

**Call to Order:**

The regular scheduled meeting of May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2012, was called to order by Ms. McCarthy at 6:30 p.m. Members present were: Mr. Kissell, Mr. Vandzura, Mr. Yetsko, Mrs. Chobany-arrived late, and Mayor Fox. Also present were Robert Koban-Borough Manager; Mr. Emerick-Solicitor, Mr. Wisor-Borough Engineer, Chief Miller-Public Safety, Mr. Squillario-Public Works, and Michelle Claar-Borough Secretary. Mr. Slanoc was absent.

**VISITORS:**

Ms. Jean Kinley arrived later in the meeting.

**Reports:**

**Managers Report:**

Mr. Koban furnished a written report prior to the meeting. Mr. Koban elaborated on several issues in his report. Mr. Koban informed Council that he met with the Water Authority concerning the JRC request for a reduction in water fees and rates. Mr. Koban informed Council that he has received positive feedback from residents for the location of the recycle bins on Mountain Avenue. Residents are utilizing the bins more frequently. Mr. Yetsko commented that another bin is needed for cardboard. A lengthy discussion was also held on the traffic flow through the alley, turning the bins around for pickup of the recycle bins from Cambria County, and access from the alley. Mr. Koban requested the issue be placed on the May Committee meeting for other options and opinions for the bins for easier access.

Mr. Koban updated Council on several compliments that were addressed concerning the parking blocks at Dollar General and high weeds.

**Solicitor's Report:**

Mr. Emerick furnished a written report prior to the meeting. Mr. Emerick commented that he has not received any communication from Mr. Sekerak concerning the 816 Gillespie Avenue property. After a discussion, Mayor Fox motioned, seconded by Mr. Kissell to proceed with the next step for a public hearing. Ms. McCarthy polled and motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Emerick advised Council that a default judgment for fines will be set up and filed with the Courts for the Bookhamer property located at 619 Main Street.

Mr. Emerick informed Council that there has been no response from Mr. Plummer concerning the letter or signing over the deed to the Borough. Mr. Koban suggested contacting Mr. Plummer personally and report back at the May Committee meeting.

The Kowalczyk update was held in executive session due to Mr. Yetsko being absent from the last meeting.

Ms. McCarthy questioned if Committee meetings were to follow the Sunshine Law. If the meeting is advertised, the committee meetings are open to the public.

**Engineers Report:**

Mr. Wisor furnished a written report to Council. Mr. Koban had faxed over information concerning a Scour report on the Sonman Avenue Bridge prior to the meeting. Mayor Fox questioned if there was preventative maintenance scheduled that could be followed to reduce future costs of bridge repairs.

**Police Report:**

Chief Miller furnished a written report prior to the meeting. Chief Miller informed Council that Officer Vranich is back from military duty for the time being; Officer Russell is off for the next three weeks with a broken ankle, and Officer Kehn is off due with the welcoming of a new baby. Ms. McCarthy commended Chief Miller and Officer Wyar for the efforts while being short staffed.

**Public Works Report:**

Mr. Squillario furnished a written report prior to the meeting. Mr. Squillario advised Council that the Sewer Ordinance pertaining the service laterals reflects 6 inches. Mr. Squillario did not know if this was a typographical error but it needs to be amended to service laterals being 4 inches. The draft amendment will be presented at the May Committee meeting for Council approval to advertise at the June regular meeting.

Mr. Kissell questioned if an in-house concrete project could be performed on Caldwell Avenue and suggested renting or contracting out for pre-formed curbs.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Ms. Claar furnished a written report prior to the meeting. Mrs. Chobany motioned, seconded by Mayor Fox to approve the Treasurer's report in the amount of \$227,757.33. Ms. McCarthy polled and motion carried 6-0.

**Correspondence:**

The Portage Area Historical Society sent a thank you to the Public Works Department for their efforts in moving the large "M" from the Stager Building due to the fire in December.

The Trout Run Watershed Association sent a thank you to the Public Works Department for their efforts and assistance in the Earth week cleanup.

**Minutes of the Previous Meeting:**

The minutes from the April 2<sup>nd</sup> regular and April 16<sup>th</sup> committee of the whole meeting were distributed prior to the meeting. Mrs. Chobany motioned, seconded by Mr. Kissell to approve the April 2<sup>nd</sup>, and April 16<sup>th</sup> Committee of the whole meeting minutes, motion carried 6-0.

### **Paying of Bills:**

The bills were distributed prior to the meeting. Mrs. Chobany motioned, seconded by Mr. Kissell to approve paying the bills, including the additional bills in the amount of \$22,957.61. Ms. McCarthy polled and motion carried 7-0.

### **Reports**

Organizations submitting reports were the Portage Area Sewer Authority for March; the Water Authority for March, Joint Recreation Commission for February and March, and Laurel Inspection Agency was not included in packet but on the agenda. Mr. Kissell motioned, seconded by Mrs. Chobany to accept the reports as submitted, motion carried 6-0.

### **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 were combined into one update. The Eads Group had submitted the results of the survey from the public sessions. The overall survey had good comments and some positive feedback. Mr. Vandzura suggested discussing the survey at a future workshop for each item on the survey. Some comments regarding this ten year plan has been one of the best responses in years. Mayor Fox requested an overall draft of the plan before the final paperwork goes in. Mr. Koban will research with the Eads Group for a final report prior to submittal and provide it to Council when it is completed.

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

There was no update on the Comcast Cable Agreement but Mr. Koban is waiting on a copy of the agreement to review. Mr. Koban requested to keep the issue on the agenda for discussion at a future committee meeting.

A discussion was held on the request from Mr. Porinchak to install a small sign at the mini-park for his business. Mr. Koban requested discussing the issue at the committee meeting. Mayor Fox commented that any future signs should be the same conformity, size, and extend the same policy to all business owners. Mr. Kissell motioned, seconded by Mr. Yetsko to approve the request from Mr. Porinchak to place a small sign at the mini-park. Ms. McCarthy polled and motion carried 5-1 with Mayor Fox voting no.

### **VOTING ITEMS:**

None

**New Business:**

Mr. Koban presented an e-mail from Mr. Rick Truscello regarding the 2013-2014 Transportation Enhancement Program for Cambria County being sponsored by the Cambria County Planning Commission and PennDot. A workshop will be held on Wednesday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at the Cambria County Human Service Bldg in Ebensburg. Mr. Koban commented that this workshop would be an excellent opportunity to seek grant funding for the Main Street Streetscape project that has been on the agenda. Those attending are Mr. Vandzura, Mr. Koban, and Mr. Yetsko.

Mr. Koban advised Council that Ms. Kinley is requesting the assistance of the Borough Secretary to process the Joint Recreation Commission payroll for the Park. Mr. Koban also commented that he would provide additional information and discuss at the Committee meeting. Ms. Kinley advised that it is imperative that a decision be made quickly in order to process the upcoming payroll due to Mrs. Kiel resigning. Council questioned if there were would be any issues. Ms. Claar advised that the Quickbooks program is a different version but shouldn't create any problems. Ms. Claar also advised that the park payroll can be processed during the same time as the boroughs. After a brief discussion, Mr. Vandzura motioned, seconded by Mr. Kissell to approve the request from the JRC to have the Borough Secretary process the park payroll. Ms. McCarthy polled and motion carried 6-0.

Mayor Fox motioned, seconded by Mr. Kissell to go into executive session for personnel and litigation purposes. Ms. McCarthy polled and motion carried 6-0.

Mr. Kissell motioned, seconded by Mr. Yetsko to go out of executive session, motion carried 6-0. Mrs. Chobany motioned, seconded by Mr. Kissell to go into the regular meeting, motion carried 6-0.

**Adjournment:**

Mrs. Chobany motioned, seconded by Mr. Yetsko to adjourn, motion carried 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:29 p.m.