

MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION OF COUNCIL
April 24, 2024

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

PUBLIC COMMENT:

LOU ATTANUCCI 407 SOUTHERN AVE: Mr. Attanucci would like to commend the council for all the projects going on in the borough. Also, he voiced concern the house that just sold at 2823 E Street, recently sold April 1, 2024, has high grass growing. Mr. Zrenchak advised once the new owner is posted on the county website, we can send a letter regarding the grass or Mike Bogdan can follow up.

GLORIA DUVAL 3334 ORCHARD DR: Ms. Duval voiced concern for a vacant carport at 3400 Orchard Street. Mike Bogdan advised the building inspector to look at it and see no issues.

BLIGHT COMMITTEE: Amanda Rausch

Prior Blight Committee meeting April 17, 2024, it was discussed to have Representative Gergely come to the next meeting to discuss funding. Vicki Underwood spoke to Representative Gergely's office and on May 15th, 2024, he will be attending the meeting to discuss how we can get him to assist our borough with the issues that the committee would like to work on. The discussions are continuing for the two properties targeted to be demolished as there is no funding yet. The Blight Committee is still looking at ways to get that done. Amanda also voiced concerns people are not aware of the complaint forms. The complaint forms are available in the office and on Liberty Borough's website. Mr. Zrenchak advised that when people call into the borough office Jamie Leber refers them to Amanda Rausch as there are a lot of people who do not use the forms.

Mrs. Rausch reported that the committee has produced a program to correlate with the Spring Clean at the end of April. She continues to explain this program is for the residents to tackle that outside cleanup project that they have been putting off. She said these projects could include but not limited to outside painting, outside repairs, getting rid of accumulated unsightly junk, yard clean up, power washing, and beautifying property. She said that when the residents have completed these projects, the residents are encouraged to bring their before and after photos or videos to the Borough building on Saturday May 4, 2024, between 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. to be eligible to win one of the three \$30.00 gift cards for Jolynn's.

PROPERTY: Chris Ponchak

Mr. Ponchak reported that the Dollar General is still being constructed over on Liberty Way. He also reported the issue has been resolved at 2801 F Street. Also, the property at 2823 E Street has been sold.

POLICE, FIRE and EMS: Michael Zrenchak

No Fire Report.

Mr. Ponchak read the EMS Report for April 2024. There were 11 EMS Calls, and the average response time was 9.5 minutes. Total calls for 2023 were 225.

LEGISLATION: David Sowa

No Report.

PARKS & RECREATION: Janice Matyasovsky

Mrs. Matyasovsky reported as a reminder that the Liberty Borough Clean Up Day will be held on April 27, 2024, in the parking lot behind the Liberty Borough Fire Hall from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Mrs. Matyasovsky reported there will be a Memorial Day celebration on Sunday May 26th, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.

HEALTH & ORDINANCE: Chris Ponchak

No Report.

LIGHTS: Michael Matlos

No Report.

FINANCE: Elizabeth Lape

Motion to Pay: Bills for Ratification of \$70,662.37 and List of Bills to Pay \$184,894.78

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

All in favor. Motion carries.

Bills for Ratification:**Payroll**

04/05/2024	EFT	ADP[INVOICE]	- 101.65
04/05/2024	EFT	ADP[CHECKS]	- 12,695.09
04/05/2024	EFT	ADP[TAXES]	- 4,239.71
04/19/2024	EFT	ADP[INVOICE]	-92.67
04/19/2024	EFT	ADP[CHECKS]	-15,513.77
04/19/2024	EFT	ADP[TAXES]	-5,215.99

TOTAL - 37,858.88

Sewer Fund

04/10/2024	12539	AMERICAN WATER	-81.95
04/10/2024	12540	GLENN ENGINEERING& ASSOCIATES	- 665.00
04/10/2024	12541	PA MUNICIPAL SERVICE COMPANY	- 1,071.18

TOTAL - 1,818.13

Highway Fund

04/10/2024	4496	DUQUESNE LIGHT COMPANY	-3,482.56
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TOTAL - 3,482.56

General Fund

03/27/2024	23912	PA MUNICIPAL RETIREMENT	- 1,780.25
04/10/2024	23913	AQUA FILTER FRESH INC	- 10.50
04/10/2024	23914	DUQUESNE LIGHT COMPANY	- 736.90
04/10/2024	23915	ELIZABETH ELECTRIC SUPPLY CO	- 169.68
04/10/2024	23916	FIRST COMMONWEALTH (CREDIT CARD)	- 1,136.87
04/10/2024	23917	GLENN ENGINEERING &ASSOCIATES	- 19,765.62
04/10/2024	23918	PA AMERICAN WATER	- 1,195.78
04/10/2024	23919	PEST B GONE	- 300.00
04/10/2024	23920	RA FOSTER & SON CO	- 140.95
04/10/2024	23921	RC WALTER AND SONS INC	- 106.00
04/10/2024	23922	SAFESUR LLC (MARCH & APRIL)	- 1,743.52
04/10/2024	23923	SPECIALITY CLEANING SYSTEMS LLC	- 240.00
04/10/2024	23924	TMOBILE	- 176.73

List of Bills to Pay: **TOTAL - 27,502.80**

Sewer Fund

04/24/2024	12531 AMERICAN WATER	-360.00
04/24/2024	12532 PA-AMERICAN WATER 4 TH QTR 2023	-160,128.00

TOTAL - 160,488.00

Highway Fund

TOTAL -0.00

General Fund

04/24/2024	EFT UPMC HEALTH PLAN	-3,203.62
04/24/2024	23925 AMTRUST NORTH AMERICA	-3,829.00
04/24/2024	23926 CARMEN PALIOTTA CONTRACTING CO	-3,000.00
04/24/2024	23927 COMCAST	-461.35
04/24/2024	23928 DEARBORN LIFE INSURANCE	-104.40
04/24/2024	23929 GLENN ENGINEERING & ASSOC	-12,750.00
04/24/2024	23930 H B SOUTH PRINTERS	-170.00
04/24/2024	23932 JUST-KLEAN INC	-534.00
04/24/2024	23933 LEAF	-182.00
04/24/2024	23934 MCI	-31.33
04/24/2024	23935 O'REILLY AUTO PARTS	-18.87
04/24/2024	23936 PA AMERICAN WATER	-122.21

TOTAL - 24,406.78

PERSONNEL: Tim Sloss

Motion to hire Rachael Waltonbaugh for Liberty Borough's full-time secretary effective 04/22/2024.

Motion: Mr. Matlos Second: Mrs. Lape
All in favor. Motion carries.

Motion to hire Ralph Marsico for the Liberty Borough's full-time Liberty Borough Police Department.

Motion: Mr. Matlos Second: Mrs. Lape
All in favor. Motion carries.

Mayor Sikorski swore in Mr. Marsico at this evening's council meeting with his family present and provided everyone with a brief background of his previous career and education.

Chief Lynch reported that even though he does not attend the public meetings often, he does go to the workshop meetings and that he would like to thank Council for all their support. Chief Lynch continued to explain how he has brought in over 200 years of experience with all his new police hires. Chief Lynch stated that he feels Officer Marsico is going to be a great fit for the Borough. He said that we just did our firearms qualifications, and the Liberty Borough Police Department has five firearms Instructors in the department, and we help other departments qualify now. Chief Lynch stated that the department is moving a good direction.

Council thanked Chief Lynch and Officer Marsico.

STREETS AND SEWERS: Tim Sloss

No Report.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Larry Sikorski, Mayor

Mayor Sikorski read the Police Report.

Accident Report	1
Animal Report	2
Assist with other Agencies	7
Assist Personnel	1
Code Violation	1
Domestic Disturbance	3
EMS	1
Fighting	1
Fire Alarm	1
Parking	1
Traffic Stops	8
Total	27

Mayor Sikorski stated the Liberty Borough Police Department reported that the paperwork filled out says we have only 27 reportable incidents. However, what the department has not been telling residents is that there were another 122 non-reportable incidents. This means that the incidents were cleared verbally. Mayor Sikorski explained that this means that there were 153 calls that the Liberty Borough Police Department answered. Mayor Sikorski stated that the Police Department is quite busy even though the reportable paperwork did not show it previously.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: Mr. Racunas

No report.

ENGINEER'S REPORT: Lou Corrales

Mr. Corrales reported that they are seeking reimbursement from Harrisburg in the amount of \$288, 177.39 for the Liberty Way Slide Project once the items from the list on the letter from April 2024 is completed and returned to them from the Borough. The Liberty Way Slide Phase II is starting next week.

Motion to award Ackenheil Engineering to provide geo technical investigation for Slide #2 at the bottom of Liberty Way not to exceed \$10,900.00.

Motion: Mr. Matlos Second: Mr. Sloss

Mr. Matlos Yes

Mrs. Lape Abstain

Mr. Sloss Yes

Mr. Sowa Yes

Mrs. Matyasovsky Yes

Mr. Ponchak Yes

Mr. Zrenchak Yes

Motion Carries.

Motion to pay \$3000.00 change order to Carmen Paliotta for the guardrails.

Motion: Mr. Ponchak Second: Mr. Matlos

All in favor. Motion carries.

Mr. Corrales reported the E Street and Roberts Street storm sewer project is completed. There will be a meeting Friday April 26th, 2024, to discuss laying down the preliminary work to start the paving. The Walnut Street Storm Sewer Project contract is scheduled to commence construction next week. The Pump Stations RFP will be sent out next week for the fence and the shed.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Zrenchak stated that once again Council is asking for Letters of Interest for the Zoning Board (1 Seats) and Planning Commission (2 seats). Mr. Zrenchak said they will keep asking until those seats are filled.

Mr. Zrenchak asked Chief Lynch to give the public a background on Megan's Law. Chief Lynch explained there are different tiers and different offenders. Megan's law is run by the State Police. Offenders must register on Megan's law website with name and address as well as the place they will reside. The police have the names and addresses of the individuals so they know who they are but cannot harass them. The State Police are not mandated to notify the local police departments but will notify each resident on both sides of the offender's residence. Amanda Rausch mentioned one of the questions was how far from schools and children are the offenders allowed to live. Chief Lynch explained when the offender registers with state police they make sure it is within the guidelines allowed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Motion to amend the Adoption Agreement for the Non-Uniform Plan with Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement System effective January 1, 2024.

Motion: Mr. Matlos Second: Mr. Sowa
All in favor. Motion carries.

Motion to advertise with the intent to adopt an Ordinance amending the Non-Uniform Pension Plan administered by the Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement System.

Motion: Mr. Matlos Second: Sowa
All in favor. Motion carries.

Motion to remove Jill Pack from all Brentwood Bank Accounts and **add** Rachael Waltonbaugh to all Brentwood Bank accounts effectively immediately.

Motion: Mr. Matlos Second: Mr. Sowa
All in favor. Motion carries.

Mr. Zrenchak explained we are looking into various grants that may be beneficial to the borough. Also look at the STAMP Program.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Motion to accept the typed minutes from the March 27, 2024, meeting.

Motion: Mr. Matlos Second: Mr. Ponchak
All in favor. Motion carries.

Next meeting dates/times: Work Session Meeting – Wednesday, May 8th, 2024, and the Regular Session Meeting -- Wednesday, May 22nd, 2024, at 6:00 pm.

A resident asked if the Borough is notified of a sexual predator moving into the Borough. Mr. Zrenchak said that would be a police department notification. The resident proceeded to say that there was a sexual predator that moved in next to him and that no one knew anything about it. Mr. Racunas explained that there is a state website to search. He stated that it is a public record. The resident said he looked the information up on Megan's Law. Mr. Racunas said that the borough is not required to receive notice from the state. He was unsure about whether the Police Department did. The resident thought that the surrounding neighbors were supposed to be notified. Mr. Zrenchak said that the person might not be complying, and he could be in violation of his probation. Mr. Racunas and Mr. Zrenchak assured the resident that they would check with the Chief of Police to see what the requirements for registering as a sexual predator are.

Motion to adjourn at 6:31 p.m.

Motion: Mr. Matlos Second: Mr. Sloss

All in favor. Motion carries.

Meeting adjourned at 6:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Rachael Waltonbaugh
Secretary/Treasurer