

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

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

Visitors:

Ethan Habrial, 100 A Street, discussed his ongoing dissatisfaction with the code office and permits. Councilman Steven Goffredo questioned him regarding the condition of his property and why very little has been done to clean it up since their last discussion at the May Council Meeting. Council President LeDonne discussed the Quality-of-Life Ordinance with Mr. Habrial and advised him that the ordinance applies to the entire town, and he will be cited for violations to that Ordinance.

Charles Weidlich, 521 Pen Argyl Street, complained about cars speeding, would like a "Slow Children at Play" sign on the corner of Savercool and Pen Argyl Street, an additional streetlight and a speed bump. He also complained about the cars on W. Main Street, the cars rev their engines with loud mufflers at the stop sign. Manager Zmoda informed him the Borough needs to contact Met-Ed to get a streetlight and the expense falls on the Borough. President LeDonne informed him they will research speed bumps, "Slow Children at Play" signage and an additional streetlight.

Brian Gold, 403 W. Main Street, inquired about the future of the building at 301 W. Main Street. Solicitor Layman provided a status update and the Borough's options.

Tom Carlo, 306 S. Robinson Avenue, asked if the Constitution Avenue project is complete. Manager Zmoda informed him that is in Plainfield Township and to contact the Township with any questions.

Public Works Report:

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

All Council Members received an email update regarding the Weona Park bathhouse from Wallover Architects.

Public Works Report con't:

Councilman Steven Goffredo made a motion for Manager Zmoda to place the Weona Park bath house renovations out to bid after Wallover Engineers provides the bid package, seconded by Councilwoman Tammy Kemp. Unanimous by roll call.

All Council Members received two (2) bids for 625 William Street sidewalk and street repair to remove 50' x 6' of roadway and 50' x 5' of sidewalk due to depression caused by underground water flow. Three (3) excavators were contacted, and two (2) bids were received. Councilwoman Tammy Kemp made the motion to hire E.F. Possinger to complete the 625 William Street sidewalk and street repair in the amount of \$21,111.00, contingent upon the engineer's approval of the method, seconded by Councilwoman Joann Anderson. Unanimous by roll call.

Zoning Report:

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

All Council Members received a copy of the June 6, 2024 Zoning Hearing minutes for an application to build a garage on 20 S. Lobb Ave. A variance was needed because the garage would be over the required lot coverage of 30% per section 108-15D of the zoning ordinance.

All Council Members received a copy of the zoning permit application and Legal Notice for 920 E. Main Street's request to subdivide the existing lot and build a house on the property. A variance is needed for the approval to build a single-family residence, hearing to be held on July 11, 2024.

All Council Members received a copy of the Zoning Hearing Board's Opinion for the hearing on May 9, 2024, the request for special exception approval for conversion of an existing building into eight (8) apartments at 21 N Lobb Avenue, pursuant to 108-15.C.8 of the Borough Zoning Code.

Manager Zmoda provided an update to all Council Members regarding the fire pit survey.

Police Report:

All Council Members received a copy of the Slate Belt Regional Police Department's agenda from June 20, 2024 and May 16, 2024 minutes. President LeDonne reviewed some of the highlights of the meeting. National Night Out is August 6, 2024 from 4 P.M. – 8 P.M.

Fire Chief's Report:

Fire Chief Dean Parsons reported in June the fire company responded to 12 calls, spent 238 hours on drills and 228 hours on calls.

Minutes:

Councilwoman Josephine Hildabrant made a motion to approve the Minutes for the Regular Council Meeting of Tuesday, June 4, 2024, seconded by Councilwoman Tammy Kemp. Unanimous by roll call.

All Council Members received a copy of the Park Board's June 12, 2024 agenda and May 8, 2024 minutes.

All Council Members received a copy of the Weona Park Pool Pals April 1, 2024 minutes and draft May 6, 2024 minutes.

Correspondence:

Resident Richard N. Martin, 502 Robinson Avenue, submitted a request to close E. Laurel Avenue between the blocks of N. Schanck and N. Robinson Avenues on August 24, 2024. Councilman Scott Brumbaugh made a motion to accept the road closure for the block party on August 24, 2024, seconded by Councilwoman Joann Anderson. Unanimous by roll call.

All Council Members received a copy of correspondence from Astound, notification of rate increases.

Mayor's Report:

The Slate Belt Council of Government's (COG) will have a grant writer request 6 grants for equipment. The fireman's banquet is July 27th.

Planning Commission:

All Council Members received a copy of the Slate Belt Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee Meeting June 6, 2024 agenda and the March 7, 2024 minutes.

Solicitor's Report:

Solicitor Layman provided all Council Members with a copy of proposed Ordinance Number 732 regarding the discharge of firearms. The Ordinance amends Chapter 53 of the Code of the Borough of Pen Argyl to prohibit the owner or legal occupant of any property within the Borough from authorizing or permitting the discharge of any weapon within the Borough limits and establishing that such violation is a summary offense and increasing the penalty for violation. Councilwoman Tammy Kemp made a motion to adopt Ordinance Number 732 amending Chapter 53 of the Code of the Borough of Pen Argyl, seconded by Councilwoman Joann Anderson. Voting in favor of the motion were Council Members Joseph LeDonne, Tammy Kemp, Scott Brumbaugh, Joann Anderson, Stephanie Cooper, Josephine Hildabrant and John Apgar. Councilman Steven Goffredo voted no. There being seven (7) yes votes and one (1) no vote, the motion passed.

Sanitation, Solid Waste & Recycling:

All Council Members received a copy of the Wastewater Treatment Plant's June report and the quarterly report from Collier's Engineering & Design.

Manager Zmoda reported a sewer committee meeting was held on July 1, 2024. They discussed the permitting process for sewer connections and updating the ordinance. The committee is requesting a revised sewer connection permit application and proposed edits to the ordinance. Solicitor Layman and Ron Madison of Colliers are to provide input to the new procedure and ordinance. The current ordinance is primarily focused on single family residences and there is a need to incorporate multiple family dwellings.

Councilwoman Tammy Kemp made a motion to request a proposal from Collier's Engineering & Design to update the sewer connection permit application and Chapter 87 of the Pen Argyl Borough Code, seconded by Councilman Scott Brumbaugh. Unanimous by roll call.

Manager Zmoda reported that the sewer main was extended to E. Babbitt Avenue, and a notification letter needs to be sent to the owner of 306 E. Babbitt Avenue to connect to the sewer main. Councilman Scott Brumbaugh made a motion to send a notice to connect to 306 E. Babbitt within 60 days from the date of such notice, pursuant to § 87-82 of the Borough code, seconded by Councilwoman Joann Anderson. Unanimous by roll call.

Manager Zmoda reported the sewer department is renting the Slate Belt Council of Government's camera to investigate the depression on the corner of Vine and E. Main Streets.

Finance, Tax Exoneration, Insurance & Personnel:

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

Finance, Tax Exoneration, Insurance & Personnel con't:

Manager Zmoda reported a deposit was made into the Reserve Fund at the bank for \$86,393.00 on June 25, 2024. While the deposit was being entered into the teller's computer, it rebooted, and was never posted to the account. The error was caught when she reconciled the account. The bank found the deposit and will move it to the Reserve Fund on July 1, 2024.

Manager Zmoda reported that Union contract negotiations are to begin early August.

Property & Utilities:

Nothing to report.

Community Outreach:

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

All Council Members received a copy of the Slate Belt Rising June 13, 2024 agenda and May 9, 2024 minutes.

Borough Manager's Report:

Borough Manager Zmoda provided Council with her June monthly report.

Councilwoman Tammy Kemp made a motion to approve the proposal from Snyder Technologies, to replace the front office desktop computer, not to exceed \$2,600.00, seconded by Councilwoman Josephine Hildabrant. Unanimous by roll call.

Payment of Bills:

The following bills were presented for payment: General Fund, \$170,356.71; Sewer, \$52,971.77, and Reserve Money Market Fund, \$29,407.80. Councilman John Apgar made a motion to pay the bills as presented, seconded by Councilman Scott Brumbaugh. Unanimous by roll call.

Executive Session:

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

Council went into Executive Session at 8:11 P.M. and reconvened at 9:04 P.M.

Special Note: Borough Secretary Juli Lemak left the meeting at 8:11 P.M. and the rest of the minutes were taken by Borough Manager Zmoda.

Adjournment

Councilman Scott Brumbaugh made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Steven Goffredo. Unanimous by voice vote. The council meeting adjourned at 9:05 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Juli Lemak
Borough Secretary

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

Regular Council Meeting – Tuesday, August 3rd - 7:00 P. M.