

The regular meeting was preceded by an Executive Session, at which legal matters were discussed, and no action was taken.

The regular meeting was called to order by Council 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.

**Attendance** -- Council Members attending included Vice-President Jim Turnbull, Bryan Landman, Jan Livingston, Rich Siget, Laura Trehar, and Andrew Why. Other officials in attendance included Police Chief David Stanislawski, Fire Chief Jason Medlin, Solicitor Frank Paganie, Tax Collector Nadine Galbreath, and Secretary/Treasurer Jack Doyle.

**Agenda** – Andrew Why moved that the Agenda be approved as presented. Rich Siget seconded, and the Agenda was approved.

**Minutes** – Bryan Landman moved that the minutes from October 19, 2022 be approved. Laura Trehar seconded, and Council approved.

**Police Report** – The September Police Report showed 62 calls for service, most of which were traffic monitoring. There was one non-reportable accident, one animal complaint, one aid to sick or injured, one civil disturbance, and one parking complaint. In response to a question, the Chief explained that the civil disturbance had to do with a boundary dispute.

**Fire Report** – The Fire Company responded to 11 calls in October. Chief Medlin reported that the Patterson Heights VFD recently received an ISO rating of 4 (up from 6) in the most recent rating period. The ISO rating is used by insurance companies to determine their rates for fire insurance, and the lower the number the better the fire company is performing. For comparison, the City of Pittsburgh's rating is 1, Beaver Falls is at 3, and Patterson Township is at 5. The chief also answered a question raised by some regarding the length of the new firetruck. The new truck is 32' 4" long, 10" shorter than the truck it replaced. The new truck also has a smaller turning radius, and is much better suited to the needs of the firemen.

The Chief also gave an interesting analysis of why response time is so much more important than it was not so many years ago. The contents of houses today have much more synthetic, petroleum-based, and therefore flammable materials than they used to, and just a few seconds of delay could easily result in serious injury or death. As recently as 30 to 35 years ago it was estimated that a person had 17 minutes to escape a burning structure, and today it is less than 3 minutes. He went on to explain that the biggest danger to firefighters today is not from injury fighting a fire, but from cancer due to inhalation of carcinogenic fumes. Protection is unfortunately very expensive.

Chief Stanislawski added that the firemen are also trained in quick response, especially important since the ambulance response time has gotten so long.

**Visitors** – (1) Bryan Steel, 721 5<sup>th</sup> Street, 724-630-4201. Mr. Steel questioned how many of the fire calls the previous month were to properties in Patterson Heights. He questioned why fire response time was never such an issue in the past, and questioned the methodology used to determine some of the figures given by Jason Medlin earlier. Mr. Steel said he feels the new firetruck is actually larger than the one it replaced, and that mentioning the difference in firefighting from 35 years ago is like comparing apples and oranges. He also expressed his displeasure with the new yellow lines, and reducing the amount of parking available to some residents. (2) James Culler, 815 5<sup>th</sup> Street. Mr. Culler read a letter regarding the lengths of the yellow lines painted on curbs. A copy of his letter is attached. He questioned why there is a yellow line painted in front of his house when there is no stop sign in the alley alongside his house. He also questioned the lengths of lines painted near alleys when there is no stop sign, and asked why such lines are of different lengths. He asked that the line in front of house be shortened to match others in the Borough.

**Solicitor** – Mr. Paganie has items to discuss under New Business.

**Code Enforcement** – Nothing new to report.

**Correspondence** – Three letters sent to residents about their leaves being improperly placed on the street or having extraneous materials mixed with their leaves.

**Tax Collector** – Nadine Galbreath reported that she deposited \$2,584.44 in October, leaving \$8,903.74 still to be collected.

**Treasurer's Report** – A report of revenue since the last meeting was submitted.

**Public Safety Committee** – Bryan Landman thanked the Fire Department for their excellent protection, and particularly for the extra things they do for residents at Halloween and Christmas.

**Buildings and Grounds** – Nothing to report.

**Streets and Sewers** – Nothing to report.

**Recreation** – Movie nights are planned for June 10 and July 8. Community Day will be August 5, and the committee is planning to buy tables and chairs instead of renting.

**Recycling** – No report.

**Budget and Finance** – No report.

**Rental Property** – Nothing new to report.

**New Business** – (1) Bryan Landman moved that we retain special counsel in the pending PUC matter. Laura Trehar seconded, and the motion carried. (2) Andrew Why moved that Council allow President Bill Starn to sign legal documents for the Borough in the PUC matter. Rich Siget seconded, and the motion carried.

**Old Business** – (1) There was nothing new to report on the new fire building. The committee did commit to adding kitchen facilities. (2) Council discussed the feasibility of establishing a fire tax within the Borough, and it is clear that additional sources of funding will become necessary soon. (3) Council was given a copy of a preliminary budget for 2023. Bryan Landman moved to advertise that the budget is available to residents for review. Laura Trehar seconded, and the motion carried.

**Mayor** – No report.

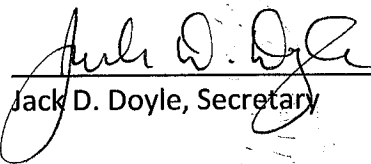
**COG** – No report.

**Emergency Management** – No report.

**Announcements** – Cookies and hot chocolate with Santa after a parade through the Borough on December 17.

**Fiscal and Contractual** – Laura Trehar moved that bills be paid or ratified as presented. Andrew Why seconded, and Council approved.

**Adjournment** – Bryan Landman moved that the meeting be adjourned. Rich Siget seconded, and Council approved, with the meeting ending at 7:49 p.m. The next regular meeting will be December 21, 2022, at 7 p.m.

  
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Jack D. Doyle, Secretary

  
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Bill Starn, Council President