

A meeting of Portage Borough Council Committee of the Whole was held on Tuesday, February 20th, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.

Those in attendance were:

Sharon McCarthy
Todd Learn

David Hayes
Jerome Yetsko

James Kissell
John Morgan

George Wozniak

Also present were: Robert Koban, Borough Manager, Ms. Wozniak, Jr. Councilor, and Michelle Claar-Secretary. Absent were Jr. Councilors; Ms. Canavan.

Visitors:

Visitors present were; Jason Clapper; Randy Stager, and Jean Kinley.

Mr. Jason Clapper introduced himself to Council. Mr. Clapper is interested in purchasing the Sacred Heart Church and rectory property on Mountain Avenue. Mr. Clapper advised that he is anticipating an "auctioneering establishment" and will be renting out the bottom portion for events such as blood drives, special events, or any other functions requiring a hall. Mr. Clapper also commented that the possibility of a free clinic would be in the works. Mr. Clapper commented that the church, parking lot, and rectory would be included in his purchase. Mr. Koban questioned the auctioneering portion of his plans. Mr. Clapper commented that there would be no accumulation of junk or items on the outside of the properties. Mr. Clapper also questioned the tax status of the properties. A lengthy discussion took place on the condition of the properties. Mr. Koban advised that the property could benefit from LERTA; if, it meets all the criteria of the ordinance. Mr. Koban elaborated on the processes and the taxes between the County, School, and local authorities. Ms. McCarthy questioned if he is making any progress with the Diocese in the purchase of the property. Mr. Clapper advised that he is going through his realtor at the present time. Council advised Mr. Clapper that they welcome his intentions and business in Portage Borough. Mr. Clapper commented that if the purchase is successful, he would relocate to Portage from Altoona. Mr. Clapper advised that he would keep the borough updated on the progress and thanked Council for their time.

Mr. Randy Stager was in attendance to address a few issues. He first advised Council that the Sacred Heart properties will be re-appraised. The seconded issue was the Sonman Avenue Bridge being on the agenda. Mr. Stager provided an overview of the flooding that happened in 1960 pertaining to the flood walls on the Sonman Avenue Bridge. The third issue, Mr. Stager thanked council for the efforts in moving forward with the Restroom Project at Crichton McCormick Park and advised that the park was the Portage Area's best asset in the community.

Mr. Randy Stager was also in attendance to represent The Allegheny Ridge Corporation concerning the 1994 Mainline Trail study from Ehrenfeld to Portage. Mr. Stager provided an overview of the organization and a history of the numerous trails. Mr. Stager is seeking funding support to complete the trail feasibility study in the amount of \$5,000.00. The actual cost of the study is approximately \$25,000.00. Mr. Stager provided news articles and brochures reflecting the trail locations and ideas for promoting tourism. Mr. Stager also elaborated on the Cambria County Conservation and Recreation Authority and their involvement in the trails and study. Council suggested that Mr. Stager also contact other municipalities to gain their support and monetary donation for the study. Mr. Wozniak questioned Mr. Stager on the last study that was completed in 1994 and requested a copy of the plan/study for Council to review. Mr. Koban questioned the timeframe for the support and any donation toward the study. Mr. Stager advised in approximately a few weeks. Mr. Stager questioned council by polling their support at the current time. All Council members were in favor of the support. Mr. Wozniak also commented that he would like to receive a list of supporters for the study.

Ms. Kinley observed the meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. Update on Recreation Director/Manager

Mr. Koban informed Council that he spoke with Mr. Zelanko again concerning the Portage School District Board of Directors to provide a letter of support for the feasibility study of a Recreation Manager/Director. Mr. Koban informed Council that without the support of the School District, the DCNR grant study would be impossible to obtain. Mr. Morgan commented that if there is no cost for the study, why wouldn't the school district just provide a letter of support. Mr. Kissell suggested moving forward on our own accord. Another suggestion was to request a meeting with the School Board for the March Committee meeting on March 19th, 2018.

B. Borough Building Roof litigation

Mr. Koban informed Council that he, Mr. Wisor, and Mr. Emerick will be meeting on Friday to address the responses of the civil complaint.

C. Update on Trout Run Flood Protection Grant-there was no update.

D. Update on PennDot Project on SR 164 and Main Street

Ms. Claar advised that she separated the two projects as separate agenda items so they don't get confusing. Mr. Koban advised Council that we will have to meet with PennDot and Stiffler, McGraw regarding the engineering inspections and construction that coincide with the Main Street Phase II project.

E. Update on PennDot MTF Grant for the Main Street Phase II Improvements

Mr. Koban provided Council with the chain of events that transpired with the grant submissions for the Main Street Phase II funding. The second grant submission for the project was awarded by PennDot, in the amount of \$440,905.00. Mr. Koban read the letter from PennDot concerning the grant award. Mr. Koban also commented that a letter was received from the Commonwealth Financing Authority in November, 2017 that this grant submission was denied from this organization. Mr. Koban advised Council that the project will consist of many administrative functions, separate checking accounts, and electronic submissions that Ms. Claar had done in the past.

F. Update on restroom project at Crichton McCormick Park

Mr. Koban commented that Mr. Wisor will be performing a survey and preliminary designs once the weather breaks.

G. Update on Sewer Testing

Mr. Koban informed Council that a Building Committee Meeting will be held on Thursday, March 1st, 2018 with the Fire Department to discuss the options. Mr. Koban commented that he spoke with Mr. Raptosh concerning the repairs and requested a quote.

H. Update on Sonman Avenue Bridge

Mr. Koban apprised Council that the Sonman Avenue Bridge had fallen off the list somehow. The bridge was on the Cambria County 12-year plan list approximately 5 years ago. Mr. Koban commented that we will research and report back.

Buildings:

- A. 1309/1315 Jefferson Avenue (Kissell)
There will be a public hearing for both properties.
- B. 616 Dulancey Drive (Adams)
No Update - Ms. McCarthy advised she has not heard anything back from Mr. Chuck Adams.
- C. 907 Jefferson Avenue (Crums)
Mr. Crum is waiting until the weather breaks to complete the remaining issues.
- D. 933 Sonman Avenue-(Greenawalt)
No update
- E. Shoenfeld property at Orange and Grove
Mr. Koban informed Council that Chief Miller will be investigating the property in the spring.
- F. Update on 828 North Railroad (Gaunts)
Ms. Claar advised that the Findings of Fact were hand delivered to Mr. Arthur Gaunt by the Police Dept and a certified/return receipt was sent to Ms. Bernice Gaunt.
- G. Building Committee
Mr. Koban advised that a building committee meeting will be held on Thursday, March 1, 2018 at 7:00 p.m with the Fire Dept.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Approval of proposed ordinance for a small borrowing debt with 1st Summit Bank
Ms. Claar informed Council that the proposed ordinance was overlooked for advertisement in the Dispatch to properly approve. The issue will be placed on the March 5th, 2018 agenda for adoption.

ON MOTION OF MR. KISSELL, SECONDED BY MR. WOZNIAK, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY TABLED THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE FOR A SMALL BORROWING DEBT WITH 1ST SUMMIT BANK FOR THE 2018 F550 AND SNOWPLOW. VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. LEARN, MR. MORGAN, MR. YETSKO, MR. HAYES, MR. WOZNIAK, MR. KISSELL AND MS. MCCARTHY, MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

- B. Approval of proposed ordinance for an amendment to the Snow and Ice Emergency
Mr. Koban advised that the proposed ordinance was properly advertised but had been tabled from the regular February meeting until Mr. Wozniak had an opportunity to review the locations. A lengthy discussion took place on where to park vehicles on certain avenues and during what time frames.

ON MOTION OF MR. WOZNIAK, SECONDED BY MR. HAYES, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY DECLINED TO APPROVE THE AMENDED SNOW AND ICE EMERGENCY PROPOSED ORDINANCE. VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. LEARN, MR. MORGAN, MR. YETSKO, MR. HAYES, MR. WOZNIAK, MR. KISSELL AND MS. MCCARTHY, MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

- C. Request from Women's Club to solicit for donations to the Easter Egg Hunt Event
The Portage Women's Club sent an e-mail for council permission to have Mr. Vic Miller canvas the Borough for donations to the Annual Easter Egg Hunt.

ON MOTION OF MR. KISSELL, SECONDED BY MR. YETSKO, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY GRANTED PERMISSION; FOR MR. VIC MILLER, TO SOLICIT FOR DONATIONS ON BEHALF OF THE PORTAGE WOMEN'S CLUB FOR THE ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT. VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. LEARN, MOR MORGAN, MR. YETSKO, MR. HAYES, MR. WOZNIAK, MR. KISSELL AND MS. MCCARTHY, MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

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. MORGAN, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY AGREED TO PAY THE BILLS AS PRESENTED IN WRITTEN FORM; IN THE AMOUNT OF \$10,773.66. VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. LEARN, MOR MORGAN, MR. YETSKO, MR. HAYES, MR. WOZNIAK, MR. KISSELL AND MS. MCCARTHY, MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

GOOD OF THE BOROUGH

The Cambria County Tax Claim Bureau sent an e-mail of an upcoming Tax sale seminar. The brochure was provided to council with two available dates.

Ms. Claar presented information to Council regarding the Cambria County Borough Association Dinner that included a solicitation letter, sample of the agenda, list of businesses, and a worksheet for planning. Mr. Koban requested that each council member speak with the prospective owners to request any donations or contributions for the event. Mr. Kissell suggested to have Mr. Frank Burns as a guest speaker and Mr. Koban suggested contacting the new director for the Cambria County Redevelopment Authority. The meeting will be held on April 17th, 2018 at the Royal Ballroom.

Ms. McCarthy informed Mr. Koban that water is flowing out of a manhole at the corner of Lee Street. She also questioned who would be the responsible party for any repairs or notifications. Mr. Koban advised that most of the water run off is coming from off the railroad bed of Norfolk Southern.

Mr. Wozniak questioned if there have been any water drainage issues on Factory Alley. Mr. Koban commented that the Public Works Dept had treated some ice problems and they were monitoring any flooding issues.

There being no further business;

ON MOTION OF MR. WOZNIAK, SECONDED BY MR. HAYES, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY ADJOURNED. VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. LEARN, MR. MORGAN, MR. YETSKO, MR. HAYES, MR. WOZNIAK, MR. KISSELL AND MS. MCCARTHY, MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

The meeting concluded at 8:42 p.m.