

**BOROUGH OF PATTERSON HEIGHTS
COUNCIL MINUTES
JULY 21, 2021**

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

Attendance -- Council Members attending included President Bill Starn, Vice-President Jim Turnbull, Bryan Landman, Jan Livingston, and Laura Trehar. Other officials attending included Mayor Regis Luger, Tax Collector Nadine Galbreath, and Secretary/Treasurer Jack Doyle.

Jack Doyle clarified some issues that had been discussed recently. Widmer Engineering has been paid \$1,615 in 2021 for work on the recycling area. They were also paid \$1,682 in 2019 for the same project. All other payments in 2020 and 2021 have been for work on the USDA loan application. While it has been mentioned that we should stop sending letters to people who blow grass into the street, no such letters have been sent out since 2020, and no one had to be warned twice. It was also requested that council members notify the secretary of such infractions, so they could be investigated. Finally, BIU is not responsible for property code enforcement, although they do assist when requested. They are mainly concerned with building inspections and rental inspections. There have not been any rental inspections yet, because the registration letters have just gone out to the landlords.

Minutes – Laura Trehar moved that Council approve the minutes of May 19 and June 16. Jan Livingston seconded, and Council approved.

Police Report – The June Police Report showed seven calls for service in addition to 51 sessions of traffic monitoring. Laura Trehar reported that young people (teenagers) are smoking marijuana in the pavilion at the end of the playground. After much discussion, Bryan Landman said he would make the Chief aware of the situation. Unfortunately, a number of residents are aware of the activities, but refrain from calling the police.

Fire Report – Chief Medlin's report indicated 18 calls in May.

Visitors – Crystal Siget of 428 Ninth Avenue reported that her neighbors at 426 Ninth Avenue have their sump pump and downspout discharge running into the street, creating a hazard when the water freezes in the winter. They were asked to contact the Borough Secretary the next time they saw water in the street so he could take pictures and further investigate. Trash from the same house was not being secured, and was being scattered into other yards. Finally, she asked about motorized vehicles being driven on borough streets by children. Once again, no one is calling the police.

Solicitor – Nothing to report.

Code Enforcement – A registered letter was sent to Timothy Nixon regarding an abandoned car behind his garage, and excess vegetation on his property. The property at 810 7th Street will be investigated for trash and an abandoned car.

Correspondence – A letter from the Governor stating the amount of money that will be received by Patterson Heights, and what items could be funded from it, including public health, negative economic impacts caused by health emergencies, replacing of public sector revenue, premium pay for essential workers, and water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure. The Borough has received the first of two payments, in the amount of \$31,243.76, which has been placed in a separate money market account at Premier Bank.

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Jim Turnbull requested a return to Code Enforcement, which was granted. He presented to Council a proposal from Code.sys to do code enforcement for Patterson Heights. In addition, Code.sys told him that they could require a plot plan be submitted with the application for a building permit. He also said that he would recuse himself from any consideration of Code.sys because his son-in-law is an employee of the company.

Tax Collector – Nadine Galbreath made deposits of \$1,205.03 in June. School tax bills have been mailed out. The Borough received a rebate check in the amount of \$270 from the old software supplier.

Secretary/Treasurer – A report of receipts since the June meeting was given to the council members. It was noted that \$31,243.76 was received under the American Rescue Plan, and placed in a separate money market account. We received our annual PURTA disbursement of \$818, and our amusement tax payment of \$2,496 from the Beaver Valley Golf Club.

Public Safety Committee – Nothing to report.

Buildings and Grounds – Jim Turnbull reported that he and Bryan would determine the best way to rehab the fire escape, and attach it to the building. He will also determine what materials are needed to replace the siding on the Municipal Building.

Streets and Sewers – Council discussed the sale of the sewage collection and treatment facilities as proposed by Beaver Falls. It was determined that the facilities are owned jointly by Beaver Falls, Patterson Township, White Township, and Patterson Heights, or the Joint Sewer Users, according to the most current agreement, signed in 1938. Much more information will be required.

Bill Starn gave an update on the condition of the sewer system, and the loan we are applying for through the USDA. He said that parts of the storm sewers are collapsed, and need to be rebuilt. He suggested paying for that work as part of the loan.

Recycling – Jim Turnbull presented a summary of the Recycling Grant, what it covered, and what else we expect it to cover. It was determined that the changes to the recycling area should be revisited after some guidance from Holly Vogt about whether unused funds can be moved from recycling collection equipment to the recycling area upgrade. Jim proposed meeting with Bill and Bryan to discuss all aspects of the recycling effort. Jim also moved that we send letters to the four companies who bid to do the upgrade work stating that all the bids have been rejected. Bryan seconded the motion, and it carried.

Recreation – Laura Trehar gave the Council an agenda for Community Day, and asked about insurance covering all the events. She also described the police and fire recognition, and that plaques would be presented by Mayor Luger. Laura also said that students from the Blackhawk High School Band would come to play the National Anthem. Chairs and tables are being provided by the rental company supplying the bounce house.

Budget and Finance – Nothing to report.

Rental Property – Letters have been sent to landlords.

New Business – (1) The ARPA funds have been placed in a separate money market account at Premier Bank. (2) Bill and Jack met with the representative from Duncan Financial, and recommended the Borough renew with them. Jim Turnbull moved that we retain Duncan Financial as our insurance agent. Bryan Landman seconded, and the motion carried. Frank asked about cyber coverage. (3) Bryan discussed the

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resident at 727 7th Avenue, and his placing of objects in the alley behind his house. He was instructed that he can remove any obstructions on borough property or in the borough right-of-way.

Old Business – All items already discussed.

Mayor – Regis Luger complimented Laura on her work providing Movies in the Park and for the upcoming Community Day. A question was asked about food trucks, and they have been very difficult to schedule.

Emergency Management – Nothing to report.

Announcements – None.

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

Adjournment – Bryan Landman motioned for adjournment. Jan Livingston seconded, and the meeting ended at 8:55 p.m. The next regular meeting will be Wednesday, August 18, 2021, at 7pm.

William Starn, President

Jack D. Doyle, Secretary