

Pen Argyl Borough Council held their Meeting for July on Tuesday, July 5, 2023, at 7:00 P.M. in the Borough Social Hall.

Pledge of Allegiance:

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

Roll Call:

Council Members present and responding to roll call: Joseph LeDonne, Tammy Kemp, Josephine Hildabrant, Charles Kandl Jr., and Scott Brumbaugh. Councilmembers Stephanie Cooper, Janell Connolly and John Apgar were absent.

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

Revised Agenda:

Due to a meeting of the Slate Belt Regional Police Commission (SBRPC) held at 5:00 P.M., July 5, 2023, a matter arose which needs to be addressed by Pen Argyl Borough Council prior to July 20, 2023. Therefore, Councilman Charles Kandl Jr. made a motion to amend the Agenda to reflect a discussion and potential vote on a real estate matter, seconded by Councilwoman Josephine Hildabrant. Unanimous by voice vote.

Visitors:

William Blasi, 110 W. Plainfield Avenue, expressed his concerns of teenagers riding gas powered bicycles recklessly, and would like to have an ordinance banning them because Bangor has such an ordinance. President LeDonne informed him Bangor does not have an ordinance restricting motorized bikes under 50ccs, and there is a special license required to operate them. President LeDonne stated Council will investigate the possibility of creating an ordinance.

Roxanne Shook, 400 W. Main Street, requested an update on 301 W. Main Street, she thinks people are living in the building. Solicitor Layman informed her the property owner did not file an appeal within the 30-day time limit and bench warrants will be issued soon for non-payment of the fines.

Jessica Handalong, 495 Broad Street, expressed her concern about the lack of respect for the law regarding the owners of 301 W. Main Street not obtaining any permits. Cars are parked in front of the building all night and people live there. She questioned if there is no regard for the law for obtaining the proper permits, what else are they doing? What is their intention with the building, what effect will it have on the neighborhood with the bus stop right in front of the building? Solicitor Layman stated they do not have a certificate of occupancy therefore no one is allowed to live inside the building.

Visitors con't:

Tom Carlo, 306 S. Robinson Avenue, stated there are several meters missing. Manager Zmoda replied the meters are broken and new meters are being ordered. He complained about the weeds growing in the parking lot located at 298 S. Robinson Avenue. Manager Zmoda informed him the owner has been cited for weeds.

Ethan Habriel, 100 A Street, stated there was an attempt to take his life in the old Weona Park swimming pool, his van was vandalized, and he witnessed someone vandalizing his property. He is also upset his fence was vandalized and needs a permit to fix it. He has done work on pools and roofs, and he knows how to install solar panels.

Public Works Report:

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

Councilwoman Tammy Kemp made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 727, restricting truck traffic on a portion of George Street, and increasing fines for violations of the ordinance restricting truck traffic to \$500.00 for all roads restricting truck traffic, seconded by Councilman Scott Brumbaugh. Unanimous by roll call.

Councilman Charles Kandl Jr. made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2023-05, establishing the park and recreation fee-in-lieu pursuant to Section No. 5 of Ordinance No. 726, seconded by Councilwoman Tammy Kemp. Unanimous by roll call.

Councilman Charles Kandl Jr. made a motion to approve the quote from Wallover Architects, not to exceed \$8,750.00 to determine the viability of restoring the existing bathhouse structure and relocating the selected pool design from the initial feasibility study to the area directly adjacent to the existing historic structure, seconded by Councilwoman Tammy Kemp. 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.

Police Report:

All Council Members received a copy of the Slate Belt Regional Police Department's June 15, 2023 agenda and minutes from May 18, 2023.

President LeDonne reported the Slate Belt Regional Police Department (SBRPD) is sponsoring America's Night out Against Crime on August 1, 2023, at Wind Gap Park from 4 P.M. to 8 P.M.

Police Report con't:

President LeDonne also stated the police department is accepting applications for new officers and will sponsor them to go to the police academy, after they are hired 75% of the cost of the academy is reimbursed from the state.

Fire Chief's Report:

President LeDonne read the fire company's report, they responded to 8 calls, spent 231 hours on drills and 342 hours on calls.

President LeDonne reported at the Fire Truck Committee meeting they were informed the cost of the desired truck rose from \$800,000 to \$1 million, with increases likely every quarter. They discussed ways to finance the truck, including grant monies and a fire tax.

Minutes:

Councilman Charles Kandl Jr. made a motion to approve the minutes for the Regular Council Meeting of Tuesday, June 6, 2023, seconded by Councilwoman Josephine Hildabrant. Unanimous by voice vote.

All Council Members received a copy of the Park Board's June 14, 2023 agenda and May 10, 2023 minutes.

Correspondence:

All Council Members received a copy of Waste Management's annual downstream notification, as required by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection Emergency Planning Regulations.

Councilman Charles Kandl Jr. made a motion to approve the block party request from Richard Martin, 502 N Robinson Ave., to close E. Laurel Ave. between N. Robinson and Schanck Avenues on August 26, 2023, seconded by Councilman Scott Brumbaugh. Unanimous by voice vote.

All Council Members received a copy of correspondence from the Northampton County Department of Human Services Area Agency on Aging, requesting volunteers for the Advisory Council.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Male reported there were two winners for the June Pride In Pen Argyl contest and the town is nicely decorated in red, white and blue for the July contest. He further reported that all the Public Works trucks were labeled and branded.

Mayor's Report con't:

All Council Members received a copy of the Slate Belt Council of Governments June 28, 2023 minutes.

Planning Commission:

All Council Members received a copy of correspondence from the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission, favorably reviewing the recreation fee amendment to the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance.

Solicitor's Report:

Nothing to report.

Sanitation, Solid Waste & Recycling:

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

All Council Members received a copy of a memo from Colliers Engineering regarding the Waste Management Grand Central Sanitary Landfill existing sanitary sewer facilities tour on June 23, 2023.

Manager Zmoda provided Council with an update regarding the West Main Street force main replacement and the E. Babbitt and Moyer Avenue projects.

All Council Members received a copy of the municipal Sewer Authority's April 3, 2023 minutes.

All Council Members received correspondence from Waste Management, stating there will be a rate increase effective July 1, 2023 for hauling grit.

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. Councilman Charles Kandl Jr. made a motion to accept the report, seconded by Councilwoman Tammy Kemp. Unanimous by voice vote.

All Council Members received a copy of correspondence from Benecon which included half of the surplus distribution check from the year 2022.

Manager Zmoda reported Caity Stonaker, Borough Clerk, has resigned from her position.

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

Councilman Charles Kandl Jr. made a motion to advertise for a part-time Borough Clerk, seconded by Councilwoman Josephine Hildabrant. Unanimous by voice vote.

Property & Utilities:

Councilman Charles Kandl Jr. made a motion to approve the annual generator maintenance quote of \$2,995.00, as provided by Arabell Electric, Inc., seconded by Councilwoman Tammy Kemp. Unanimous by roll call.

Community Outreach:

All Council Members received a copy of the Slate Belt Rising's Steering Committee's June 8, 2023 agenda and Slate Belt Chamber of Commerce's June 2, 2023 minutes.

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

Councilwoman Tammy Kemp received a quote of \$300.00 from Champagne Limousine to transport seniors to Summer Sounds, round trip, per concert, and is pursuing donations.

Manager Zmoda reported representatives from Senator Susan Wild's outreach committee will be available for questions from the residents on August 1, 2023, in the Social Hall.

Borough Manager's Report:

Borough Manager Zmoda provided all Council Members with her June monthly report.

Payment of Bills:

The following bills were presented for payment: General Fund, \$197,808.57; Sewer, \$57,684.09 and Reserve Money Market Fund, \$15,934.90. Councilman Charles Kandl Jr. made a motion to pay the bills as presented, seconded by Councilwoman Tammy Kemp. Unanimous by roll call.

Executive Session:

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

Council went into Executive Session at 8:10 P.M. and reconvened at 8:44 P.M.

Special Note: Borough Secretary Juli Lemak left the meeting at 8:10 P.M. and the rest of the minutes were taken by Borough Manager Zmoda.

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Lease Agreement with Slate Belt Regional Police Commission:

Councilman Scott Brumbaugh made a motion to approve the Plainfield Township's lease proposal of thirteen dollars (\$13.00) per square foot, beginning upon approval of the Slate Belt Police Commission and continuing for three 3 years from January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2026, eliminating the six (6) month request for no rent compensation from Wind Gap and Pen Argyl Boroughs, seconded by Councilwoman Josephine Hildabrant. Unanimous by voice vote.

Slate Belt Heritage Center:

Council President Joseph LeDonne presented photos of displays the Slate Belt Heritage Center is offering to local communities to place around town. Each community would get three (3) displays of the history of their community and are encouraged to place them around their community. Council members are encouraged to think about where they might like to place them. Concerns were durability and vandals was discussed.

Adjournment:

Councilwoman Tammy Kemp made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Scott Brumbaugh. Unanimous by voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Juli Lemak
Borough Secretary

Workshop – Tuesday, July 25th 7:00 P.M.

Regular Council Meeting – Tuesday, August 1st 7:00 P.M.