MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION OF COUNCIL

May 25, 2022

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Regular session of Borough Council convened at 6:00 pm. Present were Councilor, Mike Matlos, Tim Sloss, Luke Riley, Jennifer Riley, Elizabeth Lape, Michael Zrenchak, and Chris Gretz, Mayor Sikorski, Solicitor Dennis Very and Engineer Don Glenn.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**Russell Jameyson – 2724 Washington Boulevard:** He wanted an update on the condemned properties – first the school and then the residential properties. Mr. Zrenchak stated that they will address the school a little later in the meeting. Mr. Glenn stated that we will not hear anything on the demolition funding that we applied for until later this summer. Mr. Zrenchak stated that the Community Block Grant (CDBG) opens up in June or July. He explained that the problem with the LSA grant is that we do not own the properties. It was more for infrastructure. He believes the woman that was in charge of that was going back to her superiors to ask that they revise the scope to say what demolition is applicable. Mr. Jameyson thought that the borough would take ownership of these properties because they were condemned. Mr. Zrenchak explained that you have to condemn them to have the right to tear them down but you don’t take ownership until it goes through sheriff sale. To condemn a property, it has to be a detriment to health and safety. Mr. Jameyson asked about the one property that they were going to try and rehabilitate (2814 B Street). Mr. Zrenchak stated that the garage was emergency demoed and the property was liened for the $3,000 it cost to tear the garage down due the danger to the alleyway. He said that he would have to check with Jamie because he thinks someone expressed an interest in purchasing it. That property may end up back on the tax roll.

Mr. Glenn said that he heard from someone regarding the LAS grant last week. He said that we will not hear from them until probably November. Mr. Jameyson asked about reapplying to the county. Mr. Zrenchak stated that we did apply for Act 152 when it became open at the end of March.

**Vicki Underwood – 407 Southern Avenue:** At the February meeting, you (Mr. Zrenchak) and Mr. Glenn said that the ally was second on the list and that the ally between D and E would be started in the spring. Mr. Zrenchak said that he did not remembering saying that it would be started in the spring. We applied for the grants. It is not going to be done until we get some sort of funding. He explained that we applied for the LSA grant and the CDBG. They denied that one. Mr. Glenn said that the announcement will not be until November. Mrs. Underwood said that she know how she heard in February that it would be started in the spring and that it was second on the list, she wrote it down. She said she is disappointed. Mr. Zrenchak said that he would check the minutes.

Mr. Zrenchak asked for a moment of silence for the passing of former long-term Council Member and Planning Commission Member Ron Pope.

**PROPERTY:** Chris Gretz

There was nothing to report.

**POLICE, FIRE and EMS:** Michael Zrenchak

Mr. Zrenchak explained that at the workshop meeting, council talked about the purchase of one or two police vehicles. The consensus for now is to purchase one vehicle to replace the 2012 Tahoe. We are looking at a pretty good wait time

**Motion to** order one (1) new Police vehicle.

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

Mr. Riley questioned who made up the specs for the police car. Mr. Zrenchak and the secretary stated that the specs came from Laurel Auto. Mr. Riley questioned that it came from the place where we got the car. Ms. Pack made the correction that the specs came from Kush Customs. Mr. Riley stated that he had a couple more questions and he would make it brief. He asked how we picked a place in Greensburg, did we get more than one price. Mr. Zrenchak said that right now to just get the police car ordered and then if we need to, get more quotes for that. He wants to get the police car ordered so we are not waiting over a year. Mr. Riley said that they definitely need to replace that Tahoe but he thinks they should get more than one price – that is $20,000 worth of equipment. He said that he did not know if anyone else read the specs but he had the time to do that and he was looking at the specs for the unmarked car and it has under graphics package $1,725 – there are no graphics on an unmarked car – that is why it is unmarked. Mr. Zrenchak explained that they decided they are not replacing the unmarked car. Mr. Riley said that they should look at the other specs, there may be other stuff in there we do not need. Mr. Zrenchak said that is fine. Mr. Riley stated he does not have a problem replacing the police car but the last one he got for free. That is the one we got all the bells and whistles on but he definitely thinks they need to replace that Tahoe. I do not know if that unmarked car is getting that kind of use but he does not know anyone who trades a car in with only 50,000 miles on it. Mr. Zrenchak stated that is why, at the workshop meeting, the consensus was that the Tahoe is the one that needs to be replaced. He wants to make sure that they can get the car ordered then we can adjust what to do as far as the spec package or at least the accessories and things like that if we need to get more pricing. Mr. Riley stated that he should have his Sargent or his Officer in Charge take a real good look at what all is on there. Sargent Mayernik stated that the quote mirrors Glassport’s most recent purchase just as something to give him – the spec is identical to the one they just got It is graphics and everything out the door. Mr. Riley said that Glassport may have gotten some stuff that you don’t want. Sargent Mayernik stated that he just gave it to him for something to give him as a basis to go on. Mr. Zrenchak stated that his understanding is the car comes in from Laurel and if we get the car we can actually take it wherever we want to have the rest of it done. He just wants to make that get the car ordered and we can spec the rest of it separately to get it outfitted for what we need.

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Mrs. Lape Yes**

**Mr. Sloss Yes**

**Mr. Matlos Yes**

**Ms. Riley Yes**

**Mr. Gretz Yes**

**Mr. Riley Yes**

**Mr. Zrenchak Yes**

**Motion to** **approve** Sgt. John Mayernik attending the Property and Evidence training in September for the cost of $491 and permit him to use the unmarked car.

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

**All in favor. Motion carries**

Mr. Riley said that Sargent Mayernik should permit him to take the unmarked car also as to not beat up his own car. Mr. Zrenchak stated that he would amend the motion to permit Sargent Mayernik to use the unmarked car.

**LEGISLATION:** Chris Gretz

Mr. Gretz stated that in the workshop meeting, they talked a little about ordinances and about changing some things. He wanted the public to know that, we as a borough, have to look at our entire ordinance legislation our codes, everything. Ms. Riley stated that she spoke with Scott Murphy from General Code and he told her that our code book is up to date. Mr. Zrenchak explained that as far as Mr. Murphy is concerned, we are up to date because all of the ordinances that we have sent to them to be codified have been added to our code book. For example, Mr. Murphy would not know that the sewage rates are not correct and need updated. He just knows that they have codified everything that has been sent to them. Mr. Gretz clarified that in our ordinance book it states that if you have a chicken coop you have to go to the mayor to get a permit. Council has to update that, there is nothing new in there. Do we keep it in there or do we take it out of there. There are more modern things that have come our way that we need to add to that E360 to bring us up to compliance. Mr. Gretz explained to Mrs. Kerklo that in the workshop meeting they talked about ordinances that are not applicable anymore. They need to look at what is applying to this borough so that we are in line with everything else. He confirmed that Mrs. Kerklo was correct in saying that we have to go by the ordinance until it is changed. Mr. Riley and any other council person along with Matt can work together on updating the ordinances. It needs to be done. Mr. Gretz stated, that it is his understanding, that it is a long process – over several months.

**Motion to adopt** Resolution 2022-09 authorizing the destruction/disposition of copies of public record in accordance with the Municipal Records Manual.

**Motion: Mr. Matlos Second: Ms. Riley**

**All in favor. Motion carries**

**Motion to advertise** Ordinance 2022-02 creating a handicap parking space at 3400 Orchard Drive.

**Motion: Mr. Matlos Second: Ms. Riley**

**All in favor. Motion carries.**

**PARKS & RECREATION:** Jennifer Riley

Ms. Riley stated that we had Clean-up Day in conjunction with Lincoln Borough on May 7, 2022. It was a terrible weather day. She thanked everyone who showed up. Mike Zrenchak was there helping residents of both communities load heavy items into the dumpsters. She and her daughter Kenna walked around picking trash up off of the street. It was a very effective day considering it was cold and rainy.

Memorial Day recognition on May 28th at 10:00 am. The Honor Guard will be in attendance, Mark Suckfiel will be speaking as he always does. The high school band is not available. The Honor Guard has essentially the same music. They have the Taps recording, the National Anthem. There is a luncheon following at the Vets Club. Mr. Zrenchak asked Sargent Mayernik and Fire Chief Corey Derr to assist with blocking traffic.

Ms. Riley told Corey Derr that they had a little trouble getting into the fire hall on clean-up day. She said that she will communicate better going forward.

**HEALTH & ORDINANCE**: Luke Riley

Mr. Riley stated that if anyone has any complaints to please call the borough building. Mr. Bogdan is very diligent in doing his job and he handles the complaints as they come in. If there are any questions regarding the resolution of those complaints, he is the person to call.

**LIGHTS:** Michael Matlos

Mr. Matlos has nothing new to report this month.

**FINANCE:** Elizabeth Lape

**Motion to Pay:** Bills for Ratification of $33,376.75 and List of Bills to Pay $22,637.36

**Motion: Mr. Matlos Second: Mr. Sloss**

**All in favor. Motion carries**

Ms. Riley abstained from voting on her reimbursement check.

**Bills for Ratification:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |
| 04/29/2022 | EFT | ADP [INVOICE] | -95.35 |
| 05/06/2022 | EFT | PA SCDU | -82.52 |
| 05/13/2022 | EFT | ADP [INVOICE] | -79.22 |
| 05/17/2022 | EFT | PA SCDU | -82.52 |
| 04/29/2022 | 22684 | PA MUNICIPAL RETIREMENT SYSTEM | 0.00 |
| 05/03/2022 | 22685 | RILEY-MCCLELLAND, JENNIFER | -53.00 |
| 05/09/2022 | 22686 | AFLAC | -223.36 |
| 05/11/2022 | 22687 | AMERICAN LEGAL SERVICES | -65.16 |
| 05/11/2022 | 22688 | DERKAS AUTO SERVICE | -2,641.80 |
| 05/11/2022 | 22689 | DUQUESNE LIGHT CO | -86.84 |
| 05/11/2022 | 22690 | FIRST COMMONWEALTH BANK (CREDIT CARD) | -2,350.10 |
| 05/11/2022 | 22691 | MCI | -29.21 |
| 05/11/2022 | 22692 | ONE DIGITAL | -40.00 |
| 05/11/2022 | 22693 | ORKIN EXTERMINATING | -207.92 |
| 05/11/2022 | 22694 | PA AMERICAN WATER | -1,175.89 |
| 05/11/2022 | 22695 | PC TIRE & FOAMFILL SPECIALISTS | -216.16 |
| 05/11/2022 | 22696 | PEOPLES NATURAL GAS | -379.95 |
| 05/11/2022 | 22697 | Safsecur LLC | -808.34 |
| 05/11/2022 | 22698 | SPRINT | -112.16 |
| 05/11/2022 | 22699 | T-Mobile | -18.60 |
| 05/11/2022 | 22700 | COMMONWEALTH OF PA - PIB LOAN | -23,686.31 |
| 05/11/2022 | 22701 | Barbara Cross | -50.30 |
| 05/16/2022 | 22702 | TEAMSTERS LOCAL UNION #205 | -188.00 |
| 05/16/2022 | 22703 | PA MUNICIPAL RETIREMENT SYSTEM | -335.72 |
| 05/20/2022 | 22704 | COMCAST | -368.32 |
|  |  |  | -33,376.75 |
|  |  |  |  |

**List of Bills to Pay:**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **AMERICAN NATURAL SUPPLY LLC** |  |  |  |  |
|  | 05/10/2022 | INV-1047441-AN |  | 875.52 |
|  | 05/10/2022 | INV-1047442.AN |  | 4,089.19 |
| Total AMERICAN NATURAL SUPPLY LLC |  |  |  | 4,964.71 |
| **AMERICAN WATER** |  |  |  |  |
|  | 04/01/2022 | 4000233553 |  | 74.82 |
|  | 04/19/2022 | 400023469 |  | 90.00 |
|  | 05/01/2022 | 4000235279 |  | 74.35 |
| Total AMERICAN WATER |  |  |  | 239.17 |
| **AMTRUST NORTH AMERICA** |  |  |  |  |
|  | 05/12/2022 | 17594925 |  | 4,751.00 |
| Total AMTRUST NORTH AMERICA |  |  |  | 4,751.00 |
| **AQUA FILTER FRESH INC** |  |  |  |  |
|  | 05/02/2022 | 1814353 |  | 44.00 |
| Total AQUA FILTER FRESH INC |  |  |  | 44.00 |
| **BUILDING INSPECTION UNDERWRITERS OF PA** |  |  |  |  |
|  | 05/04/2022 | 696 |  | 55.00 |
| Total BUILDING INSPECTION UNDERWRITERS OF PA |  |  |  | 55.00 |
| **CENTER INDEPENDENT ENERGY** |  |  |  |  |
|  | 04/30/2022 | 04302 |  | 51.04 |
| Total CENTER INDEPENDENT ENERGY |  |  |  | 51.04 |
| **City of McKeesport** |  |  |  |  |
|  | 05/11/2022 | 3 Detainments |  | 75.00 |
| Total City of McKeesport |  |  |  | 75.00 |
| **COLLURA, DAVE** |  |  |  |  |
|  | 04/25/2022 | 397130 |  | 262.50 |
| Total COLLURA, DAVE |  |  |  | 262.50 |
| **DUQUESNE LIGHT CO** |  |  |  |  |
|  | 05/01/2022 | 9723-500-000 |  | 3,315.05 |
|  | 05/02/2022 | 1744-720-000 |  | 81.57 |
|  | 05/02/2022 | 0744-720-000 |  | 239.26 |
|  | 05/02/2022 | 3993-460-000 |  | 248.31 |
| Total DUQUESNE LIGHT CO |  |  |  | 3,884.19 |
| **GLENN ENGINEERING & ASSOC** |  |  |  |  |
|  | 04/05/2022 | 22-05-01 |  | 2,603.75 |
|  | 04/30/2022 | 22-05-155 |  | 96.25 |
| Total GLENN ENGINEERING & ASSOC |  |  |  | 2,700.00 |
| **HOME DEPOT** |  |  |  |  |
|  | 05/06/2022 | 006366/1090643 |  | 169.00 |
| Total HOME DEPOT |  |  |  | 169.00 |
| **MON VALLEY INDEPENDENT** |  |  |  |  |
|  | 04/30/2022 | 00003274 |  | 566.00 |
| Total MON VALLEY INDEPENDENT |  |  |  | 566.00 |
| **O'REILLY AUTO PARTS** |  |  |  |  |
|  | 05/04/2022 | 5219-200351 |  | 47.93 |
| Total O'REILLY AUTO PARTS |  |  |  | 47.93 |
| **ORKIN EXTERMINATING** |  |  |  |  |
|  | 05/06/2022 | 223749042 |  | 207.92 |
| Total ORKIN EXTERMINATING |  |  |  | 207.92 |
| **PA AMERICAN WATER** |  |  |  |  |
|  | 05/17/2022 | 1024-210030156299 |  | 18.70 |
|  | 05/17/2022 | 1024-210033713752 |  | 118.01 |
|  | 05/17/2022 | 1024-210034877260 |  | 85.59 |
| Total PA AMERICAN WATER |  |  |  | 222.30 |
| **PA MUNICIPAL SERVICE CO** |  |  |  |  |
|  | 04/26/2022 | 93391 |  | 1,008.25 |
| Total PA MUNICIPAL SERVICE CO |  |  |  | 1,008.25 |
| **RACUNAS LAW GROUP LLC** |  |  |  |  |
|  | 04/01/2022 | 1494 |  | 2,247.00 |
| Total RACUNAS LAW GROUP LLC |  |  |  | 2,247.00 |
| **RATVASKY, LARRY G** |  |  |  |  |
|  | 05/04/2022 | 20220504 |  | 250.00 |
| Total RATVASKY, LARRY G |  |  |  | 250.00 |
| **REAL STATS** |  |  |  |  |
|  | 05/12/2022 | 00100 |  | 560.00 |
| Total REAL STATS |  |  |  | 560.00 |
| **RICOH USA** |  |  |  |  |
|  | 05/16/2022 | 106171982 |  | 149.42 |
| Total RICOH USA |  |  |  | 149.42 |
| **SPRINT** |  |  |  |  |
|  | 05/12/2022 | 233328279-128 |  | 127.23 |
| Total SPRINT |  |  |  | 127.23 |
| **VERIZON GARAGE** |  |  |  |  |
|  | 05/09/2022 | 450-731-927-0001-53 |  | 55.70 |
| Total VERIZON GARAGE |  |  |  | 55.70 |
|  |  |  |  | **22,637.36** |

**PERSONNEL:** Jennifer Riley

**Motion to accept** Alexander Appleby’s resignation effective May 3, 2022.

**Motion: Mr. Matlos Second: Mr. Sloss**

**All in favor. Motion carries.**

Mr. Zrenchak explained that Officer Appleby has moved on to a full-time position with Wilkins Township. We are sorry to lose him but the opportunity was there and he moved on. Ms. Riley questioned why she did not here about his resignation until it was on the agenda. When she asked then his resignation letter was forwarded to her but it was dated April 2nd, it was effective May 3rd and council was not notified until May 9th. She does not know what the procedure is to get that information to council but there was definitely a breakdown in getting that to council. Mr. Zrenchak said that he may have dated it April 2nd but he is not sure when he turned it in. He said that in the future, we date stamp it the day it comes in. Ms. Riley stated that council should know prior to making the motion.

**STREETS AND SEWERS:** Tim Sloss

Mr. Sloss stated that they are taking bids for trees in the borough – one on A Street, one on B Street and then down on Fritchie.

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

Mayor Sikorski stated that he did not get a report from the Police Department due to a change in the reporting system. Mr. Zrenchak asked Sargent Mayernik to explain what is going on with the new report system. Sargent Mayernik explained that it is mor in line with the old system that it tied into Allegheny County. Any call that comes through it creates an event number and it can’t summarize the information like the other system could. They can print out totals and types of calls but he can’t break it down further than that. Mr. Zrenchak stated that, from what he saw, whatever the calls were that month, it shows them all – Lincoln, Glassport – it does not separate just Liberty Borough. Sargent Mayernik said that if they back up Port Vue it comes up as a Port Vue call but we were on it. When we download the spreadsheet, it included a ton of data so we tried to weed out all the nonsense so you can see only the calls we had and what type they were. As far as arrests and citations, he does not know if there is a way to break that down. The mayor said that last month they decided to hit people’s wallet because all of the toys and warnings were not working. He would like to start getting reports on how many citations they are getting. Mr. Zrenchak asked Sargent Mayernik to see what he can do. He said that they could do an old fashioned citation log with the number, date and time. Mr. Riley asked if he had an approximate number of citations. Sargent Mayernik said less than 10- a lot of warnings. Mr. Riley thanked him for sending officers to the bus stop.

**SOLICITOR’S REPORT:** Dennis Very

Mr. Very stated that there is no Solicitor’s report for this evening.

**ENGINEER’S REPORT:** Don Glenn

**Motion to** reject the bids for the Manor Park Restrooms project due to additional work needed.

**Motion: Mr. Matlos Second: Mr. Sloss**

**All in favor. Motion carries.**

Mr. Zrenchak explained that whenever that was done, the roofing was omitted in the scope of work.

**Motion to** authorize Glenn Engineering & Associates to rebid the Manor Park Restroom project with the additional scope of work added.

**Motion: Mr. Matlos Second: Ms. Riley**

**All in favor. Motion carries.**

**Motion to** award the contract for the demolition of the Old School to Myers Demolition in the amount of $187,710.00.

Mr. Glenn said that he met with the contractor and he is a very good contractor. Once council authorizes this, he will send a letter to COG telling them to proceed with the contract and he will let council know when the start date will be. Mr. Matlos will have to watch that because there are certain items that go back to the borough. Mr. Jameyson stated that the estimate was $400,000 and asked what the discrepancy was. Mr. Zrenchak explained that original estimate included remediating the building but the building is condemned and is unsafe to enter so they are going to take that building down as if everything inside contains asbestos. No residents are in danger in getting asbestosis. Mr. Gretz asked if someone from that company will be certified in asbestos. Mr. Zrenchak said that they are not abating the asbestos. When the building comes down, it will all be treated as asbestos containing material so they will hose it down to keep the dust down. It will go to a special place in the landfill for asbestos containing material. He called for a roll call vote to tear down the school.

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

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Mrs. Lape Yes**

**Mr. Sloss Yes**

**Mr. Matlos Yes**

**Ms. Riley Yes**

**Mr. Gretz Yes**

**Mr. Riley Yes**

**Mr. Zrenchak Yes**

Mr. Glenn reported that he has been in contact with Laura Henry from Harrisburg. She is reviewing our application for the LSA grants.

Ms. Riley gave an extra thanks to Mrs. Lape because she has spent a lot of time getting funds for tearing down the school and this is a big deal for the whole community.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Mr. Zrenchak stated that they have discussed looking into different delinquent tax collection agencies to get a better rate. Ms. Pack said that she reached out to MBM and Jordan and has not heard back from them yet.

Mr. Zrenchak reported that Jamie Leber is working on changing to monthly sewage billing.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Mr. Riley said that the Manor school has been sitting vacant for the last 3 or 4 years. He would like council to authorize the solicitor to draft a letter to the South Allegheny School District asking them to donate the school and all of the surrounding ballfields to the Borough of Liberty. Mr. Zrenchak stated that he would like to know what it costs to maintain that building before we take it. Mr. Riley said that it would be a good municipal complex that everyone can use. Ms. Riley stated that she is not opposed to asking. Mr. Zrenchak said that it does not hurt to ask but he would like to see what the cost is for heating and cooling to make sure that what we are taking on is not going to burden the borough. Mr. Riley said that he thinks we could get some outside funding to take care of those issues. Mr. Gretz said that he will ask for those expenses tomorrow. Mr. Zrenchak said that they should hold off until the next caucus meeting to get those expenses. Mr. Riley stated that they should get the letter out. Ms. Riley and Mr. Riley said they think they will say no but it gets the conversation started. Mr. Zrenchak said he has heard the school is in a holding pattern for now. Mrs. Lape said that it may get the ball rolling. The consensus was to send a letter.

**Motion to authorize** the solicitor to petition the South Allegheny School District to donate the ECC and surrounding property involved to the Borough of Liberty.

**Motion: Mr. Riley Second: Ms. Riley**

**All in favor. Motion carries.**

Mrs. Kerklo asked if they could go back on the former owner to get any of the money back for tearing it down. Mr. Zrenchak said that they can go after them for back taxes but tearing it down is being done with grant money. Mr. Zrenchak said that after the building is down, he would rather make sure the borough acquires that property. That is the focal point. It will be up for sheriff sale.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

**Motion to accept** the typed minutes from the April 27, 2022 meeting.

**Motion: Mr. Matlos Second: Ms. Riley**

**All in favor. Motion carries.**

Next meeting dates/times: Work Session, Wednesday June 8, 2022 at 6:00 pm – Regular Session, Wednesday, June 22, 2022 at 6:00 pm

**Motion** to adjourn

**Motion: Ms. Riley Second: Mr. Sloss**

**All in favor. Motion carries.**

Respectfully submitted by:

Jill Pack

Borough Secretary