MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION OF COUNCIL

October 23, 2024

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Regular session of Borough Council convened at 6:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. Present were Councilors Michael Matlos, Tim Sloss, David Sowa, Janice Matyasovsky, Chris Ponchak, Michael Zrenchak, Mayor Larry Sikorski, Solicitor Matt Racunas, and Borough Engineer Lou Corrales.

Mr. Zrenchak announced Mrs. Lape will not be at the council meeting this evening as she gave birth to her daughter on Monday October 21, 2024.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

None.

**BLIGHT COMMITTEE**: Amanda Rausch

Mrs. Rausch said they are continuing to work on the little free library boxes. The boxes are on their way back from PA Dustless Mobile Blasting. Mrs. Rausch stated there is no update on the ACT 152 or the LSA Grant money for demolition. Mrs. Rausch stated they added two additional houses to be looked at for demolition and back taxes on 802 and 808 Jersey Street. Mr. Zrenchak said there is no need to look into those houses as we already know they are owned by Jeff Mazzei, he owes a lot of back taxes and if they go to sheriff sale, they will probably get upset you won’t be able to get anything back. Mr. Zrenchak said this has been on councils’ radar. Mrs. Rausch stated there has been a complaint form filed for property on F and Kaler Street for an unsafe fence falling and high grass. Mrs. Rausch said they did participate in the Liberty Borough Fall Clean Up Day that was on October 19, 2024.

**PROPERTY:** Chris Ponchak

Mr. Ponchak stated he has two estimates so far regarding replacing garage doors at the Liberty Borough building if council wants to move forward to replace them.

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

Mr. Ponchak read the Fire Department Report for September 2024 submitted by Fire Chief Corey Derr:

Fires 6

Rescue & Emergency Medical Service 2

Hazardous Conditions (No Fire) 4

Service Call 1

Good Intent Call 4

False Alarm & False Call 2

Total Incidents 19

Mr. Ponchak read the EMS Report for September 2024. There were 22 EMS Calls, and the average response time was 9.2 minutes.

**Motion to accept** the resignation of Scott Kercher effective September 27, 2024.

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

**All in favor. Motion carries.**

**Motion to accept** the resignation of Michael Kemple effective September 13, 2024.

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

**All in favor. Motion carries.**

**Motion to accept** the resignation of Alexander Edwards effective July 24, 2024.

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

**All in favor. Motion carries.**

**Motion to accept** the resignation of Frank Barreiro effective February 16, 2024.

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

**All in favor. Motion carries.**

**Motion to adopt** ordinance 2024-02 amending the non-uniform pension plan administered by Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement System.

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

**All in favor. Motion carries.**

**Motion to convert** two Remington 870 shotguns to “less-lethal” shotguns for the police department at a cost of $649.98.

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

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Mr. Matlos Yes**

**Mr. Sloss Yes**

**Mr. Sowa Yes**

**Mrs. Matyasovsky No**

**Mr. Ponchak Yes**

**Mr. Zrenchak Yes**

**Motion Carries.**

Mrs. Matyasovsky asked Chief Marsico to explain “less-lethal” conversion. Chief Marsico explained instead of shooting lead balls out of the end of the shotgun which were meant to kill people, this would shoot a bean bag round, which works like a taser and would not use lethal force.

**Motion to pay** Kush Kustoms to place graphics on the rear of the Ford Explorer patrol car.

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

**All in favor. Motion carries.**

Mr. Zrenchak explained this is due to the graphics not being added back onto the police car after it was wrecked last year.

Chief Ralph Marsico read the Police Report for September 2024.

Accident – Non-Reportable 1

Animal Complaint 1

Assist Other Agency 2

Burglary - Residence 1

Citizen Complaint 1

Civil Dispute 3

Disorderly Conduct 2

EMS Call 1

Found Property 1

Harassment 2 Health/Safety Health/Safety 1

Sexual Assault 1

Traffic Complaint 2

Traffic Stops 3

Welfare Check 1

Total Incidents 23

Chief Marsico indicated a resident at 3700 Liberty Way has asked for the Liberty Borough Police to occupy his driveway so they could enforce the Accutrak lines that were painted near his house for complaints of speeding on Liberty Way. Chief Marsico is also going to create a traffic detail two to three times per week from 7:00 AM to 11:00 AM.

**LEGISLATION:** David Sowa

No Report.

**PARKS & RECREATION:** Janice Matyasovsky

Mrs. Matyasovsky mentioned the Halloween parade will be held on Halloween night October 31, 2024. The lineup will be at 5:00 PM at the corner of Scene Ridge Road and River Ridge Road. The parade starts at 5:30 PM from there and will continue down Liberty Way to the Liberty Borough Building. Trick or Treating will be from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM.

Mrs. Matyasovsky also mentioned Liberty Borough will be having a decorating contest, and residents are encouraged to decorate for the contest.

Coming up: Halloween, October 31, 2024; Light Up Night, December 7, 2024.

**HEALTH & ORDINANCE**: Chris Ponchak

Mr. Ponchak reported that we did not have the occupancy inspection on the agenda. Mr. Racunas has it finished and the occupancy inspection will be on the agenda for next meeting.

**LIGHTS:** Michael Matlos

Mr. Matlos informed everyone that all the LED lights are up except for a few. Mr. Matlos will call Duquesne Light to remind them to finish putting up the lights.

**FINANCE:** Elizabeth Lape (Mr. Zrenchak on behalf of Mrs. Lape)

**Motion to Pay:**  Bills for Ratification in the amount of **$ 268,762.40** and List of Bills to Pay **$160,715.90**

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

**All in favor. Motion carries.**

**Bills for Ratification:**

**Payroll**

09/27/2024 EFT ADP[INVOICE] - 113.83

10/04/2024 EFT ADP[CHECKS] - 15,274.32

10/04/2024 EFT ADP[TAXES] - 4,790.90

10/11/2024 EFT ADP[INVOICE] - 104.40

10/18/2024 EFT ADP[CHECKS] - 15,953.43

10/18/2024 EFT ADP[TAXES] - 5,083.62

**TOTAL - 41,320.50**

**Sewer Fund**

10/09/2024 12556 PA AMERICAN WATER -149,815.66

10/09/2024 12557 PA MUNICIPAL SERVICE CO - 2,120.19

10/09/2024 12558 DS GENERATOR SALES & SERVICE - 40,061.00

10/09/2024 12559 AMERICAN WATER - 82.10

10/09/2024 12561 GLENN ENGINEERING & ASSOC - 4,566.80

**TOTAL -196,645.75**

**Highway Fund**

10/09/2024 4602 DUQUESNE LIGHT COMPANY - 3,499.40

**TOTAL - 3,499.40**

**General Fund**

09/25/2024 24218 VOLUNTEER FIREMEN’S ASSOC OF LIBERTY - 11,358.45

09/25/2024 24219 SHERWIN WILLIAMS CO - 59.56

10/01/2024 EFT ONE DIGITAL - 20.00

10/02/2024 24220 AQUA FILTER FRESH INC - 32.00

10/04/2024 EFT PA SCDU - 82.52

10/09/2024 24221 FAYETTE PARTS SERVICE INC - 47.60

10/09/2024 24222 S & D CALIBRATION SERVICES - 384.00

10/09/2024 24223 MON VALLEY INDEPENDENT - 187.20

10/09/2024 24224 ELIZABETH ELECTRIC SUPPLY - 64.90

10/09/2024 24225 O’REILLY AUTO PARTS - 8.73

10/09/2024 24226 PEST B GONE - 300.00

10/09/2024 24227 RACUNAS LAW GROUP - 1,464.00

10/09/2024 24228 JEFFERSON HILLS LAWN & EQUIP - 91.96

10/09/2024 24229 PA STATE MAYORS’ ASSOC - 70.00

10/09/2024 24230 DUQUESNE LIGHT CO - 871.43

10/09/2024 24231 PA ONE CALL SYSTEM INC - 8.61

10/09/2024 24232 AFLAC - 125.84

10/09/2024 24233 PA AMERICAN WATER - 1,508.42

10/09/2024 24234 AQUA FILTER FRESH INC - 51.50

10/09/2024 24235 ONE DIGITAL - 100.00

10/09/2024 24236 T-MOBILE - 176.73

10/09/2024 24237 PEOPLES NATURAL GAS - 75.21

10/09/2024 24238 FIRST COMMONWEALTH BANK (CREDIT CARD) - 652.83

10/09/2024 24239 RC WALTER & SONS INC - 54.50

10/09/2024 24240 SAFSECUR LLC - 838.26

10/09/2024 24241 GLENN ENGINEERING & ASSOC - 8,662.50

**TOTAL - 27,296.75**

**List of Bills to Pay:**

**Sewer Fund**

10/22/2024 12562 KONZEL CONTRACTING - 18,570.00

10/22/2024 12563 PA AMERICAN WATER - 300.00

**TOTAL - 18,770.00**

**Highway Fund**

**TOTAL - 0.00**

**General Fund**

10/18/2024 EFT PA SCDU - 82.52

10/15/2024 EFT ONE DIGITAL - 598.88

10/22/2024 24242 PA AMERICAN WATER - 210.84

10/22/2024 24243 O’REILLYS AUTO - 40.74

10/22/2024 24244 AMERICAN NATURAL OPERATIONS - 2,533.52

10/22/2024 24245 VERIZON - 59.81

10/22/2024 24246 TEAMSTERS LOCAL UNION #205 - 205.00

10/22/2024 24247 PA MUNICIPAL RETIREMENT SYSTEM - 115.34

10/22/2024 24248 PSAB UC PLAN - 601.94

10/22/2024 24249 COMCAST - 354.65

10/22/2024 24250 R A FOSTER & SON CO - 139.50

10/22/2024 24251 DEARBORN GROUP LIFE INSURANCE - 121.20

10/22/2024 24252 ANDREWS & PRICE - 387.00

10/22/2024 24253 NUTTAL PUBLIC SAFETY - 700.00

10/22/2024 24254 WESTCOMM WIRELESS - 55.00

10/22/2024 24255 AMTRUST NORTH AMERICA - 3,829.00

10/22/2024 24256 RACUNAS LAW GROUP - 1,725.00

10/22/2024 24257 LEAF - 196.96

10/22/2024 24258 CLEVELAND BROTHERS EQUIPMENT - 148,759.00

**TOTAL - 8,810.70**

**PERSONNEL:** Tim Sloss

**Motion to ratify** hiring Matthew Morelli for part time police officer effective October 9, 2024.

**Motion: Mr. Ponchak Second: Mr. Matloss**

**All in favor. Motion carries.**

**Motion to hire** full time police officer Matthew McDanel pending the return of his acceptance letter.

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

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Mr. Matlos Yes**

**Mr. Sloss Yes**

**Mr. Sowa Yes**

**Mrs. Matyasovsky No**

**Mr. Ponchak Yes**

**Mr. Zrenchak Present**

**Motion Carries.**

**STREETS AND SEWERS:** Tim Sloss

No Report.

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

Mayor Sikorski stated there was an incident where the neighbor could possibly hit the gas meter on Elizabeth Street where an elderly lady resided, so he went up to address it for her. Mayor Sikorski thinks it is resolved at this point.

**SOLICITOR’S REPORT:** Mr. Racunas

No Report.

**ENGINEER’S REPORT:** Lou Corrales

**Motion to ratify** to seek new RFP’s for the River Road Pump Station fence rebid.

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

**All in favor. Motion carries.**

**Liberty Way Slide**

Suzanne Magnin has verified our reimbursement request in the amount of $267,750 is being processed.

**Phase Two**

Bids were opened on July 29, 2024 and the following are the results:

Paliotta $217,000

R. Johnson $264,525

Allison Park $335,875

A notice-of-award and contract was sent to Paliotta on August 29, 2024 upon receipt of same, notice-to proceed will be sent. Paliotta returned the certificate of insurance, however the contracts are at the borough to be signed.

**Shed**

The shed has been ordered and is scheduled to be installed November 1, 2024.

**Fencing**

RFPs shall be sought after the shed is installed.

**Pump Station Renewal**

Ben Konzel reported that he completed the rung repair and upon verification by Mr. Matlos and Mr. Zrenchak. The balance due to the contractor in the amount of $18,570 is due.

Mr. Corrales stated they opened LSA Grants this afternoon. Multiple communities received multiple things. Liberty Borough was awarded $144,257 to purchase a piece of equipment.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

No Report.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Mr. Ponchak stated they are still working on the garbage contract. Mr. Zrenchak said they did meet with Waste Management on some questions they had. Mr. Zrenchak also said they will look into asking Pro Waste some questions on their portion of the contract and once all questions are answered, the decision will then be made.

**Motion to accept** Thir Heating & Cooling to install a new air conditioning unit in the Liberty Borough building.

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

**All in favor. Motion carries.**

**Motion to adopt** a handicap ordinance 2021-03.

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

**All in favor. Motion carries.**

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

**Motion to accept** the typed minutes from the September 25, 2024, regular meeting.

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

**All in favor. Motion carries.**

Next meeting dates/times: Workshop Session Meeting – Wednesday, November 13, 2024, and the Regular Session Meeting -- Wednesday, November 20, 2024, at 6:00 pm.

**Motion** to adjourn at 6:23 p.m.

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

**All in favor. Motion carries.**

**Meeting adjourned at 6:23 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted by:

Rachael Waltonbaugh

Secretary/Treasurer