

Call to Order:

The regular scheduled meeting of March 5th, 2012, was called to order by Ms. McCarthy at 6:30 p.m. Members present were: Mr. Kissell, Mr. Vandzura, Mr. Yetsko, Mr. Slanoc, Mrs. Chobany-arrived late, 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-Borough Secretary.

Mr. Kissell motioned, seconded by Mayor Fox to deviate from the agenda to recognize the visitors. Ms. McCarthy polled and motion carried 6-0.

VISITORS:

Visitors in attendance were: Mr. Wesley Davis; Mr. David Hayes; Sarah Wolford-Dispatch; Zack Geiger-Altoona Mirror; Mrs. Amy Burkett with the Portage High School and students Gerald Poruban and Randy Wisen.

Mr. Davis resides at 1009 Conemaugh Avenue and advised Council that the property located at 1109 Conemaugh Avenue is a safety hazard and is concerned for his child and other neighboring children. Mr. Davis explained that broken glass and doors are visible from the outside along with dog feces and shingles in the yard. Mr. Koban questioned if the residence is occupied. Mr. Davis commented that the resident is not always home. Chief Miller will investigate the property and report back.

Mr. David Hayes resides at 929 Gillespie Avenue and is requesting Council to abandon the alley between his properties. Mr. Koban advised that the alley is small and is an extension of Blair Street. Mr. Hayes would like to obtain the alley to blacktop the area. Council advised Mr. Hayes that it has been past practice and procedure that the Borough does not abandon alleys. Council agreed to discuss the issue further at the March Committee meeting.

Mrs. Amy Burkett, Gerald Poruban, and Randy Wisen informed Council of a Portage Area's 1st Annual Bunny Dash 5K race. The group was requesting permission to block off Main Street as does the Summerfest 5K race. The group will also be asking assistance from Portage Fire Department and Portage Ambulance. Council discussed issues relating to liability and insurance. Council commended the group for their ideas and organizing the event and hope it is a success. After a discussion, Mrs. Chobany motioned, seconded by Mr. Slanoc to grant the request of blocking Main Street off during the 1st Annual Bunny Dash 5K race on Saturday, April 7th. Ms. McCarthy polled and motion carried 7-0.

Reports:

Managers Report:

Mr. Koban furnished a written report prior to the meeting. Mr. Koban elaborated on several issues in his report. Mr. Koban expressed his concerns on the recent meeting at District Magistrate Decorts concerning the re-districting of the location and territory coverage. At this point, it appears as though Magistrate Decort will be moved to Cresson and his current office closed.

Mr. Koban updated Council on the progress of the 907 Jefferson Avenue property that is owned by Lilly First National Bank. The manager had the property boarded and placed no trespassing signs and also hired an exterminator.

PennDot had submitted the District Umbrella Agreements for the local NBIS Bridge Inspections. Mr. Koban commented that he would rather have Stiffler & McGraw perform the inspections since they are familiar with our community. Mr. Koban will research the cost comparisons and inspection fees and present to Council at the April 2nd regular meeting of Council.

Mr. Koban advised Council that he spoke with Mr. Ed Hill and Mr. Jerry Moschgat regarding the possible sale of 619 Main Street (Bookhamer) property. These individuals were interested in the building for possible parking in the near future.

Mr. Koban retracted a statement from last month regarding the retirement plan for Officer Judy King. The retirement contributions will be disbursed from big pot pension account at retirement age rather than the separate plan.

Solicitor's Report:

Mr. Emerick furnished a written report prior to the meeting.

Mr. Emerick advised Council that Mr. Bookhamer has twenty days to file a response. If no response is received, then a default judgment will be filed.

Mr. Emerick informed Council that a deed will be prepared for the 1021 Caldwell Avenue property to have the Plummer's execute. A discussion was held on the associated costs to date including legal and filing fees. Mr. Kissell motioned, seconded by Mr. Slanoc to place a lien on the property with all associated costs. Ms. McCarthy polled and motion carried 5-1-1- with Mayor Fox voting no and Mr. Yetsko abstaining due to lack of information to express a vote.

Mr. Emerick commented on the 816 Gillespie Avenue property owned by Nicholas Sekerak. Mr. Emerick requested Ms. Claar to provide the information and address to file the necessary paperwork.

Mr. Emerick provided additional information for serving on two boards and receiving compensation that was permitted in a Cambria County Court situation. A discussion was also held on a proposed Ordinance concerning mandatory tap in fees for borough residents. This would be requested by the Portage Municipal Water Authority and a draft of the

ordinance will be presented at the March Committee meeting. Mayor Fox questioned if all municipalities have enacted this ordinance.

Engineers Report:

Mr. Wisor furnished a written report to Council. Mr. Wisor had nothing additional to add.

Police Report:

Chief Miller furnished a written report prior to the meeting. Chief Miller had nothing additional to add. Chief Miller and Mr. Koban informed Council that they will be interviewing this month for the full time and part time position.

Public Works Report:

Mr. Squillario furnished a written report prior to the meeting. Mr. Squillario commented that Penn Dot has been surveying at the intersection of Dulancey and Main. Mr. Squillario is unaware of the intentions of Penn Dot and suggested that Mr. Wisor inquire further with Penn Dot.

Treasurer's Report:

Ms. Claar furnished a written report prior to the meeting. Mrs. Chobany motioned, seconded by Mr. Yetsko to approve the Treasurer's report in the amount of \$47,751.50. Ms. McCarthy polled and motion carried 7-0.

Correspondence:

PSAB submitted a legislative alert concerning the prevailing wage reform.

Mr. Squillario has scheduled the 2012 Street Sweeping and Chip & PIP schedule.

The Trout Run Watershed sent notice of the Earth Week Clean-up to be held on Friday, April 27th, 2012 from noon until 2:30 p.m.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

The minutes from the February 6th regular and February 21st Committee of the whole meeting were distributed prior to the meeting. Mrs. Chobany motioned, seconded by Mr. Slanoc to approve the February 6th regular and February 21st Committee of the whole meeting minutes, motion carried 7-0.

Paying of Bills:

The bills were distributed prior to the meeting. Mayor Fox motioned, seconded by Mr. Slanoc to approve paying the bills, including the additional bills in the amount of \$28,297.42. A late invoice was submitted prior to the meeting for Marshall & Denehey for \$2,500.00 deductible only. Ms. McCarthy polled and motion carried 7-0.

Reports

Reports were submitted but the agenda didn't reflect for which organization or for what month. Mr. Vandzura remarked this during the poll. Ms. Claar apologized for the error. Those organizations submitting reports were the Portage Area Sewer Authority for January and the Portage Area Joint Recreation Commission for January. Mayor Fox motioned, seconded by Mrs. Chobany to accept the reports as submitted, motion carried 7-0.

Unfinished Business:

There was no update on the Main Street Streetscape project.

Mr. Koban informed Council that the Comprehensive Plan, Open Space & Recreation and Trail Feasibility plan will be addressed at the March committee meeting.

The Bookhamer and Plummer properties were discussed earlier in the meeting.

The Sekerak property located at 811-813 Gillespie Avenue (Kline Amusements) was discussed earlier

Mr. Wisor informed Council that he received the draft floodplain ordinance from PSATS and did not agree with all the language. Ms. Claar advised that there have been three different individuals at PSATS working on the floodplain ordinance with her. Mr. Wisor and Mr. Emerick both commented that the proposed ordinance will be standard for all municipalities to adopt. If the municipality does not adopt, the consequences for any funding would be jeopardized. After a discussion, Mr. Wisor will attend the March committee meeting to review the proposed ordinance for a draft approval to be submitted to PSATS.

Mr. Koban informed Council that he would like the Comcast Cable Agreement to remain on the agenda. There was no update at this time.

New Business:

The PSAB Alert for Prevailing wage rates was discussed earlier in the meeting.

A discussion was held on inviting the Planning Commission to the April Committee meeting. Mrs. Chobany motioned, seconded by Mr. Yetsko to invite the Planning Commission for a special meeting at the April Committee of the whole meeting, motion carried 7-0. Mayor Fox commented that he would like to obtain the State Law for Planning Commissions prior to the meeting.

Mr. Joseph Beyer from Eads Group submitted a request to be added as a data sharing partner with the Borough's GIS software through Cambria County GIS. The Portage Municipal Water Authority was approved a few years ago at no cost. A discussion took place regarding the engineering firm appointed from the Sewer Authority. Mr. Kissell commented that the Sewer Authority should be a data sharing partner and they name what engineer would be added as a partner. Mr. Kissell motioned, seconded by Mr. Yetsko to authorize the Portage Area Sewer Authority as a data sharing partner with the Cambria County GIS Software at no charge. Ms. McCarthy polled and motion carried 7-0.

Good of the Borough:

Mrs. Chobany commended the Portage Area Girls Basketball Team for making it into the playoffs and requested an acknowledgment from Council.

Congratulations are also extended to the Rifle Team that has been in existence for only four (4) years on won the State Championship.

Mayor Fox informed Council that he attended the Cat in the Hat program for the elementary school students. The students are preparing a poster of the event and Mayor Fox requested hanging the poster in the hallway.

Adjournment:

Mayor Fox motioned, seconded by Mr. Kissell to go into executive session for personnel issues, motion carried 7-0. Mrs. Chobany motioned to go out of executive session, motion carried 7-0. Mrs. Chobany motioned, seconded by Mr. Yetsko to go into the regular meeting, motion carried 7-0. Mr. Kissell motioned, seconded by Mrs. Chobany to adjourn, motion carried 7-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.