

A meeting of Portage Borough Council Committee of the Whole was held on Monday, September 18th, 2017.

Those in attendance were:

Sharon McCarthy
Todd Learn

David Hayes
Jerome Yetsko

James Kissell

George Wozniak

Also present were: Robert Koban, Borough Manager and Michelle Claar-Secretary. Absent was council member; John Morgan.

Visitors:

In attendance were: Mr. Ron Portash with the Dispatch; Todd and Nancy Feathers; Mr. Huff, Jean Kinley.

Ms. McCarthy introduced the Feather Family to each member of Council. Mrs. Feathers presented Council with several pictures of the old Starlite Hotel property at 828 North Railroad Avenue. She also had a screen that a rat had chewed through to gain entrance to her basement. Mrs. Feathers also advised that a rat was on her husband's back while sleeping bed during the night. The Feathers' and Mr. huff advised that they never had issues with rats until the last few years. The property is also listed on back taxes. Several discussions took place regarding the poor deteriorating conditions of the structure, water, sewer and garbage collection, stench, broken windows, and doors. Mrs. Feathers informed Council that she hired an exterminator for the rats coming into her home. Mr. Koban informed the residents that each would need to file a written complaint to address the issues and second to determine if the structure meets the dangerous building ordinance and public nuisance. Ms. McCarthy advised the residents that there is no easy fix for blighted properties, unless they are owned by the borough for demolition. After a lengthy discussion:

ON MOTION OF MR. WOZNIAK, SECONDED BY MR. HAYES, COUNCIL AUTHORIZED THE BOROUGH ENGINEER TO PERFORM A FIELD INSPECTION OF THE STRUCTURE LOCATED AT 828 NORTH RAILROAD AVENUE. VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. LEARN, MR. HAYES, MR. WOZNIAK, MR. KISSELL AND MS. MCCARTHY, MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. Update on Recreation Director/Manager

Mr. Koban informed Council that met with the Township Supervisors to discuss two topics; the bathroom project at Crichton McCormick Park and the Recreation Director/Manager position. Mr. Koban advised that two Supervisors were in attendance. The Supervisors are requesting additional information relating to grant cost sharing and match prior to the regular meeting in October.

B. Mr. Koban informed Council that he reviewed the proposal from Blair Roofing. An executive session was requested for litigation purposes.

C. Update on Trout Run Flood Protection Grant

There was no update.

D. Update on promoting tourism

There was no update.

E. Declaring a snow emergency on certain Avenues

Mr. Wozniak informed Council that he researched several other municipalities snow emergency ordinances and parking regulations pertaining to snow operations. Mr. Wozniak also conversed with the Portage Fire Dept and Portage Ambulance personnel for additional information pertaining to emergency services during a snow emergency. The Borough currently has an ordinance in place for parking during snowplow operations with an even and odd side street depending on the day. Mr. Wozniak commented that last year we declared a snow emergency with no parking on all borough avenues. Several complaints were received from residents and other members of Council. Mr. Kissell commented that emergency services and safety were of great concern during a snow emergency. Mr. Learn and Mr. Hayes were not in favor of no parking on the avenues, commenting; where are residents to park. A very lengthy discussion took place on suggestions to park, timeline to declare an emergency, protocol or declaring an emergency, additional public works hours during plowing, additional signs on streets and avenues, whether or not to amend the current ordinance, or just leave it as is, and enforce it. Ms. Kinley questioned overtime and Mr. Wozniak commented that overtime is not an issue at this point or to even be considered. After the discussion, Ms. McCarthy requested Council direction on how to proceed:

ON MOTION OF MR. KISSELL, SECONDED BY MR. YETSKO, COUNCIL APPROVED TO MOVE FOREARD WITH AMENDING OR CREATING A SNOW EMERGENCY ORDINANCE PROHIBITING PARKING ON ALL AVENDUES DURING A DECLARED EMERGENCY. VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED, MR. YETSKO, MR. WOZNIAK, MR. KISSELL, AND MS. MCCARTHY. VOTING NEGATIVELY WERE MR. LEARN AND MR. HAYES. MOTION CARRIED 6-0. MR. WOZNIAK REMARKED TO SPECIFY WHAT AREAS AND TIMES.

F. PennDot Project on SR 164 and Main Street

There was no update. Ms. McCarthy advised that she had questions from the Portage Library on what they can do if they wanted to make improvement on Main Street. Mr. Koban advised that they can make improvements since the project will not be commencing until 2020.

G. Drainage issues at Factory Alley

Mr. Koban advised that he approached the Portage Township Supervisors related to the water runoff issues. Most of the water runoff is on Gillespie Avenue that is split between the borough and the township. A discussion took place on the possible solutions by using a storm sewer to be placed on Gillespie Avenue. The Borough is seeking governmental cooperation between the Township to install 600' of drain pipe and a catch basin on Gillespie Avenue. A suggestion also took place for a possible running of the drain pipe down Gillespie to the township line to a manhole at Caldwell Avenue near the stadium. The issue will be placed on the Borough October regular meeting for further discussion and the Township regular meeting in October.

H. Restroom project at Crichton McCormick Park

There was no update.

I. Ice skating rink liner at Crichton McCormick Park

Mr. Koban advised Council that the liner was ordered with Iron Sleek Liners on September 13th, 2017. Mr. Kissell commented that he received a cost proposal of a chain link fence for \$3,500.00. from Sturdy Fence. Mr. Learn suggested to wait on the fence to determine how many individuals utilize the rink before adding additional cost.

Buildings:**A. 517 Main Street (Nicholson)**

Mr. Koban advised that no trespassing signs were installed around the property and the fence has been replaced.

- B. 1315 Jefferson Avenue (Kissell)
Mr. Koban advised that there was no update.
- C. 1007 Conemaugh Avenue (Vivis)
There was no update. The sale is scheduled for October 26th, 2017.
- D. 616 Dulancey Drive (Adams)
There was no update.
- E. 907 Jefferson Avenue (Crums)
Mr. Koban advised that there was no update. Mr. Kissell commented that the garage is now down to the 1st floor.
- F. 933 Sonman Avenue-Greenawalt
There was no update.
- G. Shoenfeld property at Orange and Grove
There was no update on the Shoenfeld property. Mr. Emerick is in the process of obtaining information from Judge Long's office.

NEW BUSINESS:

None

Paying of the Bills

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

ON MOTION OF MR. KISSELL, SECONDED BY MR. HAYES, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY AGREED TO PAY THE BILLS AS PRESENTED IN WRITTEN FORM; IN THE AMOUNT OF \$11,107.04. VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. LEARN, MR. YETSKO, MR. HAYES, MR. WOZNIAK, MR. KISSELL AND MS. MCCARTHY, MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

GOOD OF THE BOROUGH

Ms. McCarthy questioned is there were any resumes received for the Public Works Director Ad. Mr. Koban advised that several were received through CareerLink but there were no potential applicants.

Cambria County Borough Association sent notice of the 2017 Fall Dinner hosted by Cresson Borough. The dinner will be held at the Cresson American Legion on Tuesday, October 24th, 2017 with social hour beginning at 5:30 p.m. Reservation deadline by Monday, October 16th, 2017, with the cost at \$20.00 per person.

ON MOTION OF MR. KISSELL, SECONDED BY MR. WOZNIAK, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY AGREED TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR REAL ESTATE LITIGATION. VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. LEARN, MR. MR. YETSKO, MR. HAYES, MR. WOZNIAK, MR. KISSELL AND MS. MCCARTHY, MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

ON MOTION OF MR. YETSKO, SECONDED BY MR. HAYES, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY AGREED TO GO OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION. VOTING

AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. LEARN, MR. YETSKO, MR. HAYES, MR. WOZNIAK, MR. KISSELL AND MS. MCCARTHY, MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

ON MOTION OF MR. LEARN, SECONDED BY MR. WOZNIAK, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY AGREED TO GO INTO THE REGULAR MEETING. VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. LEARN, MR. YETSKO, MR. HAYES, MR. WOZNIAK, MR. KISSELL AND MS. MCCARTHY, MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

There being no further business,

ON MOTION OF MR. HAYES, SECONDED BY MR. LEARN, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY AGREED TO ADJOURN.

The meeting concluded at 8:21 p.m.