

Pen Argyl Borough Council held their Meeting for October on Tuesday, October 3, 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., Janell Connolly, and Stephanie Cooper. Councilman Scott Brumbaugh and John Apgar were absent.

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

Visitors:

Ethan Habrial, 100 A Street, stated all his neighbors are moving out because this town is so bad to live in, he is not using our contractors for his solar panel project and he is capable of installing solar panels on his roof without hiring anyone.

Brian Gold, 403 W. Main Street, expressed his concerns with roads that lead up to the high school. President LeDonne stated those roads have a higher traffic volume because of the amount of use they get to and from the school. There is a street reconstruction plan set for next year and we are prioritizing the highly traveled roads. Mr. Gold further requested an update on 301 W. Main Street. Solicitor Layman provided him with an update.

Connor Peery, 309 W. Main Street, also enquired about 301 W. Main Street. Slate Belt Regional Chief of Police, Jonathan Hoadly addressed the public with a brief update.

Roxanne Shook, 400 W Main Street, asked if the sewer line project is complete on W. Main Street. Manager Zmoda provided her with an update. She also asked where to report street light outages. Manager Zmoda told her to provide a list of addresses or pole numbers and Steven Bender, Director of Public Works, will report them to Met Ed.

Tom Carlo, 306 S. Robinson Avenue, asked if S. Robinson Avenue will be repaired. Manager Zmoda informed him the Borough has a turnback contract with PennDOT and the road will be completed in 2024. He further asked if the sidewalks will be replaced. Manager Zmoda replied sidewalks are the homeowner's responsibility and while in the past, the Borough has replaced sidewalks only when additional grant money is received when reconstructing the same street. Grant money is not used to repair S. Robinson Avenue, monies from a turnback agreement with Penn DOT is being utilized.

Public Works Report:

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

Public Works Report con't:

Councilwoman Josephine Hildabrant made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2023-11, to apply for a Statewide Local Share Assessment grant of \$1,000,000.00 from the Commonwealth Financing Authority for Phase 1 Weona Park Aquatic Facility, seconded by Councilwoman Tammy Kemp. Unanimous by roll call.

Councilwoman Tammy Kemp made a motion to approve a small tools purchase for the Public Works Department for \$3,244.98, seconded by Councilman Charles Kandl Jr. Unanimous by roll call.

All Council Members received a proposal from E.F. Possinger & Sons, Inc. for labor and equipment to replace the existing storm pipe on S. Main Street. Manager Zmoda informed Council that earlier in the day cameras went down various stormwater pipes and it has been determined other streets will take priority over S. Main Street. The proposal was tabled.

Councilman Charles Kandl Jr. made the motion to approve the E. Babbitt Avenue Change Order No. 03 from Sikora Brothers Inc., decreasing the price by \$23,847.33, for an adjustment in the contract price, seconded by Councilwoman Josephine Hildabrant. Unanimous by roll call.

Zoning Report:

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

Police Report:

All Council Members received a copy of the Slate Belt Regional Police Department's September 21, 2023 agenda and September 17, 2023 minutes. President LeDonne commented during today's Police Commission meeting they voted to send the budget to the municipalities.

Fire Chief's Report:

Chief Parsons read the September report; the fire company responded to 19 calls for service, spent 310 hours on drills and 496 hours on calls.

Councilwoman Tammy Kemp made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2023-12 in the amount of \$1,000,000.00 for a Sutphen Custom Engine for Lookout Fire Company #1, seconded by Councilwoman Janell Connolly. Unanimous by roll call.

Manager Zmoda informed all Council Members the Borough received the Volunteer Fireman's Relief Association's check to the Borough for \$18,632.38, deposited to the General Fund, and a check was written in return to the fire company.

Minutes:

Councilman Charles Kandl Jr. made a motion to approve the minutes for the Regular Council Meeting of Tuesday, September 5, 2023, seconded by Councilwoman Josephine Hildabrant. Unanimous by voice vote.

All Council Members received a copy of the Park Board's September 13, 2023 agenda and August 9, 2023 minutes.

All Council Members received Northampton County Council of Governments September minutes and Slate Belt Chamber of Commerce's Economic Development Committee minutes from September 15, 2023.

Correspondence:

Councilman Charles Kandl Jr. made a motion to approve the temporary bonfire lease for Wednesday, October 25, 2023 through Wednesday, November 1, 2023 with the Pen Argyl School District, seconded by Councilwoman Tammy Kemp. Unanimous by roll call.

All Council Members received a copy of correspondence from On the Spot Dry Cleaners, 229 S. Robinson Avenue, thanking Manager Zmoda for her explanation of revitalization and neighborhood preservation.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Male was absent.

All Council Members received a copy of Plan Slate Belt's Steering Committee's August 23, 2023 minutes.

Planning Commission:

All Council Members received a copy of Plan Slate Belt's Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee Meeting September 7, 2023 agenda and August 3, 2023 minutes.

All Council Members received correspondence from Plainfield Township regarding the 45-day review period of the draft Plan Slate Belt's Comprehensive Plan.

Solicitor Layman stated the Huratiak subdivision is on the agenda to discuss the legal issues and to ascertain how to move forward. Justin Huratiak discussed the status of the development with Council and Solicitor Layman.

Solicitor's Report:

Nothing to report.

Sanitation, Solid Waste & Recycling:

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

Finance, Tax Exoneration, Insurance & Personnel:

All Council Members were given a copy of the September 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 Josephine Hildabrant. Unanimous by roll call.

Property & Utilities:

Councilman Charles Kandl Jr. made a motion to approve the George's Plumbing & HVAC, Inc.'s estimate to replace the heat exchange in the furnace at the street garage for \$9,875.00, seconded by Councilwoman Stephanie Cooper. Unanimous by roll call.

Community Outreach:

Borough Secretary Juli Lemak provided all Council Members with the September feral cat report.

Community Outreach con't:

All Council Members received a copy of the Slate Belt Rising agenda from September 14, 2023 and minutes from August 10, 2023.

All Council Members received a copy of the Slate Belt Chamber of Commerce's event entitled "Small Business Strive & Thrive Training", to be held on October 17, 2023.

Borough Manager's Report:

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

Payment of Bills:

The following bills were presented for payment: General Fund, \$187,838.10; Sewer, \$51,125.44 and Reserve Money Market Fund, \$354,634.29. Councilwoman Josephine Hildabrant made a motion to pay the bills as presented, seconded by Councilwoman Stephanie Cooper. Unanimous by roll call.

Executive Session:

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

Council Members went into Executive Session at 8:03 P.M. and reconvened at 9:18 P.M.

Special Note: Borough Secretary Juli Lemak left the meeting at 8:03 P.M. and the rest of the minutes were taken by Borough Manager Zmoda.

Huratiak Development

Councilwoman Stephanie Cooper made a motion to direct Solicitor Layman to compose a letter to Justin Huratiak of Huratiak Homes, Inc. to inform him the Borough would be considering: (1) action against his company if they did not bring the outstanding escrow account up to date; and (2) revocation of the Conditional Approval of his land development plan due to inaction on cost estimates, seconded by Councilwoman Tammy Kemp. Council members Joseph LeDonne, Stephanie Cooper, Josephine Hildabrant and Tammy Kemp voted yes, Councilman Charles Kandl Jr. voted no, and Councilwoman Janell Connolly abstained. There being four (4) yes votes, one (1) no vote, and one (1) abstained, the motion carried.

Adjournment:

Councilman Stephanie Cooper made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilwoman Josephine Hildabrant. Unanimous by voice vote. The council meeting adjourned at 9:22 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Juli Lemak
Borough Secretary

Workshop – Tuesday, October 31st - 7:00 P.M.

Budget Workshop – Monday, November 6th – 7:00 P.M.

Regular Council Meeting – Thursday, November 9th - 7:00 P.M.