

Call to Order:

The regular scheduled meeting of Monday, November 7th, 2011 was called to order by Ms. McCarthy at 6:30 p.m. Members present were: Mr. Kissell, Mr. Vandzura, Mr. Slanoc, Mrs. Chobany, Mr. Wozniak, and Mayor Fox. Also present were Robert Koban-Borough Manager; Mr. Wisor-Engineer, Mr. Emerick-Solicitor, Chief Miller-Public Safety, Mr. Squillario-Public Works, and Michelle Claar-Secretary.

VISITORS:

Present was Kathy Mellott with the Tribune and Ashley Flynn with Mainline Newspapers.

Reports:

Managers Report:

Mr. Koban furnished a written report prior to the meeting. Mr. Koban elaborated on several issues in his report.

Mr. Kissell informed Council that he saw a mother and her child walk around the barricades and onto Main Street in front of the Bookhamer property on Main Street. Mr. Kissell commented on the placement of the barricades in front of the property and was concerned about the safety of the pedestrians and the liability to the Borough. Mr. Kissell suggested some type of walk through scaffolding that could be used so pedestrians don't have to walk around any barricades. Mr. Koban commented that the barricades are constantly being moved by other people. Mr. Wozniak questioned the condition and safety of the structure after the recent fire in the building. Mr. Koban advised that Mr. Bookhammer has been in contact with the Police Department to make sure the building is secure. Mr. Bookhamer just dropped the insurance on the building a month ago. Mr. Koban will investigate for another alternative for blocking off that section of the sidewalk for pedestrian safety.

Mr. Kissell advised that there was a recent ruling in Johnstown for blighted homes where the Borough could seek reimbursement for any structures that are dilapidated. Mr. Koban will research for any type of reimbursement programs that are available.

Mr. Wozniak questioned the request made by Ms. Jean Kinley to insure a building that is owned by the Traditional Anglers at the Park. Mr. Koban informed Ms. Kinley that the building would have to be donated to the Borough or Park and provide additional information before Council would consider placing the structure on the insurance.

Mr. Koban informed Council that Rhoades & Wodarczyk submitted a request to the have Borough Police Pension Plan be reviewed for IRS compliance. Upon the recommendation of Mr. Steve Feaster, Mr. Koban authorized Rhoades & Wodarczyk to review the police pension plan for IRS compliance.

Solicitor's Report:

Mr. Emerick furnished a written report prior to the meeting. Mr. Emerick advised Council that the Bookhamer property is now solely owned Mr. Bookhamer. Mr. Emerick submitted the paperwork to the Blair County Sheriff's Office to be served on Mr. Bookhamer. The paperwork has also been filed with the Cambria County Prothonotary's Office.

Mr. Emerick advised Council that the next procedure for the Plummer Property located at 1021 Caldwell Avenue is to schedule a meeting with the Portage Area School Board and the Cambria County Commissioners to have the taxes exonerated. Cambria Thrift has agreed to remove the lien. Once the taxes have been exonerated, the deed can be transferred over to the Borough.

Engineers Report:

Mr. Wisor furnished a written report to Council. Mr. Wisor advised Council that an asbestos study is not required for the Plummer property at 1021 Caldwell Avenue since it is considered residential. The contractor must obtain a demolition permit through Laurel Management Inspection Agency. Mr. Wisor also provided budget figures for 2012-2013 for Councils consideration at the re-organization meeting in January.

Police Report:

Chief Miller furnished a written report prior to the meeting. Ms. McCarthy commended the police department for their efforts on resolving the parked vehicles by Portage Beverage. Mrs. Chobany questioned if the suspects were caught that vandalized the Park. Chief Miller commented that the incident remains under investigation. Mayor Fox questioned if flashing lights and sirens are legal on personal vehicles of fire company members. Chief Miller advised that fire and ambulance personnel have to be registered with the State if they have any lights or sirens.

Public Works Report:

Mr. Squillario furnished a written report prior to the meeting. Mr. Squillario had nothing additional to add. Ms. McCarthy commended the department for the paving work completed on Blair and Lee Street.

Treasurer's Report:

Ms. Claar furnished a written report prior to the meeting. Mrs. Chobany motioned, seconded by Mr. Wozniak to approve the Treasurer's report in the amount of \$71,901.98. Ms. McCarthy polled and motion carried 6-0.

Correspondence:

The Community HarvestFest sent a thank you for the donation of \$100.00. WinterFest submitted a request for a donation. The donation of \$500.00 was included in 2011 approved budget and is included in the bills to be paid for November.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

The minutes from the October 17th regular meeting were distributed prior to the meeting. Mayor Fox motioned, seconded by Mr. Slanoc to approve the October 17th regular meeting minutes, motion carried 7-0.

Paying of Bills:

The bills were distributed prior to the meeting. Mrs. Chobany motioned, seconded by Mr. Wozniak to approve paying the bills, including the additional bills in the amount of \$42,380.24 motion carried 7-0.

Reports

Reports were received from the Municipal Water Authority and the Sewer Authority for September. Mrs. Chobany motioned, seconded by Mr. Wozniak to approve the monthly reports as presented, motion carried 7-0.

Unfinished Business:

There was no update on the Main Street Streetscape project.

Mr. Koban informed Council that the Eads Group has announced a community meeting for public comment on the Ten year long range, open space & recreation, and trail feasibility study. The schedule is as follows: Monday, November 14th at the Cassandra Borough Building, Tuesday, November 15th for Portage Borough at the Portage Elementary School, and Portage Township on Thursday, November 17th, at the Portage Elementary School. Mr. Koban encouraged council members to attend these meetings. Mr. Vandzura also requested that Mr. Rice provide some timeline for the long range plan.

Mr. Koban advised Council that the property transfer papers between Mainline National Bank and the Portage Volunteer Fire Company are completed and the steps and handrail project are on the fire companies agenda.

The 619 Main Street Property was discussed earlier in the meeting under the Solicitor.

The 1021 Caldwell Avenue Property was discussed earlier in the meeting under the Solicitor.

Ms. Claar provided a resolution for Councils approval concerning the clarification on the building/compliance fee schedule. There is no change in the fee of a building permit which remains at \$30.00. Mr. Vandzura motioned, seconded by Mr. Slanoc to approve Resolution 9-2011 by amending the fee schedule language to read compliance permit fee and removing building permit filing fee. Ms. McCarthy polled and motion carried 7-0.

New Business

The WinterFest Committee sent a request to block of Main Street during the WinterFest 2011 event. Mrs. Chobany motioned, seconded by Mr. Slanoc to approve the blocking of Main Street, Jefferson and Mountain Avenue on Friday, December 9th from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. from the Dollar General Store to Chobany's Market. Approval is also granted for closing Main Street on Saturday, December 10th for the Christmas Parade starting at 2:00 p.m.

Ms. Claar presented a resolution for Council's consideration to open a checking account for the Portage Area Comprehensive, Open Space & Recreation, and Trail Feasibility Plan Project at the recommendation of the Eads Group. The checking account will enable accountability for the project and track reimbursements and expenditures. Mr. Vandzura motion, seconded by Mr. Slanoc to approve Resolution 10-2-11 to establish a checking account for the Portage Area Comprehensive, Open Space & Recreation, and Trail Feasibility project. Ms. McCarthy polled and motion carried 7-0.

Ms. Claar informed Council that the Dispatch has advertised the letters of interest for the various boards and commissions. The letters of interest will be received until November 18th at 3:00 p.m.

Good of the Borough:

Mr. Koban commented that office hours for winter are now in effect from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Ms. Claar informed Council that the 2011 Christmas Borough Dinner is scheduled for Friday, December 16th, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. An invitation was also sent to Portage Township, Portage Municipal Water and Sewer Authority.

Adjournment:

Mr. Wozniak motioned, seconded by Mrs. Chobany to go into executive session for personnel issues, motion carried 7-0. Mr. Slanoc motioned, seconded by Mrs. Chobany to go out of executive session, motion carried. Mr. Wozniak motioned, seconded by Mr. Chobany to go into the regular meeting, motion carried 7-0. Mrs. Chobany motioned, seconded by Mr. Wozniak to adjourn, motion carried 7-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.