

BOROUGH OF PATTERSON HEIGHTS
COUNCIL MINUTES
July 19, 2017

The meeting was called to order by President Bill Starn at 7:00 pm.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Also present were Mayor Phyllis Aluseo, Solicitor Frank Paganie, Police Captain Chichy, and Secretary/Treasurer Jack Doyle. Tax Collector Sue Philipp arrived after the meeting began.

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

OATHS OF OFFICE: Mayor Aluseo administered Oaths of Office to Rosemary Bellan and Joseph Spratt, as they will serve as alternate and member of the Zoning Board, respectively.

MINUTES: Tim Weisenburger moved that the minutes from June be approved as presented. Jim Turnbull seconded the motion, and it was approved by voice vote.

POLICE REPORT: Captain Chichy presented the June Police Report. When he prepared the report, Chief DeLuca advised that anyone finding drug paraphernalia, beer cans, or other items indicating possible unlawful behavior, should not touch the material, and contact the Police Department immediately. The Police can dispose of the items safely, and are better able to examine any evidence.

Jim Turnbull asked what could be done about cars speeding in the alleys in the Borough. While he was speaking of one particular offender, other Council members indicated that speeding in the alleys is a problem throughout the Borough. It was decided that 20-30 mph was way too fast to travel in an alley, and 5-10 mph would be more appropriate. Captain Chichy indicated that the Police could be called about continuing problems.

Captain Chichy also advised Council of a Crime Watch Meeting at Geneva College the evening of August 5.

FIRE REPORT: President Starn presented the June VFD report, as the Patterson Heights Department had been invited to attend the Chippewa Carnival. There were four calls in June, none within Patterson Heights.

VISITORS: 1) Caren Turnbull, of 613 5th Avenue, of 504 4th Avenue, reported no progress on resurrecting the Borough's website, but suggested we track down funding of the site by the Borough, in hopes of getting any information. 2) Xander Wilkinson, of 504 4th Avenue, announced that Target, in Center Township, would be providing free entertainment and refreshments on National Night Out, August 1. 3) Cassandra Wright, of 607 5th Avenue, wanted to express her nervousness over speeding in the alleys.

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

Item (1) Please see report.

Item (2) Please see report.

Item (3) Please see report.

Item (4) Upon Mr. Paganie's recommendation, Bryan Landman made a motion that we advertise in the Beaver County Times for the sale of the Caterpillar backhoe on Municibid. Jim Turnbull seconded, and the motion carried on a voice vote. Frank will prepare the ad according to PA guidelines for disposal of municipal assets.

Item (5) It was decided that the Borough can increase the fees charged for a zoning hearing in order to cover its costs. More research will be done about the origin of the current fee.

Item (6) Please see report.

Item (7) The consensus of the Council is to proceed with discussions regarding a potential merger with Patterson Township. Frank has been discussing the issue with Mr. Ken Fossett, the Township's Solicitor.

CODE ENFORCEMENT: Bill Starn presented the report for Dawna Pella. Council reviewed a letter from Agnes June Reed, requesting an extension of time for repair to her property at 604 4th Avenue. Jim Turnbull moved that a letter be sent to Ms. Reed telling her that the repairs must be completed by September 20, 2017, or she must present to Council a letter from a contractor stating why the work could not be completed. Tim Weisenburger seconded, and the motion passed by a voice vote. Bryan Landman asked to go on record as opposing the motion.

In her report, Dawna Pella noted that she has contacted the management company about the grass and general upkeep at 720 4th Street. Council also discussed the safety issue regarding the water-filled swimming pool, and the fence surrounding the yard. The fence is in serious disrepair, and would not keep small children out of the yard. Mayor Aluseo will contact Dawna regarding this safety issue.

COMMUNICATIONS: 1) A letter from the Beaver County Bureau of Elections reminding that the Director should be notified in the event of death or resignation of elected officials. 2) A letter from Bill Starn and Phyllis Aluseo to the residents of Patterson Heights reminding them to use care when placing items for pickup of yard waste. 3) An invitation to the Kick-off Breakfast for the United Way of Beaver County.

TAX COLLECTOR: Sue Philipp reported deposits of real estate taxes in the amount of \$3,865.10 in the month of June. She also reminded the Council that she would soon be leaving her position as Tax Collector.

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SECRETARY/TREASURER: 1) The first partial month of the money market accounts resulted in interest earnings of \$271. 2) The Verizon account has been reordered to save \$20/month. Verizon also agreed to a loyalty credit of \$25/month for one year. 3) The Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry has refunded \$2,491.65 that was sent to them in error. Deposits since the June Council meeting include \$1,593 from real estate transfer taxes, \$3,865 in real estate taxes, \$35 per capita taxes, \$80 for building permits, \$100 for dye tests/lien letters, \$545 in PUC impact fees, and \$125 in landlord rental fees.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE: Nothing new to report.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS: Bryan will arrange for the doors on the Fire Department building to be repaired. Jim will check on repair/replacement of the concrete slab in front of the fire station. He estimated the cost to be \$2,500 to \$3,000, which we should be able to pay through the Capital Improvement fund.

STREETS AND SEWERS: Nothing new to report.

RECREATION: Nothing new to report.

RECYCLING AND REFUSE: Nothing new to report.

BUDGET AND FINANCE: Nothing new to report.

RENTAL PROPERTY: Nothing new to report.

NEW BUSINESS: 1) The Building Permit fees are outdated, and do not even cover the cost of subsequent inspections. Bill Starn asked that the Borough Ordinances be reviewed so that we could raise fees as necessary at one time, thus saving on advertising cost. 2) Tax Collector audit and replacement. Tim will ask Dave Hurley to contact Sue Philipp regarding the audit. Caren Turnbull is talking to people interested in being appointed Tax Collector. They can then run for the post in the November election. 3) Patterson Township merger -- discussed previously.

OLD BUSINESS: 1) Borough Audit. Tim and Dave were scheduled to meet to begin the audit. 2) Crack sealing. Bryan moved that we purchase up to two pallets of tar from SealMaster, and use their equipment to seal the cracks in the roads in the Borough. Tim seconded, and the motion carried by voice vote. Other OLD BUSINESS items on the agenda were already covered during the meeting.

OFFICER REPORTS:

Mayor - Mayor Aluseo reminded the Council that Patterson Heights also participates in the National Night Out between 6 and 9pm on August 1. She encouraged residents to go out for a walk, hand out refreshments, or do whatever they choose to make the night a success.

COG Representative- Nothing to report

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Emergency Management Coordinator - Bryan reported that local municipalities are exploring a merger of EM efforts.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: The Secretary/Treasurer announced that he would be out of town from July 21 through July 27. Necessary arrangements have been made.

FISCAL AND CONTRACTUAL: Jim Turnbull returned the Intertech invoice, which was set aside last month, and said Intertech had agreed to cut the invoice in half. It was also noted that Duquesne Light should be called about street lights turning on and off intermittently. Jim Turnbull moved that we pay the bills as presented, including Intertech, Sue Pokego seconded, and the motion carried by voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT: Connie Klein moved, and Fran Levinger seconded, that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried.

The next meeting will be held August 16, 2017.

BOROUGH OF PATTERSON HEIGHTS – REGULAR MEETING

July 19, 2017

SOLICITOR'S REPORT ON GENERAL MATTERS

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

At prior meetings, discussion concerning the sharing of mutual labor and equipment between the Borough and Township was had.

I have had discussions with Attorney Ken Fawcett, Solicitor for the Township.

I will update this matter at the meeting.

(2) **BOROUGH AUDITORS**

This matter has been completed.

(3) **BOROUGH ORDINANCE – BRUSH AND/OR BURNING ORDINANCE**

At the prior meetings, discussion was had regarding the Borough's obligation with regard to hauling away borough residents' brush and other associated tasks, such as the burning of that brush, inspection of bags of brush, etc.

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Jack is attempting to locate any such Ordinance(s) that address this issue.

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

(4) CATERPILLAR BACKHOE SALE

There is no update on this item this month.

(5) ZONING HEARING BOARD – ASSOCIATED FEES

At the June meetings, discussion was had regarding the fees charged for zoning hearings.

I will update this matter at the meeting.

(6) HOME-BASED BUSINESSES WITHIN THE BOROUGH

At the June meeting, discussion was had regarding borough residents having businesses based within their home.

As part of that discussion, potential limitations on signage was mentioned.

Jack is attempting to locate any such Ordinance(s) that address these issues.

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

(7) MERGER WITH PATTERSON TOWNSHIP

I have had discussions with Attorney Ken Fawcett, Solicitor for the Township.

I will update this matter at the meeting.