

**MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION OF COUNCIL  
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2019**

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Regular session of Borough Council convened at 7:35 pm. Present were Councilors Janice Matyasovsky, Tim Sloss, Mike Zrenchak, Jane Weigand, Mike Matlos, Chris Ponchak, and Melissa Morgan; Mayor Larry Sikorski; Solicitor Matt Racunas; and Engineer Don Glenn.

Mrs. Morgan wished everyone a Happy New Year.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS.**

Dan Gretz, 2904 H Street, lives at the dead end. He has received conflicting information from the contractors. One told him there are no sewage lines there, which ticked him off, since he has been paying for sewage for forty years. The other contractor, who was working for the water company, said he didn't know anything about the sewage line; he was putting a water line in. Mr. Gretz asked if there is a sewage line there, and is he connected? There were houses behind him that were never connected to the sewage. Mr. Zrenchak said he will look at the map and see where the line goes. It could possibly be in the back of the house. Mr. Matlos said they raised a manhole there, so there is a sewage line. Mr. Ponchak had a map on his phone and showed Mr. Gretz that there is a sewage line there. Mr. Gretz said they put a fire hydrant in at the end of the street, where there wasn't one before. He can no longer legally park his car there, in front of his house. Also, the road crew pushes the snow there and the firemen won't be able to find it. He talked to the firemen today; they are not happy with it there. There are seven cars that park on the street. It is not possible to get them all out of the way for snow removal. Even if he parks near the fire hydrant, when they push the snow it will be at the front of his steps, and he won't have access to his house. Council needs to get the water company to move that fire hydrant. There was a fire years ago, and the hydrant on Lauck was not functioning and they had to connect several blocks away, which caused his house to burn even more. He contacted an attorney about it, who said he would look into it. Shortly after, the non-functioning hydrant was gone. It is ridiculous that they put the new one there. Mr. Ponchak said it was discussed at the meeting. Chief Derr has been in contact with the water company, and they will be moving it. He will talk to Chief Riley in the meantime. There is a bag over the hydrant, so until it gets moved, Mr. Gretz can continue to park there. Mr. Gretz said that answered all his questions, and thanked council for their time.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS.**

**PROPERTY.** Mrs. Weigand, Chairman, reporting.

There was nothing to report; all was discussed at the caucus.

**POLICE.** Mr. Ponchak, Chairman, reporting.

Mr. Ponchak read Lieutenant Johnson's report on police equipment for the month of December as follows:

Vehicle mileage:

|               | BEGIN | END   | MILEAGE |
|---------------|-------|-------|---------|
| Unit #130     | 89641 | 91089 | 1448    |
| Unit #131     | 31550 | 32232 | 682     |
| Unit #132     | 58518 | 59100 | 582     |
| Total mileage |       |       | 2712    |

Vehicle Maintenance:

Unit 130

- Motor mounts; oil change; rotate tires

Unit 131

- None

Unit 132

- None

SouthEast Regional EMS handled 17 calls for the month, with an average response time of 9.3 minutes.

Mr. Ponchak read Fire Chief Derr's report for the month of December, as follows:

Total calls: 11

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| Fires                    | 3 |
| Rescue & EMS             | 4 |
| Service Call             | 1 |
| Good Intent Call         | 1 |
| False Alarm / False Call | 2 |

The following was provided on the annual report:

Total calls: 196

|                                      |    |
|--------------------------------------|----|
| Fires                                | 60 |
| Rescue & EMS                         | 31 |
| Hazardous Condition                  | 16 |
| Service Call                         | 43 |
| Good Intent Call                     | 12 |
| False Alarm / False Call             | 24 |
| Severe Weather &<br>Natural Disaster | 4  |
| Special Incident Type                | 6  |

**LEGISLATION.** Mr. Ponchak, Chairman, reporting.

There was nothing to report.

**PARKS & RECREATION.** Mrs. Morgan, Chairman, reporting.

There was no report, but Mrs. Morgan thanked the Fire Department for all they do.

**HEALTH & ORDINANCE.** Mr. Sloss, Chairman, reporting.

There was nothing to report.

**LIGHTS.** Mr. Matlos, Chairman, reporting.

There was nothing to report.

**FINANCE.** Mrs. Matyasovsky, Chairman, reporting.

Mrs. Matyasovsky presented the Bills for Ratification, as follows:

|                                                                     |           |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| ABCO Fire Protection – fire extinguishers [annual certification]    | \$ 665.34 |
| Aflac – short-term disability [December]                            | 60.90     |
| Allegheny County Boroughs Association (ACBA) – 2019 dues            | 420.00    |
| American Legal Services – police insurance [January]                | 43.44     |
| Cher-Ban Tire Service – tire installation / alignment [Chevy truck] | 390.00    |
| Comm of PA – USTIF Capacity Fee [December]                          | 41.25     |
| First Commonwealth Bank – loan payment [PW truck]                   | 1,301.99  |
| First Commonwealth Bank – loan payment [2015 street paving]         | 3,686.14  |
| Fleming Landscaping – Christmas tree [Municipal Building]           | 125.00    |
| Gaydos-Behanna Kennel – animal control [May 2018]                   | 75.00     |
| Gaydos-Behanna Kennel – animal control [June 2018]                  | 75.00     |
| Gaydos-Behanna Kennel – animal control [July 2018]                  | 75.00     |
| Gaydos-Behanna Kennel – animal control [August 2018]                | 135.00    |
| Gaydos-Behanna Kennel – animal control [September 2018]             | 130.00    |
| Gaydos-Behanna Kennel – animal control [October 2018]               | 105.00    |
| Gaydos-Behanna Kennel – animal control [November 2018]              | 105.00    |
| Gaydos-Behanna Kennel – animal control [December 2018]              | 105.00    |
| Ponchak, Chris – reimburse for Christmas event items                | 51.60     |
| Orkin – sewers                                                      | 207.92    |
| PA American Water – consumption data                                | 65.74     |
| PA American Water – EMS                                             | 19.50     |
| PA American Water – garage                                          | 42.68     |
| PA American Water – Municipal Building                              | 169.28    |
| Racunas Law Group, LLC – Solicitor fees [November]                  | 1,689.00  |
| Ricoh – copier maintenance                                          | 38.22     |
| Sam’s Club – refreshments for Christmas event                       | 79.38     |
| Sprint – mobile laptop                                              | 40.24     |

|                                                         |          |
|---------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Steel Rivers COG – 12/6 meeting dinner                  | 22.22    |
| TEC Benefits – admin fee [January]                      | 30.00    |
| UPMC Health Plan – health insurance [January]           | 2,733.60 |
| Verizon – garage                                        | 113.22   |
| WestComm Wireless – radio maintenance [1/1/19 – 2/1/19] | 55.00    |

**TOTAL RATIFIED BILLS** **\$12,896.66**

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

|                                                                            |           |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| ACBA – Annual Banquet [7 attendees @ \$65]                                 | \$ 455.00 |
| AmTrust – Municipal Liability (\$2,686) / Worker’s Comp down pmt (\$4,612) | 7,298.00  |
| Aqua Filter Fresh – bottled water                                          | 35.60     |
| Center Independent Oil (Double Car Wash) – police vehicles [Nov]           | 25.00     |
| Collura, Dave – wildlife control [December]                                | 140.00    |
| Comcast – Internet [police office]                                         | 163.81    |
| Duquesne Light – street lights                                             | 1,427.54  |
| Elizabeth Electric – cable ties for holiday banners                        | 87.50     |
| Glenn Engineering – general engineering                                    | 910.00    |
| Glenn Engineering – sewage                                                 | 235.00    |
| Home Depot – misc supplies and decorations                                 | 142.60    |
| MCI – long distance                                                        | 28.33     |
| Mon Valley Independent – ads [budget / meeting dates / ordinances]         | 348.00    |
| PA American Water – fire hydrants                                          | 1,097.18  |
| PA Municipal Retirement – annual fee for Police Pension                    | 20.00     |
| PA Municipal Retirement – annual fee for Non-Uniformed Pension             | 60.00     |
| Paul’s Auto Service – service on police vehicles                           | 655.80    |
| Peoples Gas – EMS                                                          | 187.72    |
| Peoples Gas – garage                                                       | 193.83    |
| Peoples Gas – Municipal Building                                           | 310.78    |
| Photos by Quo – council photo                                              | 50.00     |
| PSAB – 4 <sup>th</sup> quarter unemployment tax                            | 286.07    |
| RC Walter – misc supplies and decorations                                  | 34.59     |
| Ricoh – copier lease                                                       | 114.95    |
| RLP Holdings, Inc – rubber plow blade                                      | 234.00    |
| S & D Calibration – Acutrak certification                                  | 26.00     |
| Sprint – cell phones                                                       | 89.52     |
| Steel Rivers COG – 2019 membership fee [training complex]                  | 400.00    |
| Steel Rivers COG – 2019 dues                                               | 3,000.00  |
| Matlos, Michael – 2019 clothing allowance                                  | 450.00    |
| Takaht, Bruce – 2019 clothing allowance                                    | 450.00    |
| Adams, Christopher – 2019 uniform allowance                                | 450.00    |
| Harrison, Donald – 2019 uniform allowance                                  | 450.00    |
| Johnson, Raymond – 2019 uniform allowance                                  | 450.00    |
| Joll, Brice – 2019 uniform allowance                                       | 450.00    |
| Pfoertner, Jason – 2019 uniform allowance                                  | 375.00    |
| Riley, Luke – 2019 uniform allowance                                       | 500.00    |

**TOTAL BILLS** **\$21,631.82**

Mrs. Weigand made a motion to accept the ratified bills and to pay the list of bills. The motion was seconded by Mr. Matlos and passed unanimously.

The receipts for the month of December are as follows:

**GENERAL FUND**

|                                       |           |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| Real Estate Tax – Aquilante           | 1,225.75  |
| Fire Tax – Aquilante                  | 175.11    |
| Delinquent Real Estate Tax – Keystone | 1,111.24  |
| Act 77 Tax Refund                     | 7,341.98  |
| Real Estate Transfer Tax              | 656.60    |
| Earned Income Tax – Keystone          | 31,730.85 |
| Local Services Tax                    | 0.00      |
| Zoning/Building Permits               | 65.00     |
| Zoning/Occupancy Permits              | 90.00     |
| Dye Test Permits                      | 150.00    |
| Police Fines                          | 991.56    |
| No Lien Letters                       | 60.00     |
| Right-of-Way – Duquesne Light         | 105.00    |

**TOTAL RECEIPTS FOR THE MONTH** **\$ 43,703.09**

**GENERAL FUND**

**REGISTER BALANCE** **\$ 3,188.59**

**GENERAL FUND SAVINGS**

Interest 152.55

**REGISTER BALANCE** **495,217.86**

**SEWER FUND**

Customer Payments 36,728.80

**REGISTER BALANCE** **16,210.84**

**HIGHWAY AID FUND**

Interest 9.16

**REGISTER BALANCE**

**\$ 27,527.45**

**SINKING FUND [2018 NOTE]**

Surcharge

4,390.22

**REGISTER BALANCE**

**\$ 65,252.17**

The following invoices for the PennVest Project were presented for drawdown:

| <i>From</i>       | <i>Invoice #</i> | <i>Project</i>                     | <i>Amount</i>    |
|-------------------|------------------|------------------------------------|------------------|
| Glenn Engineering | 19-01-103        | PennVest – Conventional Excavation | 5,405.63         |
| Glenn Engineering | 19-01-104        | PennVest – Manhole Rehabilitation  | 139.50           |
| Glenn Engineering | 19-01-105        | PennVest – Pipe Bursting           | 3,055.05         |
| Glenn Engineering | 19-01-109        | PennVest - Excavation              | 9,147.71         |
| Glenn Engineering | 19-01-110        | PennVest – Pipe Bursting           | 3,026.52         |
| Glenn Engineering | 19-01-111        | PennVest – Manhole Rehabilitation  | 1,185.75         |
| <b>Total</b>      |                  |                                    | <b>21,960.16</b> |

Mr. Matlos made a motion to approve the drawdown of PennVest funds to pay the invoices. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ponchak and passed unanimously.

Mrs. Matyasovsky presented Ordinance 2019-01, establishing the tax rate for the year 2019. Millage remains at 8 mills, with 7 mills for general purposes, and 1 mill for appropriations to the Volunteer Fire Company. Mr. Ponchak made a motion to adopt the ordinance. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Weigand and passed unanimously.

Mrs. Matyasovsky presented Ordinance 2019-02, setting the sewer rental charge for 2019. The per-thousand gallon rate will increase by \$1.40, from \$10.10 to \$11.50. Mr. Matlos made a motion to adopt the ordinance. The motion was seconded by Mr. Zrenchak and passed unanimously.

**PERSONNEL.** Mrs. Matyasovsky, Chairman, reporting.

There was nothing to report.

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

We received a Small Water and Sewer grant for the sewer system, which was applied for when we were attempting to get the PennVest loan. We talked with Senator Brewster to see if we can get it moved from the sanitary sewer repairs and use it to rehab the pump station. It is 25 years old and is showing its age. Last year was the wettest year on record and the pump station took a beating.

It is the time of the year when the grants will be coming out. Mr. Zrenchak was looking into an Act 13 Grant that deals with flood mitigation; the date to apply is February 1. We could use it to deal with some of the flooding issues; if we would go together with Port Vue in a joint grant, we could possibly better our chances of getting it.

The PennVest Project is moving along quite nicely: 89% is complete on the excavation, 5% on the trenchless repairs, 90% on the pipe bursting, and 75% on the manhole installation.

### **MAYOR SIKORSKI'S REPORT.**

Mileage for the month was 2712; at 25 mph, that is 108 hours. In that time, they were able to stop 29 people, and write 10 tickets.

### **SOLICITOR RACUNAS'S REPORT.**

There was nothing to report.

### **ENGINEER GLENN'S REPORT.**

There was nothing to report.

### **NEW BUSINESS.**

Mrs. Morgan made a motion to advertise for the open seats on the Planning and Zoning Boards. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ponchak and passed unanimously.

Mrs. Weigand made a motion to re-appoint Jeff Morgan as Chairman of the Vacancy Board. The motion was seconded by Mr. Matlos and passed, with Mrs. Morgan abstaining.

There was no Old Business or Correspondence.

Mr. Matlos made a motion to accept the typed minutes from the Regular Session on December 12, 2018. The motion was seconded by Mr. Zrenchak and passed unanimously.

Mr. Gretz said the electric wires running on the property across the street, and the trees that are not on his property, are filling in onto his wires. He called Duquesne Light and they sent a guy out; he told Mr. Gretz that he owns the vines going across the street, and they cannot go on his property, so they will not do anything. Mr. Gretz is concerned that the wires are going to come down. He tried to get in touch with the owner of the property across the street, who lives in Clairton, but had no response. Mr. Gretz said he can't get up there and cut them. Mr. Racunas said he doesn't think they are being accurate; they have the right, as the utility provider, to take care of it. He is not telling Mr. Gretz what to do, but he could file an informal complaint with the PUC through their Website; it is an online form that is very easy to complete, and it will get their attention. He could also file a formal complaint.

The next meeting date is Wednesday, February 13, 2019; Work Session at 6:00 pm and Regular Session at 7:30 pm.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Matyasovsky, seconded by Mr. Zrenchak. All were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra L. Helderlein  
Borough Secretary