

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** – Bryan Landman moved that the Agenda be approved, Jim Turnbull seconded, and the Council approved the Agenda.

**Minutes** – Laura Trehar moved that the minutes from February 15, 2023 be approved. Bryan Landman seconded, and Council approved.

President Bill Starn announced that an executive session was held before the regular meeting to update the Council on pending legal matters. No action was taken.

**Police Report** – The February Police Report showed 66 calls for service. There were five warnings issued for parking. Report on file.

**Fire Report** – The Fire Company responded to 7 calls in February. The new fire engine has been lettered, and is in service. Two additional cameras have been configured, and will replace those on the pavilion. The AED/CPR class has been moved back a week, to April 1. Jason was asked if the Department planned to do “Stop the Bleed” training, and he said it would be included in the AED/CPR classes.

**Visitors** – (1) Donna Ceriani, 722 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, asked for an update on the house numbering situation discussed previously. She pointed out that her neighbors complied with the requests to display house numbers, but the Veticas put up the number 722, which is the same as the Cerianis’, instead of 709. She stated that she is only receiving half of her packages, and most, but not all of her mail. Jack Doyle responded by saying he had spoken with a gentleman at the 911 Center who is in charge of mapping for Beaver County. He said that he is able to force compliance through the Postal Service in Pittsburgh. Because this was a legal matter, the Solicitor was asked to get involved.

(2) Anthony DeLuca, 719 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, asked about the consistency of the yellow, no-parking lines painted on the curb in front of his house, and the one a block away. Bill Starn explained that the lines are painted 30 feet from the stop signs, and are matched up with the lines across the street. Therefore, if the stop sign is set back 10 feet, there may be a 40-foot no-parking distance. He also mentioned that a block away, there was a 5-foot section of yellow line. It was explained that the short section was in front of the Bellan house, because he had refused to move his car so that the line could be painted properly.

(3) Joe Signore, 611 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue, expressed that a new firehouse would take up all the green space in the park. He was also concerned about the way the decision to build the firehouse was made. Since the firehouse was first proposed, discussion in subsequent meetings was not

consistent. He also suggested that there should be a referendum on the proposal, and that the Council should advertise that they would hold a meeting to discuss the proposal. He said that Patterson Heights did not participate in a DCED survey about local fire departments. He went on to say that Council should not spend money unless they determined it was in the best interest of the community. He again talked about the importance of having a grassy area in the park. Bill Starn replied that there had been no action taken, except for appointing a committee of firemen and council members to do a feasibility study and come up with options. The money paid for preliminary drawings was a small percentage of what the architect would ordinarily charge. Finally, the stakes placed along 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue were simply to give a visual idea of the size and location of a new building. It was agreed that the stakes should have been removed earlier.

(4) Heidi Cron, 616 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, spoke about the importance of having the park as a place where children can play with their friends, and parents are able to watch them and interact with them. She spoke about the importance to the community of having a place to come together, for Community Day and other activities. She suggested upgrading the equipment we have, through grants, for example. She related how scouts can use the park as a place to earn their merit badges.

Jim Turnbull then gave a short history of how the firehall discussion began, and the evolution of the committee and discussions. He discussed how it was important to have the preliminary drawings and the stakes, so that the committee and council could come to the best decision possible. He mentioned other items that had to be considered, including the loss of some green space in the park, the need to provide shelter for our new equipment, and the cost of repairing the elevator.

Ms. Cron finished her remarks by stating the park's importance to the families and extended families of the community.

(5) Matt McGeary, 711 7<sup>th</sup> Street, complimented the council on their hard work, and suggested that council consider recording (YouTube) or live streaming (Zoom) their meetings. Bill Starn replied that borough residents can come to the meetings in person and participate. The meetings are not very long, and are always the same day and time each month.

(6) Lisa Signore, 611 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue, has many years of experience with community development programs, and offered to help write a grant application for repair of the elevator in the Municipal Building. She asked why our estimated repair cost was so high, and it was explained that the numbers were provided by the elevator company.

(7) Lynne Hendry, 608 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, voiced her appreciation for the work done by Bryan Landman and Charlie West. She took note of their long hours and hard work.

(8) Kelly Manning, 621 5<sup>th</sup> Street, expressed her interest in reviving *A View from the Heights*. She already has people who have offered to help write articles. Ms. Manning will focus on providing the newsletter in digital form as much as possible, while still making it available to people who do not communicate over their computers.

(9) Allison Dixon, 426 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, spoke as a life-long resident of Patterson Heights, about how the community park has played a large part in her life, and continues to be an important part of many of the new residents to the borough. She spoke of a recent evening when 50 people were in the park, playing basketball or soccer or playing on the playground. She came to the meeting with questions about the proposed firehall, but her questions were either answered, or she determined it was premature to discuss some of them.

(10) Andy Dixon, 426 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, came to gather information. He asked Jim Turnbull if there were requirements in the recycling grant which paid for the leaf vac and the truck that they be stored inside, out of the weather. Jim replied that we had not yet been able to arrange for storing

all the equipment, old and new, indoors, but would be able to accomplish that with the proposed new firehall. He went on to discuss the poor condition of the maintenance “shed,” and how it needed to be replaced. He also said that talk of including a kitchen in the new building was premature.

Kelly Manning added that the current kitchen in the Municipal Building was inadequate for the activities of the Firemen’s Auxiliary, and that members had to bring their own roasters to prepare food for fund raisers.

More discussion ensued regarding which buildings, if any, would be lost. The consensus was that the pavilion would be moved, the maintenance building would be torn down, and the municipal building would be kept, although it needs a great deal of repair to be able to continue to use it.

(11) Brian Harsh, 400 4<sup>th</sup> Street, discussed several ideas he had for alternatives to a new building. Most of his ideas were discussed by the council previously, and would be considered in the feasibility study to be done by the committee.

(12) Adam McCaa, 709 7<sup>th</sup> Street, said that most of his questions had been answered, and he thanked the council for their time. He thought that preparing a feasibility study was the right thing to do, and was glad that so many from the community came out to express their support for the park. He also spoke in support of live-streaming council meetings.

Jack Doyle spoke in support of the firemen, and how they would benefit by having more space in a new building. He also encouraged residents to call the borough office if they have questions about something they see in the meeting minutes, or just questions in general. Voicemails are typically answered within 24 hours.

Bill Starn explained about discussions about a fire tax, similar to the one in Patterson Township. Council decided that it was a losing proposition, as the fire department brings in more in contributions.

**Solicitor** – No report.

**Code Enforcement** – Letters were sent to the three residents on 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue that did not have house numbers displayed according to code. Two complied right away, but the third put up the wrong number, as described earlier by Mrs. Ceriani. We will ask our solicitor for guidance in how to proceed. Jay Narad, owner of 605 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, has had two dead pine trees taken down. There is another large, dead tree at 410 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue. We will ask BIU to get involved.

**Correspondence** – (1) A letter from a local district attorney regarding an upcoming meeting about establishing a regional police force. (2) A proposal from Widmer Engineering to prepare an application for an MS4 waiver. (3) A response from the resident who refused to put the correct house number on the front of their property.

**Tax Collector** – Nadine Galbreath asked that the February minutes be corrected to show that 2022 taxes must be paid by March 31. 2023 tax payments will begin in March. Report on file.

**Treasurer’s Report** – A report of revenue since the last meeting was submitted. There was nothing unusual in the report.

**Public Safety Committee** – Bryan Landman engaged in a discussion with residents about the cost to maintain or replace the elevator, and that residents are getting false information on sites like Nextdoor. It was also suggested that the firemen stage an event for children teaching about fire safety.

**Buildings and Grounds** – Jim Turnbull discussed that the disposition of the municipal building has to be part of the final solution. Besides the elevator, the building will need a new roof within about six years. He spoke of the importance of using money wisely, and exploring all possibilities before acting.

**Streets and Sewers** – Bill Starn discussed our having to reapply for an MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) waiver. If we are not granted a waiver, changes will need to be made in the way our storm water is discharged into the river, and there will be much closer monitoring by the EPA. We are also still working with the US Department of Agriculture on obtaining a loan to reline our sanitary sewer system.

Bill also suggested we get a quote from the paving company that's going to do half the road on 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, seeing what the cost would be to go the entire width of the road for two blocks. In addition, we should get a price for repaving 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue between 4<sup>th</sup> Street and Ross Hill, half of which is owned by Patterson Township.

**Recreation** – With summer approaching, Laura Trehar asked for volunteers to help with Community Day and other activities. For anyone who is interested, she can be emailed at [LTrehar@gmail.com](mailto:LTrehar@gmail.com), or text messaged (her phone number is on the website). Anyone working with children will need to have a clearance, and any charge will be paid by the Borough.

The first movie night will be June 10. Laura spoke about the great reception the movie nights have received by the community. Also being considered is bringing back a concert in the park.

**Recycling** – Charlie West reported that the paper retriever is about three-quarters full.

Bill Starn told about the importance of recycling when it comes to applying for grants, including paper, yard waste, leaves, and cardboard.

**Budget and Finance** – Nothing to report.

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

**New Business** – (1) Council reviewed *A View from the Heights*, much of which had already been discussed. Printing costs were borne by the Ladies' Auxiliary and Council for the last two years the newsletter was printed. It is hoped that digitizing will reduce the overall cost. One item suggested would be the welcoming of new residents. Also, it was mentioned that Phyllis Aluseo used to give our welcome packets to new residents, with little homemade goodies like jam or baked goods, and information about the borough and its activities. (2) Bryan Landman moved that we have Widmer Engineering prepare the application for the MS4 waiver, for a price estimated to be \$1,200. Rich Siget seconded, and the motion carried. Widmer will be notified.

**Old Business** – (1) A resident has inquired about renting the meeting room for a party. The council was fine with it as long as they cleaned up afterward, and our insurance carrier approved.

(2) In determining the cost to rehabilitate the elevator, we have a quote from four years ago supplied by thyssenkrupp Elevator Company. The total cost would be about \$120,000, but with inflation, the cost would now be \$145,000. It was decided to get another quote from Hadfield Elevator.

Lisa Signore spoke about applying for a grant to repair/rehabilitate/replace the elevator. She explained that such a request would not be income-based, since it is considered removal of architectural barriers to handicap accessibility. Since Lisa worked for the County for a number of years, and worked on grants such as this, she offered to provide assistance in preparing the application, which is due by March 31, 2023. Bryan Landman moved that Council submit a grant application that Bill Starn will sign. Laura Trehar seconded, and the motion carried. (3) The third item on the agenda, a fire station update, had already been discussed.

**Mayor** – No report.

**COG** – No report.

**Emergency Management** – Nothing to report.

**Announcements** – None.

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

**Adjournment** – Bryan Landman moved that the meeting be adjourned. Rich Siget seconded, and Council approved, with the meeting ending at 8:36 p.m. The next regular meeting will be April 19, 2023, at 7 p.m.

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Bill Starn, Council President

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Jack D. Doyle, Secretary