

Pen Argyl Borough Council held their Meeting for February on Tuesday, February 6, 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, Stephanie Cooper, Tammy Kemp, Steven Goffredo, John Apgar, Joann Anderson, Josephine Hildabrant and Scott Brumbaugh.

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

Executive Session:

Council President LeDonne announced there was an executive session held on Thursday, January 18, 2024 to discuss potential litigation.

Visitors:

Judy Piper, Treasurer of the Blue Mountain Community Library, provided the library's annual 2023 report and thanked the Borough for their yearly donation. Jill Silvius, Secretary, read the annual report to Council.

Tom Carlo, 306 S. Robinson Avenue, asked if fresh parking lines will be painted on S. Robinson Avenue. President LeDonne informed him that is on the agenda to be discussed later in the meeting.

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 Danielle Hayes, 210 S. Robinson Avenue, requesting to have parking lines painted. Manager Zmoda stated S. Robinson Avenue will be reconstructed this year and fresh lines will be painted after it is resurfaced. Council recommended the lines are painted, weather permitted, before and after the road is resurfaced, and angled parking is to be discussed with the engineer.

Public Works Report con't:

All Council Members received a copy of an email from Ralph Biechy, 810 W Babbitt Avenue, complaining about the condition of the road on W. Babbitt Avenue. All Council Members requested Manager Zmoda to send him a letter stating Council has determined that major repairs will not be completed on that road anytime soon. The Borough is concentrating on priority road repair projects on N. Lobb Avenue as well as stormwater infrastructure projects mandated by State and Federal legislation.

All Council Members received four (4) bids from tree clearing services to clear one acre of land around the Green and White fields. Mayor Male stated the bid from A. Scott Enterprises, Inc. included a free dumpster and Waste Management offered to waive the tipping fee for the dumpster. Councilman John Apgar made a motion to go with A. Scott Enterprises, Inc., seconded by Councilwoman Josephine Hildabrant. Mayor Male stated he will contact Waste Management to ask if they will waive the tipping fee if the Borough trucks brought the garbage. Councilman John Apgar withdrew his motion, and the discussion was tabled.

All Council Members received a copy of Chapter 103, Article III, §103-13 of the Borough Code, listing all roads with truck restrictions, and Ordinance NO. 727 restricting truck traffic on a portion of George Street and increasing the violation fines. All Council Members agreed to place truck route signs with arrows on W. Babbitt Avenue from Albion Avenue to N. Robinson Avenue, 15 feet back from each cross intersection.

Councilman John Apgar made a motion to authorize Solicitor Layman to draft an ordinance to restrict truck traffic on N. Lobb Avenue from Applegate Avenue to W. Pennsylvania Avenue, and on Bell Avenue from N. Robinson to Heller Avenue, seconded by Councilwoman Josephine Hildabrant. Unanimous by roll call.

Zoning Report:

All Council Members were given a copy of Zoning/Codes Office's January report and property maintenance log to review. Councilman John Apgar requested all Council Members have access to update the property maintenance log.

All Council Members received a copy of the results of a Uniform Construction Code audit from the Bureau of Occupational & Industrial Safety.

President LeDonne informed all Council Members of the next Planning Commission meeting on February 15, 2024 to discuss the change of use application for 21 N Lobb Avenue, all Council Members requested Solicitor Layman attend.

Police Report:

All Council Members received a copy of the Slate Belt Regional Police Department's agenda from January 18, 2024 and minutes from December 5, 2023. President LeDonne reported they are hiring an Animal Control Officer and approved a key FOB entry for \$1,500.00. Mayor Male reported 48 parking tickets were issued in January.

Fire Chief's Report:

Fire Chief Dean Parsons reported in January the fire company responded to 11 calls, spent 256 hours on drills and 266 hours on calls.

Councilwoman Tammy Kemp made a motion to waive the permit fees associated with the installation of a sign reading, "Lookout Fire Co No. 1, 123 South Main Street, Established 1890" to be placed in the driveway for the Fire Company, seconded by Councilman Steven Goffredo. Unanimous by roll call.

Minutes:

Councilwoman Stephanie Cooper made a motion to approve the Minutes for the Regular Council Meeting of Tuesday, January 2, 2024, seconded by Councilwoman Josephine Hildabrant. Unanimous by roll call.

All Council Members received a copy of the Park Board's January 10, 2024 agenda and November 3, 2023 minutes.

Correspondence:

Nothing to report.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Male presented Manager Zmoda with a certificate for 20 years of service as Borough Manager.

Planning Commission:

All Council Members received a copy of the Zoning Hearing application for 21 N. Lobb Avenue, scheduled for February 15, 2024.

All Council Members received a copy of the Plan Slate Belt Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan, Virtual Steering Committee's February 1, 2024 agenda and minutes from December 7, 2023.

Planning Commission:

All Council Members received a copy of the Land Development Improvements Installation, Maintenance and Security Agreement for Huratiak Homes.

Solicitor's Report:

Nothing to report.

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.

President LeDonne regretfully informed all Council Members that John Cuono Jr. resigned from the Sewer Authority. Manager Zmoda will advertise the vacancy and gather letters of interest with a deadline for submission on February 27, 2024.

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

Councilman Scott Brumbaugh made a motion to certify the delinquent 2023 real estate taxes and to turn over the delinquent real estate taxes to Northampton County for collection, seconded by Councilman Stephen Goffredo. Unanimous by roll call.

Councilman John Apgar made a motion to approve the 2023 Per Capita Tax Exonerations Report, seconded by Councilman Scott Brumbaugh. Unanimous by roll call.

Councilwoman Joann Anderson made a motion to turn over the delinquent per capita taxes to Berkheimer for collection, seconded by Councilwoman Josephine Hildabrant. Unanimous by roll call.

Councilman John Apgar made a motion to exonerate the Borough's Real Estate Taxes, seconded by Councilman Scott Brumbaugh. Unanimous by roll call.

Manager Zmoda informed all Council Members she is researching new electricity and insurance providers as the current contracts are expiring.

Property & Utilities:

Manager Zmoda provided all Council Members with a quote for four (4) AED batteries and pads, totaling \$968.00.

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 12, 2024 agenda 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 7<sup>th</sup> – June 9, 2024 and September 13<sup>th</sup> – September 15, 2024, seconded by Councilwoman Stephanie Cooper. Unanimous by voice vote.

Borough Manager's Report:

Borough Manager Zmoda provided Council with her January monthly report.

All Council Members received notification of the 2024 Green Knights Economic Development Community Grant Program and the Pennsylvania State Association of Borough's 2023-2024 legislative updates.

Payment of Bills:

The following bills were presented for payment: General Fund, \$19,349.44; Sewer, \$82,636.46; State Fund \$15,883.23, and Reserve Money Market Fund, \$30,037.99. Councilwoman Josephine Hildabrant made a motion to pay the bills as presented, seconded by Councilman Scott Brumbaugh. Unanimous vote by roll call.

Executive Session:

Councilwoman Josephine Hildabrant made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss potential litigation, seconded by Councilman Steven Goffredo. The motion passed unanimous by voice vote.

Council went into Executive Session at 8:45 P.M. and reconvened at 9:51 P.M.

Special Note: Borough Secretary Juli Lemak left the meeting at 8:45 P.M. and the rest of the minutes were taken by Borough Manager Zmoda.

New Business:

Council was given copies of correspondence from Teamster Local No. 773 requesting to start negotiations prior to the expiration of the 2020-2024 contract. Councilwoman Tammy Kemp made a motion for the letter to be sent to the Teamster's representation to request dates, times, and items they would like review, seconded by Councilwoman Stephanie Cooper. Unanimous by voice vote.

Adjournment:

Councilwoman Tammy Kemp made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilwoman Stephanie Cooper. Unanimous by voice vote. Council meeting adjourned at 9:52 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Juli Lemak  
Borough Secretary

Workshop – Tuesday, February 27<sup>th</sup> - 7:00 P. M.

Regular Council Meeting – Tuesday, March 5<sup>th</sup> - 7:00 P. M.