

July 28, 2022

Apollo Borough Council Meeting

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

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

Public Comments:

Becky Kane asked about the old Knepshild house on 2nd Street. The weeds are growing over on to the road and you can't walk past it because it covers the sidewalk completely. Secretary-Treasurer said she will check in to the house/owners and get back to her but thinks it went on the upset sale for unpaid taxes.

Meeting Minutes:

A motion was made by Cindy O'Block and seconded by Michelle Beck to approve the June 23, 2022 meeting minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Solicitor's Report:

The Solicitor reported that he received a copy of the Commonwealth Courts order on a case that was filed last year around November and the latest appeal was dismissed by the court and found completely in favor of the borough. There is one remaining case in the commonwealth court and the federal case is moving forward now that the plaintiffs have obtained a new attorney out of Harrisburg.

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

Engineering Report:

A motion was made by Cindy O'Block and seconded by Michelle Beck to pay the Engineer's Invoices.
Roll Call: Cindy O'Block – yes; Michelle Beck – yes; Craig Williams – yes; Diane Bradshaw – yes; Cynthia Virostek – no. Motion passed by majority vote.

Mayor's Report: Karen Kenzevich

Mayor reported police are on schedule and on track of everything.

Public Safety: Michelle Beck, chair:

Michelle Beck reported that the Police Contract is up for renewal at the end of the year and the committee will be meeting with the union representative next week.

Secretary/Treasurer Report:

Secretary-Treasurer received a letter of interest from Kenneth Cyphert and Michael Baustert for the open seat on council. Council was informed that Mr. Cyphert emailed his interest for the open seat in the beginning of the year and once again when another seat opened last month.

A nomination was made by Diane Bradshaw and seconded by Michelle Beck to appoint Kenneth Cyphert to fill the open seat on council. Roll Call: Diane Bradshaw – yes; Michelle Beck – yes; Craig Williams – yes; Cynthia Virostek – yes; Cindy O’Block – abstained. Passed by majority vote.

Amtrust Workers Compensation insurance is up for renewal. There are no changes on the plan and the premiums have reduced on clerical office employees and police but have increased for volunteer firefighters resulting in a \$724.00 increase.

A motion was made by Cindy O’Block and seconded by Diane Bradshaw to accept the Amtrust Workers Compensation insurance plan for 2022-2023. Motion passed unanimously.

Secretary-Treasurer reported having issues with vandalism of the port-a-john in the Owens Grove Park. The borough has already had to pay \$201.83 in damages to TH Port A John for a replacement. The owner said he will not replace it again because he cannot use it once it is damaged, and this is the second one he has put in. They offered the borough to purchase the one that is there for \$450.00. Video surveillance signs will be posted on the port-a-john and police will be monitoring it with the park cameras.

A motion was made by Michelle Beck and seconded by Cindy O’Block to purchase the port-a-john out of the event fund checkbook. Motion passed unanimously.

Secretary-Treasurer has completed and submitted the Floodplain Management Activities Annual 2021 Report online.

Monthly expense report was given to council.

Finance Committee Report: Jerrod Thompson, chair:

Cynthia Virostek advised that the president of council, Jerrod Thompson, would like to have everyone on the finance committee be eligible to sign checks. Finance committee: Jerrod Thompson, Cindy O’Block and Cynthia Virostek.

A motion was made by Craig Williams and seconded by Cindy O’Block to appoint Jerrod Thompson, Cynthia Virostek and Cindy O’Block to be check signers. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion by Cindy O’Block and seconded by Michelle Beck to pay the bills, including payroll. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of items for payment as follows (6/18/2022 – 7/22/2022);

General Fund (includes payroll) - \$99858.66

Garbage Fund – 12821.74

Liquid Fuels Fund – \$4590.88

Parking Fund - \$961.22

Sewer Fund - \$13499.31

Sewer Separation Fund - \$2395.03

Event Fund - \$464.45

Landlord Fund- \$390.00

Total – \$134981.29

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

Craig Williams reported that the Bocce ball court in Owens Grove is falling apart and not safe for children. Since it is never used, public works said they could remove it with approval from council.

A motion was made by Diane Bradshaw and seconded by Cindy O’Block to have public works remove the bocce ball court in Owens Grove. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Works foreman said there is a maple tree that needs to be cut down at Owens Grove and limbs that need trimmed on a tree at the borough building. They would need to rent a lift to take care of the trees. The cost to rent the lift is around \$300 for the day.

A motion was made by Cindy O'Block and seconded by Michelle Beck to rent the lift to tend to the maple tree at the Grove and borough building. Motion passed unanimously.

Craig Williams also mentioned that the new Lamp Post has finally been installed in the plaza and the salt shed caps have been placed on the base of the shed. Craig plans to help Public Works with putting linseed oil on salt shed floor.

Public Works Committee has conducted several interviews for the full-time public works position.

A motion was made by Diane Bradshaw and seconded by Craig Williams to hire Isaac Wolfe for the full-time public works position at \$15.00/hr. pending pre-employment drug test. Motion passed unanimously.

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

Nothing new to report currently.

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

Events is starting to plan Falloween or just a Fall Celebration. Permits would be needed for any parades on a state route so they would like to start a parade from the field down to the vendors instead. Cindy said she has David Highfield from KDKA coming to the parade and he is going to put something on Pittsburgh Live Today the following Monday morning about our little celebration. A meeting will be coming soon to plan the details of the parade/Fall Celebration.

Cindy said Apollo Ridge Touchdown Club has flyers out announcing that they are looking for sponsors. She thinks it would be a good idea for Apollo Borough council to become a sponsor to show their support and build a better relationship with them. The cost of the sponsorship is \$250 and can be taken from the event fund checkbook.

A motion was made by Cindy O'Block and seconded by Craig Williams for Apollo Borough council to sponsor the Apollo Ridge Touchdown Club for \$250.00 from the event fund checkbook. Motion passed unanimously.

Recap on Movie Night. All went well except the movie was a little too long because it didn't get dark until later than expected for the projector.

New Business: The President of council, Jerrod Thompson, appointed Cynthia Virostek to be the contact person from council for the DEP. She mentioned an email discussion with the DEP regarding a need for an environmental covenant for the N Warren Avenue/Riverfront Property. Council will need to review documentation and revisit the topic forthcoming.

Executive Session:

At 7:31 p.m. motion was made by Cindy O'Block and seconded by Craig Williams to go into executive session. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Cindy O'Block and seconded by Diane Bradshaw to come out of Executive Session at 7:56 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Cindy O'Block and seconded by Craig Williams to move forward with the litigation to have the fence removed in the alley of the property located at 719 N. Warren Avenue. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Cindy O'Block and seconded by Diane Bradshaw to dismiss Olsen-Craft Engineering firm as the municipal engineer. The solicitor is to send notification. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Cindy O'Block and seconded by Michelle Beck to appoint Gibson-Thomas Engineering Co. as the new municipal engineer. Motion passed unanimously.

At 8:02 p.m. a motion was made by Cindy O'Block and seconded by Craig Williams adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously.



Cynthia Virostek
Council Vice President



Deanna Shupe
Borough Secretary/Treasurer