

July 25, 2023
Apollo Borough Council Meeting

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

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

Public Comments:

Attorney, Tim Miller, came to speak on behalf of Elizabeth Maginley who owns the property at 410 N 7th Street. The fence that was put up in the alley behind the home has disabled the use of the garage. She would like to see the council pass Ordinance 292-23 and is in favor of it.

Jeremy Gross asked why it is taking so long to have the fence removed from the alley behind 725A N. Warren Avenue. The alley is the only entrance to his residence and his mother who lives with him is also handicapped. He would like to know what the fire safety code and regulations are because the fence is blocking ambulances and fire trucks from getting through. He would like to see the fence come down as soon as possible.

Daryl Heller is the owner of Heller Investment Properties and purchased property at 704 Armstrong Avenue. The fence in the back is creating a huge problem because it blocks the alley, and they are unable to get their equipment through. He has been trying to fix the house up to sell it and doesn't think it will sell due to the fence issue. He would like to see the fence removed and asked if there was going to be an ordinance passed tonight.

Bob Kulbaugh lives at 716 Armstrong Avenue and said his kids play in the alley, but he cannot get his truck, trailer, or boat through the alley due to the fence. He said it is dangerous and watched drivers try to get their cars through the alley and back up when they can't make it nearly hitting the fence or garages because of how narrow it is. Bob also mentioned that they put a big yellow post in the alleyway too that needs to be removed.

Brenda Troup who lives at 727 N Warren said there is a blind intersection at the end of the alley without the fence and people get angry because they can't get through and end up backing up too quickly. This is a dangerous situation that will eventually cause an accident when another car is coming and can't see the other driver backing up. Brenda pointed out that 2 years ago they had 12 signatures on a petition for a cease and desist for the fence and 8 letters written by residents that lived in the alley for up to 80 years. The question has been "what is the purpose of a two-sided fence that holds nothing in and keeps nothing out?". She asked if the street department has been able to salt or plow the alley. The public works foreman said he does supply winter maintenance to the alley, but it is extremely difficult, and it takes a lot of extra time. Brenda said it really serves no purpose and is now creating more traffic at the other end due to drivers avoiding the fenced entrance. The fence only poses more danger to the blind and now congested entrance and the issue needs to be resolved.

Darlene Shrock lives at 729 N Warren said she is also concerned about emergency vehicles being able to get through there and it was necessary for them to access the alley when her husband was ill. She also mentioned that due to the fence she is being denied a garbage service of disposing of a large item for pick up because the truck cannot get through for it. She said she does not have any issues or dislikes the property owners but wants to see a resolution with the fence. It is dangerous and creates a lot of problems for residents that use the alley.

The solicitor explained the situation and said that it has been taking a long time to address the fence issue due to litigation reasons that are not able to be discussed. He stated that an accurate survey would need to be

completed before passing the ordinance. The main concern is to do everything right the first time to not have future problems. This will be the quickest way to try and resolve the issue.

Meeting Minutes:

A motion was made by Cindy O'Block and seconded by Mark Tarle to approve the June 27, 2023, 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:

The engineer mentioned an upcoming LSA Grant and advised council should come up with 5 top priorities. Engineering is also waiting on Armstrong County to move forward with the Grove walking trail.

Mayor's Report: Mayor Kenzevich:

Public Safety: Mark Tarle, chair:

Discussion again on issue with N. 11th Street not being maintained by PennDot. Per, John Steele, he has a call into Abby Major's office in Ford City and they are supposed to get a meeting together, but he has not heard back from them yet. He said the state bought the land from him and they do own it, so are responsible for maintaining it. He said the borough should not be responsible to take care of the property. Councilman, Mark Tarle said the project is still not closed and was not done properly in the first place.

Secretary/Treasurer Report:

Austin Gerald Sea, a student from the University of Illinois, is working on his internship by going door to door to discuss educational materials and resources to residents. He has asked the council if they could waive the solicitation fees since he is doing this for college credit and cannot afford to pay them.

A motion was made by Cindy O'Block and seconded by Ken Cyphert to waive the solicitation fees for Austin Gerald Sea for his college internship to provide educational resources to the residents. Motion passed unanimously.

Councilwoman, Cynthia Virostek, submitted a letter of resignation to the secretary-treasurer for her seat on council, June 29th, 2023.

A motion was made by Cindy O'Block and seconded by Ken Cyphert to accept Cynthia Virostek's resignation from council. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion on a new council member to sign checks to replace Cynthia Virostek.

A motion was made by Cindy O'Block and seconded by Ken Cyphert to have council member, Mark Tarle, sign checks. Check signers to consist of three council members: Jerrod Thompson, Cynthia O'Block and Mark Tarle. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Mark Tarle and seconded by Cindy O'Block to join the County Borough Association. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Cindy O'Block and seconded by Ken Cyphert to table Ordinance 292-23. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Ken Cyphert and seconded by Cindy O'Block to advertise a Public Hearing to take place at the Soldiers & Sailors Hall at 6:30 p.m. on August 22, 2023, for Ordinance 292-23 to be adopted. Motion passed unanimously.

A monthly expense report was given to the council.

Finance Committee Report: Jerrod Thompson, chair:

Discussion on possible increase in Real Estate Tax due to expenses consistently increasing and taxes being stationary for the last 5 years. The finance committee will meet to go over the budget and review costs/increases.

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

Approval of items for payment as follows (6/23/2023 – 7/23/2023):

General Fund (includes payroll) - \$48166.00

Garbage Fund – \$13676.52

Liquid Fuels Fund – \$4556.86

Parking Fund - \$1514.72

Sewer Fund - \$7947.17

Sewer Separation Fund - \$2395.03

Event Fund - \$302.75

Vacancy Fund - \$167.50

Landlord Fund – 375.00

Total – \$79101.55

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

Council member, Ken Cyphert, asked about getting new Oak trees for the park. The trees there are really starting to show their age and a couple had to be removed.

There was mention of going to the Lion's Club meetings to discuss it with them and see if they could help with getting trees. Also discussed using some of the funds from a gifted estate for park improvements to purchase some Oak trees.

The door at the end of the public works garage needs to be repaired. It has been damaged for a long time and now it no longer needs to hold the salt since there is a new shed. Public works received an estimate on repairs to be \$1000.00. Funds are available in the budget for building maintenance.

A motion was made by Cindy O'Block and seconded by Mark Tarle to repair the public works garage door. Motion passed unanimously.

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

Discussion on Rock the Block for August 5th. Volunteers will meet at the Presbyterian Church who will kindly be providing breakfast and lunch. Habitat for Humanity will be giving the volunteers t-shirts.

Cindy wanted to let everyone know that she spoke to Darrin from the Armstrong Industrial Development Council about the old school that they purchased. He said they purchased the property from a grant they received and so far, they have spent \$4000 to have the property mowed and kept up. They are asking for bids to do the demolition, which will not take place until next year. The company they choose will be one that knows how to remove asbestos and will do it properly. That is the only plan they have for the property currently. Cindy said a lot of rumors are floating around about what is going to happen with the school but none of them are true. These are the facts of what the council knows is happening to the old school as of right now.

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

Movies in the park are not getting a lot of attendance but it is well received by those who come to watch. At the last show they celebrated Harry Potter's birthday with cupcakes and pizza. The movies will continue throughout the summer every other Saturday.

Other Business:


Council member, Mark Tarle, attended a zoom meeting to hear about the Active Transportation Pre-planning Grant application. Although Apollo Borough is not eligible for this grant, Vandergrift Borough asked if he could help by providing a support letter for them. A draft of the support letter and explanation of the Active Transportation Pre-planning grant was given to council.

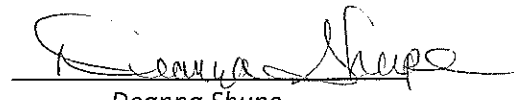
A motion was made by Mark Tarle and seconded by Ken Cyphert to provide a support letter to Vandergrift Borough for their Active Transportation Pre-planning grant application. Roll Call: Jerrod Thompson – yes; Mark Tarle – yes; Ken Cyphert – yes; Cindy O'Block – abstained. Motion passed by majority vote.

A motion was made at 8:27 p.m. by Ken Cyphert and seconded by Mark Tarle to go into executive session. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made at 8:58 p.m. by Cindy O'Block and seconded by Ken Cyphert to come out of executive session. Motion passed unanimously.

At 8:59 p.m. a motion was made by Mark Tarle and seconded by Cindy O'Block to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously.



Jerrod Thompson
Council President

Deanna Shupe
Borough Secretary/Treasurer