January 24, 2023
Apollo Borough Council Meeting

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, the Apollo Borough council meeting was called to order by Council President Jerrod Thompson at 7:00 p.m. at 631 N 2nd Street, Apollo PA 15613 (Soldiers & Sailors Hall).

Present: Council members Jerrod Thompson, Cindy O'Block, Mark Tarle Diane Bradshaw and Kenneth Cyphert were present. The Secretary/Treasurer, Engineer, and Solicitor were present. Council members Craig Williams, Cindee Virostek and the Mayor were absent.

Public Comments:

Kathy Heilman from the Armstrong County Planning and Development office discussed Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) that Apollo was awarded $145,000 for ADA ramps. This grant was tied in with a Multimodal Grant for $647,026.56 which Apollo Borough was not awarded. Kathy discussed needing approval from council to move forward with the ADA Ramp project and a signed a co-op agreement. Council President, Jerrod Thompson, said most members of council are new and not familiar with the CDBG grant including himself. First Evangelical Lutheran Church was offering to help pay a portion of the matched funds due to their parking lot getting extra spaces from widening the road. The road widening was part of the multimodal grant that the borough did not receive. The engineer questioned why the numbers of the matched funds were so high when the borough was not awarded the money for the entire project. Kathy explained more about the matched funds and let the solicitor know she would email him a copy of the co-op agreement to review. Council will need to decide by the next council meeting if they are willing to move forward with the ADA Ramp grant.

Jim Sever from Scott Electric spoke to council about electric car charging stations and how they work. He said DEP is giving rebates of up to 70% towards the cost of the charging stations. Although the charging stations would most likely be more beneficial to be near restaurants or a shopping center where the individual could go while waiting for their car to be charged. Council member, Cindy O'Block, asked what additional costs would be related to the charging stations such as installation costs and upkeep of the stations. Jim Sever explained the costs of running conduit, brakers and yearly service charges. Council was given information to review.

Meeting Minutes:

A motion was made by Cindy O'Block and seconded by Ken Cyphert to approve the December 20, 2022, meeting minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Solicitor's Report:

A motion was made by Cindy O'Block and seconded by Mark Tarle to pay the Solicitor's Invoices. Motion passed unanimously.

Engineering Report:

A motion was made by Cindy O'Block and seconded by Mark Tarle to pay the engineers invoices. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion of solar panels on Riverfront Property. Additional research will be required.

Mayor's Report: Mayor Kenzevich was absent.

Public Safety: Mark Tarle, chair:

Mark said he is cleaning up the old police cars before putting them for sale on municibid.

He also discussed the poor condition of sidewalks in town and said the property owners/landlords need to be held accountable in maintaining them for liability purposes and for the safety of other residents. There is an ordinance stating that the owners need to maintain the sidewalks in front of their properties. He will need to check into the penalties on the ordinance to see what can be done.

Secretary/Treasurer Report:

Letters of interest were presented to council to fill the open zoning hearing board seats by Mathew Ansell and Michael Baustert.

A motion was made by Cindy O'Block and seconded by Mark Tarle to appoint Mathew Ansell and Michael Baustert to fill the open seats on the zoning hearing board. Motion passed unanimously.

Chapter 94 Report to be completed by Gibson Thomas Engineering.

Discussion on keeping all the same appointed officials from 2022 for 2023.

A motion was made by Cindy O'Block and seconded by Ken Cyphert to keep the same appointed officials from 2022 for 2023. Motion passed unanimously.

Monthly expense report was given to council.

Finance Committee Report: Jerrod Thompson, chair:

A motion by Cindy O'Block and seconded by Mark Tarle to pay the bills, including payroll. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of items for payment as follows (12/19/2022 – 1/19/2023):
General Fund (includes payroll) - $42295.56
Garbage Fund – $13746.97
Liquid Fuels Fund – $9850.99
Parking Fund - $580.48
Sewer Fund - $8117.62
Sewer Separation Fund - $2395.03
Event Fund - $358.78
Landlord Fund - $405.00
Total – $64378.43

Public Works & Streets Committee Report: Craig Williams, chair:

The salt shed has is completed. There was discussion on possibly putting a door on it to keep it dry.

Property & Planning Committee Report: Cindy O'Block, chair:

Ken Cyphert discussed a property on 1st Street being dangerous since it is half demolished and open to children and animals. The solicitor will draft a letter regarding the legal responsibilities and liability of the property owner to fix the issue.

Discussion on Habitat for Humanity coming in for another Rock the Block to help property owners in need of outside repairs.

Public Relations Committee- Events: Cindy O'Block, chair:

Cindy said they are planning a movie night at the Soldiers & Sailors hall to make up for cancelled Christmas event.

May Daze event is scheduled for Saturday, May 20th from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. with a rain date also scheduled for Sunday, May 21st from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Wheel Good Wednesdays will be starting back up May 3rd through October 18th. Food Trucks will be open from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. every other Wednesday. (See apollopaevents.org for more event information.)

At 8:23 p.m. a motion was made by Cindy O'Block and seconded by Ken Cyphert to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Jerrod Thompson
Council President

Deanna Shupe
Borough Secretary/Treasurer