

**BOROUGH OF PATTERSON HEIGHTS  
COUNCIL MINUTES  
APRIL 19, 2017**

The meeting was called to order by Vice-President Jim Turnbull at 7:00 pm.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council members present: Vice-President Jim Turnbull; Tim Weisenburger, Bryan Landman, Fran Levinger, and Sue Pokego.

Also present were Mayor Phyllis Aluseo, Tax Collector Sue Philipp, Solicitor Frank Paganie, Police Chief John DeLuca, and Secretary/Treasurer Jack Doyle.

It was announced that the meeting was being recorded by one of the visitors.

MINUTES: A motion to approve the March 15, 2017 minutes was made by Bryan Landman and seconded by Sue Pokego. The motion was approved by voice vote.

POLICE REPORT: Chief DeLuca presented the March Police Report. He also noted that extra patrols have been sent to Patterson Heights for traffic duty, notably checking for drivers running stop signs, and parking facing the wrong direction.

FIRE REPORT: Jim Turnbull read Fire Chief Medlin's report, as Chief Medlin was attending a training session. Two other training sessions were noted in the Chief's report.

VISITORS: 1) Jackie Dish, of 415 8th Avenue, thanked Mayor Aluseo and Code Enforcement Officer Pella for their assistance in seeing that the rental property next door to her was cleaned up. She also asked for their assistance in removing unsightly items from the yard on the other side of her, at 411 8th Avenue. 2) Pam Barsottini, of 624 4th Street, questioned why the Borough Council was doing such a poor job, noting that the Borough ended 2013 with a surplus, and 2015 with a deficit. She also questioned why the Council has trouble paying bills in a timely fashion, and why the cameras installed to monitor the playground and other property are not working. 3) Carol Wagner, of 250 6th Street, brought to Council's attention the fact that sewage was seeping into her backyard. She had sought Bryan Landman's advice, and he referred her to a contractor who handles such matters. At this point, the contractor is asking for any existing maps the might show the sewer line locations in the private section where Ms. Wagner lives. Bryan has been in contact with the Borough Engineer to see if such maps exist. 4) Xander Wilkinson, of 504 Fourth Avenue, discussed his planning of a Community Yard Sale and Block Party, both to be held on June 3, 2017. He mentioned that the \$5 charge to participate in the Yard Sale is for advertising, and that he is hoping to raise about \$1,000 for the Block Party. In response to a question about funds left over, he replied that he will hold them to be used next year. 5) John Marzano, owner of the property at 403 Ninth Avenue, is considering demolition of the current house, and possibly building a new one. The Borough will check on any applicable ordinances.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: Please see the attached report, submitted by Mr. Paganie, plus the notes below regarding the report.

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Item (1) Please see report.

Item (2) Patterson Heights does not have the population to support the offer from Hometown Press.

Item (3) Patterson Township will be contacted regarding an agreement.

Item (4) (a) A motion to dissolve the Junior Council, effective April 19, 2017, was made by Fran Levinger, and seconded by Tim Weisenburger. The motion was approved by voice vote.

(b) A motion to transfer the balance in the Junior Council bank account, \$267.73, to the General Fund, was made by Fran Levinger and seconded by Tim Weisenburger. Discussion ensued, revolving around whether it would be ethical to move the money into the General Fund without immediately providing it to the young people who were responsible for raising the money. A motion to table the previous motion was made by Bryan Landman, and seconded by Sue Pokego. The motion to table carried by voice vote.

Item (5) Please see report.

Item (6) Please see report.

Item (7) Please see report.

Item (8) Please see report. The Borough Engineer should be able to provide exact specs for the backhoe.

CODE ENFORCEMENT: Jim Turnbull presented the report submitted by Dawna Pella.

COMMUNICATIONS: The Hazard Mitigation Plan for Patterson Heights has been approved by FEMA, and we are now eligible to apply for federal disaster assistance.

The Commonwealth Financing Authority has denied our request for PA Small Water and Sewer financial assistance, citing strong competition, although noting that our project is worthwhile.

SECRETARY/TREASURER: It was brought to the attention of the Council that several of our regular monthly payments fall due shortly after they are received in the office, and the Borough incurs substantial penalties and interest charges. Tim Weisenburger made a motion to pay bills prior to the monthly Council meeting as needed to avoid extra charges. These payments would then be "ratified" at the upcoming meeting, while the remaining payments would be "approved." Bryan Landman seconded the motion, and it was approved by a voice vote. Tim Weisenburger moved that the current bill payments be approved, except the payment to Yesko Electric. Fran Levinger seconded the motion, and it was approved by a voice vote. It was requested that the invoice submitted by Yesko be investigated to see if it had already been paid.

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PNC Bank will be working with us to review our accounts and present a proposal to allow us to convert several of them to money market accounts, which will earn interest for the Borough. The Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry has agreed that all charges relating to the Unemployment Compensation case filed in 2016 will be reversed, including the charge for the lien that was filed in error. Unfortunately, the charges were not removed from the UCMS website quickly enough, and our accountant paid \$2,538.13, instead of the regular quarterly payment of \$11.42. The Unemployment Department has agreed to refund the payment made in error.

Congratulations to Ruthanne Bentley, Ann Bender, and Sue Pokego on the success of the Little Free Library, and the article about it in the Beaver County Times.

Receipts since March 1 include \$550 in rental fees, \$968.37 in real estate transfer taxes, \$2,527.43 in amusement tax, \$5,662.29 in sewer payments, \$7,421.10 in earned income tax, and \$22,253.24 in liquid fuels funds.

TAX COLLECTOR: Sue Philipp reported that real estate tax deposits were \$35,385.51 since March 1, with more to be deposited by the end of April, as the discount period ends April 30.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE: Nothing new to report.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS: Nothing new to report.

STREETS AND SEWERS: The Council discussed getting a request for proposal from the Borough Engineer for upcoming street resurfacing. The Council felt that the Borough could handle the work, and no request was necessary.

RECREATION: Nothing new to report.

RECYCLING AND REFUSE: Nothing new to report

BUDGET AND FINANCE: Tim Weisenburger reported that preparations for the yearly audit are progressing well, and mentioned that Dave Hurley is the one person, thus far, who has agreed to serve, by appointment, as Elected Auditor.

RENTAL PROPERTY: Two properties are in the inspection stage, 611 7th Avenue and 718 7th Avenue.

NEW BUSINESS: Nothing additional to discuss.

OLD BUSINESS: Sue Pokego expressed her disappointment at the Council's decision not to continue funding the printing of "The View from the Heights." The Council discussed pros and cons of having the publication, but no new action was taken. Fran Levinger will bring the matter before the Ladies' Auxiliary to see if they would be interested in providing funding.

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OFFICER REPORTS:

Mayor - Mayor Aluseo requested that Intertech Security be contacted regarding functioning of security cameras on and around the Borough building.

Zoning Board - Nothing new to report.

COG Representative- Nothing to report

Emergency Management Coordinator - Nothing to report

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Primary elections will be held on May 16 in the Borough building. The Borough office will be closed on that day.

Fran Levinger moved and Tim Weisenburger seconded that the meeting be adjourned.

The next meeting will be held May 17, 2017.

**BOROUGH OF PATTERSON HEIGHTS – REGULAR MEETING**

**April 19, 2017**

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT ON GENERAL MATTERS**

(1) **FIRE DEPARTMENT CLASSES**

At the March meeting, the issue was raised concerning what the Borough could do concerning fire classes, profits derived therefrom and what regulations would have to be followed. I am awaiting the particulars and will advise after being provided that information.

(2) **BOROUGH WELCOME FOLDERS**

At the March meeting, "free" Welcome Folders, from Hometown Press, were discussed. I am awaiting the particulars and will advise after being provided that information.

(3) **BOROUGH/TOWNSHIP AGREEMENT ON LABOR AND/OR EQUIPMENT SERVICES**

At the March meeting, discussion concerning the sharing of mutual labor and equipment between the Borough and Township was had. I am awaiting the particulars and will advise after being provided that information.

(4) **JUNIOR COUNCIL BALANCE**

At the March meeting, I was advised that Junior Council no longer exists, there is a balance of \$267.73 in its account and what could be done with the leftover balance. My recommendation is two-fold:

(a) Motion #1: "A motion to approve the dissolution of Junior Council of the Borough, effective April 19, 2017."

(b) Motion #2: "A motion to transfer the balance of the now dissolved Junior Council of the Borough, in the amount of \$267.73, to the General Fund of the Borough, to be used for the Borough's Community Days, later in 2017."

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(5) BOROUGH AUDITOR(S)

At the March meeting, Council appointed, by oral motion, to be memorialized by written resolution, a resident auditor for the Borough. This would provide the Borough with one (1) resident auditor, leaving two (2) vacant resident/elected auditor positions available.

After further review, the Borough is required to have three (3) elected/appointed persons from the Borough, an appointed, independent auditor or a controller.

After a review of the ordinances regarding the position of auditor, I will make a recommendation.

(6) BOROUGH ORDINANCE – TREES, SHRUBS, ETC.

At the March meeting, concern was raised regarding trees overgrowing into roads and/or alley ways, which prevent Borough trucks from passing through. The Borough has two (2) ordinances that Mr. Doyle has located and I have reviewed: Ordinance No. 91 from 1938 and Ordinance No. 215 from 1996.

Ordinance No. 91, the 1938 Ordinance, seems to permit the Borough the ability to cut or maintain “weeds or vegetation.”

Ordinance No. 215, the 1996 Ordinance, created a Shade Tree Commission in the Borough.

More detail is required regarding what trees, shrubs, etc. is needed to be eliminated.

(7) BOROUGH ORDINANCE – BRUSH AND/OR BURNING ORDINANCE

At the March meeting, discussion was had regarding the hauling away of brush, burning of that brush and the Borough’s obligation to provide such service(s).

Jack is attempting to locate any such Ordinance(s).

After further inquiry into what Ordinance(s) the Borough has, if any, further discussion will occur.

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(8) CATERPILLAR BACKHOE SALE

At the March meeting, discussion regarding the sale of the Caterpillar Backhoe, with the thought of then purchasing a skid loader, was had.

Council must bid the purchase of the skid loader or purchase it through one of the joint purchasing programs. If Council bids the skid loader, the bid specifications can provide for a cash purchase price and an alternative that includes the trade in of the backhoe.

The Borough Engineer has the experience to guide Council through this process and should be consulted.

I will work with the Borough Engineer and Borough Secretary as needed.