

A Portage Borough Council Committee of the Whole meeting was held on April 15th, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.

Those in attendance were:

Sharon McCarthy

Todd Learn

James Kissell

David Hayes

John Morgan

Also present were: Robert Koban, Borough Manager and Michelle Claar, Borough Secretary. Absent were Mr. Yetsko, Mr. Wozniak, and Ms. Wozniak, Jr. Council.

Visitors:

Ron Portash, Mainline Newspapers, Members of the PAJRC, Mr. Tony Scarton, Josie Kostan with the Portage Women's Club, Jean Kinley, Deb Shope, Mandi Eney, Brianna Leyo, and Russ Orlowsky

Ms. McCarthy called for Mr. Scarton. Mr. Scarton informed Council that the police have been at the top of Caldwell Avenue issuing tickets for running stop signs. He advised that he, his wife and son has gotten tickets and are being targeted. Ms. Scarton questioned if the police would only give warnings since there are only about ten homes within the area. Mr. Scarton also questioned if the police provide a monthly report to which Mr. Koban advised that they do each month. Mr. Koban and Mr. Hayes pulled two months of police reports reflecting parking ticket incidents and there was no significant increase in the number of tickets issued. Mr. Koban advised Mr. Scarton that he will check with Chief Miller to see if there is any reason for the enforcement but also commented that the police do not target any areas within the borough.

Mrs. Josie Kostan was in attendance to address the split rail fence for the Main Street Arch project. She had provided additional quotes per Council's request. The Long Barn, Home Depot and Lowe's were presented for council review. Mrs. Kostan advised Council that the Women's Club and volunteers will provide all necessary labor to remove and replace the old fence. Council approved an amount not to exceed \$1,000.00 at the April regular meeting and only requested additional quotes. Since Mr. Kostan gets a discount at the Long Barn, Council agreed to purchase the materials and the Women's Club can provide the labor. Council thanked and commended the Portage Women's Club for everything being done in the borough.

Ms. McCarthy called on Mr. Orlowsky, Mandi Eney, and Brianne Leyo. Their main concern was the large number of feral cats within the community and questioned if stricter guidelines could be implemented. Mr. Orlowsky commented on the trap, neuter, and release program and advised that he has had numerous cats at his own residence. The big problem is with the feral cats that will not let anyone get close to them, they hid in abandoned buildings and will try to engage with the more domesticated cats. Mr. Koban informed the group that he didn't know there was that big of a problem relating to cats, we usually receive complaints on rats. The group advised that Mending Hearts will house cats but not feral ones. The Cambria and Blair County Animal Shelters are not accepting anymore cats since they are overcrowded. The group would like to have some type of awareness for area residents on the trap, neuter, and release program. Mr. Morgan commented that if such a program was implemented, that Portage could be a breeding ground. Council thanked the group for attending and advised that they will keep the issue on the agenda for further discussion.

Several members of the PAJRC were in attendance for an update on the Small Community Grant that was to be submitted to DCNR on April 10th, 2019. Mr. Koban advised that the application was electronically submitted on April 10th, 2019 to DCNR, just under \$60,000.00. Mr. Koban thanked Brittany Blackham; with Representative Frank Burns Office, for all her efforts.

Mrs. Shope informed Council that she tried to follow up with Mr. Bandzuh regarding the community garden project but she has not received any response back.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Update on Recreation Manager
Mr. Koban informed Council and the PAJRC that we received a resume of a Consultant and will need to make a decision on proceeding forward. Council agreed to move forward and Mr. Koban will contact the DCNR grant specialist for the consultant.
- B. Update on Borough Roof-No update
- C. Update on Trout Run Rehabilitation-There was no update.
- D. Update on PennDot Project on SR 164-There was no update.
- E. Update on PennDot Multimodal for Main Street
There was no update
- F. Update on Main Street Improvements Phase III
Mr. Koban advised that he would like to contact the grant writer Brittany Blackham for some input for the next round of grant funding.
- G. Update on restrooms and Crichton McCormick Park
Mr. Koban advised that the punch list items are being addressed.
- H. Update on Sonman Avenue Bridge-12-year plan
Mr. Koban advised that the Sonman Avenue Bridge Replacement project has been removed from the 12-year plan with County due to the criteria not being met and by priority.
- I. Update on repairs to the creek walls at Johnson Avenue
There was no update-Scheduled for in the Spring.
- J. Mainline Trail Feasibility Study Phase I
There was no update.
- K. Update on grant funding for Crichton McCormick park through DCNR and Frank Burns Office.
This was discussed earlier in the meeting.
- L. Update on ATV's utilizing borough streets for events.
A short discussion took place on permitting ATV's for parades, fundraisers, etc. and liability issues.

ON MOTION OF MR. MORGAN, SECONDED BY MR. HAYES, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED REMOVING THE ISSUE FROM THE AGENDA. VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. LEARN, MR. MORGAN, MR. KISSELL, MR. HAYES, AND MS. MCCARTHY, MOTION CARRIED 5-0.
- M. Update on Welcome to Portage Signs
There was no update.
- N. Update on Women's Club request for fencing
Discussed earlier in the meeting.

Buildings**A.** 933 Sonman Avenue Property (Greenawalt)

The hearing has held on Monday, April 8th, 2019. Mr. Koban, Mr. Emerick, and Mr. Wisor attended the hearing. Mr. Koban advised that Mr. Greenawalt would still like to retain the property if he could. The Judge advised that fines and costs would be incurred until the structure comes into compliance. Mr. Koban also informed Mr. Greenawalt that there could be a potential buyer of the property, if he was interested.

B. 616 Dulancey Drive (Adams)-No update.**C.** Update on junk vehicles-work in progress.**D.** 828 North Railroad (Gaunts)-No update.**E.** 720 Orchard Street (Plummers)-No update.**F.** 406 Caldwell Avenue (Barclay)-There was no update.**G.** 925 Main Street (Lewis)-No update.**H.** 532 Dulancey Drive (Gaunts)-No update**I.** 1007 Conemaugh Avenue-waiting on the Cambria County Redevelopment Authority. Mr. Koban advised that the summer helper; Barry Layo, is back to work and will be cutting the grass.**J.** The property at 1006 Conemaugh was sold at the tax sale to Mr. Pat Nicholson. A short discussion also took place on several properties that are occupied but the residents do not have any water or sewer.**NEW BUSINESS****A.** Discussion on the purchase of Christmas Decorations that was allocated in the 2019 Budget.

Mr. Koban informed Council that he would like to commence with seeking quotes for Christmas Decorations. Mr. Koban suggested contacting the Portage Women's Club and the Winterfest Committee to attend the May committee meeting with Riley Outdoors. The issue will be on the agenda for the committee meeting.

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. LEARN, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED TO PAY THE BILLS IN WRITTEN FORM, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$9,548.68. VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. LEARN, MR. MORGAN, MR. HAYES, MR. KISSELL, AND MS. MCCARTHY, MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

GOOD OF THE BOROUGH

The annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, April 20th, 2019 at Crichton McCormick Park at 12:00 noon.

The Cambria County Borough Association Spring Dinner will be hosted by Nanty Glo Borough on April 16th, 2019 at the Nanty Glo Fire Company Social Hall at 5:30 p.m.

Mr. Koban informed Council that he will not be able to attend the June 3rd, 2019 regular meeting. After a discussion,

ON MOTION OF MR. KISSELL, SECONDED BY MR. MORGAN, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED AND AUTHORIZE THE ADVERTISING TO CANCEL THE JUNE 3RD REGULAR MEETING AND RESCHEDULE FOR JUNE 17TH, 2019. VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. LEARN, MR. MORGAN, MR. HAYES, MR. KISSELL, AND MS. MCCARTHY, MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

There being no further business;

ON MOTION OF MR. MORGAN, SECONDED BY MR. HAYES, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY ADJOURNED. COUNCIL MEMBERS VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. LEARN, MR. MORGAN, MR. HAYES, MR. KISSELL, AND MS. MCCARTHY. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

The meeting concluded at 8:13 P.M.