

Pen Argyl Borough Council held their Meeting for February on Tuesday, February 4, 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 and Scott Brumbaugh. Councilman Steven Goffredo was absent.

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

Visitors:

Jill Silvius, Secretary of the Blue Mountain Community Library, provided the library's annual 2024 report and thanked the Borough for their yearly donation. Judy Piper, Treasurer, reviewed the 2024 library finances.

Slate Belt Regional (SBRPD) Chief Jonathon Hoadley thanked Manager Zmoda for writing the \$150,000 LSA grant application, which was awarded to SBRPD for new radios. Northampton County mandated that all police departments transition to a new radio system, with each radio costing approximately \$6,000 and the mobile vehicle radios priced at approximately \$10,000 each. While this grant covers part of the cost of the handheld radios, they will be applying for additional grants to assist with the rest of the costs. The grants are reimbursable where the purchase is made and then you submit invoices with provide proof of payment in order to get reimbursed. Chief Hoadley requested Pen Argyl Borough cover the initial cost of the radios, to be reimbursed when they receive the grant funds from the state.

Councilwoman Tammy Kemp made a motion to pay out \$150,000 needed to pay for the radios, to be reimbursed upon receipt of the LSA grant funding, seconded by Councilman Scott Brumbaugh. Unanimous by roll call.

Tony Biechy, owner of The Clothes Bin, gave a presentation about his company that provides clothing drop boxes in the Borough to recycle clothes. No motion was made on this matter, the discussion was tabled.

Jane Mellert, Benders Church Road, Plainfield Township and Tighe Scott, 1052 E. Mountain Avenue, expressed their concerns about Waste Management's proposed expansion.

Setting the Day, Time and Location of Council Meetings and Workshops for the Year 2025:

Councilwoman Josephine Hildabrant made a motion to set Workshop meetings for the last Tuesday of the month and to set Council Meetings on the first Tuesday of the month, seconded by Councilwoman Tammy Kemp. Unanimous by voice vote.

Public Works Report:

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

All Council Members received a copy of an email from Alfero Company, an update on the Weona Park bathhouse.

All Council Members received a copy of a timeline for the repair of Lobb Avenue from Mark Bahnick, Van Cleef Engineering. Councilwoman Tammy Kemp made a motion to advertise the Lobb Avenue project for bid, contingent upon Council's thorough review, seconded by Councilwoman Joann Anderson. Unanimous by roll call.

All Council Members received a copy of email correspondence from PennDOT, which explained truck restrictions for anything under a 45-foot trailer will require an engineering study. Solicitor Layman will draft an ordinance to restrict tractor trailers over 45 feet in length on N. Heller and N. Harding Avenues from Pennsylvania Avenue.

All Council Members received notification that Walt Cole is publishing another book about the history of Pen Argyl in pictures. No motion was made on this matter, it was tabled to wait for the actual cost of production.

Zoning Report:

All Council Members were given a copy of Zoning/Codes Office's February report and the Zoning Hearing Board's January 9, 2025 organizational meeting minutes.

Manager Zmoda reported that all rental license invoices were mailed and provided all Council Members with a copy of the Abandoned and Foreclosed Property Registration Form.

Councilwoman Josephine Hildabrant made a motion to appoint to the Disruptive Conduct Appeals Board Jessica Handelong as Member, and Larry Feller as Alternate Member, seconded by Councilwoman Tammy Kemp. Unanimous by voice vote.

Police Report:

All Council Members received a copy of the Slate Belt Regional Police Department's agenda from January 16, 2025, and minutes from December 3, 2024. President LeDonne reported at tonight's meeting they approved to hire Alloy 5 to do a feasibility study for improvements or a new building.

Councilwoman Tammy Kemp made a motion to appoint to the Police Commission President Le Donne as Delegate and Mayor Male as Alternate, seconded by Councilwoman Josephine Hildabrant. Unanimous by roll call.

Fire Chief's Report:

Fire Chief Parsons was absent.

Minutes:

Councilwoman Stephanie Cooper made a motion to approve the Minutes for the Regular Council Meeting of Tuesday, January 7, 2025, seconded by Councilwoman Joann Anderson. Unanimous by roll call.

All Council Members received a copy of the Park Board's January 8, 2025 agenda and November 13, 2024 minutes.

Correspondence:

All Council Members received a copy of correspondence from Adrienne Fors, Waste Management representative, they are conducting a clean-up program with the high school to clean up trash on South Robinson Avenue on April 29<sup>th</sup>. Manager Zmoda will send correspondence to approve that date.

Mayor's Report:

All Council Members received a copy of January 22, 2025 minutes from the Slate Belt Council of Governments.

Planning Commission:

President LeDonne announced the Planning Commission will meet on February 20, 2025 to discuss the Green and White Subdivision. As per Council's request, Solicitor Layman will be in attendance.

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 January report and Collier's Engineering & Design's 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Report.

Manager Zmoda announced Wastewater Treatment Plant employee John Spadoni will attend a free PA Water 12-week prep course for the operator's exam, and at last night's Authority meeting Rose Rinker resigned, Manager Zmoda will advertise for a replacement.

Finance, Tax Exoneration, Insurance & Personnel:

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

Councilman Scott Brumbaugh made a motion to certify the delinquent 2024 real estate taxes and to turn over the delinquent real estate taxes to Northampton County for collection, seconded by Councilwoman Joann Anderson. Unanimous by roll call.

Councilwoman Josephine Hildabrant made a motion to exonerate the Borough's Real Estate Taxes, seconded by Councilwoman Tammy Kemp. Unanimous by roll call.

Councilwoman Tammy Kemp made a motion to transfer the surplus amount of \$126,198.78 from the General Fund to the Reserve Fund for future projects, seconded by Councilwoman Stephanie Cooper. Unanimous by roll call.

Property & Utilities:

Nothing to report.

Community Outreach:

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

All Council Members received a copy of the Slate Belt Rising Steering Committee's January 9, 2024 agenda and November 19, 2024 minutes, and the Northampton County Senior Awards request for nominations.

Councilwoman Tammy Kemp made a motion to approve the community wide yard sale dates for June 6<sup>th</sup> – June 8, 2025 and September 12<sup>th</sup> – September 14, 2025, seconded by Councilwoman Joann Anderson. Unanimous by voice vote.

Borough Manager's Report:

Borough Manager Zmoda provided Council with her January monthly report.

President LeDonne thanked Manager Zmoda for writing the \$76,708.00 Greenways Grant request which was awarded to the Borough for the Weona Park Aquatic Facility Phase 1.

Payment of Bills:

The following bills were presented for payment: General Fund, \$28,209.47; Sewer, \$42,640.70; State Fund \$19,228.31, and Reserve Money Market Fund, \$219,239.88. Councilwoman Tammy Kemp made a motion to pay the bills as presented, seconded by Councilman Scott Brumbaugh. Unanimous vote by roll call.

Executive Session:

Councilwoman Tammy Kemp made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss potential litigation, real estate, and public safety, seconded by Councilman Scott Brumbaugh. The motion passed unanimous by voice vote.

Council went into Executive Session at 8:33 P.M. and reconvened at 9:10 P.M.

Special Note: Borough Secretary Juli Lemak left the meeting at 8:33 P.M. and the rest of the minutes were taken by Borough Manager Zmoda.

New Business:

Councilwoman Tammy Kemp made a motion to accept the Agreement of Sale between the Green & White Youth Association and the Borough of Pen Argyl in the amount of \$7,500.00, seconded by Councilwoman Joann Anderson. Unanimous by roll call vote.

Councilwoman Joann Anderson made a motion to approve the proposal by Barry Isett & Associates to survey the Green & White property (Northampton County Parcel ID Number E8 8 17A 0625E) for a proposed subdivision in the amount of \$5,000.00, seconded by Councilwoman Stephanie Cooper. Unanimous by roll call vote.

Councilwoman Stephanie Cooper made a motion to send a letter to Plainfield Township Supervisors indicating Pen Argyl Borough Council's recognition of the support Waste Management's Grand Central Sanitary Landfill (WMGCSL) has provided to the Borough, but also expressing concerns and impacts regarding the rezoning and expansion of WMGCSL, but supporting Plainfield Township Supervisor's decision, seconded by Councilman John Apgar. Council Members Joseph LeDonne, Stephanie Cooper, Josephine Hildabrant, John Apgar, Scott Brumbaugh, Joann Anderson voted yes, Councilwoman Tammy Kemp voted no. There being six (6) yes votes and one (1) no vote, the motion carried.

Adjournment

Councilwoman Tammy Kemp made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilwoman Joann Anderson. Unanimous by voice vote. Council meeting adjourned at 9:12 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Juli Lemak  
Borough Secretary

Workshop – Tuesday, February 25<sup>th</sup> - 7:00 P. M.

Regular Council Meeting – Tuesday, March 4<sup>th</sup> - 7:00 P. M.