

BOROUGH OF ST. LAWRENCE
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, March 14, 2024

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting of the St. Lawrence Borough Council was called to order at 7:30 PM by Council President Mr. Robert J. May, on Thursday, March 14, 2024.

ROLL CALL: Council President Robert May did roll call, the following members were present; Robert J. May, Council President, David W. Eggert, Council Vice President, Rev. D. Michael Bennethum, Member, Michael Fritz, Member, Steve Geibel, Member, Warren Lubenow, Member, Gregory Zawilla, Member, Corrie Zana, Borough Mayor, Derrek Rhoads, Roadmaster, Allison Leinbach, Borough Manager /Treasurer, Borough Solicitor Joan London, and Amanda Muso, Borough Secretary. Borough Engineer Pamela Stevens was absent for tonight's meeting

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: The minutes from the previous meeting, were presented to Council for review. There were no questions, corrections or clarifications to the minutes that were presented.

MOTION: David Eggert made the motion to approve the minutes as presented; seconded by Warren Lubenow; all were in favor so the motion carried.

APPROVAL AND PAYMENT OF THE BILLS: All bills requiring payment and ratification up to and including March 12, 2024 were presented to Council prior to the meeting for review. Bills requiring payment and ratification from the general fund up until March 12, 2024 totaled \$75,508.58; sewer fund totaled \$13,293.88; liquid fuels fund totaled \$3,619.80; fire tax fund totaled \$750.00; EMS tax fund totaled \$5.00.

MOTION: Michael Fritz made the motion authorizing payment and ratification of all bills presented; seconded by Rev. Bennethum; all were in favor and so the motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The treasurer's report was presented to Council prior to the meeting for review. There were no questions, corrections or clarifications to the report.

MOTION: David Eggert made the motion to approve the treasurer's report as presented and file it for audit; seconded by Warren Lubenow; all were in favor and the motion carried.

GENERAL: \$391,805.91 **SEWER:** \$183,546.14 **RESERVES:** \$127,814.260 **LIQUID FUELS:** \$246,761.81 **FIRE TAX:** \$272.09
PW GARAGE GRANT: \$413,675.49; **EMS TAX FUND:** \$5.00; **TOTAL FUND BALANCE:** \$1,363,880.70

PUBLIC COMMENT: There were no public comments made.

REPORT OF THE BOROUGH ENGINEER - PAMELA STEVENS, SDE

Pamela Stevens submitted her report which was added to council's packet for review prior to the meeting. Included in the report was that before a garage is placed or built, the property must have the residence completed first.

The floodplain ordinance will continue, more work will continue starting April when the weather permits. There were no questions, comments, or concerns with her report.

REPORT OF THE BOROUGH SOLICITOR – JOAN LONDON, KOZLOFF STOUDT

Joan London has been involved with the Mt. Penn Garage plans. She sent a detailed response email to Mt. Penn on February 27th, 2024 and has yet to receive a response. Joan as well as council members have agreed to give AVMA and Mt. Penn until the April meeting to make a final plan/decision regarding the garage.

REPORT OF THE BOROUGH MAYOR - CORRINE ZANA

Mayor Zana submitted her report prior to the meeting which has been added into council's packet for review. Included is the 2023 monthly Chief of Police report which outlines to top five borough offenses. The next commission meeting is to be held May 2, 2024.

PUBLIC WORKS - DERREK RHOADS

Derrek Rhoads submitted his report which was added to council's packet for review prior to the meeting. Borough Lands have been surveyed by drone footage. Met-Ed has been contacted numerous times regarding how they leave worksites as well as poles behind. Yard waste pickup will continue to be on Monday's. There were no questions, comments, or concerns with his report.

PLANNING COMMISSION

The Planning Commission does not have any new business to discuss.

ZONING AND CODE ENFORCEMENT: ALLISON LEINBACH, BOROUGH MANAGER Zoning and Codes does not have any new business to discuss.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Council is being provided with dedicated email addresses.

NEW BUSINESS

Councilman Fritz advised Council that he had received complaints regarding residential properties in the Borough, including one in particular on the 2900 block of Oley Turnpike Road. On that property, there is evidence of unsafe and unsanitary conditions such as accumulations of junk and other items outdoors, and indoors from what can be seen through windows from the street, and possible structural unsoundness. After discussion, a motion was made by Council President May, with a second by Councilman Fritz, upon the receipt of a written complaint, to investigate possible code violations on the property on the 2900 block of Oley Turnpike Road. The motion passed unanimously

Resolution 891-2024: Reappoint Joseph Ravert to the Planning Commission for a 5-year term ending in 2029.

MOTION: Dave Eggert made the motion to reappoint Joseph Ravert; seconded by Warren Lubenow; all were in favor and so the motion carried.

Resolution 892-2024: Intergovernmental Agreement for the Berks County Uniform Construction Code Board of Appeals

MOTION: Robert May made the motion to sign the UCC agreement; seconded by Dave Eggert; all were in favor and so the motion carried.

Berks County has made the St. Lawrence borough hall located at 3540 St. Lawrence Ave. Reading PA. 19606, to be used as the polling place for voters.

MOTION: Dave Eggert made the motion for the County to use Borough Hall as a polling location; seconded by Michael Fritz; all were in favor and so the motion carried.

EMERGENCY DECLARATION FOR FLOODING –

The emergency declaration from the July, 2023 flood continues and will be renewed March 14, 2024.

MOTION: David Eggert made the motion to renew the declaration; seconded by Warren Lubenow; all were in favor so the motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: Warren Lubenow made the motion to adjourn; seconded by Rev. Bennethum; all were in favor and the motion carried. The meeting of the St. Lawrence Borough Council adjourned at 8:43pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Amanda Muso
Borough Secretary

ST. LAWRENCE BOROUGH COUNCIL

3/14