

**BOROUGH OF PATTERSON HEIGHTS
COUNCIL MINUTES
AUGUST 21, 2019**

The meeting was called to order by Vice-President Jim Turnbull 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 -- Absent
Jim Turnbull -- Present
Andy Briggs -- Present
Bryan Landman -- Present
Fran Levinger -- Present
Sue Pokego -- Absent
Andrew Why -- Absent

Mayor

Ron Tyger -- Present

Officers

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

Minutes -- Bryan Landman moved that the Council approve the minutes of the July 17, 2019 meeting. The motion was seconded by Fran Levinger, and approved by voice vote.

Police Report -- Chief David Stanislawski presented his monthly report for July, 2019. There were 23 calls for service.

Fire Report -- Jim Turnbull read Chief Medlin's report, which noted 10 calls during July. The report also mentioned upcoming ladder training in Darlington, and thanked the residents for their support on Community Day. There was nothing to report on a proposed merger.

Visitors -- (1) Phyllis Aluseo of 508 4th Street thanked Fran Levinger for a very successful Community Day. Phyllis also relayed a number of suggestions she heard from residents, including having a pet parade, an Easter egg hunt, and more movies. Phyllis noted the influx of younger families with children, and the need for more recreational opportunities. She recommended the formation of a Recreation Committee that would plan events designed to get people together, as we have seen how much the residents enjoy our communal activities. It was discussed that the Committee needs to include people other than council members. Bryan Landman suggested, and Ruthanne Bentley agreed, to place something in the next *View from the Heights* regarding a Recreation Committee. Others recalled a YMCA program that used to be held in the Park for children, but Nadine Galbreath pointed out that the YMCA now only concentrates on low-income neighborhoods. Other ideas were discussed, with the understanding that volunteers would need to get involved to design and operate any program.

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(2) Ruthanne Bentley of 509 Fourth Street announced that she hopes to publish a fall edition of the *View*. Chief Stanislawski verified that Halloween would be celebrated on October 31. Ruthanne also mentioned that leaving trash cans in the street was in violation of a borough ordinance, and asked that something be placed on *Nextdoor* and the website about the violations. (3) Laura Trehar of 711 8th Avenue reported that boys on the playground have been smoking and drinking, and one of them threatened her son with a broken bottle. She reported the situation to the police, but there has not been a resolution yet. Chad Trehar works with security cameras for a major Pittsburgh company, and offered to look into the Borough's camera system, which has been down for months due to lack of access to servicing. (4) Carol Regis of 304 7th Street Extension questioned what has happened to Patterson Heights that we now need to have cameras monitoring activities of residents. Jim Turnbull replied that the cameras were installed subsequent to vandalism and drug use in the park. She also wanted to know how Earned Income Taxes paid by residents in the "private area," east of 4th Avenue, are allocated. Jim Turnbull and Bryan Landman responded that residents elect a council to make decisions, including about how money is spent, and residents are welcome to come to meetings held every month, and advertised in advance, to express their opinions. Bryan Landman noted that when residents see people behaving badly, they are not calling the police. Chief Stanislawski said that due to previous complaints, he has instructed his officers to monitor the playground area more often. He also said that in order to file charges against an individual, someone must be willing to testify against them. He went on to say that we should consider banning individuals who are causing problems repeatedly. Chief Stanislawski was asked for the best way to contact the police, and he advised calling County Dispatch at (724) 775-0883. (5) Joanne Signore of 627 4th Street mentioned kids riding their bikes on the basketball court, and throwing trash on the ground throughout the Park. (6) Pam Barsottini of 624 4th Street mentioned a large Fedex truck that is often parked on 7th Avenue between 5th Street and 6th Street. Bryan Landman said he has called Fedex about it, and the problem seems to have been resolved. Pam also showed Council some material that had been swept from her deck, and appeared to be material that had been burned. She did not know where it came from, and she asked that Council investigate. (7) Emma Celeste of 300 7th Street Extension asked how the "private section" to the east of 4th Avenue could be made part of the Borough, and also why there was a need for so many stop signs and curbs painted yellow. It was noted that one of the reasons for yellow curbs is to restrict parking where the fire trucks have to make sharp turns within the Borough. More discussion followed about parking in general. Andy Briggs suggested forming a Homeowners Association for the people in the private section. Pam Barsottini then mentioned a yellow VW Bug that is parked in a yard near 6th Street. The car has not moved for months, and is not under repair. Mayor Tyger will notify the Code Enforcement Officer.

Solicitor -- Mr. Paganie had nothing to report.

Code Enforcement – (1) 612 7th Avenue – owner in Rochester Manor, problems have been addressed, except for moving his car off the street, the garage roof, and the house roof. Communications are now through Attorney Colavincenzo. (2) 220 6th Street Ext. – House vacant, being monitored, possibly to be flipped. (3) 756 7th Avenue – House has been sold, monitoring. (4) 705 5th Street – Owner instructed to contact Dawna Pella. (5) Rental inspections proceeding.

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Communications – (1) An email from Ashleigh Simoni regarding the hedges obstructing the view of someone pulling onto Darlington Road from 7th Street. PennDOT informed her that it was the responsibility of the Borough to take action. Mayor Tyger reported that the bushes have been cut back substantially, and Council decided that no further action would be taken at this time. (2) A letter from Jim Breznai of Joint Sewer Users announcing that the rate for water and sewer usage would remain the same next year. (3) Linda Swearingen emailed through the website that she hoped that Patterson Township would continue policing Patterson Heights, and that she would not like to have Beaver Falls back. (4) A letter from the Department of Labor and Industry informing us of a violation found during a recent inspection, indicating water in the pit beneath the elevator. Bryan Landman has determined that the sump pump had stopped working, and will replace the pump. There was no fine involved.

Tax Collector -- Nadine Galbreath made real estate tax deposits of \$10,824 in July. There are about \$15,200 in uncollected taxes remaining.

Secretary/Treasurer -- Jack Doyle reported that since the last Council meeting the Borough received \$8,135.64 in earned income tax, \$3,375.00 in real estate tax, \$664.11 in delinquent real estate tax, \$40.00 in dye test and municipal lien letter fees, \$1,401.40 in real estate transfer tax, \$108.37 in District Court fines, \$541.00 in per capita tax, \$47.25 in delinquent per capita tax, \$72.00 in building permit fees, \$1,534.75 in amusement tax, \$173.60 as a refund from Selective Insurance, and \$1,494.54 in interest (spread across five accounts).

Public Safety Committee – Bryan Landman praised the three boys who helped him spread mulch recently.

Buildings and Grounds Committee – Council discussed the situation with the security cameras. At this time, they have not been operational at all for about three months, and we have not been able to obtain reliable service. Chad Trehar offered to look at the cameras, and may be able to advise us going forward. Bryan Landman noted the lack of maintenance being done by the Fire Department, which is part of their lease agreement. The Secretary was asked to address the matter with the Department. Jim Turnbull recommended funds be budgeted again next year to replace the fence on the playground.

Streets and Sewers Committee – Bryan Landman reported that Sealmaster is scheduled to be in the Borough during the next week to start the mastic repair on the alligatored portions of our roadways. Bryan mentioned that he will need an estimated 80 hours of assistance when he begins repairing the catch basins.

Recreation Committee – The Council thanked and congratulated Fran Levinger on the success of Community Day. Fran thanked the Tygers, Phyllis Aluseo, and Bryan Landman for their help. It was further noted that the movie night was very well received, and the Borough will be exploring the purchase of its own movie equipment for future events.

Recycling and Refuse Committee – In late October the County Recycling Center will begin taking glass, plastic, steel cans, and aluminum cans four days a week. More information to follow. Nadine Galbreath mentioned an upcoming day for recycling hazardous waste in New Brighton. Jim Turnbull recommended that the Borough get more conscientious about enforcing our regulations about the size and quantity of brush left to be composted. He cited large piles of tangled vines as unacceptable, and urged that residents not take advantage of this service.

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Budget and Finance Committee – Nothing to report.

Rental Property and Maintenance Inspection Committee – Inspections by Dawna Pella are continuing.

New Business – (1) HMT, Inc. has offered to discuss their ability to do Code and UCC enforcement for the Borough. We will set up a meeting with them, and ask them to make a presentation to the Council. (2) Refurbishing the elevator would cost about \$123,000 per a proposal by thyssenkrupp Elevator Company. They submitted the proposal so that the Borough can plan ahead should we decide to proceed with the upgrade. Other items on the agenda were already discussed.

Old Business – (1) The cost for Bryan to haul three loads of brush from the Nixon residence has been calculated to be \$378.25. An invoice will be sent to Mr. Nixon's attorney. (2) Street resurfacing has already been discussed. (3) It was recommended that we purchase a paint sprayer for painting the curbs. No action was taken. (4) Review of the first draft of the ordinance codification is proceeding, but we may need to request an extension past the September 16 due date. (5) Community Day review has been completed. (6) Many thanks to Gary Paumen for organizing the Yard Sale this year. He thought that about 15 residents had sales at their homes, and were happy about the turnout of shoppers. Gary purchased signs and advertising at his own expense, for which the Borough is grateful. In addition, he has agreed to take charge of the Sale again next year. (7) The Fire Department is unable to do the siding project due to changes in their work schedules. The low bidder for the project, Bob Tate & Sons, has agreed to still do the work for the bid amount, \$3,900. Jim Turnbull will meet with Bob Tate to finalize the scope of work, as a couple of additional features need to be addressed. Solicitor Paganie pointed out that we need to be named as an additional insured on Tate's liability policy. Frank will also check on the issue of having Workers' Comp coverage. (8) Jim Turnbull has all the information on the Fresh Paint Day Grant and project. (9) Food trucks will be coming on August 22, and it was the consensus of Council to have at least one more Food Truck Night this year.

At this point, Mr. Paganie addressed the issue of code violations at 612 Seventh Avenue, basically saying it is now up to the Code Enforcement Officer to file complaints with the magistrate.

Council then decided not to support a draft letter to Representative Jim Marshall regarding Zero Waste PA.

Mayor -- Nothing to report.

COG -- Nothing to report.

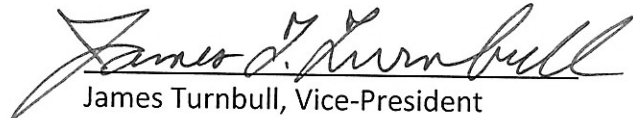
Emergency Management – Bryan Landman reported that he will have training in September.

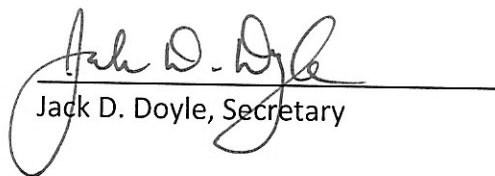
Announcements – There were no new announcements to be made.

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

Adjournment -- Moved by Bryan Landman, seconded by Fran Levinger, the meeting adjourned at 9:07p.m. The next regular meeting will be Wednesday, September 17, 2019.


James Turnbull, Vice-President


Jack D. Doyle, Secretary