

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, Laura Trehar, Jan Livingston, and Rich Siget. 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 – Jim Turnbull asked that the Agenda be revised to include consideration of the engineering contracts for the proposed new building. Jim then moved that the Agenda be approved with the addition, Bryan Landman seconded, and the Council approved the Agenda as revised.

Minutes – Bryan Landman moved that the minutes from December 21, 2022 be approved. Laura Trehar seconded, and Council approved.

Police Report – The September Police Report showed 46 calls for service. Jim Turnbull related an incident he had with a driver who refused to move from a no-parking zone. The Chief advised that in such a case, one should get the license plate number, but not confront the person. Report the license number so that the police can follow up.

Fire Report – The Fire Company responded to 15 calls in December, bringing their total for 2022 to 166 calls, equating to 366 man-hours. Jason also related how the firefighters trained throughout the year, with several earning advanced certifications. The Department also improved its ISO rating from a 6 to a 4, meaning that they are better able to serve the community, and possibly cause reductions in rates for homeowners' insurance. Jim Turnbull discussed how the fire department, on New Year's Eve, were pumping basements that had been flooded due to a water main break. He talked about the extensive training done by the firefighters throughout the year. He also discussed a proposal for a new firehall, and about how Council can let residents know how much the firefighters do for them. Report on file.

Visitors – (1) Donna Ceriani, 722 7th Avenue. Ms. Ceriani told the Council about houses on her street, one in particular, 709 7th Avenue, that has no house number. They previously used, and are still using 722 as their mailing address. Mail and packages are being misdelivered, and often it is with great difficulty that Ms. Ceriani gets her deliveries returned. The residents at 709 have not been interested in cooperating, and the Postmaster has given no help. Council will contact our Code Enforcement officer at BIU to address the matter.

Solicitor – No report.

Code Enforcement – Jay Narad, owner of 605 7th Avenue, has agreed to take down two dead pine trees in his yard. A letter will be sent to him confirming this arrangement.

Correspondence – (1) A letter from Gwen Deluca, in which she lists and discusses several concerns. First, she recommends restructuring of the Borough Council to improve “checks and balances.” She said the Emergency Management Coordinator does not have the authority to violate borough ordinances. Yellow line painting cost taxpayer dollars and ignored borough ordinances. Committees should be reviewed. Maintenance employees should not report to themselves. It is bad practice and unethical for someone to be paid for three positions, council member, EMC, and borough maintenance; and called it double- or triple-dipping. Line painting has effectively removed street parking from her property. If she invites her parents over, they have to walk 80 to 100 feet from the nearest parking spot, and she fears their having to walk on the road or through an intersection. She said tractor trailers can maneuver through the borough. She complained about how road salting is concentrated on the intersections, and added that once she was going too fast for conditions, slid through an intersection, and landed in someone’s yard. She said that paint was placed in places it does not belong. She said that some of the line painting does not start at a corner, but five feet from the corner, in violation of our ordinance. She mentioned that lines should be 20 feet at most, not 30, as it is written in the ordinance.

Ms. Deluca also said that meeting agendas should be expanded, and more public discussion should take place. She cited conflicting information from unnamed council members regarding the yellow lines. She repeated the story that it took four years to save enough money for the paint, and that it was then unavailable for two years. She fears that the yellow paint has negatively affected the value of her home.

Ms. Deluca also included a copy of the ordinance she had been citing, which clearly states that lines should be painted within 30 feet upon the approach to any flashing signal, stop sign, or traffic and control device located along the side of the roadway. (The letter is summarized without correcting any misstatements.)

(2) A letter from Widmer Engineering requesting reappointment as Borough Engineer. Before action could be taken on their request, the conversation shifted to the Weinfurther property at the corner of 7th Avenue and 7th Street.

(3) A copy of the notice in the Beaver County Times listing meeting dates and times for 2023.

Jim Turnbull asked rhetorically if the Council had the authority in the Borough Code to exceed PennDOT’s requirements, for example, to paint 35-foot lines, or ban street parking altogether, in the interest of public safety.

Tax Collector – Nadine Galbreath reported that the total amount deposited in December and January was \$3,663.72, leaving \$5,356.97 to be collected until March 31. Report on file.

Treasurer’s Report – A report of revenue since the last meeting was submitted. Interest is up to nearly \$1,700/month. We received our semi-annual amusement tax payment from the Golf Club in the amount of \$3,963.

Public Safety Committee – Nothing new to report.

Buildings and Grounds – Nothing.

Streets and Sewers – Nothing.

Recreation – Nothing to report.

Recycling – Royal Oak has been contacted about emptying the paper retriever.

Budget and Finance – Jim Turnbull and Bill Starn discussed the need to get estimates on the cost of a new building, and deciding who would pay for what.

Rental Property – Nothing new to report.

New Business – (1) Consideration of Resolution 23-1-1, Intergovernmental Emergency Coordinator Cooperation. Our Emergency Management Coordinator, Bryan Landman, will perform the same functions for White and Patterson Townships. A motion to approve was made by Laura Trehar. Rich Siget seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. (2) Joe Brunner would like to begin billing \$60/month for emptying our cardboard retriever. Bryan Landman moved that we accept his request, Jan Livingston seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Old Business – (1) We need to provide Tri-State Equipment with written permission to enter the Weinfurther yard at 619 7th Street to camera their drainage pipes. Frank Paganie will discuss with their attorney. (2) Jim Turnbull presented two contracts with Peticone Engineering, one for electrical drawings, and one for mechanical, for the new building. He moved that we approve their execution. Bryan Landman seconded the motion, for discussion purposes. Bryan said that we should try to get a better idea of the total cost before we commit to spending \$12,000 for drawings. Jim agreed. Rich Siget moved to table the original motion, Laura Trehar seconded, and the motion to table was approved.

Mayor – No report.

COG – No report.

Emergency Management – No report.

Announcements – None.

Fiscal and Contractual – Laura Trehar moved that the bills be paid or ratified as presented. Bryan Landman seconded, and Council approved. Report on file.

Adjournment – Bryan Landman moved that the meeting be adjourned. Laura Trehar seconded, and Council approved, with the meeting ending at 8:06 p.m. The next regular meeting will be February 15, 2023, at 7 p.m.



Jack D. Doyle, Secretary



Bill Starn, Council President