

MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION OF COUNCIL  
October 21, 2021

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**Eric Huwalt – 716 Elm Street:** He is the owner of E and J Asphalt. He is having a Christmas party for his employees at the fire hall on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. He wanted to get permission to have a private fireworks show and wanted to coordinate with Liberty Borough so he can donate the fireworks to the community for Light Up Night. Mr. Zrenchak deferred this issue to Solicitor Racunas. He stated that he has never has this kind of a request by a private citizen. He said that, at a minimum, we would like to see his insurance and license. Mrs. McClelland asked that if we can tie it into Light Up Night, could it be, as he suggested, a donation to the community? She said that we would certainly give him the credit for the fireworks, but if it is associated with Light Up Night then maybe he would not have to deal with the red tape. Mr. Huwalt wants to do this as a thank you to his family and employees and also do something nice for the community. Mr. Zrenchak asked for his phone number so they could get back to him. He said that they will research this and get him an answer.

**Russell Jameyson – 2724 Washington Boulevard:** He requested the demolition of a condemned property. He said that heard that the borough made great progress in getting a proposal into the federal government. He came to the meeting to get a status report. Mr. Zrenchak informed him that they applied for it through a CDBG grant along with 5 or 6 other properties. We probably won't hear anything until after the first of the year. A couple properties on the list are still good enough to be repurposed and we will look into the option of sheriff selling those but the ones that need to come down will come down. Mr. Zrenchak assured Mr. Jameyson that the house he is concerned with is on their radar and they are working on getting it down. He said that grants for demolition are harder to get. He explained that the Act 152 is a new program that was started through the county and is \$15 for every property transferred is put into a demolition fund. He has to confirm but the county likes to see a whole block taken down. Mr. Jameyson is encouraged. Mr. Bogdan stated that they were asked to prioritize properties for demolition and the property on Washington was at the top of the list. Mr. Jameyson asked if there was anything else the borough needed to do. Mr. Zrenchak informed him that they have asked for volunteers for a blight committee and a Quality of Life committee. The blight committee can look into getting funding and other options. They want a citizen's committee because sometimes it falls on deaf ears when the legislators keep hearing from him or Mrs. Lape and Mrs. McClelland. If they hear from voters sometimes it puts some pressure on them. Mr. Jameyson said he would help in any way.

**Margaret Mansfield – 1028 Glenn Avenue:** She wants to see if they can get a public water line. Her neighbor, Skotnicki gets only 7 gallons of water an hour. It started after they started construction at the high school. He called the man who maintains the well because he was getting mud, not water and the first thing he asked is if there was any construction going on. Now you

have an 87 year old man coming to get buckets of water so he can flush his toilet. Mr. Zrenchak said that they need to look into what happened with the school and get in contact with the construction company to see what is going on there first. Mrs. Mansfield said that she spoke with the head of the construction company and asked if was aware that they have wells and he said no. It started with Mr. Skotnicki so who knows who's well is going to be affected next. Mr. Zrenchak said was going to reach out to the engineer on the project to push it in the right direction. He asked if they were considered Port Vue or Liberty. Mrs. Mansfield stated that they are in Liberty. The problem is Westmoreland Water and may not be what Liberty can do itself. When he first got on council, Mr. Miller's water line was exposed in the creek. It took almost a year because Westmoreland water was insisting that they were not Liberty. So we have to try to get to the right person to see about extending that line up through the hollow. PA American is not going to cross their lines. Mr. Zrenchak said that they will have to see how many people have wells. Mrs. Lape said that there are 6 of them with wells. Mrs. Mansfield said there are 7. Mr. Zrenchak said that they will sometimes run the lines just to get the revenue but it depends on how many people would hook up. He said that he will get to work on it, talk with Mr. Glenn and reach out to the project engineer at the school and try to force something there.

**PROPERTY:** Elizabeth Lape

Nothing to report other than they keep trying to get funding to tear down the school.

**POLICE, FIRE and EMS:** Tim Sloss and Chris Gretz

Mr. Sloss red the Fire Department Report for September 2021:

Vehicle Fire	1
Residential Fire	6
Automatic Fire Alarm	2
EMS Assist	1
Vehicle Crash	1
Stand by	1
Lock-out	1
Total	13

**Motion to accept** quote from Safsecur, LLC in the amount of \$3,435 for a computer, monitors, and networking for the police department.

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

**All in favor. Motion carries.**

**LEGISLATION:** Chris Gretz

Mr. Gretz was at the open house at the school. Mr. Zrenchak reported in his absence.

**Motion to adopt** Resolution 2021-14 authorizing the destruction/disposition of copies of public record in accordance with the Municipal Records Manual.

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

**All in favor. Motion carries**

**PARKS & RECREATION:** Jennifer McClelland

Mrs. McClelland has 2 events that she wanted to make sure everyone knows about. The first is Trick or Treating. The parade line-up is at St. Joachim and Anne Church at 5:00 pm which is a slight change from what it has been in the past – it used to be the old clover farm which blocked traffic in and out of the Manor so they are moving it across Liberty Way. The parade is at 5:30 and Trick or Treat is from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. Council is also sponsoring a house decorating contest with 3 winners and that will be announced at the parade and posted on the local pages as well.

Mrs. McClelland is in contact with Cory Derr as well as The Carriage Inn in planning a senior dinner for any residents that want to come. There will be 3 different meal options. The senior does have to be a resident and can bring a guest with them and the guest does not have to be a resident. It will be a weeknight sometime in the first couple weeks of November. They will get it out to the public as soon as they figure a date figured out.

**HEALTH & ORDINANCE:** Elizabeth Lape

Nothing to report

**LIGHTS:** Mike Matlos

Nothing to report

**FINANCE:** Janice Matyasovsky

**Bills for Ratification:**

09/23/2021	EFT	ADP [CHECKS]	-11,242.30
09/23/2021	EFT	ADP	-3,943.52
10/01/2021	EFT	ADP [INVOICE]	-91.32
10/08/2021	EFT	ADP	-3,544.74
10/08/2021	EFT	ADP [CHECKS]	-10,060.81
09/21/2021	12356	PA AMERICAN WATER	-89,160.96
09/21/2021	22258	TEAMSTERS LOCAL UNION #205	-184.00
09/21/2021	22259	PA MUNICIPAL RETIREMENT SYSTEM	-361.98
09/21/2021	22260	PA SCDU	-306.37
09/21/2021	22261	AFLAC	-74.88
09/21/2021	22262	AQUA FILTER FRESH INC	-50.82
		BUILDING INSPECTION UNDERWRITERS OF	
09/21/2021	22263	PA	-110.00
09/21/2021	22264	Expert Outdoor Power	-689.99
09/21/2021	22265	In-Synch Systems, LLC	-595.00
09/21/2021	22266	JEFFERSON HILLS LAWN & EQUIP	-22.19
09/21/2021	22267	MR JOHN	-390.00
09/21/2021	22268	O'REILLY AUTO PARTS	-26.97
09/21/2021	22269	PA AMERICAN WATER	-130.62
09/21/2021	22270	PETTY CASH	-174.04

09/21/2021	22271	QUILL	-163.71
09/21/2021	22272	RICOH USA	-149.42
09/21/2021	22273	SPRINT	-251.22
09/21/2021	22274	STEEL RIVERS COG	-19.96
09/21/2021	22275	UPMC HEALTH PLAN	-4,817.59
09/21/2021	22276	VERIZON GARAGE	-56.37
09/21/2021	22277	VOLUNTEER FIREMEN'S ASSOC OF LIBERTY	-9,630.82
09/21/2021	22278	WESTCOM WIRELESS INC	-55.00
09/23/2021	22279	PA MUNICIPAL RETIREMENT SYSTEM	-3,640.00
10/01/2021	22280	PA MUNICIPAL RETIREMENT SYSTEM	-3,640.00
			<u>-143,584.60</u>

**Motion to ratify bills in the amount of \$143,584.60**

**Motion: Mr. Matlos          Second: Mrs. McClelland**  
**All in favor. Motion carries.**

**List of Bills to Pay:**

<b>AFLAC</b>			
	09/29/2021	575998	10/09/2021 <u>74.88</u>
Total AFLAC			74.88
<b>AMERICAN LEGAL SERVICES</b>			
	09/20/2021	118-244111	09/30/2021 <u>65.16</u>
Total AMERICAN LEGAL SERVICES			65.16
<b>AMERICAN WATER</b>			
	09/01/2021	4000220932	09/11/2021 <u>69.71</u>
Total AMERICAN WATER			69.71
<b>Arrowhead Scientific, Inc.</b>			
	09/23/2021	141218	10/03/2021 478.53
	10/13/2021	141847-2	10/23/2021 <u>48.20</u>
Total Arrowhead Scientific, Inc.			526.73
<b>CENTER INDEPENDENT ENERGY</b>			
	09/30/2021	093021	10/10/2021 <u>23.34</u>
Total CENTER INDEPENDENT ENERGY			23.34
<b>COLLURA, DAVE</b>			
	09/29/2021	September 2021	10/09/2021 <u>175.00</u>
Total COLLURA, DAVE			175.00
<b>COMCAST</b>			
	10/01/2021	8993209080108581	10/11/2021 163.81
	10/01/2021	8993209080009060	10/11/2021 <u>367.67</u>
Total COMCAST			531.48
<b>DUQUESNE LIGHT CO</b>			

	09/30/2021	0823-500-000	10/10/2021	61.56
	09/30/2021	0744-720-000	10/10/2021	283.91
	09/30/2021	3993-430-000	10/10/2021	150.28
	09/30/2021	1744-720-000	10/10/2021	80.02
	10/03/2021	9723-5000-000	10/13/2021	<u>3,276.36</u>
Total DUQUESNE LIGHT CO				3,852.13
<b>FIRST COMMONWEALTH BANK (CREDIT CARD)</b>				
	09/27/2021	5305 2032 8001 6958	10/07/2021	<u>367.08</u>
Total FIRST COMMONWEALTH BANK (CREDIT CARD)				367.08
<b>GLENN ENGINEERING &amp; ASSOC</b>				
	09/30/2021	21-10-13	10/10/2021	1,002.50
	09/30/2021	21-10-169	10/10/2021	<u>112.50</u>
Total GLENN ENGINEERING & ASSOC				1,115.00
<b>H B SOUTH PRINTERS</b>				
	10/12/2021	1634	10/22/2021	<u>328.00</u>
Total H B SOUTH PRINTERS				328.00
<b>LIBERTY BORO AUTO SALES</b>				
	10/04/2021	367	10/14/2021	<u>76.00</u>
Total LIBERTY BORO AUTO SALES				76.00
<b>MARTINS FLOWERS &amp; SHRUBS</b>				
	10/04/2021	722464	10/14/2021	<u>111.67</u>
Total MARTINS FLOWERS & SHRUBS				111.67
<b>MCI</b>				
	09/16/2021	08648909459	09/26/2021	<u>31.09</u>
Total MCI				31.09
<b>MCKEESPORT, CITY OF</b>				
	10/12/2021	Detainments	10/22/2021	<u>50.00</u>
Total MCKEESPORT, CITY OF				50.00
<b>McManus Merchants</b>				
	07/26/2021	111810		<u>-9.30</u>
Total McManus Merchants				-9.30
<b>MR JOHN</b>				
	10/13/2021	619960	10/23/2021	130.00
	10/13/2021	619961	10/23/2021	<u>260.00</u>
Total MR JOHN				390.00
<b>Nuttal Public Safety Equipment, LLC</b>				
	10/13/2021	0016744	10/23/2021	<u>24.00</u>
Total Nuttal Public Safety Equipment, LLC				24.00
<b>ONE DIGITAL</b>				
	10/02/2021	10505-000099 ver.1	10/12/2021	<u>40.00</u>
Total ONE DIGITAL				40.00

<b>ORKIN EXTERMINATING</b>				
	08/27/2021	212026135	09/06/2021	207.92
	10/01/2021	214400287	10/11/2021	<u>207.92</u>
Total ORKIN EXTERMINATING				415.84
<b>PA AMERICAN WATER</b>				
	10/01/2021	1024-210032153289	10/11/2021	<u>1,158.51</u>
Total PA AMERICAN WATER				1,158.51
<b>PA ONE-CALL SYSTEM INC</b>				
	09/30/2021	0000923637	10/10/2021	<u>17.70</u>
Total PA ONE-CALL SYSTEM INC				17.70
<b>PEOPLES NATURAL GAS</b>				
	09/24/2021	2000008770279	10/04/2021	23.05
	09/24/2021	2000006476150	10/04/2021	21.48
	09/24/2021	2000006476069	10/04/2021	<u>23.05</u>
Total PEOPLES NATURAL GAS				67.58
<b>PSAB U/C PLAN</b>				
	09/30/2021	81-25090M	10/10/2021	<u>809.93</u>
Total PSAB U/C PLAN				809.93
<b>QUILL</b>				
	09/22/2021	19700833	10/02/2021	<u>110.97</u>
Total QUILL				110.97
<b>R A FOSTER &amp; SON CO</b>				
	09/29/2021	185799	10/09/2021	<u>54.50</u>
Total R A FOSTER & SON CO				54.50
<b>S &amp; D CALIBRATION SERVICES</b>				
	09/30/2021	10944	10/10/2021	<u>28.00</u>
Total S & D CALIBRATION SERVICES				28.00
<b>Safsecur LLC</b>				
	10/04/2021	2980	10/14/2021	<u>411.08</u>
Total Safsecur LLC				411.08
<b>SPRINT</b>				
	09/27/2021	479142366-168	10/07/2021	<u>17.16</u>
Total SPRINT				17.16
<b>Who Rescued Who Humane Society</b>				
	10/01/2021	3rd Quarter	10/11/2021	<u>250.00</u>
Total Who Rescued Who Humane Society				250.00
<b>Witmer Public Safety Group</b>				
	10/04/2021	2163920	10/14/2021	<u>76.98</u>
Total Witmer Public Safety Group				<u>76.98</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>				<u><u>11,260.22</u></u>

**Motion to pay bills in the amount of \$11,260.22**

**Motion: Mr. Matlos**

**Second: Mrs. McClelland**

**All in favor. Motion carries.**

**PERSONNEL:** Jennifer McClelland, Chairman

Nothing to report

**STREETS AND SEWERS:** Mike Zrenchak and Tim Sloss, Chairmen

Mr. Zrenchak stated that they are still working on the laser flow meters and getting the gentleman to come out and look at the site to go against Pa American Water's billing for sewage.

Mr. Zrenchak stated that they are also looking into the fee schedule from PAMS for sewage collection. He said that the bad news is that PA American Water got their rate increase granted but they did not inform us that their rates went up as of May. The sewage rate is now \$9.10 for bulk customers and it will go up again after the first of the year. They are going to have to look at the rate adjustment. He spoke with Cheryl from PA American this morning and the way it works is all they have to do is a bulk mailing notifying us that they have the intent to raise rates not that the rate increase went through. It is probably not going to be a large adjustment but based on what it looks like we have to make sure we cover. They will be charging \$10.09 per 1,000 for disposal. He was not happy that they were allowed to do a recouperation fee as well. They are allowed to collect a percentage for 6 months because their rate increase was not approved. There are a number of things he is not happy about but they are our only provider and we have no choice.

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

Mayor Sikorski elaborated more on what Mr. Zrenchak was saying about what was going on with PA American Water Company and the increase in the water and sewage rates. Mr. Sikorski stated that this goes back awhile ago, when McKeesport tried to buy the Liberty Borough sewage system. McKeesport Sewage Authority bought the surrounding sewage systems around our area in hopes of getting more money for the sale of the authority to PA American Water. Our citizens opposed the sale, so Liberty Borough kept their sewer system. PA American Water is not Pennsylvania based, they are a private company. They are buying out everyone's water and sewer systems around Pennsylvania and other states and spreading the cost of repairs and maintenance across the states to all of their customers. The average increase is 8% this year and almost 20% the next year. Bulk customers pay less than residential customers, it is about a \$27.00 difference. That is the reason it is wise to keep our sewage system. PA American Water only cares about how fast they can get a return on their investment. Mayor Sikorski states that it is just as important today as it was years ago to maintain our sewage system and to not sell to PA American Water.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT:** Matt Racunas

**Motion to advertise Notice to Bidders for Trash Collection Service.**

**Motion: Mrs. McClelland**

**Second: Mrs. Matyasovsky**

**All in favor. Motion carries.**

**ENGINEER'S REPORT:** Donald Glenn

Mr. Glenn reported that Allegheny County was satisfied with the 13 items he sent in order for Liberty Borough to be reimbursed the \$100,000

**Motion to adopt** Resolution 2021-10 Demolition – Slums and Blight Resolution

**Motion to adopt** Resolution 2021-11 Concurring Resolution requesting CDBG grant in the amount of \$57,000.

**Motion to adopt** Resolution 2021-12 Concurring Resolution requesting RAAC grant in the amount of \$317,910.00 for the Demolition of the Old School.

**Motion to adopt** Resolution 2021-13 Concurring Resolution requesting a RAAC grant in the amount of \$134,620.00 for the E Street Alley Reconstruction.

**Motion to adopt** Resolution 2021-15 Concurring Resolution requesting a RAAC grant in the amount of \$120,000 for Storm Inlet Replacement.

**Motion to adopt** Resolution 2021-16 Concurring Resolution requesting a RACC grant in the amount of \$302,809 for the Liberty Way Street Reconstruction.

Mr. Glenn read all resolutions and Mr. Zrenchak asked for one motion for all.

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

**All in favor. Motion carries.**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Mr. Zrenchak stated that we are still accepting letters of interest for the Quality of Life Appeal Board and Blight Committee. Anyone who has submitted letters for either committee has been accepted and will receive letters in the mail. We want to get as many people as we can have involved. We will have a meeting to discuss the general idea of we want these committees to do. He would also like to have an activities committee for things like farmer's markets and different activities to promote the borough.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

**Motion** to accept the typed minutes from the September 16, 2021 meeting.

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

**All in favor. Motion carries.**

Next meeting dates/times: Work Session, Wednesday November 10, 2021 at 6:00 pm – Regular Session, Thursday, November 18, 2021 at 6:00 pm

**Motion** to adjourn

**Motion: Mrs. Matyasovsky**  
**All in favor. Motion carries.**

**Second: Mr. Sloss**

Meeting adjourned at 6:36 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Jill Pack  
Borough Secretary

Posted October 18,2021 on the Liberty Borough website and on the bulletin board in the lobby of the borough building.