

PORT ALLEGANY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Regular Meeting
December 9, 2024

CALL TO ORDER - The Port Allegany Borough Council met on December 9, 2024 at the Borough Council Chambers. Those present were Council Members Laura Fillhart, Katie Dynda, Cory Thomas, Tom Johnson, Caleb Benson, and Sam Dynda. Also present were Manager Jeremy Morey, Secretary/Treasurer Heather Szuba, Solicitor Nicole Larsen, and Mayor George Riley. Council Jared Dickerson was absent from the meeting.

Visitors present were Chris Ernst of E&M Engineers; Michael Johnson of PAFD; Ellen Mosher and Barry Daugherty of PAAS; Ink Young, Beth Stauffer, and Paula Newell of PASD; Whitey Brundage, taxpayer; and Andrew Muccio of Muccio Transportation.

Council President Sam Dynda called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm, leading those in attendance with the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES – Caleb Benson made a motion to approve the Minutes of the November 4, 2024 Regular Meeting as written. Cory Thomas seconded. The motion carried unanimously. Katie Dynda made a motion to approve the Minutes of the November 18, 2024 Budget Workshop as written. Laura Fillhart seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

BILL LIST – After review, Caleb Benson made a motion to approve the November 2024 expenditures. Tom Johnson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

ENGINEER’S REPORT – The Engineer’s Report was provided by Chris Ernst.

MANAGER’S REPORT – The Manager’s Report was provided and reviewed by Jeremy Morey.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT – Code Enforcement report was provided and reviewed by Jeremy Morey.

AMBULANCE REPORT – The Ambulance report was provided by PAAS.

FIRE CHIEF’S REPORT – The Fire Chief’s report was provided and reviewed by Chief Mike Johnson. Chief Johnson also expressed his concern for safety issues if the Arnold Avenue Bridge were to be closed.

POLICE/MAYOR’S REPORT – The Police report was provided by Chief Distrola and reviewed by Mayor Riley.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT – Solicitor Larsen asked to speak in Executive Session.

SECRETARY’S REPORT – Secretary reported that the Auditors have not yet completed the 2023 Audit, but they are working on it.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – Nothing to report.

TAX REPORTS

- Real Estate
 - 2024 Total Face Collected \$500,390 (86.28%)
 - 2024 Total Uncollected \$79,565
- EIT: YTD November 2024 – \$223,673 (2023 - \$211,233)
- LST: YTD November 2024 – \$40,504 (2023 - \$44,178)

PUBLIC COMMENTS – Ellen Mosher, Paula Newell, Ink Young, Beth Stauffer, and Anthony Muccio all voiced various concerns about the possibility of closing the Arnold Avenue Bridge, mostly related to safety issues.

Whitey Brundage expressed concerns about sidewalks in ill-repair throughout the Borough, particularly on Broad Street.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – President Sam Dynda called for an Executive Session at 7:05 to discuss a legal matter and a personnel matter. Regular session resumed at 7:32 pm.

IMMEDIATE ACTION

Caleb Benson made a motion to adopt the 2025 Budget as advertised. Laura Fillhart seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Cory Thomas made a motion to approve Ordinance 494 fixing the tax rates for 2025. Tom Johnson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Caleb Benson made a motion to approve the Certificate of Millage to be sent to the County. Laura Fillhart seconded. Motion carried.

Laura Fillhart made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-9 setting the 2025 Meeting Dates. Katie Dynda seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Cory Thomas made a motion to approve the 2025 Police Pension COLAs. Laura Fillhart seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Cory Thomas made a motion to table action on the tornado siren until more information is obtained. Laura Fillhart seconded. Motion carried.

Laura Fillhart made a motion to move forward with the Arnold Avenue Bridge Replacement Project. Katie Dynda seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Katie Dynda made motion to postpone filing an appeal on the assessment of 78 W. Mill Street. Laura Fillhart seconded. Motion carried.

FUTURE ACTION

Flood Control Project

ADJOURNMENT – As there was no further business, Laura Fillhart made a motion to adjourn. Katie Dynda seconded the motion. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:48 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Szuba
Borough Secretary