

**BOROUGH OF PATTERSON HEIGHTS
COUNCIL MINUTES
November 15, 2023**

The regular meeting was called to order by Council 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.

Attendance -- Council Members attending included Bryan Landman, Laura Trehar, Jan Livingston, and Rich Siget. Other officials in attendance included Assistant Police Chief Nick Bathgate, Fire Chief Jason Medlin, and Secretary/Treasurer Jack Doyle.

Agenda – Bryan Landman moved that the Agenda be approved, Rich Siget seconded, and the Council approved the Agenda.

Minutes – Laura Trehar moved that the minutes from October 18, 2023 be approved. Bryan Landman seconded, and Council approved.

Police Report – The October report shows 56 calls for service. The Police and Fire Departments were commended on their work on Halloween.

Fire Report – The Fire Company responded to seven calls in September. The fire truck will carry Santa Claus around the Borough on December 16.

Visitors – (1) Bard Hendry of 608 7th Avenue asked that the recycling area have regular hours that are posted. He noted that people come in late at night, after dark, to drop off cardboard, and he is concerned about the potential for property damage.

Solicitor – No report.

Code Enforcement – The District Magistrate has issued a warrant for the owner of the house at 518 4th Street, Neill Connelly. It is believed that the warrant will allow the police to take him to the Magistrate during business hours, if he is stopped for another violation, such as a traffic stop.

The dead pine tree at 410 7th Avenue has been taken down.

There was further discussion about placing a sign with the hours the recycling bins would be available.

Correspondence – (1) An email from the USDA stating that the current market rate for loans is 3.875%.

(2) A thank-you note from Willard Harsh for honoring him on his 100th birthday.

Tax Collector – No report.

Treasurer's Report – The Treasurer provided a report of receipts, with nothing unusual.

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Conversation returned to posting a sign with designated hours for recycling. It was agreed that Bryan would post a sign with hours of 7AM to 9PM.

Public Safety Committee – No report.

Buildings and Grounds – Jim reported that he just received the information from Nick Engle regarding the proposed work on the Borough's buildings. He suggested that Council study the information, and possibly take action in December or January. One item not included in the information packet is the potential cost of demolition of the current municipal building (if Council decides to do it) which would be in the neighborhood of \$30,000 to \$50,000.

Streets and Sewers – Jack talked to Jim Kretschman from Patterson Township, who told him that they had put in their budget funds to pave half of 8th Avenue from 4th Street to Ross Hill. The cost estimate from Youngblood Paving had been just under \$60,000.

Bryan said that we would have to come up with new rules regarding leaf pickup for next year. People had complained about leaves on the street during Trick-or-Treat, yet they were picked up that day. Unfortunately, some people put out more leaves later in the day.

Bryan will explore the cost of outfitting the new truck with a salt spreader in order to have a backup in case the other truck goes down during the winter plowing season. Regarding the fact that QuikFill has cut back on their hours of operation, they have since said that they will improve the number of hours they will be open. We will also explore working through Costars to get fuel at other locations, and purchasing fuel storage tanks.

Recreation – Nothing to report.

Recycling – Nothing new to report.

Budget and Finance – Discussion of the 2024 budget is coming up later in the meeting.

Rental Property – Nothing new to report.

New Business – (1) The Council was presented with a preliminary budget, and Jack explained that he used actual expenses from last year as the primary determinant in arriving at the new budget figures. He also said that any excess in revenues was put into the road materials category in order to bring the budget into balance. It was mentioned that CD's might provide a better rate of interest, and that will be explored. Bryan Landman moved that we advertise the preliminary budget, Jan Livingston seconded, and Council approved.

(2) After some discussion Bryan Landman moved that Council approve the new millage rate, which is estimated to be 3.1702, not add the 10% additional tax available this year only, and advertise as required. Rich Siget seconded, and the Council approved unanimously.

(3) Jack suggested that the Council might want to raise the amount of his bond, as the amount of money controlled by the Treasurer has risen considerably. The increase would cost \$210/year. Bryan motioned for approval, Jan seconded, and Council approved.

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(4) Plunkett Pest Control placed skunk traps in the Borough for nine days, managed to catch two raccoons, an opossum, and a squirrel, but no skunks.

Old Business – No old business to discuss.

Mayor – No report.

COG – No report.

Emergency Management – Bryan Landman announced that he would be resigning as Coordinator. Bryan described his duties. Jim thanked him for all his time and effort in the position.

Fiscal and Contractual – Bryan Landman moved that the bills be paid or ratified as presented. Rich Siget seconded, and Council approved.

Announcements – (1) Election Day went well with a 50% turnout for Patterson Heights. New council members are Ryan Errett and David Lee. Bill Starn and Andrew Why were re-elected. (2) Jim announced that a Reorganization Meeting would be held on January 2.

Adjournment – Laura Trehar moved that the meeting be adjourned. Rich Siget seconded, and Council approved at 7:48. The next regular meeting will be December 20, 2023, at 7 p.m.

James Turnbull, Council Vice-President

Jack D. Doyle, Secretary