MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION OF COUNCIL

May 24, 2023

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Regular session of Borough Council convened at 6:00 pm. Present were Councilors Mike Matlos, Tim Sloss, Janice Matyasovsky, David Sowa, Chris Ponchak, Elizabeth Lape and Michael Zrenchak, Mayor Sikorski, Solicitor Matt Racunas and Engineer Don Glenn

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

No one signed up to speak.

**PROPERTY:** Chris Ponchak

Mr. Ponchak stated that they have taken pictures of the properties for demolition. He met with the committee so that is going forward. Mr. Sowa added that Mr. Ponchak will get the pictures to Jamie (Leber) so we can get the Act 152 filled out so we can see what we are moving forward with this. We will have Glenn help with this a little bit. Mr. Zrenchak stated that everyone got an email and people have their action items so everything is moving forward. Amanda Rausch said that Mr. Macy called her about that again today.

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

Mr. Zrenchak stated that there is no fire report at this time.

Mr. Ponchak read the April 2023 Police Vehicle Report:

Unit 130 675 miles

Unit 131 750 miles

Unit 132 300 miles

Car 132 had brakes, front end alignment and state inspection.

Mrs. Matyasovsky read the April 2023 EMS Report:

They had 30 calls ranging from Life Threatening, which was 7 to Stabile Care which was 3. Their approximate response time was 9.4 minutes.

**Motion to ratify** hiring Michael Kemple as a part-time police officer for the Liberty Borough Police Department effective May 9, 2023.

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

**All in favor. Motion carries.**

**Motion to ratify** authorizing Rotelica LLC to remove the lettering and police equipment from the 2012 Chevy Tahoe in the amount of $1,365.

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

**All in favor. Motion carries.**

**LEGISLATION:** David Sowa

Mr. Sowa stated that he just spoke with Solicitor Racunas, and he will have a couple things for us for the ordinance for the bagsters. At the next work session, we will hash those out and have that for our next meeting.

**PARKS & RECREATION:** Janice Matyasovsky

Memorial Day Observance will be held Sunday, May 28, 2023 at 10:00am at the Memorial on Liberty Way. There will be a light lunch served afterwards at the Municipal Building.

**HEALTH & ORDINANCE**: Chris Ponchak

Mr. Ponchak was made aware of a complaint about a ditch at the Fire Hall. That will be taken care of. He asked if Mr. Bogdan had anything to mention. Mr. Bogdan did not.

**LIGHTS:** Michael Matlos

Mr. Matlos reported that the 3 lights that have been out have been replaced.

**FINANCE:** Elizabeth Lape

**Motion to Pay:** Bills for Ratification $78,829.54 and List of Bills to Pay $26,637.95

Mr. Zrenchak asked who Larry Ratvasky is. Jill Pack explained that he is the man who maintains the tax computer software.

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

**All in favor. Motion carries.**

**Bills for Ratification:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 04/28/2023 | EFT | ADP [INVOICE] | -94.64 |
| 05/05/2023 | EFT | PA SCDU | -82.52 |
| 05/04/2023 | EFT | ADP [CHECKS] | -12,098.08 |
| 05/19/2023 | EFT | ADP | -4,827.41 |
| 05/19/2023 | EFT | PA SCDU | -82.52 |
| 05/19/2023 | EFT | ADP [CHECKS] | -13,631.30 |
| 05/05/2023 | EFT | ADP | -4,350.83 |
| 05/12/2023 | EFT | ADP [INVOICE] | -79.69 |
| 05/10/2023 | 4583 | DUQUESNE LIGHT CO | -3,515.27 |
| 05/10/2023 | 12468 | DUQUESNE LIGHT CO | -184.75 |
| 05/10/2023 | 12469 | PA MUNICIPAL SERVICE CO | -1,091.55 |
| 05/10/2023 | 12470 | PA ONE-CALL SYSTEM INC | -6.36 |
| 05/01/2023 | 23285 | AFLAC | -223.36 |
| 05/03/2023 | 23286 | SHERWIN WILLIAMS CO | -271.73 |
| 05/10/2023 | 23287 | ANDREWS & PRICE | -54.00 |
| 05/10/2023 | 23288 | AQUA FILTER FRESH INC | -45.39 |
| 05/10/2023 | 23289 | AXON ENTERPRISE, INC | -370.50 |
| 05/10/2023 | 23290 | Barbara Cross – RE Tax overpayment | -589.18 |
| 05/10/2023 | 23291 | Bearcom | -551.70 |
| 05/10/2023 | 23292 | CENTER INDEPENDENT ENERGY | -26.48 |
| 05/10/2023 | 23293 | City of McKeesport | -200.00 |
| 05/10/2023 | 23294 | COMMONWEALTH OF PA - PIB LOAN (FINAL PMT) | -23,686.32 |
| 05/10/2023 | 23295 | DERKAS AUTO SERVICE | -1,470.84 |
| 05/10/2023 | 23296 | DUQUESNE LIGHT CO | -418.41 |
| 05/10/2023 | 23297 | FIRST COMMONWEALTH BANK (CREDIT CARD) | -681.11 |
| 05/10/2023 | 23298 | GLENN ENGINEERING & ASSOC | -355.00 |
| 05/10/2023 | 23299 | MR JOHN | -399.00 |
| 05/10/2023 | 23300 | MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY OF WEST NEWTON | -500.00 |
| 05/10/2023 | 23301 | O'REILLY AUTO PARTS | -32.97 |
| 05/10/2023 | 23302 | ORKIN EXTERMINATING | -525.92 |
| 05/10/2023 | 23303 | PA AMERICAN WATER | -1,197.70 |
| 05/10/2023 | 23304 | PEOPLES NATURAL GAS | -265.07 |
| 05/10/2023 | 23305 | Pest b Gone | -300.00 |
| 05/10/2023 | 23306 | RACUNAS LAW GROUP LLC | -1,635.00 |
| 05/10/2023 | 23307 | RATVASKY, LARRY G | -250.00 |
| 05/10/2023 | 23308 | RC WALTER & SONS INC | -143.49 |
| 05/10/2023 | 23309 | Safsecur LLC | -787.56 |
| 05/10/2023 | 23310 | SLACK OVERHEAD DOORS | -1,475.00 |
| 05/10/2023 | 23311 | T-MOBILE | -175.83 |
| 05/10/2023 | 23312 | TRUGREEN CHEMLAWN | -560.39 |
| 05/10/2023 | 23313 | Safsecur LLC | -799.64 |
| 05/17/2023 | 23314 | TEAMSTERS LOCAL UNION #205 | -188.00 |
| 05/17/2023 | 23315 | PA MUNICIPAL RETIREMENT SYSTEM | -605.03 |
|  |  |  | -78,829.54 |

**List of Bills to Pay:**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **AMERICAN WATER** |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | 05/01/2023 | 4000258639 |  |  | 79.22 |
|  | Total AMERICAN WATER |  |  |  |  | 79.22 |
|  | **AMTRUST NORTH AMERICA** |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | 05/12/2023 | 17594925 |  |  | 3,886.00 |
|  | Total AMTRUST NORTH AMERICA |  |  |  |  | 3,886.00 |
|  | **Big's Trucking, Inc.** |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | 05/13/2023 | 54309 |  |  | 550.00 |
|  | Total Big's Trucking, Inc. (Separate Motion) |  |  |  |  | 550.00 |
|  | **BUILDING INSPECTION UNDERWRITERS OF PA** |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | 05/09/2023 | 1287 |  |  | 165.00 |
|  | Total BUILDING INSPECTION UNDERWRITERS OF PA |  |  |  |  | 165.00 |
|  | **COMCAST** |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | 05/03/2023 | 8993209080009060 |  |  | 377.11 |
|  | Total COMCAST |  |  |  |  | 377.11 |
|  | **DERKAS AUTO SERVICE** |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | 05/15/2023 | 23090 |  |  | 951.18 |
|  | Total DERKAS AUTO SERVICE |  |  |  |  | 951.18 |
|  | **NORTH EASTERN UNIFORMS & EQUIP., INC.** |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | 05/04/2023 | 51432 |  |  | 68.00 |
|  | Total NORTH EASTERN UNIFORMS & EQUIP., INC. |  |  |  |  | 68.00 |
|  | **ONE DIGITAL** |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | 05/11/2023 | 46940 |  |  | 1,029.85 |
|  |  | 05/11/2023 | 10205-000118 ver.1 |  |  | 40.00 |
|  | Total ONE DIGITAL |  |  |  |  | 1,069.85 |
|  | **ORKIN EXTERMINATING** |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | 05/11/2023 | 239666638 |  |  | 207.92 |
|  | Total ORKIN EXTERMINATING |  |  |  |  | 207.92 |
|  | **PA AMERICAN WATER** |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | 05/16/2023 | 1024-210034877260 |  |  | 97.01 |
|  |  | 05/16/2023 | 1024-210033713752 |  |  | 263.67 |
|  |  | 05/16/2023 | 1024-210030156299 |  |  | 20.17 |
|  | Total PA AMERICAN WATER |  |  |  |  | 380.85 |
|  | **Pennsylvania Soil and Rock Inc.** |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | 05/05/2023 | 22-189-1 |  |  | 9,527.39 |
|  | Total Pennsylvania Soil and Rock Inc. |  |  |  |  | 9,527.39 |
|  | **R A FOSTER & SON CO** |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | 05/16/2023 | 187814 |  |  | 101.50 |
|  | Total R A FOSTER & SON CO |  |  |  |  | 101.50 |
|  | **RACUNAS LAW GROUP LLC** |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | 04/01/2023 | 1677 |  |  | 1,527.00 |
|  | Total RACUNAS LAW GROUP LLC |  |  |  |  | 1,527.00 |
|  | **RC WALTER & SONS INC** |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | 05/04/2023 | 739669 |  |  | 25.19 |
|  |  | 05/12/2023 | 741394 |  |  | 17.09 |
|  |  | 05/17/2023 | 742426 |  |  | 45.31 |
|  |  | 05/18/2023 | 742708 |  |  | 75.57 |
|  | Total RC WALTER & SONS INC |  |  |  |  | 163.16 |
|  | **REAL STATS** |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | 05/12/2023 | 00100 |  |  | 560.00 |
|  | Total REAL STATS |  |  |  |  | 560.00 |
|  | **RICOH USA** |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | 05/16/2023 | 107221649 |  |  | 149.42 |
|  | Total RICOH USA |  |  |  |  | 149.42 |
|  | **ROTELICA INC** |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | 05/12/2023 | 589 |  |  | 1,365.00 |
|  | Total ROTELICA INC |  |  |  |  | 1,365.00 |
|  | **STEEL RIVERS COG** |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | 05/11/2023 | 23-1141 |  |  | 199.95 |
|  | Total STEEL RIVERS COG |  |  |  |  | 199.95 |
|  | **UPMC HEALTH PLAN** |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | 05/11/2023 | IO0000185855 |  |  | 5,197.60 |
|  | Total UPMC HEALTH PLAN |  |  |  |  | 5,197.60 |
|  | **VERIZON GARAGE** |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | 05/09/2023 | 450-731-927-0001-53 |  |  | 56.80 |
|  | Total VERIZON GARAGE |  |  |  |  | 56.80 |
|  | **WESTCOM WIRELESS INC** |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | 05/15/2023 | 1190 |  |  | 55.00 |
|  | Total WESTCOM WIRELESS INC |  |  |  |  | 55.00 |
| **TOTAL** | |  |  |  |  | **26,637.95** |

Mrs. Lape announced that the US Steel Cap Meeting will be held here tomorrow night at 7:00 pm.

**PERSONNEL:** Tim Sloss

**Motion to pay** Leah Yarborough $30 per day for cleaning of the Municipal Building.

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

**All in favor. Motion carries.**

**Motion to ratify** hiring Bruce Takaht for part-time Street Department grass cutting effective May 12, 2023.

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

**All in favor. Motion carries.**

**STREETS AND SEWERS:** Tim Sloss

Mr. Zrenchak stated that he spoke with WC Weil today. They gave him an update on the pump station. It looks like it is finally going into production on June 6th. They have everything in place and it shouldn’t take long after that. He is also going to send over some names of contractors. Mr. Zrenchak asked Solicitor Racunas if we needed to get bids since it is a specialty item. He said that he would talk with Mr. Glenn. Mr. Zrenchak said that a couple of the contractors on the list were very good. He wanted to make sure we don’t end up with someone who could cause us aggravation.

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

Mayor Sikorski stated that he did not have a report.

Mayor Sikorski stated that he has noticed that about every month, PA American is acquiring someone new. Every month they are saying your new price is going to be this. He questioned if there was any way to stop them. Mr. Zrenchak said they won’t be able to stop them unless you repeal Act 12. Act 12 gives them full market valuation. If you read it, that does not affect us, as of yet, because we are not Rate District 1. We are Rate District 6, which is bulk customer. Under Rate District 1 the average bill for 3,200 gallons is $106.78. According to the flyer that Mayor Sikorski is referring to, since they bought Butler Area Sewage Authority for $231 million, at some point in time, the rate for the same amount of gallons will be $115. Anybody else who they are in the process of buying, you will see that coming again. He said to watch the 1st quarter of 2024, maybe the 2nd quarter of 2024, you will see that they have just acquired Elizabeth Borough Municipal Authority in the amount of $28 million and the rates will be this. The only thing we can do is, anytime they do a rate increase and we see it coming now that we know how this all works, is to get something together with the residents to submit to the PUC and we submit to the PUC. Whether the PUC does anything about it will be seen. Pennsylvania Municipal Authorities Association put out a booklet on the benefits of keeping your sewer system private. One of the things they said in there is that historically the PUC has not denied the approval of any of these places they have purchased. If they are going to rubber stamp all these through, you can complain but there isn’t much you can do. There could be a rate freeze for a year or 2. It would be a temporary thing. They are essentially giving the community an interest free loan but they are getting their money back on the back end. He will try to print an article that sums up all of this. It is a gimme that they will be asking for another rate increase.

**SOLICITOR’S REPORT:** Matt Racunas

There were no action items for this month.

**ENGINEER’S REPORT:** Don Glenn **13:09**

Mr. Glenn had three (3) items to discuss this evening. The first is to award the inlet project to Nevaeh Pipe Bursting in the amount of $145,220. The bids were opened on May 4th and there were four (4) bidders. Nevaeh was the lowest bidder at $145,220. The highest bidder was Osaris at $199,500.

**Motion to accept** Nevaeh Pipe Bursting’s proposal of $145,220 for the storm inlet replacements.

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

**All in favor. Motion carries.**

The second item is the LSA Grants. Jill received the contract for the E Street Project which is to pave the alley and put in a storm sewer. We got a $150,000 grant. We can advertise it. They did final field measurements today and he is looking to advertise it next week and opening bids probably in the next month. The other project that we have is the paving of Liberty Way. We can’t do that until we do the slide correction. He went on to talk about the slide correction. Last month he talked about putting in steel beams and putting in some cross timbers like concrete ties. He did a project in Trafford – there was a major slide that took the road out. The repair of that slide would have taken $1 to $2 million dollars. They couldn’t repair the road until the slide was fixed. They came up with a device that was horizonal nails (rods) underneath the road. He is looking at that same procedure down on Liberty Way. He is almost positive that he can do that there and that project will come in at 1/3 or 2/3’s of the cost of the steel beams. He is looking at calculations now and he will probably have an answer in one to two weeks. If that doesn’t work, we will have to go back to the steel beams.

The final item he has is the Act 152 Demolition Program for 2023. He is going to apply for a grant to demolish 309 South Allegheny, 221 South Allegheny, 201 Latrobe, and 2720 Washington Boulevard. In order to proceed with that grant application, we need to pass a resolution tonight. The resolution basically states the Borough of Liberty is requesting a grant under the program 2023 Act 152 and are requesting a grant in the amount of $52,000. That also designates Jill Pack as the official to file all of the applications and documents and of course he will work with her on this.

**Motion to adopt** CDBG Concurring Resolution 2023-02 requesting a grant from the Allegheny County Economic Development for Act 152 - the Allegheny County Blight Removal Program in the amount of $52,000.

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

**All in favor. Motion carries.**

The final item he has is he was scheduled to meet with the contractor for the Manor Park restroom facility on Monday and he never showed up. So we are still going to hold that money back until he does show up and he addresses the issues that Mike Matlos brought up

**Motion to adopt** the Slums and Blight Resolution 2023-03 to apply for the Act 152 Program.

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

**All in favor. Motion carries.**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Council is asking for Letters of Interest for the Zoning Board (1 Seat).

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Motion to appoint** Eric S. Rausch Sr. to the Zoning Hearing Board.

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

**All in favor. Motion carries.**

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

**Motion to accept** the typed minutes from the April 26, 2023 meeting.

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

**All in favor. Motion carries.**

Next meeting dates/times: Work Session, Wednesday June 14, 2023 at 6:00 pm – Regular Session, Wednesday, June 28, 2023 at 6:00 pm.

**Motion** to adjourn.

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

**All in favor. Motion carries.**

Meeting adjourned at 6:20pm

Respectfully submitted by:

Jill Pack

Borough Secretary