

**MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION OF COUNCIL
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2020**

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Regular session of Borough Council convened at 7:36 pm. Present were Councilors Janice Matyasovsky, Tim Sloss, Mike Matlos, Jennifer Riley-McClelland, Christopher Gretz, Elizabeth Lape, and Michael Zrenchak; Mayor Larry Sikorski; Solicitor Matt Racunas; and Engineer Adam Prince.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS.**

**Cathy Beadling, 2805 A Street**, said she had two questions. The first question was: Does Liberty Borough have to settle with Comcast as their cable provider? Ms. Beadling said she realizes that you are able to get Direct TV, but she was wondering why Verizon FIOS hasn't been able to offer their cable services to the borough. She also wondered if Council negotiated the cost of cable. Mr. Sloss said that the demand was too small for FIOS. We do not have enough homes for them to come through our town. Mr. Bogdan informed everyone that Verizon FIOS stopped expanding in 2018. Mr. Racunas said that Council does not have anything to do with the rates that Comcast is applying and that Liberty Borough collects a small fee back from Comcast for a franchise fee. This fee is to allow Comcast to have the ability to provide services to their customers.

Ms. Beadling's second question was about the main street in the borough. She said that Liberty Way looks awful. Ms. Beadling would like it to be cleaned up and maybe add some lights to dress up the main street. She said maybe we could get a new memorial so that this town doesn't look so desolate. Mr. Zrenchak informed them that was exactly what he would like to happen. He said that past Council and prior Council are working on getting a grant and some money towards demolishing the old school. Mr. Zrenchak told them about the funding that was coming from US Steel and the Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD) and how they planned on using that for infrastructure and green space to hopefully get Liberty Way back to the way it should be. He mentioned that maybe the ladies would like to start a committee to think of ideas to make Liberty Way look nice.

**Madeline Lake, 2841 Washington Boulevard**, wanted to talk about the property that abuts her property (2845 Washington Blvd.) Ms. Lake said that property is horrendous. The house is falling apart. The roof is caved in, the windows are broken out, and the yard has not been maintained in years. She has had to look at that for years and it is a shame. Ms. Lake said that since her husband passed away she has to downsize her home because the upkeep is too much. She asked Council how she is going to get fair market value price for her home if the new buyers see what kind of home they would have to live next to. She would like to be able to say that Liberty Borough Council was getting it taken care of. She really loves this community and she is actually downsizing to a smaller home in the borough, however she needs to receive the most money she can for her home because that will be her nest egg for the years to come. Mr. Bogdan said that it was looked at a few months ago and that the owner said he would clean it up. Ms. Lake said that the owner didn't do anything with it and it is just falling down all

over and she really needs someone to help get that property fixed or demolished. Mr. Zrenchak informed Ms. Lake that Mr. Bogdan would work with the building inspector to get it condemned and hopefully get the owner to start cleaning up the property.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS.**

**PROPERTY.** Mrs. Lape, Chairman reporting.

There was nothing to report.

**POLICE, FIRE, AND EMS.** Mr. Sloss, Chairman and Chris Gretz, Chairman, reporting.

Mr. Sloss read Lieutenant Johnson's report on police equipment for the month of January, as follows:

Vehicle mileage:

|               | BEGIN | END   | MILEAGE |
|---------------|-------|-------|---------|
| Unit #130     | 4452  | 6099  | 1647    |
| Unit #131     | 42400 | 43500 | 900     |
| Unit #132     | 75395 | 75475 | 80      |
| Total mileage |       |       | 2627    |

Vehicle Maintenance:

Unit 130

- No Report

Unit 131

- No Report

Unit 132

- No Report

Mr. Gretz took a moment to thank all of the men and women of the fire department, EMS and all emergency personnel for all of their hard work and efficiency on behalf of Council and himself.

Mr. Gretz read the fire report as follows:

- |                                 |                                        |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| 3 – Building Fires              | 1 – Medical Assist, assist EMS         |
| 1 – Trench/below-grade rescue   | 1 – Gas Leak                           |
| 2 – Cover assignment, standby   | 1 – Dispatched & Cancelled             |
| 1 – Authorized, control burning | 1 – Carbon Monoxide Detector activated |

**LEGISLATION.** Mr. Gretz, Chairman, reporting.

There was nothing to report.

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

There was nothing to report.

**HEALTH & ORDINANCE.** Mrs. Lape, 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:

|                                                             |          |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Aflac – short-term disability [January]                     | \$ 40.60 |
| American Legal Services – police insurance [February]       | 36.20    |
| AmTrust – Municipal Liability Insurance                     | 2,764.00 |
| AmTrust – Worker's Comp installment                         | 5,232.00 |
| Barrier Protection – office door combination change         | 94.95    |
| Comm of PA – PennVest loan payment                          | 5,643.28 |
| Dearborn Group – life insurance [2/1/20 – 4/30/20]          | 147.69   |
| First Commonwealth Bank – loan payment [PW truck]           | 1,301.99 |
| First Commonwealth Bank – loan payment [2015 street paving] | 3,686.14 |
| MCI – long distance                                         | 28.60    |
| Orkin – sewers                                              | 207.92   |
| PA American Water – shut-offs / reconnects                  | 210.00   |
| PA American Water – EMS                                     | 17.34    |
| PA American Water – garage                                  | 51.26    |
| PA American Water – Municipal Building                      | 69.99    |
| PSAB – 4 <sup>th</sup> quarter unemployment tax             | 575.32   |
| Ricoh – copier lease [credit from prior lease applied]      | 34.47    |
| S & D Calibration – Acutrak certification / replace battery | 34.50    |
| Sprint – mobile laptop                                      | 40.24    |

|                                                       |          |
|-------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| UPMC Health Plan – health insurance [February]        | 3,757.33 |
| WestComm Wireless – radio maintenance [2/1/20-3/1/20] | 55.00    |

|                             |                    |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>TOTAL RATIFIED BILLS</b> | <b>\$24,028.82</b> |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|

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

|                                                                      |          |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Allegheny County – annual pump registration fee                      | \$ 50.00 |
| Aqua Filter Fresh – bottled water                                    | 72.85    |
| Auto Plus – misc supplies                                            | 31.58    |
| Cargill – salt                                                       | 3,633.37 |
| Center Independent Energy (Double Car Wash) – police vehicles [Jan]  | 65.00    |
| Cher-Ban Tire – install tires [2011 Ford]                            | 125.00   |
| Dave Collura – wildlife control [January]                            | 175.00   |
| Comcast – phones/Internet                                            | 292.19   |
| Comcast – police Internet                                            | 163.81   |
| Conney Safety – misc supplies                                        | 124.66   |
| Derkas Auto Body – oil change/ rotate tires [2019 Tahoe]             | 98.40    |
| Direct Energy – EMS                                                  | 23.28    |
| Direct Energy – garage                                               | 34.77    |
| Direct Energy – Municipal Building                                   | 186.17   |
| Direct Energy – pump station                                         | 123.65   |
| Duquesne Light – street lights                                       | 3,189.75 |
| Duquesne Light – EMS                                                 | 39.86    |
| Duquesne Light – garage                                              | 49.52    |
| Duquesne Light – Municipal Building                                  | 78.74    |
| Duquesne Light – pump station                                        | 108.74   |
| EconoSigns – stop signs                                              | 484.40   |
| Elizabeth Electric – bulbs                                           | 65.70    |
| First Commonwealth Bank (charge) – annual Norton Anti-Virus renewal  | 106.99   |
| Flynn’s Tire – (2) tires [2011 Ford]                                 | 472.30   |
| General Code – ecode360 [annual maintenance]                         | 995.00   |
| Glenn Engineering – general engineering                              | 371.25   |
| Home Depot – misc supplies                                           | 234.02   |
| Liberty Boro Auto Sales – (2) batteries [2012 Tahoe]                 | 349.90   |
| McRo Tank Division – remove alarm / check sensor                     | 252.00   |
| Mon Valley Independent – legal ads [Meeting Dates / Board Vacancies] | 192.75   |
| O’Reilly Auto Parts – misc supplies                                  | 199.00   |
| PA American Water – consumption data                                 | 66.62    |
| PA American Water – fire hydrants                                    | 1,097.18 |
| PA Municipal Service – 4 <sup>th</sup> quarter sewage billing        | 1,012.55 |
| PA State Mayor’s Assoc – annual dues                                 | 60.00    |
| Peoples Gas – EMS                                                    | 113.41   |
| Peoples Gas – garage                                                 | 127.72   |
| Peoples Gas – Municipal Building                                     | 238.26   |
| Pittsburgh Post-Gazette – ad [RFPs for generator]                    | 297.60   |

|                                                              |          |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Racunas Law Group, LLC – Solicitor fees [December]           | 2,481.00 |
| RC Walter & Sons Inc – misc supplies                         | 58.51    |
| RR Donnelley – traffic citations                             | 140.90   |
| Sprint – cell phones                                         | 69.24    |
| Steel Rivers COG – annual dues                               | 3,000.00 |
| Steel Rivers COG – annual dues [Training Complex]            | 400.00   |
| Steel Rivers COG – CDBG Year 46 application fees [2 @ \$300] | 600.00   |
| Steel Rivers COG – 2019 Sales Tax Revenues                   | 1,376.17 |
| Steel Rivers COG – 1/2/20 Board Meeting [dinner cost]        | 25.10    |
| Steel Rivers COG – 2/6/20 Board Meeting [dinner cost]        | 12.76    |
| TEC Benefits – benefits admin [March]                        | 30.00    |

**TOTAL BILLS** **\$23,596.67**

Mrs. Matyasovsky called for a motion to accept the ratified bills and to pay the list of bills. The motion was made by Mr. Matlos, seconded by Mrs. McClelland and passed unanimously.

The receipts for the month of January are as follows:

**GENERAL FUND**

|                                          |           |
|------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Real Estate Tax – Aquilante              | 1,548.47  |
| Fire Tax – Aquilante                     | 221.21    |
| Delinquent Real Estate Tax – Keystone    | 792.88    |
| Act 77 Tax Refund                        | 6,341.78  |
| Real Estate Transfer Tax                 | 1,620.43  |
| Earned Income Tax – Keystone             | 12,502.06 |
| Local Services Tax                       | 0.00      |
| Zoning/Building Permits                  | 0.00      |
| Zoning/Occupancy Permits                 | 0.00      |
| Dye Test Permits                         | 0.00      |
| Police Fines                             | 0.00      |
| No Lien Letters                          | 0.00      |
| Employee Contribution – Health Insurance | 40.00     |
| COBRA – TEC Benefits                     | 0.00      |
| Police Reports                           | 0.00      |

**TOTAL RECEIPTS FOR THE MONTH** **\$ 23,066.83**

**GENERAL FUND**

**REGISTER BALANCE** **\$ 6,873.83**

**GENERAL FUND SAVINGS**

|                         |                      |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Interest                | 102.19               |
| <b>REGISTER BALANCE</b> | <b>\$ 586,558.42</b> |

**SEWER FUND**

|                         |                  |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| Customer Payments       | 9,457.52         |
| <b>REGISTER BALANCE</b> | <b>45,419.98</b> |

**HIGHWAY AID FUND**

|                         |                     |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Interest                | 7.65                |
| <b>REGISTER BALANCE</b> | <b>\$ 40,258.26</b> |

**SINKING FUND [2018 NOTE]**

|                         |                      |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Surcharge               | 1,005.02             |
| PennVest Loan Proceeds  | 0.00                 |
| <b>REGISTER BALANCE</b> | <b>\$ 106,937.81</b> |

**PERSONNEL.** Mrs. McClelland, Chairman, reporting.

Mrs. McClelland called for a motion to hire Michael Morency as a part-time police officer for the Liberty Borough Police Department. Mr. Matlos made the motion, seconded by Mr. Gretz and passed unanimously.

Mrs. McClelland called for a motion to accept a letter of resignation from Troy Mitchell effective 01/28/2020. Mrs. Matyasovsky made the motion, seconded by Mr. Gretz and passed unanimously.

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

Mr. Zrenchak informed everyone that the public works department was working on the inlets around the borough.

**MAYOR SIKORSKI'S REPORT.**

Mr. Sikorski highlighted the following police activity from the January report:

|                             |   |    |
|-----------------------------|---|----|
| Total Call Activity         |   | 93 |
| Domestic Complaints         | 3 |    |
| Juvenile Complaints         | 1 |    |
| Suspicious Person/Vehicles  | 4 |    |
| Alarms                      | 4 |    |
| Missing Persons             | 1 |    |
| Animal Complaints           | 6 |    |
| Disturbances                | 2 |    |
| Local Ordinance Complaint   | 7 |    |
| Assaults                    | 2 |    |
| Weapons                     | 1 |    |
| Narcotics                   | 0 |    |
| Harassment Complaint        | 0 |    |
| Criminal Mischief Complaint | 0 |    |
| Theft Report                | 1 |    |
| Traffic Accidents           | 1 |    |
| Driving Under the Influence | 1 |    |
| Traffic Stops               | 7 |    |
| Traffic Citations           | 1 |    |
| Non-Traffic Citations       | 0 |    |
| Assist Fire                 |   | 3  |
| Assist Other Departments    |   | 8  |
| Assist By Other Department  |   | 7  |
| Assist EMS                  |   | 12 |

The fines for the month were \$0.00

**SOLICITOR RACUNAS'S REPORT.**

Mr. Racunas called for a motion to approve Nicholas Caito's Memorandum of Understanding Agreement outlining benefits for full time officer on 02/12/2020 outlined within the contract for the year 2020. The motion was made by Mrs. McClelland, seconded by Mr. Gretz and passed unanimously.

**ENGINEER GLENN'S REPORT.** – Mr. Prince, Engineer, reporting.

Mr. Prince called for a motion to award the contract for the generator for the Liberty Borough Volunteer Fire Department to Allegheny City Electric in the amount of

\$55,000.00. The motion was made by Mr. Matlos, seconded by Mrs. Matyasovsky and passed unanimously.

Mr. Zrenchak informed the residents that the generator for the fire department was completely covered by a CITF grant.

### **OLD BUSINESS.**

Mr. Zrenchak informed public that we still have several board openings. He said that they have received a couple letters and they are still looking for members. Mr. Zrenchak said that if anyone was interested to please submit a letter to the borough office to be considered.

### **NEW BUSINESS.**

None.

### **CORRESPONDENCE.**

None.

Mr. Zrenchak called for a motion to accept typed minutes from the re-organization session on January 6, 2020 and regular session on January 15, 2020. The motion was made by Mr. Gretz, seconded by Mr. Matlos and passed unanimously.

The next meeting date and time will be on Wednesday, March 11, 2020. The workshop session will be at 6:00 pm. The regular session is at 7:30 pm.

Mr. Zrenchak informed the residents that the 2020 Census was coming up and on how important it is to be involved in the Census. He said that he sat in a conference about the Census and learned that for a family of five who does not fill out the census form; this area loses \$100,000.00 worth of funding. Mr. Zrenchak said that the residents should start to see the census cards in the mail in March and would appreciate it if they took the time to answer the Census.

Mr. Zrenchak called for a motion to adjourn. The motion was made by Mrs. Matyasovsky, seconded by Mrs. McClelland and passed unanimously.

The above borough business concluded at 8:00 pm.

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Respectfully submitted,

Jamie Leber
Office Assistant