
| 09/14/2022 | 12421 | PA ONE-CALL SYSTEM INC | -19.98 |
| 09/14/2022 | 12422 | PEOPLES NATURAL GAS | -52.47 |
| 08/25/2022 | 22880 | HOME DEPOT | -15.48 |
| 08/25/2022 | 22881 | LBAA | -500.00 |
| 08/25/2022 | 22882 | South Allegheny Fall Boosters | -200.00 |
| 08/25/2022 | 22883 | VOLUNTEER FIREMEN'S ASSOC OF LIBERTY | 0.00 |
| 08/25/2022 | 22884 | PA MUNICIPAL RETIREMENT SYSTEM | -452.68 |
| 08/25/2022 | 22885 | TEAMSTERS LOCAL UNION #205 | -188.00 |
| 08/25/2022 | 22886 | VOLUNTEER FIREMEN'S ASSOC OF LIBERTY | -1,000.00 |
| 09/07/2022 | 22887 | AFLAC | -223.36 |
| 09/07/2022 | 22888 | Michele Ura | -100.00 |
| 09/14/2022 | 22889 | AMERICAN LEGAL SERVICES | -50.68 |
| 09/14/2022 | 22890 | AQUA FILTER FRESH INC | -46.62 |
| 09/14/2022 | 22891 | CENTER INDEPENDENT ENERGY | -50.41 |
| 09/14/2022 | 22892 | City of McKeesport | -100.00 |
| 09/14/2022 | 22893 | COMCAST | -369.95 |
| 09/14/2022 | 22894 | DERKAS AUTO SERVICE | -58.51 |
| 09/14/2022 | 22895 | DUQUESNE LIGHT CO | -585.00 |
| 09/14/2022 | 22896 | FIRST COMMONWEALTH BANK (CREDIT CARD) | -606.98 |
| 09/14/2022 | 22897 | John Mayernik | -86.23 |
| 09/14/2022 | 22898 | MON VALLEY INDEPENDENT | -1,047.50 |
| 09/14/2022 | 22899 | O'REILLY AUTO PARTS | -17.98 |
| 09/14/2022 | 22900 | ONE DIGITAL | -10.00 |
| 09/14/2022 | 22901 | ORKIN EXTERMINATING | -207.92 |
| 09/14/2022 | 22902 | PA AMERICAN WATER | -1,158.51 |
| 09/14/2022 | 22903 | PA DEP | -100.00 |
| 09/14/2022 | 22904 | PEOPLES NATURAL GAS | -49.27 |
| 09/14/2022 | 22905 | QUILL | -46.58 |
| 09/14/2022 | 22906 | RACUNAS LAW GROUP LLC | -1,527.00 |
| 09/14/2022 | 22907 | RC WALTER & SONS INC | -32.34 |
| 09/14/2022 | 22908 | Safsecur LLC | -808.34 |
| 09/14/2022 | 22909 | SPRINT | -112.39 |
| 09/14/2022 | 22910 | STEEL RIVERS COG | -33.88 |
| 09/14/2022 | 22911 | T-Mobile | -45.42 |
| 09/14/2022 | 22912 | PETTY CASH | -111.34 |
| 09/14/2022 | 22913 | POSTMASTER | -120.00 |
| 09/19/2022 | 22914 | TEAMSTERS LOCAL UNION #205 | -188.00 |
| 09/19/2022 | 22915 | PA MUNICIPAL RETIREMENT SYSTEM | -493.16 |
| 09/22/2022 | 22916 | SOUTH ALLEGHENY SCHOOL DISTRICT | -50.00 |
| 09/22/2022 | 22917 | The Embroidery People | -257.20 |
| 09/22/2022 | 22918 | Inferno Pizza | -106.00 |
| 09/23/2022 | 22919 | PA MUNICIPAL RETIREMENT SYSTEM | -674.83 |
| 09/23/2022 | 22920 | UPMC HEALTH PLAN | -4,943.33 |
|  |  |  | -187,424.96 |

**List of Bills to Pay:**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **AMERICAN LEGAL SERVICES** |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | 09/20/2022 | 118-26114 |  | 57.92 |
|  | Total AMERICAN LEGAL SERVICES |  |  |  | 57.92 |
|  | **AMTRUST NORTH AMERICA** |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | 09/09/2022 | 17594925 |  | 4,751.00 |
|  | Total AMTRUST NORTH AMERICA |  |  |  | 4,751.00 |
|  | **AQUA FILTER FRESH INC** |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | 09/16/2022 | 1968873 |  | 38.35 |
|  | Total AQUA FILTER FRESH INC |  |  |  | 38.35 |
|  | **BUILDING INSPECTION UNDERWRITERS OF PA** |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | 09/12/2022 | 909 |  | 130.00 |
|  | Total BUILDING INSPECTION UNDERWRITERS OF PA |  |  |  | 130.00 |
|  | **ELIZABETH LAPE** |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | 09/16/2022 | Gift Basket |  | 91.43 |
|  | Total ELIZABETH LAPE |  |  |  | 91.43 |
|  | **H B SOUTH PRINTERS** |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | 09/21/2022 | 2653 |  | 185.00 |
|  | Total H B SOUTH PRINTERS |  |  |  | 185.00 |
|  | **MCI** |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | 09/16/2022 | 08648909459 |  | 33.30 |
|  | Total MCI |  |  |  | 33.30 |
|  | **MR JOHN** |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | 08/18/2022 | INV-18997 |  | 131.00 |
|  |  | 08/18/2022 | INV-18998 |  | 262.00 |
|  |  | 08/31/2022 | INV-21267 |  | 197.00 |
|  | Total MR JOHN |  |  |  | 590.00 |
|  | **ORKIN EXTERMINATING** |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | 09/22/2022 | 228788490 |  | 207.92 |
|  | Total ORKIN EXTERMINATING |  |  |  | 207.92 |
|  | **PA AMERICAN WATER** |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | 09/16/2022 | 1024-210030156299 |  | 17.48 |
|  |  | 09/16/2022 | 1024-210034877260 |  | 38.08 |
|  |  | 09/16/2022 | 1024-210033713752 |  | 324.94 |
|  | Total PA AMERICAN WATER |  |  |  | 380.50 |
|  | **RC WALTER & SONS INC** |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | 09/22/2022 | 703301 |  | 26.96 |
|  | Total RC WALTER & SONS INC |  |  |  | 26.96 |
|  | **RICOH USA** |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | 09/15/2022 | 106527060 |  | 149.42 |
|  | Total RICOH USA |  |  |  | 149.42 |
|  | **SPRINT** |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | 09/12/2022 | 233328279-132 |  | 78.75 |
|  | Total SPRINT |  |  |  | 78.75 |
|  | **STEEL RIVERS COG** |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | 09/14/2022 | 22-1198 |  | 25.97 |
|  | Total STEEL RIVERS COG |  |  |  | 25.97 |
|  | **VERIZON GARAGE** |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | 09/09/2022 | 450-731-927-0001-53 |  | 57.80 |
|  | Total VERIZON GARAGE |  |  |  | 57.80 |
|  | **VOLUNTEER FIREMEN'S ASSOC OF LIBERTY** |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | 09/21/2022 | Fire Relief 2022 |  | 11,138.93 |
|  | Total VOLUNTEER FIREMEN'S ASSOC OF LIBERTY |  |  |  | 11,138.93 |
|  | **WESTCOM WIRELESS INC** |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | 09/14/2022 | 1190 |  | 55.00 |
|  | Total WESTCOM WIRELESS INC |  |  |  | 55.00 |
| **TOTAL** | |  |  |  | **17,998.25** |

**PERSONNEL:**

**Motion to accept** Jennifer Riley’s resignation from Liberty Borough Council effective September 28, 2022

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

**All in favor. Motion carries**

**Motion to accept** Luke Riley’s resignation from Liberty Borough Council effective September 28, 2022.

**Motion: Mr. Matlos Second: Mr. Sloss**

**All in favor. Motion carries.**

**Motion to accept** Christopher Gretz’s resignation from Liberty Borough Council effective September 28, 2022.

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

**All in favor. Motion carries.**

Mr. Zrenchak stated that at the workshop meeting the discussed the healthcare renewal costs to see what they are going to be and also to see if it is feasible to add dental and vision.

**STREETS AND SEWERS:** Tim Sloss

Mr. Sloss had nothing to report.

Mr. Zrenchak gave a quick update on the pump station. It is in the process of being made and we are just waiting for it to come in.

Mr. Matlos said that the mulch came in.

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

Mayor Sikorski said that council already ratified the hiring of Erik Labby. All they are waiting on is for the State Department to okay his credentials. Sargent Mayernik confirmed that all his paperwork has been done. Sargent Mayernik said that Officer Labby is active. Mr. Zrenchak said that Lt. Caito and Sargent Mayernik have to train him and get him acclimated.

**SOLICITOR’S REPORT:** Matt Racunas

There is nothing to report.

**ENGINEER’S REPORT:** Laura Branthoover

The DCNR Grants are due October 27th. They are for parks and trails and there is a 20% match.

**Motion to ratify** Concurring Resolution 2022-11 requesting a grant from the RAAC in the amount of $60,529 for the Glenn Avenue Embankment.

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

**All in favor. Motion carries**

**Motion to ratify** Concurring Resolution 2022-12 requesting a grant from the RAAC in the amount of $187,069 for Stormwater Management.

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

**All in favor. Motion carries.**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Mr. Zrenchak said that council has been discussing switching from Keystone as the delinquent tax collector. They heard from Keystone today pleading their case why we shouldn’t switch. He got that information late so council has not had a chance to discuss it. He gave council and the Solicitor the letter he received. Mr. Zrenchak invited Mr. Lawson to the meeting in October so they can straighten this out and see if they will do what the Borough would like them to do.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Motion to accept** Toni Lewis’ resignation from the Liberty Borough Zoning Board effective immediately.

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

**All in favor. Motion carries.**

Council is asking for Letters of Interest for the Planning Commission and Zoning Board Hearing Board. There is one vacancy on the Planning Commission and two on the Zoning Hearing Board.

Council will be accepting letters if Interest until October 12, 2022 at 4pm for the 3 vacated Council seats. Council will make the appointments at the October 26, 2022 meeting.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

**Motion to accept** the typed minutes from the August 24, 2022 meeting.

**Motion: Mr. Matlos Second: Mr. Sloss**

**All in favor. Motion carries.**

Next meeting dates/times: Work Session, Wednesday October 12, 2022 at 6:00 pm – Regular Session, Wednesday, October 26, 2022 at 6:00 pm

**Motion** to adjourn

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

**All in favor. Motion carries.**

Meeting adjourned at 6:33 pm

Respectfully submitted by:

Jill Pack

Borough Secretary