

Pen Argyl Borough Council held their Meeting for April on Tuesday, April 1, 2025 at 7:00 P.M. in the Borough Social Hall.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Council President Joe LeDonne opened the Council Meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call:

Council Members present and responding to roll call: Joseph LeDonne, Stephanie Cooper, Tammy Kemp, John Apgar, Joann Anderson, Josephine Hildabrant, Scott Brumbaugh and Steven Goffredo.

Also present were Borough Manager Robin Zmoda, Borough Solicitor Peter Layman, and Borough Secretary Juli Lemak. Mayor Stephen Male was absent.

Visitors:

Tony Biechy, owner of The Clothes Bin, answered questions from Council about The Clothes Bin. Councilwoman Joann Anderson made a motion to enter into a contract with The Clothes Bin to place one (1) donation bin on the Lookout Fire Company property, located at 123 S. Main Street, seconded by Councilwoman Tammy Kemp. Unanimous by roll call.

William Reesman, 212 N. Robinson Avenue and John Reinhart, 505 W. Pennsylvania Avenue, expressed their concerns about Waste Management's proposed expansion.

Public Works Report:

Mark Bahnick, Van Cleef Engineering, explained different bids that were received for the repair of Lobb Avenue. Attorney Layman stated the bid bond from T. Schiefer Contractors, Inc., the lowest bidder, is acceptable. Councilwoman Tammy Kemp made a motion to accept the bid from T. Schiefer Contractors, Inc., for \$530,751.00, to include the deduction for monolithic curbs, contingent on completion by the end of September, seconded by Councilwoman Josephine Hildabrant. Unanimous by roll call.

Mark Bahnick told all Council Members that the Westbrook stormwater project's design that includes a section of William Street and N. Westbrook Avenue is complete and ready for bid. Much of the construction can be done this year. Councilman Steven Goffredo made a motion to advertise for the repair bids, seconded by Councilwoman Tammy Kemp. Unanimous by roll call.

Councilwoman Tammy Kemp made a motion to accept Van Cleef Engineering's proposal for a concept plan for the Phase II of Weona Park playground improvements that include landscape architectural services for \$13,200.00 and survey services not to exceed \$5,200.00, seconded by Councilwoman Joann Anderson. Unanimous by roll call.

Public Works Report con't:

Councilwoman Tammy Kemp made a motion for Van Cleef Engineering to conduct a truck weight analysis study, not to exceed \$2,500.00 on various roadways in the Borough, seconded by Councilman Scott Brumbaugh. Unanimous by roll call.

Councilwoman Joann Anderson made a motion to advertise an ordinance that amends chapter 103 of the Borough Code (Vehicles and traffic) to restrict trucks over 45 feet in length on various roadways in the Borough including the entire length of Harding, Heller, and Walter Avenues, seconded by Councilman John Apgar. Unanimous by roll call.

Councilwoman Tammy Kemp made a motion to grant a waiver to section 93-11 of the Borough Code for the MS4 stormwater project on W. Main Street, for the land development plan to be reviewed and considered as preliminary/final plan, seconded by Councilman Scott Brumbaugh. Unanimous by roll call.

Councilwoman Tammy Kemp made a motion to conditionally approve the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) project on W. Main Street to comply with all the conditions set forth in the two Van Cleef Engineering review letters dated March 20, 2025, for subdivision and land development, seconded by Councilman Scott Brumbaugh. Unanimous by roll call.

All Council Members were given a copy of Public Works Director Steven Bender's March report to review.

Councilwoman Tammy Kemp made a motion to approve the proposal from E. M. Kutz, Inc. for \$1,900.00 for a power float to protect the CDL truck's snowplow against uneven roadway conditions and raised manholes, seconded by Councilman Steven Goffredo. Unanimous by roll call.

Councilwoman Tammy Kemp made a motion to approve the proposal from CDL On Site to provide CDL Class B license training to Public Works Employee, Kim Buskirk for \$2,600.00, seconded by Councilman Steven Goffredo. Unanimous by roll call.

All Council Members received a copy of correspondence from Van Cleef Engineering that recommends conditional approval of Kobalt Construction's Application for Payment No. 3 for the S. Robinson Avenue roadway rehabilitation project for \$34,403.00, which corresponds to the value of the work completed, Change Order No. 1 and release of retainage.

Zoning Report:

All Council Members were given a copy of Zoning/Codes Office's March report.

Police Report:

All Council Members received a copy of the Slate Belt Regional Police Department's agenda from March 4, 2025 and March 20, 2025, and minutes from February 4, 2025 and March 4, 2025. Council President Joseph LeDonne stated that the accreditation from the Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission will be next year and Chief Hoadley set up a committee during tonight's Commission meeting to prepare. President LeDonne also recognized that April 1st is the Department's Tenth year Anniversary.

Fire Chief's Report:

Nothing to report.

Minutes:

Councilwoman Joann Anderson made a motion to approve the Minutes for the Regular Council Meeting of Tuesday, March 4, 2025, seconded by Councilwoman Tammy Kemp. Unanimous by roll call.

All Council Members received a copy of the Park Board's March 12, 2025 agenda and February 12, 2025 minutes.

Correspondence:

All Council Members received a copy of an invitation from the Slate Belt Heritage Center to attend the Members Reception and exhibit preview for Bangor's 150th birthday on April 5, 2025.

All Council Members received correspondence from Congressman Ryan Mackenzie containing information about his new offices and the services he provides.

All Council Members received a copy of an email from Richard Freeman, 501 E Laurel Avenue, thanking the Public Works Department employees for picking up recycling from cans that tipped over during a very windy day in March.

All Council Members received a copy of an email from Kayla Ehle, requesting a donation for a movie she is making about her late father, Gerald Ehle, who grew up in Pen Argyl Area, the majority of filming will take place in New York City. No motion was made on this matter.

Mayor's Report:

Nothing to report as Mayor Male was not in attendance to the meeting.

All Council Members received a copy of the March 26, 2025 minutes from the Slate Belt Council of Governments.

Planning Commission:

All Council Members received a copy of the Planning Commission's agenda from March 20, 2025 and minutes from February 20, 2025.

Councilwoman Joann Anderson made a motion to hold a Public Hearing to consider conditional approval of the Slate Hills Enterprises, Inc. proposed conversion of a warehouse into apartments at 412 W. Applegate Avenue on April 22, 2025 at 7:00 P.M. Unanimous by voice vote.

Solicitor's Report:

Nothing to report for open session.

Sanitation, Solid Waste & Recycling:

All Council Members received a copy of the Wastewater Treatment Plant's March report.

All Council Members received a copy of a request from Chuck Snyder, 306 E Babbitt Avenue, to waive his sewer connection fees. No motion was made on this matter.

Manger Zmoda informed all Council Members that when the Waste Management sludge removal bid was approved in 2023 the contract included two (2) one-year extensions. The sludge hauling extension for 2025 has increased to \$131.59 per ton. Councilman Scott Brumbaugh made the motion to approve the one-year extension of the sludge hauling contract with Waste Management for \$131.59 per ton, seconded by Councilman Steven Goffredo. Unanimous by voice vote.

Councilman Steven Goffredo made a motion to approve the proposal from BSI Electrical Electronic Contractors to upgrade the Wastewater Treatment Plant's control Panel, not to exceed \$138,000.00, seconded by Councilman Scott Brumbaugh. Unanimous by roll call.

Finance, Tax Exoneration, Insurance & Personnel:

All Council Members were given a copy of the March Treasury Report as prepared and submitted by Borough Manager/Treasurer Zmoda. Councilwoman Tammy Kemp made a motion to accept the report, seconded by Councilman Scott Brumbaugh. Unanimous by roll call.

Finance, Tax Exoneration, Insurance & Personnel:

Councilman Steven Goffredo made a motion to approve the annual insurance renewal premium summary for \$93,265.00, seconded by Councilwoman Tammy Kemp. Unanimous by roll call.

Property & Utilities:

Nothing to report.

Community Outreach:

Borough Secretary Juli Lemak provided Council with the March feral cat report.

All Council Members received a copy of the Slate Belt Rising Steering Committee's March 13, 2025 agenda.

Borough Manager's Report:

Borough Manager Zmoda provided Council with her March monthly report.

All Council Members received a copy of the Slate Belt Angels March 31, 2025 meeting agenda. Manager Zmoda noted that she was a member of the Board of Directors of the Episcopal Apartments and when the building was sold, the proceeds were transferred to the Slate Belt Angels fund. This fund, in partnership with The United Way, will be used to support the needs of older adults in the Slate Belt Region.

Payment of Bills:

The following bills were presented for payment: General Fund, \$188,197.29; Sewer, \$49,873.58; State Fund \$11,176.22, and Reserve Money Market Fund \$127,503.26. Councilwoman Tammy Kemp made a motion to pay the bills as presented, seconded by Councilman Steven Goffredo. Unanimous vote by roll call.

Executive Session:

Councilwoman Stephanie Cooper made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss potential litigation and personnel, seconded by Councilman Steven Goffredo. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Council went into Executive Session at 8:57 P.M. and reconvened at 9:20 P.M.

Special Note: Borough Secretary Juli Lemak left the meeting at 8:57 P.M. and the rest of the minutes were taken by Borough Manager Zmoda.

Personnel:

Councilwoman Tammy Kemp made a motion to direct Solicitor Layman to present a settlement offer to the legal representation for William Parr in the amount of \$1,000.00 (one-thousand dollars), with the possibility of increasing the offer up to \$1,500.00 (one-thousand, and five hundred dollars), seconded by Councilwoman Joann Anderson. Unanimous by voice vote.

Adjournment:

Councilwoman Stephanie Cooper made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Scott Brumbaugh. Unanimous by voice vote. The council meeting adjourned at 9:25 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Juli Lemak
Borough Secretary

Workshop – Tuesday, April 29th - 7:00 P. M.

Regular Council Meeting – Tuesday, May 6th - 7:00 P. M.