

A meeting of Portage Borough Council Committee of the Whole was held on Monday, January 18th, 2016.

Those in attendance were:

Sharon McCarthy	James Kissell	George Wozniak
Jerome Yetko (arriving late)	John Morgan	Todd Learn
David Hayes		

Also present were: Robert Koban, Borough Manager; Alexis Wozniak, Junior Council Member. Michelle Claar-Secretary.

Visitors:

In attendance were: Mr. Ron Portash with the Dispatch. Mr. Anthony and John Gaunt were also in attendance.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. McCarthy called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m., which was followed by a roll call with a quorum being present.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. Update from the Gaunt's concerning 532 Dulancey Drive

Mr. Anthony and John Gaunt were in attendance to provide Council with an update on the 532 Dulancey Drive demolition. Mr. Albert Miller and Ms. Valeria Gaunt were not in attendance. Mr. Gaunt advised Council that due to the inclement weather, the demolition has been slow and is requesting an additional two months time to complete. Per the demolition agreement, the structure was to be down to the first floor by Council extension date of December 31st, 2015. Mr. Gaunt questioned if the Borough would be able to assist them in going after Valerie Gaunt and Albert Miller for taking responsibility of helping in the demolition. Mr. Gaunt explained again to Council that the property was in foreclosure and he is not getting any assistance from the other two parties. Mr. Koban advised that the Borough has no authority or legal recourse to help them. Council suggested they file civilly with the District Magistrate for assistance with the demolition from Mr. Miller and Ms. Gaunt. Mr. Koban and Council commended the Gaunts with the progress they have made thus far. Mr. Gaunt advised that the structure is safe and secure at this point. Council questioned the additional time and commented that the completion deadline for the structure is April 1, 2016. After a lengthy discussion:

ON MOTION OF MAYOR KISSELL, SECONDED BY MR. WOZNIAK, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY AGREED TO ABIDE WITH THE DEMOLITION AGREEMENT AND PERMIT THE GAUNTS TO COMPLETE THE DEMOLITION BY THE APRIL 1ST, 2016 DEADLINE, THERE WAS NO NEED FOR ADDITIONAL TIME. VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. LEARN, MR. MORGAN, MR. YETSKO, MR. WOZNIAK, MR. HAYES, MAYOR KISSELL, AND MS. MCCARTHY, MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

Council informed the Gaunts that they appreciate all their efforts in the demolition process.

B. Update on Comcast Cable Agreement

Mr. Koban informed Council that he still obtaining additional dates from Mrs. Cheryl McCabe to discuss the agreement.

C. Update on Borough Building Roof

Mr. Koban advised Council that Mr. Macharola with Stiffler & McGraw sent notice to American Roofing's bonding company advising them of the defects on the roof. Mr.

Koban also commented that R.L. Abatement (the subcontractor for American Roofing) had filed a claim to their insurance; York Risk Services Group. Ms. Claar received call from the York Risk Services Group regarding the claim and to get clarification of what had transpired. Ms. Claar referred the call to Mr. Macharola to resolve with York Services. Mr. Koban commented that American Roofing was questioning if they would receive any funds to which Mr. Koban advised that they would not be receiving any down payment or partial payments. Any additional costs; including engineering and legal, will also be the responsibility of American Roofing. Ms. McCarthy questioned Mr. Koban as to the administration of the project since Stiffler & McGraw are the Architects on the project. Mr. Koban advised that he still needs to be aware of the issues and concerns and that he is not heavily burdened. Mr. Koban will provide another update at the February regular meeting.

D. Update on Pat Nicholson Storm pipe issue

Mr. Koban advised that Mr. Emerick did not have an opportunity to research any property records, deeds, or right of ways at the Cambria County Courthouse relating to the storm pipe. Mr. Koban also commented that he would like Council to investigate the area so they know exactly what the issue entails. Mr. Koban and Mr. Kissell also commented that Mr. Nicholson called them to get additional information and a resolution. Mr. Koban advised that the storm pipe has been there for so many years and it is no easy fix. Mr. Nicholson is planning to put it a walk in cooler at this proposed location once the storm pipe is either removed or relocated. Additional information will be provided at the February regular meeting.

E. Snow and Ice Emergency

Mr. Wozniak commented that he contacted the Federal Surplus Program and was informed that the borough hasn't been active since 2012. Mr. Wozniak advised that he is the process of trying to purchase cots to be used for the emergency shelter. Ms. Claar advised Council that a new application has to be submitted to be re-activated in the Federal Surplus Program. The paperwork is in process. Mr. Koban questioned if the issue can be removed from the agenda. Council agreed to have the issue be removed from the agenda.

F. Building Committee Meeting

Mr. Koban requested several dates from Mr. Kissell and Mr. Wozniak to set up a future meeting with the Portage Volunteer Fire Dept building committee members. February 9 and 11th were discussed. Ms. Claar will contact the Portage Volunteer Fire Dept building committee members advising to meet on Thursday, February 11th, at 7:00 p.m.

G. Discussion on Park Manager

Mr. Kissell questioned the status on researching the Park Manager position now that is the beginning of a new year. Mr. Koban questioned if Council still wants to move forward without the Township and seek our own funding for the position. Mr. Koban brought Mr. Hayes up to date on the issue. Mr. Koban commented that the DCNR grant application would possibly fund the position and be an asset to the Joint Recreation Members. The Hockey Rink is being considered for the grant application. Mr. Koban also advised that there is a sizeable amount of cash in the bank from donations that the Portage Area Youth Hockey has been collecting. Mr. Koban advised that information is needed from Mr. Longwill prior to the grant submission and talks regarding the Park Manager. After a lengthy discussion on several issues, Mr. Koban suggested having another meeting with the Township and the Joint Recreation to get their input. In the meantime, Council requested that Mr. Koban contact other Park or Recreation Managers to obtain knowledge, direction, and any success stories they may have. On another note, Mr. Koban informed Council that he received a 2015 Profit & Loss Report from

Mrs. Squillario for the PAJRC. The e-mail also referenced a thank you to Portage Borough recognizing the surplus due to the additional donation.

H. Award application from PA State Association of Boroughs

Ms. Claar informed Council that the service award for Mrs. Chobany could only be applied for on the number of specified years of service. The specified years were 10, 20, 25, 30, 40, 50 and 60. Mrs. Chobany has twelve years of dedicated service. Ms. Claar advised that she contacted PSAB for additional information and questioned if a 10 year could be applied for. No response back from PSAB prior to the meeting. Council also suggested having a plaque made. Ms. Claar will report back once she gets a response from PSAB.

Buildings:

A. 907 Jefferson Avenue-Crums

Ms. Claar advised that Chief Miller had served the Findings in Fact to the Lilly First National Bank and John Crum. Mr. Hayes commented that he was embarrassed at the last meeting with Councils actions and comments; the article in the Dispatch, and in the minutes. Mr. Hayes also commented that we should be helping the community and the residents, not degrading them.

B. 933 Sonman Avenue- No update.

C. 612 Orchard Street-No update.

2. New Business:

1. Discussion on a proposed ordinance for renting to convicted individuals

Mr. Kissell obtained a copy of Gallitzin Borough's Ordinance 2015-04 prohibiting the renting of residential real property to individuals convicted of certain offenses under the controlled substance, drug, device and cosmetic act; and imposing penalties for Council to review. A lengthy discussion took place with the various comments from Council:

- o Legality and case law
- o Enforcement and monitoring
- o Backgrounds checks on individuals and responsibility (landlord vs renter)
- o Housing project areas
- o Discriminatory natures
- o Repercussion of actions
- o Rehabilitated individuals and the years of conviction

Council agreed to keep the issue on the agenda for a few months to see where it goes.

2. Recognition of the Portage Area Class of 1965

Mr. Koban commented that the Portage Area Class of 1965 would be present at the February 1st regular meeting for the generous donation of \$800.00 to be utilized for recreational purposes. Mr. Ron Portash of the Dispatch will be present to take pictures.

3. Paying of the Bills

Ms. Claar presented a copy of the bills to be paid in written form.

ON MOTION OF MAYOR KISSELL, SECONDED BY MR. WOZNIAK, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY AGREED TO PAY THE BILLS AS PRESENTED IN WRITTEN FORM IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,424.16. VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. LEARN, MR. MORGAN, MR. YETSKO, MR. WOZNIAK, MR. HAYES, MAYOR KISSELL, AND MS. MCCARTHY, MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

GOOD OF THE BOROUGH

Ms. McCarthy commented on the article on the front page of the Dispatch concerning Mr. Koban receiving the Portage Rotary; Paul P. Harris Fellow award. The fellowship award is presented to an individual who meets high professional and personal standards in which their lives exemplify humanitarian and educational objectives. Council commended Mr. Koban and thanked him for his efforts by going above and beyond his duties.

Council also commended Junior Councilor; Alexis Wozniak for setting the Portage Area High School Girls Basketball record of scoring over 1,000 points in career 3 pointers. Congratulations Lexi!!!

Mr. Kissell commended a Public Works Employee for taking the time to pick up a trash can and placing it back on the owner's property.

Mr. Wozniak also commended Pro Disposal for their employees helping the elderly with the trash cans being put back on their property.

Council also acknowledged Mr. Ron Portash with the Dispatch for all his articles and publications throughout the year.

ADJOURNMENT

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, ON MOTION OF MAYOR KISSELL,
SECONDED BY MR. WOZNIAK, THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 7:55
P.M.