

August 27, 2024
Apollo Borough Council Meeting

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, the Apollo Borough council meeting was called to order by the Vice President at 7:00 p.m. at 809 N Warren Avenue, Apollo PA 15613.

Present: Council members Mark Tarle, Ken Cyphert, Diane Bradshaw, Cindy O'Block and Sherry Sabatino were present. The Secretary/Treasurer, Mayor and Solicitor were present. Council member Sara Gerwig and Jerrod Thompson were absent.

Public Comments:

Trey Barber came to discuss the redevelopment of the old Apollo School on N 2nd Street. They plan to build a 45-unit apartment building to consist of 1, 2 & 3 bedrooms. They will be working with the borough on getting the proper permits needed for the project. They are still in the beginning stages of the project and will be taking the next step to apply for financing at the end of the year. It will be a 16-to-17-million-dollar investment.

Greg Cromer is an ariel photographer and has been taking photographs of local towns and wanted to offer Apollo Borough a chance to purchase a copy. Council said they would check into it and also relay his service to the historical society.

Chance Skeel discussed issues with a house on Terrace Avenue not being kept up. Council explained that the woman has been in Russia and is paying her bills including any fines she is getting for violating the ordinance. The borough can only do so much since it is not their property. There are many citations out for property issues with this property being one of them.

Volunteer Fire department #2 complaining of nothing being done with a tree that is destroying their property. They have tried to speak with one of the owners and they are ignoring the issue. The tree is now causing problems with the sidewalk as well and it is a safety issue. Council took a name and number of someone they can contact at the fire department once they check into the problem.

Jim Williams came in to complain about a citation he received for not paying his sewage bill. He said his aunt is 75 years old and received the fine. It was explained that they do not send a citation out unless they have not paid the bill for over a year. He said the lady in the office should have called and told him the bill needed to be paid. The mayor explained that it is not the responsibility of the office to make sure he pays his bills. It is his responsibility.

Kristina Fox wanted to know why ordinances were not being followed up on. She is upset that people are not taking care of their properties and wanted to know why nothing is being enforced. The solicitor explained that we cannot force people to take care of their properties. They get fined and then pay their fine and do not take care of the property, the process starts all over again. It is very frustrating but there is a process that must be followed. Council is trying to work with code enforcement, and they have gotten some properties cleaned up. They are aware there are a lot more that need attention. Per the solicitor the only thing we can do is lien the property, we cannot take their property because that is illegal.

Meeting Minutes:

A motion was made by Cindy O'Block and seconded by Sherry Sabatino to approve the July 23, 2024, meeting minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Solicitor's Report:

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

Engineering Report:

A motion was made by Ken Cyphert and seconded by Sherry Sabatino to pay engineers invoices and approve pay estimate #2 for the Owens Grove Walking Trail Improvement project. Motion passed unanimously.

MS4 Report: Ken Cyphert, chair:

MS4 meeting was held on August 19th with the engineers for the permit renewal.

Mayor's Report: Mayor Kenzevich:

National Night Out went very well even though the weather was not cooperating. Several parents attended with their children and interacted with the police officers. The children enjoyed seeing the police cars and fire trucks.

Public Safety: Mark Tarle, chair:

Code enforcement has been moving along and citations are being mailed for ordinance violations. Fraternal Order of Eagles has been contacted about safety concerns with their building that has been for sale on N. Warren Avenue.

Secretary/Treasurer Report:

Discussion on landbank asking if Apollo Borough is interested in the property located on 709 N. Warren Avenue and 702 Armstrong Avenue.

Monthly expense report given to council.

Finance Committee Report: Jerrod Thompson, chair: Absent

The finance committee had a budget meeting. Discussion on renting the top floor of the borough building to help with expenses. Council to check with insurance company on liability.

A motion was made by Cindy O'Block and seconded by Ken Cyphert to pay the bills, including payroll. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of items for payment as follows (7/22/2024 –8/21/2024):

General Fund (includes payroll) - \$130593.42

Garbage Fund – \$14226.45

Parking Fund - \$1928.96

Sewer Fund - \$5552.14

Sewer Separation Fund - \$2395.03

Liquid Fuels - \$4346.77

Event Fund - \$230.00

Total – \$159272.77

Public Works & Streets Committee Report: Diane Bradshaw, chair:

Recent issues with public works employees being stalked and harassed. Discussion for executive session.

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

(see other business)

Public Relations Committee- Events: Sara Gerwig, chair:

Halloween will take place on Saturday, October 26th from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

The Halloween parade has not been planned and the event committee needs more volunteers in order to have this event.

Tentative date for a Light Up Night in the plaza on Saturday, November 30th.

Please check [Apollo Borough News](#) Facebook page for news on upcoming events.

Other Business:

Dead oak tree needs to be removed at the Grove.

The furnace room needs cleaned out at the hall.

Coral Reef found a business wanting to invest in solar panels on the Riverfront property and they are aware of the covenant on the land. The goal is to have everything complete in 14 months once it starts.

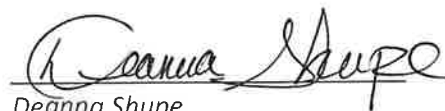
At 8:29 p.m. a motion was made by Cindy O'Block and seconded by Mark Tarle to go into executive session. Motion passed unanimously.

At 8:55 p.m. a motion was made by Cindy O'Block and seconded by Mark Tarle to come out of executive session. Motion passed unanimously.

At 8:57 p.m. a motion was made by Mark Tarle and seconded by Sherry Sabatino to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously.



Mark Tarle
Vice President



Deanna Shupe
Borough Secretary/Treasurer