

A meeting of Portage Borough Council Committee of the Whole was held on Monday, May 21st, 2018, at 6:30 p.m.

Those in attendance were:

Sharon McCarthy
Todd Learn

David Hayes
Jerome Yetsko

George Wozniak
John Morgan

James Kissell

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

Visitors:

Visitors present were Adam and Melissa Plummer; Ron Portash-Dispatch; Randy Stager, and Irene Huschak.

Mr. Randy Stager was representing the Allegheny Ridge Corporation to request a letter of support/pledge, in the amount of \$5,000.00 for the completion of a feasibility study on the Mainline Canal Greenway trail study from Ehrenfeld to Portage. Mr. Stager first apologized for an e-mail he sent to council and the borough manager. Mr. Stager provided a history of what the Allegheny Ridge Corporation and the Endowment Fund has accomplished and financially assisted in Portage Area Projects and Programs. Mr. Koban informed Council that he spoke with Mr. Jim Laird, a trail consultant working with ARC and now has a better understanding of how the study would be funded. Mr. Laird and Ms. Sheffield were not able to attend this meeting but advised they will try to attend the next committee meeting to discuss any issues with Council. Mr. Stager commented that the Portage Area Planning Commission and the Portage Township Supervisors have given a verbal support of \$5,000.00 for the study. Mr. Stager also commented that there is no guarantee that a trail head could be developed within the Borough. Mr. Koban informed Mr. Stager that Council was never in opposition of the study but only requested additional information and resources. Mr. Koban also questioned if there were any deadlines for any grant funding that may require letters of support. After a lengthy discussion,

ON MOTION OF MR. KISSELL, SECONDED BY MR. LEARN, COUNCIL APPROVED TO PLEDGE A SUPPORT OF \$5,000.00 TO THE ALLEGHENY RIDGE CORPORATION FOR A FEASIBILITY STUDY OF THE MAINLINE CANAL GREENWAY TRAIL. VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. LEARN, MR. YETSKO, MR. MORGAN, MR. WOZNIAK, MR. KISSELL, AND MS. MCCARTHY, MOTION CARRIED 6-1 WITH MR. HAYES VOTING NEGATIVELY.

Ms. Irene Huschak, representing the Portage Area Historical Society, provided Council with their quarterly newsletter. Ms. Huschak advised that over the last month, many visitors have passed through the museum from various states. Ms. Huschak advised that the Great Portage Yard Sale will be held on Saturday, June 9th, 2018 and also invited all members of council to tour the museum. Ms. Huschak then inquired on the paving project in front of the museum. Mr. Koban advised Ms. Huschak that the front of the museum was eliminated from the project but at the top of Lee and South Railroad will be paved and some brick will be ground down. Ms. Huschak thanked Council for their time and efforts.

Ms. McCarthy read a letter to the public concerning dilapidated and dangerous structures, deemed demolitions, engineering and legal fees, and corrective actions within the Borough. Ms. McCarthy commented that at least 5-6 properties have been on the agenda for over a year within no progress being made by the property owners. Ms. McCarthy commented on each property and the associated costs for engineering and legal fees that have been paid by taxpayer dollars. Mrs. Plummer and her son inquired on the permit extension for 720 Sherman Street. Ms. McCarthy informed the Plummers that they have

had several properties within the borough that have not had the taxes paid, municipal liens, dangerous structure, and ordinance violations. Ms. McCarthy handed over the gavel to Mr. Wozniak and requested the borough get some type of proof for a resolution to the various issues addressed above.

ON MOTION OF MS. MCCARTHY, SECONDED BY MR. HAYES, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY DENIED A PERMIT EXTENTION FOR THE PLUMMERS AT THE 720 SHERMAN STREET LOCATION. VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. LEARN, MR. YETSKO, MR. MORGAN, MR. WOZNIAK, MR. HAYES, MR. KISSELL, AND MS. MCCARTHY, MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- A. Update on Recreation Director/Manager
Mr. Koban advised that he spoke with Mr. Longwell and the grant application will be submitted by the end of the month.
- B. Borough Building Roof litigation
Mr. Koban informed Council that American Roofing will be sending out a specialist to check out the roof, there has been no contact from the specialist over the past two months.
- C. Update on Trout Run Flood Protection Grant-there was no update.
- D. Update on PennDot Project on SR 164 and Main Street
Mr. Koban did confirm that Mr. Matt Decort spoke with Ms. Claar and Ms. McCarthy by contacting PennDot concerning the project. Ms. McCarthy requested that it be reflected.
- E. Update on PennDot MTF Grant for the Main Street Phase II Improvements
There was no update but moving forward. Mr. Kissell questioned if the trees would be replaced on Main Street. Mr. Koban advised that those issues would be addressed during the final design phase of the project.
- F. Update on restroom project at Crichton McCormick Park
Mr. Koban advised that the final design is in process and could be possibly be ready to go out for bid at the June meeting. A short discussion took place on the sewer laterals. Mr. Kissell commented that since the park is being addressed, he was requested to remove the liner from the liner from the park. Mr. Kissell advised that due to the wet weather conditions, the liner needs to dry on both sides and is afraid of the underlayment being destroyed. A short discussion took place on leaving the liner where it is, placing a fence around the area, and the parking issues during the Summerfest event. Mr. Koban suggested that Mr. Kissell contact the JRC to let them know what has transpired.
- G. Update on Sewer Testing
Mr. Koban advised that the Fire Dept received info from B&R and the cost sharing amount for the project. The Portage Area Sewer Authority is giving an extension until 7/18/18 due to the inclement weather. Mr. Koban advised that the Ms. Claar sent a request to the Portage Area Sewer Authority for the extension until 7/18/18.
- H. Update on Sonman Avenue Bridge
There was no update
- I. Update on Mainline Trail Feasibility Study-9/11 trail
Discussed earlier in the meeting.
- J. Update on Main Street (Phase III) grant funding
The grant was submitted.

- K. Although the issue was not the agenda, Mr. Koban commented that there were no quotes for the previous grants concerning the generator for the building. Ms. McCarthy commented that Biter Electric in Cresson could be contacted as well. Mr. Koban advised that we will keep researching other grant opportunities, however, we would still need estimates.

Buildings:

- A. 1309/1315 Jefferson Avenue (Kissell)
Ms. Claar informed Council that she received a call from Attorney Soissons' office regarding the Kissell property. They will be performing a title search on the properties and a sales agreement is being prepared with a Mr. Joel Bobolsky. Ms. Claar advised Attorney Soissons Office that the structures were deemed dangerous and that public hearings were held requiring demolition. They were aware of the demolition order.
- B. 616 Dulancey Drive (Adams)
Mr. Emerick is researching for a representative.
- C. 907 Jefferson Avenue (Crums)
The property is not completely cleaned up.
- D. 933 Sonman Avenue-(Greenawalt)
The Findings of Fact were received back from Ms. Windsor as undeliverable.
- 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)
There was no update
- G. Update on 730 Sherman Street (Plummer)
Discussed earlier in the meeting
- H. Update on 722 Orchard Street Property (Plummer)
Mr. Koban informed Council that he spoke with Melissa Plummer after the May 7th meeting and was advised that the property is Melissa's mother-in-law, Patricia Plummer. She advised that the house is vacant on one side and her mother in law lives in the other side. Mr. Kissell commented that the side she resides in is not safe from a health, safety, and welfare of the resident and should not be living there. The roof looks like it is ready to collapse. Mr. Koban cautioned Council that the structures have to meet the criteria for any ordinance violations, not just from an aesthetics. Melissa Plummer advised that Patricia is waiting for another house on Jefferson to move into and will be selling this property. Mr. Kissell suggested having Mr. Wisor perform a field study on the structure. Mr. Koban recommended that each member of Council to take a look at the property and the issue will be on the June agenda for a vote.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Purchase of a new certificate of deposit
Mr. Koban informed Council that a certificate of deposit is due to mature on May 17th, 2018. Ms. Claar received rates from various financial institutions.

ON MOTION OF MR. LEARN, SECONDED BY MR. WOZNIAK, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY AUTHORIZED THE PURCHASE OF A CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT WITH FIRST SUMMIT BANK, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,107.19 AT AN

ANNUAL PERCENTAGE RATE OF 2.36% FOR A 25 MONTH TERM. VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. LEARN, MR. MORGAN, MR. YETSKO, MR. HAYES, MR. WOZNIAK, MR. KISSELL, AND MS. MCCARTHY, MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

B. Authorization of a 4" sewer line installed by B&R Construction.

Mr. Koban informed Council that he received a proposal from B & R and the fire dept has discussed the repairs. The installation of the sewer line will be split with the Portage Volunteer Fire Company.

ON MOTION OF MR. KISSELL, SECONDED BY MR. WOZNIAK, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY AUTHORIZED THE 4" SEWER LINE INSTALLATION TO B&R CONSTRUCTION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$5,900.00 THAT WILL BE SPLIT WITH THE PORTAGE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT. VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. LEARN, MR. 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. HAYES, SECONDED BY MR. KISSELL, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY AGREED TO PAY THE BILLS AS PRESENTED IN WRITTEN FORM; IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1070.72. VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. LEARN, MR. MORGAN, MR. YETSKO, MR. HAYES, MR. WOZNIAK, MR. KISSELL, AND MS. MCCARTHY, MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

GOOD OF THE BOROUGH

Mr. Koban informed Council that he received a call from Marion Slebodnick again regarding storm drainage issues on Blair Street. Mr. Koban advised that a contractor had previously installed a new sewer lateral and had damaged the terra cotta and smaller pipe within the area. Mr. Koban also commented that some of the drainage issues are stemming from Elementary Alley and suggested replacing the 12" pipe. Mr. Wozniak and Mr. Kissell questioned who would be responsible; the borough, the contractor or the homeowner. Mr. Koban presented a drawing of the proposed project with 12" pipe, inlet box, grate, stone, soil and seed that totaled approximately \$2,359.00, not including labor. Mr. Wozniak suggested contracting the Contractor to determine liability and report back at the next meeting to discuss.

Mr. Wozniak questioned the status of the retainer wall on Johnson Avenue. Mr. Koban advised that he and Mr. Maul inspected several sections. The walls along the stream are deteriorating as well. Mr. Koban suggested removing the damaged concrete wall portion to 8" below the road, reinforce the roadway, and install a guardrail.

ON MOTION OF MR. HAYES, SECONDED BY MR. WOZNIAK, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY MOVED TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR PERSONNEL REASONS. VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. LEARN, MR. MORGAN, MR. YETSKO, MR. HAYES, MR. WOZNIAK, MR. KISSELL, AND MS. MCCARTHY, MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

ON MOTION OF MR. HAYES, SECONDED BY MR. KISSELL, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY MOVED TO GO OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION. VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. LEARN, MR. MORGAN, MR. YETSKO, MR.

HAYES, MR. WOZNIAK, MR. KISSELL, AND MS. MCCARTHY, MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

ON MOTION OF MR. WOZNIAK, SECONDED BY MR. KISSELL, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY MOVED TO GO INTO THE REGULAR MEETING. VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. LEARN, MR. MORGAN, MR. YETSKO, MR. HAYES, MR. WOZNIAK, MR. KISSELL, AND MS. MCCARTHY, MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

There being no further business;

ON MOTION OF MR. LEARN, 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 8:54 p.m.