

Pen Argyl Borough Council held their Meeting for March on Tuesday, April 2, 2024 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, Tammy Kemp, Steven Goffredo, John Apgar, Joann Anderson, Josephine Hildabrant, Scott Brumbaugh and Stephanie Cooper.

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

Visitors:

Bob Krome, 1008 Capp Road, Nazareth, PA, Secretary of the Green & White, introduced himself to Council.

Ethan Habrial, 100 A Street, complained about needing a permit to make repairs to his home.

Public Works Report:

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

Councilwoman Josephine Hildabrant made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 731, restricting truck traffic on a portion of North Lobb Avenue and West Bell Avenue, seconded by Councilman Steven Goffredo. Unanimous by roll call.

All Council Members received a copy of the total exterior bathhouse order of magnitude costs, as presented by Wallover Architects. Manager Zmoda will discuss full scope of the costs later in the week with Wallover Architects, the discussion was tabled.

Councilwoman Stephanie Cooper made a motion to approve the handicapped parking application for Michelle Hughes, 505 Broad Street, seconded by Councilman Scott Brumbaugh. Unanimous by roll call.

Zoning Report:

All Council Members were given a copy of Zoning/Codes Office's March report and property maintenance log to review.

Zoning con't:

All Council Members received information about fire pit regulations including a copy of the proposed fire pit ordinance timeline beginning with 2018, regulations for outdoor fires in Pen Argyl and the 2018 International Fire Code. The fire pit discussion was tabled, to be continued at a zoning committee meeting and brought back to council with recommendations.

Councilwoman Joann Anderson made a motion to approve 4 additional hours on Wednesdays for the zoning officer to investigate and identify property maintenance issues, seconded by Councilwoman Josephine Hildabrant. Unanimous by roll call.

Councilwoman Tammy Kemp made a motion for the zoning officer to have a more enhanced Quality of Life ticketing process, to have a more proactive stance, seconded by Councilman John Apgar. Unanimous by roll call.

Police Report:

All Council Members received a copy of the Slate Belt Regional Police Department's agenda from March 5, 2024 and February 15, 2024 minutes. President LeDonne stated that at the last meeting they announced the audit is completed with no findings, and the K-9 along with his officer attended additional training classes.

Fire Chief's Report:

Fire Chief Dean Parsons reported in March the fire company responded to 15 calls, spent 212 hours on drills and 387 hours on calls.

Minutes:

Councilwoman Josephine Hildabrant made a motion to approve the Minutes for the Regular Council Meeting of Tuesday, March 5, 2024, seconded by Councilman John Apgar. Unanimous by roll call.

All Council Members received a copy of the Park Board's March 13, 2024 agenda and February 14, 2024 minutes.

Correspondence:

All Council Members received a thank you note from Councilwoman Tammy Kemp for the donation to St. Jude's in memory of her mother, Hazel Donchez.

All Council Members received a copy of email correspondence from Slate Belt Pride requesting sponsorship. No motion was made on this matter.

Correspondence con't:

All Council Members received a copy of the Slate Belt Heritage Center Winter 2024 newsletter, invitation to attend a preview for their new exhibit on April 7, 2024 and an invitation to attend their 25th Anniversary banquet on May 11, 2024.

Mayor's Report:

All Council Members received a copy of the Slate Belt Council of Governments March 27, 2024 minutes.

Planning Commission:

All Council Members received a copy of the Slate Belt Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee Meeting agenda from March 7, 2024 and February 1, 2024 minutes.

All Council Members received a copy of a request from Justin Huratiak, President Huratiak Homes (HH), to allow the removal of trees within the tree buffer area at Tax Parcel E9-1-24, 410 S. Main Street, without future obligation of HH to replace as required in the conditional approval. Further discussions are to be held during executive session.

All Council Members received a copy of a review from Van Cleef Engineers to the Planning Committee for the 21 N Lobb Avenue application. This application was withdrawn. A new application was submitted and will be discussed at the next Planning Commission meeting on April 18, 2024.

All Council Members received a copy of a review from Van Cleef Engineers to the Planning Committee for the Railroad Avenue industrial development plan.

Solicitor's Report:

Nothing to report.

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 the 1st Quarter report from Colliers Engineering & Design.

All Council Members received a copy of the Municipal Authority's March 4, 2024 agenda and February 5, 2024 minutes.

Sanitation, Solid Waste & Recycling con't:

All Council Members received a copy of an estimate for a 2024 Dodge Ram truck 3500 4WD from Regal Dodge. This discussion was tabled until next year.

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 Stephanie Cooper made a motion to accept the report, seconded by Councilwoman Joann Anderson. Unanimous by roll call.

Secretary Lemak provided all Council Members with an update on the timeclock app.

All Council Members received a copy of a letter of resignation from Public Works employee Bryan Kostishoin.

Councilwoman Tammy Kemp made a motion to advertise for the open Public Works position, seconded by Councilwoman Josephine Hildabrant. Unanimous by voice vote.

All Council Members received a copy of an electricity purchase contract from Interstate Gas Supply (IGS), as negotiated by Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs. Councilwoman Tammy Kemp made a motion to proceed with IGS for the electric supplier for the term of January 2025 to December 2025, seconded by Councilman Steven Goffredo. Unanimous by roll call.

All Council Members received a copy of the 5-year Pension Audit conducted by the Auditor General. The finding was that the Borough received overpayment of state aid. The finding cites a \$17,026.00 overpayment of state aid, plus interest. The total amount due to the Department of the Auditor General is \$20,861.01. Manager Zmoda stated this overage is in the Operational Reserve in the General Fund. Councilman John Apgar made a motion to reimburse the Department of the Auditor General \$20,861.01, seconded by Councilman Scott Brumbaugh. Unanimous by roll call.

Councilman Steven Goffredo made a motion to accept the Commercial Insurance quote from WSA Insurance for \$92,336.00, to include the additional premium for the cyber liability, seconded by Councilwoman Joann Anderson. Unanimous by roll call.

Property & Utilities:

Nothing to Report.

Community Outreach:

All Council Members received a copy of the Slate Belt Rising Steering Committee March 14, 2024 minutes.

Community Outreach con't:

All Council Members received notification from Slate Belt Rising the litter clean-up day is April 27, 2024.

All Council Members received a copy of the design for the mural to be painted on the side of the building located at 241/245 E Main Street.

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

Borough Manager's Report:

Borough Manager Zmoda provided Council with her March monthly report.

All Council Members received a copy of the joint meeting of Northampton County's Council of Governments & Municipalities & Municipalities March 14, 2024 agenda, and the Slate Belt Chamber of Commerce Economic Development Committee's March 15, 2024 minutes.

Payment of Bills:

The following bills were presented for payment: General Fund, \$175,076.06; Sewer, \$59,445.49, and Reserve Money Market Fund, \$33,308.06. Councilwoman Tammy Kemp made a motion to pay the bills as presented, seconded by Councilman Scott Brumbaugh. Unanimous vote by voice vote.

Executive Session:

Councilwoman Tammy Kemp made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss potential litigation, seconded by Councilwoman Stephanie Cooper. Unanimous by voice vote.

Council went into Executive Session at 8:30 P.M. and reconvened at 9:44 P.M.

Special Note: Borough Secretary Juli Lemak left the meeting at 8:52 P.M. and the rest of the minutes were taken by Borough Manager Zmoda.

106-108 ½ E. Pennsylvania Avenue:

Councilwoman Stephanie Cooper made a motion to lien the property at 106-108 ½ E. Pennsylvania Avenue, owned by A & S Properties, for delinquent sewer fees in the amount of \$27,369.29 plus filing fees and for Solicitor Layman to prepare a draft complaint against the property, seconded by Councilwoman Josephine Hildabrant. Unanimous by voice vote.

Huratiak Homes:

Councilwoman Josephine Hildabrant made a motion to reject any of the requested changes by Justin Huratiak of Huratiak Homes, LLC to the Conditional Approval for Tax Parcel E9-1-24, 410 S. Main Street, granted by Pen Argyl Borough Council on February 13, 2023, seconded by Councilwoman Joann Anderson. Unanimous by voice vote.

Councilwoman Tammy Kemp made a motion to direct Solicitor Layman to prepare a draft amendment to Chapter 53 Disorderly Conduct and Smoking, making it a summary offense to discharge weapons under your control within the Borough limits, seconded by Councilwoman Stephanie Cooper. Unanimous by voice vote.

Adjournment

Councilwoman Tammy Kemp made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Steven Goffredo. Unanimous by voice vote. The council meeting adjourned at 9:50 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Juli Lemak
Borough Secretary

Workshop – Tuesday, April 30th - 7:00 P. M.

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