

**MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION OF COUNCIL
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2018**

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Regular session of Borough Council convened at 7:30 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 wanted to update everyone on the Liberty Way slide. Pictures are on display for what is happening now. The road will be closed until next week. Please, do not go past the barricades; do not cut through the alley to try and get down the hill. All the heavy equipment is down there and they are working on it non-stop to try and get it cleared as fast as they can. We are waiting for Comcast and Verizon to come in tomorrow morning to get their wires up. Duquesne Light will be coming back. The county is coming back at 7:30 am. Please, don't walk down there; it is dangerous. We don't want anyone to get hurt. Mr. Zrenchak said there are wires down everywhere; we want everyone to stay safe. With the ground still saturated, there could be more movement.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS.**

**Robert Black, 2801 Liberty Way**, said he is fed up. With the rain this week, he had 6" of sewage in his basement on Sunday; Monday a foot. This is four times in fifteen months. Nothing is being done; he has to spend money to clean it up again. He had just finished re-drywalling his basement bathroom, and has to rip it out again because it all got ruined. He had to pay money to put in a back water valve. Since nothing is being done, they are turning his basement into a catch basin for the sewage in this borough and his house into a bio-hazard. He can't even sell the house if he wants to get rid of it, because no one is going to buy a house that fills up with sewage. Mr. Zrenchak said that something is being done. He was out Sunday and Monday, pulling manholes from Kaler Street back up to Kessling's at Owens. Looking in at the two manholes there, there was a good surcharge and Bill Kessling ended up with 3½ feet in his basement. Something is going on there; he doesn't know what it is yet. They brought the jetter out to make sure nothing was plugged. Between Southern and Owens was done first, since his was the one with the most sewage in the basement. They worked their way down and there were no obstructions; everything is clean. Mr. Zrenchak contacted Mr. Glenn, who sent over the video. He hasn't had a chance to review all of the video yet, to make sure nothing has happened with the liner. Also, he and Mr. Matlos took dye and threw it in the inlets above that come down Liberty Way. All the dye is going where it is supposed to; none is showing up in the sanitary lines. That tells him that we don't have any cross-contamination. The next item to look at during the rain events, are the two sanitary lines on Liberty Way, one on each side, as they go down towards Glenn Avenue, to see if there is something in that direction that is causing it to surcharge. There is something going on, but he can't see it during the normal flow events; it has to be looked at during the rain events. His official rain gauge in Elizabeth Borough was showing 8.3" of rain over the three-day period; that is an awful

lot of water. We have a camera truck coming out to do an inspection on the line that comes over the hillside, where the slide is, so he wants to review the video from 2016 to make sure nothing has changed. Mr. Black said that something has changed. He moved here in 2009, and nothing happened until June of last year; now it is four times and he can't continue to live like this. Mr. Black asked Mr. Zrenchak if he had a chance to talk with PA American Water about the pumping station. Mr. Zrenchak said the station was overwhelmed; the manhole that it pumps into was surcharging and couldn't keep up. The camera will tell us more. He brought maps to show Mr. Black what he is talking about.

**Alice Pastirik, 3122 Woodrow Street**, talked to Mr. Zrenchak on Sunday; that made her feel good that someone is actually looking at the situation. She had pictures of what was going on, and gave them to Mr. Zrenchak.

**Rick Gobel, 185 Wunderley Drive**, said he wanted to thank Mr. Sloss personally. The last time we had a power outage, he came down to the office. Mr. Sloss was here; he is the only one that took him seriously about the substation, and realizing that there was something going on down there that was not normal. Mr. Gobel said Mr. Sloss took it upon himself to make a necessary phone call on behalf of Liberty Borough council. Mr. Sloss said he thinks it was more than the one call; the community calls were there also, and made a difference. Mr. Gobel said that after Mr. Sloss called, within a couple of days, the temporary substation was here. Mr. Sloss said he can't take credit for it; it was all of the calls that made a difference. Mr. Gobel wanted to thank him for his effort.

**Don Rudberg, 605 Scene Ridge Road**, commended them for being out in the rain; he appreciated it. He has just bought the Mother's Club building this year and it flooded; the fire company helped him out. He understands that there are some sewer issues, but the owner is responsible for his own property; you can't control the weather. After the flooding, Mr. Rudberg said he took everything out of his basement and hosed it down; it wasn't a big deal. He bought the storage building fifteen years ago. He never had a problem until about ten years ago. The borough did nothing with Elizabeth Street; it's because of the weather changing; and it is his responsibility to take care of it. Mr. Rudberg said there are some problems going on in the borough, but this council did not create the problems. Mr. Zrenchak asked that Mr. Rudberg inform him if he does back up, so they can continue to look into the problem. Mrs. Morgan thanked Mr. Rudberg.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS.**

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

Mrs. Weigand called for a motion to authorize Mr. Glenn to obtain Requests for Proposals (RFPs) to insulate the borough maintenance garage. Mrs. Matyasovsky made the motion, seconded by Mr. Ponchak, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Weigand wanted to thank the Fire Department, Police Department, Mrs. Morgan and the other councilors, and the Street Department for working hours on end during the landslide.

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

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

Vehicle mileage:

|               | BEGIN | END   | MILEAGE |
|---------------|-------|-------|---------|
| Unit #130     | 83248 | 85018 | 1770    |
| Unit #131     | 27768 | 28800 | 1032    |
| Unit #132     | 56467 | 56741 | 274     |
| Total mileage |       |       | 3076    |

Vehicle Maintenance:

Unit 130

- None

Unit 131

- None

Unit 132

- None

There was no fire report this month, since they were busy assisting residents with storm issues; there were 12 incidents last month.

Mr. Ponchak made a motion to hire Marla Matis as a part-time police officer, with a one-year probation period, effective immediately. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Matyasovsky and passed unanimously.

Mr. Ponchak wanted to thank everyone that assisted during the landslide and Mrs. Peterson for organizing the Yard Sale.

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

There was nothing to report.

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

Mrs. Morgan said she can't thank everyone enough for their assistance with Fun-To-Be-A-Kid Day. It was a huge success; the kids had a great time. Bill and Eileen Wall were amazing in handling the kitchen on their own. Thanks to Corey Derr, Fire Chief, for the use of the Fire Hall.

The Firemen's Fall Festival will take place this Friday and Saturday from 5:00 pm – 10:00 pm. There will be fireworks on Saturday. Please go over and support them.

Mrs. Morgan thanked everyone for their efforts during the landslide – the Police Department, the Fire Department, the Street Department, and her husband, Jeff. It was overwhelming.

**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:

|                                                                 |          |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| American Legal Services – police insurance [September]          | \$ 43.44 |
| Building Inspection Underwriters – building inspection [July]   | 55.00    |
| Cayco (The Jumpy Co) – bounce house, etc. [Fun-To-Be-A-Kid Day] | 500.00   |
| Comcast – phones / Internet                                     | 286.55   |
| Direct Energy – EMS                                             | 45.59    |
| Direct Energy – garage                                          | 96.66    |
| Direct Energy – Municipal Building                              | 459.95   |
| Direct Energy – pump station                                    | 120.63   |
| First Commonwealth Bank – loan payment [PW truck]               | 1,301.99 |
| First Commonwealth Bank – loan payment [2015 street paving]     | 3,686.14 |
| Guy Norelli Graphics – shirts [Fun-To-Be-A-Kid Day]             | 858.00   |
| MCI – long distance                                             | 29.47    |
| McKeesport, City of – prisoner detainment [July]                | 50.00    |
| Morgan, Melissa – Fun-To-Be-A-Kid Day expenses                  | 1,600.00 |
| Mr. John – 1 @ Latrobe Park [8/17/18 – 9/13/18]                 | 118.00   |
| Mr. John – 2 @ Manor Park [8/17/18 – 9/13/18]                   | 236.00   |
| Newegg.com – laptop for the police vehicle                      | 722.25   |
| Orkin – sewers                                                  | 207.92   |
| PA American Water – EMS                                         | 15.38    |
| PA American Water – garage                                      | 116.62   |
| PA American Water – Municipal Building                          | 90.95    |
| PA One Call – notices                                           | 5.60     |
| Paul’s Auto Sales – police vehicles                             | 926.86   |
| Racunas Law Group, LLC – Solicitor fees [July]                  | 2,310.00 |
| Ricoh – copier maintenance                                      | 38.22    |
| Sprint – mobile laptop                                          | 40.24    |
| TruGreen – lawn service [ball fields]                           | 463.37   |
| UPMC Health Plan – health insurance [September]                 | 2,485.26 |
| Verizon – garage                                                | 56.71    |
| WestComm Wireless – radio maintenance                           | 55.00    |

**TOTAL RATIFIED BILLS****\$17,021.80**

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

|                                                                        |             |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Am Trust North America – Worker’s Comp installment                     | \$ 4,099.00 |
| Aqua Filter Fresh – bottled water                                      | 28.17       |
| Center Independent Oil (Double Car Wash) – police vehicles [July]      | 37.00       |
| Collura, Dave – wildlife control [August]                              | 140.00      |
| Comcast – Internet [police office]                                     | 163.81      |
| Dept of the State – PennVest loan [filing fee]                         | 84.00       |
| Direct Energy – EMS                                                    | 65.73       |
| Direct Energy – garage                                                 | 97.64       |
| Direct Energy – Municipal Building                                     | 413.95      |
| Direct Energy – pump station                                           | 146.98      |
| Dobosh Center – parts for the hedge trimmer                            | 99.72       |
| Duquesne Light – street lights                                         | 3,183.73    |
| Elizabeth Electric – misc parts                                        | 131.50      |
| Glenn Engineering – general engineering                                | 3,872.50    |
| Home Depot – supplies for Street Dept                                  | 60.84       |
| Kingscote Chemicals – dye for sewers                                   | 177.76      |
| Liberty Boro Auto Sales – inspection / emissions [2008 Chevy truck]    | 60.75       |
| Marshall, Dennehey – legal costs through 7/31 [lawsuit]                | 323.00      |
| O’Reilly Auto Parts – paint machine supplies                           | 14.45       |
| PA American Water – 2nd quarter sewage                                 | 96,552.12   |
| PA American Water – reconnect                                          | 30.00       |
| PA American Water – consumption data                                   | 65.86       |
| PA American Water – fire hydrants                                      | 1,097.18    |
| PA Municipal Service Co – bankruptcy claim                             | 50.00       |
| PA One Call – notices                                                  | 23.75       |
| Peoples Gas – EMS                                                      | 21.21       |
| Peoples Gas – Municipal Building                                       | 21.21       |
| Peoples Gas – garage                                                   | 20.38       |
| Phonetics, Inc (Sensaphone) – cell subscription renewal [pump station] | 254.40      |
| Quill – office supplies                                                | 6.33        |
| Quill – office supplies                                                | 62.91       |
| RC Walter - garage supplies                                            | 41.17       |
| Ricoh – copier lease                                                   | 114.95      |
| S & D Calibration – Acutrak certification / replace battery            | 34.50       |
| Sam’s Club – annual membership fee                                     | 45.00       |
| Sherwin-Williams – paint for street markings                           | 868.04      |
| Sherwin-Williams – paint for street markings                           | 500.53      |
| Sprint – cell phones                                                   | 89.16       |
| Stone & Co – limestone / #2 stone                                      | 578.72      |
| TEC Benefits – benefits admin [October]                                | 30.00       |
| TEC Benefits – deductible reimbursement [Takaht]                       | 14.35       |
| Wall, William – reimburse for sweeper purchase                         | 94.34       |
| WestCom Wireless – replace radio microphone                            | 167.00      |

Zrenchak Environmental Services – pump station inspection [August] 735.00

**TOTAL BILLS** **\$114,718.64**

Mrs. Matyasovsky said the total was high because of the bill to PA American Water for the second quarter sewage billing at an amount over \$96,000. Mr. Matlos made a motion to accept the ratified bills and to pay the list of bills. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Weigand and passed, with Mr. Zrenchak abstaining on the bill for Zrenchak Environmental Services in the amount of \$ 735.

The receipts for the month of August are as follows:

**GENERAL FUND**

|                                       |           |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| Real Estate Tax – Aquilante           | 17,846.99 |
| Fire Tax – Aquilante                  | 2,549.57  |
| Delinquent Real Estate Tax – Keystone | 1,555.88  |
| Act 77 Tax Refund                     | 7,464.77  |
| Real Estate Transfer Tax              | 489.51    |
| Earned Income Tax – Keystone          | 27,000.08 |
| Local Services Tax                    | 754.87    |
| Zoning/Building Permits               | 65.00     |
| Zoning/Occupancy Permits              | 60.00     |
| Dye Test Permits                      | 100.00    |
| Police Fines                          | 450.64    |
| No Lien Letters                       | 40.00     |
| Police Reports                        | 0.00      |
| Fun-To-Be-A-Kid Day Donations         | 600.00    |
| Right-of-Way – Duquesne Light         | 35.00     |
| Cable TV – Comcast                    | 13,584.85 |

**TOTAL RECEIPTS FOR THE MONTH** **\$ 72,597.16**

**GENERAL FUND**

**REGISTER BALANCE** **\$ 31,230.52**

**GENERAL FUND SAVINGS**

Interest 194.59

**REGISTER BALANCE** **654,781.88**

**SEWER FUND**

|                         |                      |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Customer Payments       | 97,521.62            |
| Surcharge               | 14,610.12            |
| <b>REGISTER BALANCE</b> | <b>\$ 166,126.04</b> |

**HIGHWAY AID FUND**

|                         |                     |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Interest                | 13.31               |
| <b>REGISTER BALANCE</b> | <b>\$ 43,460.49</b> |

Mrs. Matyasovsky called for a motion to accept the 2019 MMOs (Minimum Municipal Obligation) as follows: Police Pension, \$4,180; Non-Uniformed Pension, \$9,420. Mrs. Weigand made the motion, seconded by Mr. Ponchak, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Matyasovsky called for a motion to accept the 2019 Option Year on the garbage contract with Waste Management. The current rate is \$11.85/month (\$35.55/quarter) and the 2019 rate will be \$12.21/month (\$36.63/quarter). Mr. Matlos made the motion, seconded by Mr. Ponchak, and the motion passed unanimously.

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

Mrs. Matyasovsky called for a motion to accept the resignation of Police Officer Glenn Bonczek, effective immediately. Mr. Matlos made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Weigand, and the motion passed unanimously.

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

The issues with the flooding have already been addressed. In regards to the Glendale storm sewers, everything held with all of the rain. Mr. Glenn had updated the study to a 100-year plan, and that looks like it will be acceptable. The retention pond is a key factor. It held over the weekend, with no extra flooding. These problems go back for years. There is no storm system; it runs for blocks on end and picks up speed. A lot of things need to be addressed. The camera truck will be in to do some work on Liberty Way, and we will address some other issues in the borough.

Mr. Zrenchak called for a motion to pay the invoice from Satira Construction for road/hillside restoration work on Liberty Way in the amount of \$12,050. Mr. Matlos made the motion, seconded by Mr. Ponchak, and the motion passed unanimously.

**MAYOR SIKORSKI'S REPORT.**

Mr. Sikorski commended Emergency Management Coordinator Corey Derr during the emergency; he is always the first one there. The road will have to be shut down for a week or so.

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

|                             |    |    |
|-----------------------------|----|----|
| Calls for Service           |    | 21 |
| Narcotics Service           | 1  |    |
| Property Crimes             |    | 6  |
| Criminal Mischief           | 3  |    |
| Theft Reports               | 3  |    |
| Traffic Accidents           | 1  |    |
| Driving Under the Influence | 2  |    |
| Traffic Violations          | 43 |    |
| Traffic Citations Issued    |    | 34 |

During the fair, there was a lot of speeding going on. There were about 1,000 people in the borough. People want it to be 25 mph at their house, then they pick up speed. The speed limit is 25 mph in the entire borough. The police will continue to issue citations for violations.

**SOLICITOR RACUNAS'S REPORT.**

There was nothing to report.

**ENGINEER GLENN'S REPORT.**

There was nothing to report.

There was no Old Business, New Business, or Correspondence.

Mrs. Matyasovsky made a motion to accept the typed minutes from the Regular Session on August 8, 2018 and the Special Session on August 30, 2018. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Weigand and passed unanimously.

The next meeting date is October 10, 2018, with the Work Session at 6:00 pm and the Regular Session at 7:30 pm.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Morgan, seconded by Mr. Ponchak. All were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra L. Helderlein  
Borough Secretary