

**BOROUGH OF PATTERSON HEIGHTS
COUNCIL MINUTES
JULY 17, 2019**

The meeting was called to order by President Bill Starn at 7:00 p.m., and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. It was announced that the meeting was being recorded, and the roll was called.

Council Members

Bill Starn -- Present
Jim Turnbull -- Present
Andy Briggs -- Present
Bryan Landman -- Present
Fran Levinger -- Present
Sue Pokego -- Present
Andrew Why -- Absent

Mayor

Ron Tyger -- Present

Officers

Solicitor Frank Paganie -- Absent
Tax Collector Nadine Galbreath -- Present
Police Chief David Stanislawski -- Present
Fire Chief -- Jason Medlin -- Absent
Secretary/Treasurer Jack Doyle -- Present

President Starn announced that Solicitor Frank Paganie was absent due to the passing of his grandfather.

Minutes -- Bryan Landman moved that the Council approve the minutes of the June 19, 2019 meeting. The motion was seconded by Sue Pokego, and approved by voice vote.

Police Report -- Chief David Stanislawski presented the monthly report for June, 2019. There were 24 calls for service, including 2 parking citations and one arrest for DUI. The Chief said that since the last meeting, his officers have been monitoring the intersection of 7th Street and 5th Avenue for stop sign violations. There were no major issues during the street sweeping, with only two residents failing to comply with parking prohibitions. Jim Turnbull asked to remind residents that the use of fireworks is illegal within the borders of Patterson Heights due to Pennsylvania law prohibiting their use within 150 feet of any house. He further suggested that in the future, violators be fined.

Fire Report -- Chief Jason Medlin was participating in the Chippewa Firemen's parade with other members of the Department, so was unable to attend. His report was read by Bill Starn. There were 18 calls during the month of June, a pump was rebuilt, and at a meeting with the Patterson Township VFD, it was decided that merger talks would proceed. Bryan Landman reported that he had been told by Assistant Chief David Lee that the Municipal Building Siding Project would begin the second weekend of August. Due to the delays in beginning the Project,

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Council expressed concern about having it completed. Jim Turnbull moved that the Project must be started by August 10, with anticipated completion by August 31, or Council will explore other avenues (contractors) to do the work. Bryan Landman seconded, and the motion carried. Pat Korol has offered to lend equipment to assist in the work, but has asked for an assurance that he be held harmless in the case of an accident. Solicitor Paganie will be asked to draft such an agreement.

Visitors – (1) Phil Holladay of 407 4th Avenue distributed a “Topographic Sewer Map of Patterson Heights Borough” created in 1911-1912. Discussion continued about where the map came from, and whether it might show proposed, rather than actual features. At that point, Mr. Holladay said, “I’ll tell you what, gentlemen, if you want to go that way, I’ll see you in court.” At that point, President Starn ended the discussion, and explained to Mr. Holladay that when legal action is mentioned, Council may no longer discuss the matter, and it must be handled by its Solicitor. Mr. Holladay was given contact information for Frank Paganie. (2) Laura Humbert of 510 8th Avenue asked about a No Parking sign that was recently placed in front of her house. Bryan Landman explained that the sign had been taken down to be repainted, and never replaced. It was also explained that the sign was moved to her side of 8th Avenue as an accommodation a neighbor with a disabled family member. After further discussion about parking in the Borough in general, it was decided that Bryan and Chief Stanislawski would revisit the issue to see if a change is in order. (3) Ruthanne Bentley of 509 4th Street reflected on how difficult it is to see oncoming traffic at most intersections, particularly when vehicles are parked close to the corner. She cited 8th Avenue at 5th Street in particular.

Andy Briggs asked about curb painting, which had been mentioned in the previous discussion, and was told that we would be seeking volunteers, or possibly renting a machine.

Solicitor -- No report.

Code Enforcement -- Dawna Pella’s report was read by Bill Starn. A group of residents have been working on cleaning up the property at 612 7th Avenue. Their last clean-up session produced a tangled mess of yard waste, which was placed on 7th Avenue. Bryan was unable to load the material into the borough truck, but it was loaded by an employee of the property owner, and resulted in three loads of material hauled to the composting site in Brighton Township. Since this is an unusually large amount of waste from just one property, Jim Turnbull moved that we calculate the cost of moving this material, and bill the owner, Timothy Nixon, through his attorney. Bryan Landman seconded, and the motion carried. Bryan Landman also saw a man bringing material from Patterson Township to his father’s house in Patterson Heights, because they do not regularly pick up yard waste in the Township. Mr. Paganie is asked to send the Patterson Heights resident an official notice that this practice is forbidden. Jack Doyle then related a conversation he had with Mr. Paganie, who told him that trees, or portions thereof, interfering with traffic, especially borough vehicles, could be ordered removed by a certain date. If they are not removed, the Borough could have the work done, and bill the resident. The specific reference was a tree overhanging 7th Avenue at 612 7th Avenue. It was then decided that we will demand action on the large tree overhanging the road, the pin oak growing along the curb, and the car, which must be moved to the back of the

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property so that roadwork can be performed on 7th Avenue. These actions must be taken by a date certain, and this should be part of the same letter billing for the waste removal.

Jim Turnbull asked about a dead tree at the corner of 5th Street and 6th Avenue. Jack Doyle said he had received a call from the owner, Susan Douglas, who said she was in the process of hiring a tree removal service, and would be in touch about the schedule.

Dawna Pella reported that she would be refiling citations against the owner at 705 5th Street because both the front and back yards are a mess. Bill Starn then read a message from Diony Villalta, the owner, who complained that he was being treated unfairly, and felt that he had complied with the directives of Council, although he still has not repaired his swimming pool. Since, in his communication, Mr. Villalta mentioned the possibility of going to the media with his complaint, and feels that his treatment may be racially motivated, Council would like the Solicitor to follow up with him.

Communications – (1) An announcement that the Borough is a recipient of a 2019 Fresh Paint Day Grant, which will provide 20 gallons of paint. Colors need to be chosen by July 19, and will be chosen by Jim Turnbull and his committee. (2) A copy of a notice from the DEP regarding the report from the Municipal Authority and Joint Users. (3) A thank-you letter from Representative Jim Marshall for sending him a copy of a recent resolution regarding UCC inspections.

Tax Collector -- Nadine Galbreath made real estate tax deposits of \$6,692.04 in June, leaving a balance due of about \$26,000.

Secretary/Treasurer -- Jack Doyle reported that since the last Council meeting the Borough received \$6,750.28 in earned income tax, \$100,302.04 in real estate tax, \$430.00 in dye test and municipal lien letter fees, \$1,038.80 in real estate transfer tax, \$24.80 in District Court fines, \$40.50 in per capita tax, \$15.75 in delinquent per capita tax, \$239.50 in building permit fees, \$650.00 in rental registration fees, and \$695.35 in interest (spread across five accounts). Also, since the last meeting the current List of Elected and Appointed Officials was updated, and the 2018 RCT-900 (PURTA) form was submitted. Website usage is up substantially, with currently more than 200 views per month. In a conversation with District Magistrate Goodwald, he indicated that he considered our stop signs to be legal, he would find violators guilty, and set fines accordingly.

Public Safety Committee – Once again, Bryan Landman reported that kids in the Borough are “out of control,” not stopping at stop signs, or even looking, whether on bikes or skate boards. Council members’ urgings for the kids to be more careful have been met with “smart mouths” and obscenities. Members also mentioned a man who rides a bicycle through the Borough at high speed, never stopping at the intersections.

Jack Doyle reported that PennDOT had returned his call regarding the hedges at 7th Street and Darlington Road, and said that someone would be following up, and would call.

Buildings and Grounds Committee -- Jim Turnbull made arrangements with his committee to choose paint colors for the Municipal Building.

Streets and Sewers Committee – Bryan Landman reported on his trip to Sealmaster in Hillsville with Bill Starn. There they were shown a material that we could use in place of the tar and chip sealcoating, which we had originally anticipated. Their product, called PMM, would

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cost much less than tar and chip, and thus allow us to do more roadway sooner. They also saw a product to address spots of “alligatoring,” called mastic repair, which is very durable and inexpensive. To rent the machine and one pallet of material would cost about \$2,400. PMM for 4th Street and 7th Street would cost about \$9,000, compared to \$46,000 for tar and chip for the same area. It may be possible to do all the streets, and leave the avenues for next year, although the avenues will still have to be sealed between the intersections. Bryan Landman made a motion that we do the mastic repair, with a goal of keeping the cost down to \$5,000, and spend the remainder of our \$35,000 budget on PMM sealing. Sue Pokego seconded, and the motion carried.

Bill Starn said we should expect the Beaver Falls Municipal Authority to fix the street openings correctly by the next meeting, or our solicitor should send a letter demanding the repairs. BFMA will be asked about our agreement not to charge them street opening fees, considering the fact that we pay them \$425/quarter for “hydrants.”

Jim Turnbull asked about repairs to catch basins in the storm sewers. Bryan said that bricks from the catch basins have washed out due to water, and now Youngblood Paving has gotten asphalt in the catch basins on 4th Street near 8th Avenue. BFMA should be shown these repairs. Bill Starn recommended looking into a fiberglass repair of the catch basins, rather than having the work done by Bryan or a contractor.

Recreation Committee – Fran Levinger asked council members for help with tables, canopies, and extension cords for Community Day, and go them. She is planning to begin setting up at 10 am, and all who would like to help are welcome.

Recycling and Refuse Committee – Sue Pokego reported that there is nothing new. Caren Turnbull asked about glass recycling, and was told that we anticipate have a glass retriever when and if we receive our grant money. Jack Doyle reported that RO Recycling picked up our paper for the third time this year, giving us a total of about 4.5 tons of paper recycled.

Budget and Finance Committee – Nothing to report.

Rental Property and Maintenance Inspection Committee – Nothing to report.

New Business – (1) GoNetSpeed has issued a press release announcing a buildout of their system in Patterson Heights, and announced that they will soon be taking orders for service with a waiver of their \$100 installation fee. We will want to check on the possibility of collecting a franchise fee. (2) We have received a quote on insurance coverage from Duncan Financial, who works with the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs. Bill and Jack will meet with their representative on Tuesday, July 23, to review their proposal. Council members will be sent copies of the proposal. (3) National Night Out is August 6 this year. Residents are encouraged to sponsor community events.

Old Business – (1) Youngblood paving should be notified that we are not going to accept any bids for sealcoating. (2) American Legal has sent us a list of proposed changes to our Code of Ordinances. We need to agree to any of these changes that we would like within 60 days. The Council will be emailed a copy of their legal review. We will work with our Solicitor to determine the changes. (3) Gary Paumen will be running the Community Yard Sale on August 3 from 8 am to 2 pm, including Early Birds. His contact information will be disseminated. (4) We

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have received an invoice from InkStar for A View from the Heights in the amount of \$106. Council has approved \$200/year, so they will be sent a check. (5) Our next Food Truck Night will be Thursday, August 22. Participants other than Bruster's yet to be determined.

Mayor -- Nothing to report.

COG -- Nothing to report.

Emergency Management -- Nothing to report.

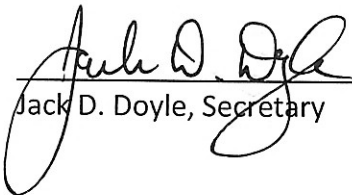
Announcements – None to report.

Fiscal and Contractual – Bryan Landman moved that the bills be paid or ratified as presented. Fran Levinger seconded, and the motion carried.

Adjournment -- Moved by Fran Levinger, seconded by Sue Pokego, the meeting adjourned at 9:16 p.m. The next regular meeting will be Wednesday, August 21, 2019.



William Starn, President



Jack D. Doyle, Secretary