

A Portage Borough Council Committee of the Whole meeting was held on March, 18th, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.

Those in attendance were:

Sharon McCarthy

George Wozniak

David Hayes

Jerome Yetsko

John Morgan

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

Visitors:

Ron Portash, Mainline Newspapers, Members of the PAJRC, Members of PAYA, Jean Kinley, Devonie and Thomas McCabe, Roman Tiracave and sons.

ON MOTION OF MR. WOZNIAK, SECONDED BY MR. YETSKO, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED TO GO OUT OF ORDER ON THE AGENDA TO RECOGNISE THE VISITORS. VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. LEARN, MR. MORGAN, MR. YETSKO, MR. HAYES, MR. KISSELL, AND MS. MCCARTHY, MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

Mr. Koban and Council welcomed Mr. Roman Tiracave. Ms. McCarthy had invited Mr. Tiracave to the Portage Borough meeting to discuss the possibility of having some of the blighted homes within the borough be renovated, rather than demolished. Ms. McCarthy showed Mr. Tiracave several properties within the borough that have been on the agenda as blighted or are currently in civil proceedings for demolition. Mr. Tiracave advised Council that he has investors to support the financial purchasing of the properties and he does the renovations/repairs. Mr. Tiracave has several properties in the Cresson, Lilly, and Loretto areas that are in the process of being renovated or rehabilitated. Mr. Tiracave advised that the Cresson, Lilly, and Loretto areas have more potential of purchasing prior to the properties being deemed a dangerous structure. Mr. Tiracave commented that he works with local municipalities to have any municipal liens exonerate so he can purchase at a fair value to get them back on the tax rolls. A lengthy discussion took place on being proactive on certain properties prior to them being deemed a dangerous structure.

Mr. Marshall McCabe and his mother; Devonie McCabe were in attendance to observe and to become active within the community. Mrs. McCabe advised that she is on the Portage Library Board and resides in the Township, while her son; Marshall reside within the Borough. Ms. McCarthy welcomed the McCabe's and suggested that Marshall provide a letter of interest for the Portage Area Planning Commission vacant seat on the board. Ms. McCarthy also suggested to Mrs. McCabe to also submit a letter of interest for any vacancies that the Township may have.

The Portage Area Joint Recreation Commission members were in attendance to get an update on the grant application for Crichton McCormick Park. Mrs. Lamar informed Council that several members of the PAJRC; along with Mr. Koban and Ms. McCarthy, attended the Portage Township meeting to seek support and financial assistance for the Small Communities grant.

Mr. Koban commented that he provided detailed information to the Supervisors on the matching funds for the dollar to dollar to grant. Mr. Koban confirmed that at the meeting, the Supervisors voted to commit their support for grant funding and a financial support of \$10,00.00 to share in the engineering costs. Mr. Koban also commented that Mr. Wisner provided cost estimates. The Portage Area Youth Association member; Gregory Letzo, advised that the Youth Association will take on the responsibility of drainage issues within the softball and baseball fields. Mr. Koban suggested that the goal for this grant application should be determined by priority; which

is the fencing. Mr. Koban advised that he tried on several occasions to converse with Jay Schreiber and Brittany Blackham on the grant criteria and improvements. A short discussion took place on the handicap accessibility location in retro with the tennis courts.

Mr. Koban informed Council that he received an e-mail on March 18th, 2019 from the PA DCNR, that Portage Borough was awarded the Peer to Peer Grant, in the amount of \$10,000.00 for the Recreation Manager Study. Grant Agreements and documents will be forthcoming. Some documents that were received included resumes of qualified consultants to support the hiring of a peer consultant to conduct a study.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Update on Recreation Manager-Discussed earlier in the meeting.
- 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
Mr. Koban advised that he will be reviewing the drawings from Bruce Schweitzer for the sidewalks.
- E. Update on PennDot Multimodal for Main Street
There was no update.
- F. Update on Main Street Improvements Phase III
There was no update.
- G. Update on restrooms and Crichton McCormick Park
Mr. Koban advised that the final punch list items will be addressed in the Spring
- H. Update on Sonman Avenue Bridge-12-year plan
There was no update.
- I. Update on repairs to the creek walls at Johnson Avenue
There was no update-Scheduled for in the Spring.
- J. Discussion on candidates for the Portage Area Planning Commission board.
There were no letters of interest received.
- K. Mainline Trail Feasibility Study Phase I
A steering committee meeting will be held on April 9th, 2019.
- L. Update on grant funding for Crichton McCormick park through DCNR and Frank Burns Office.
The was discussed earlier in the meeting.
- M. Update on ATV's utilizing borough streets for events.
There was no update from Mr. Emerick.
- N. Update on Welcome to Portage Signs
Mr. Koban advised that he spoke with Mr. Zalenko and the students can repair the signs.

Buildings

- A. 933 Sonman Avenue Property (Greenawalt) Mr. Koban advised that Mr. Greenawalt did not attend the hearing at Cambria County Court on March 6th, 2019. The hearing has been rescheduled for Monday, April 8th, 2019. Mr. Koban and Mr. Wisor will be attending.
- 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)-Ms. Claar advised that the Westmoreland County Sheriff Department will need an additional \$100.00 to serve the Barclay's. The \$100.00 is on the unpaid bills for approval. The total cost to serve is \$250.00
- 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.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Appointment of 2019 Per Capita Tax Collector
Ms. Claar informed Council that she received notice from the Cambria County Tax Office that a Per Capita Tax Collector will need to be named; replacing that of Joanne Redfern.

ON MOTION OF MR. MORGAN, SECONDED BY MR. WOZNIAK, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED RESOLUTION 4-2019 BY APPOINTING MRS. SYLVIA ENEDY AS THE PER CAPITA TAX COLLECTOR FOR 2019. VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. MORGAN, MR. YETSKO, MR. WOZNIAK, MR. HAYES, AND MS. MCCARTHY, MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

- B. Approval to submit the 2019 Cambria County Liquid Fuels Allocation

ON MOTION OF MR. WOZNIAK, SECONDED BY MR. YETSKO, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED RESOLUTION 5-2019 BY MAKING APPLICATION WITH CAMBRIA COUNTY FOR THE 2019 LIQUID FUELS ALLOCATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$7,100.00. VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. MORGAN, MR. YETSKO, MR. WOZNIAK, MR. HAYES, AND MS. MCCARTHY, MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

- C. Approval to advertise the 2018 financial audit

ON MOTION OF MR. MORGAN, SECONDED BY MR. HAYES, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE ADVERTISING OF THE 2018 FINANCIAL AUDIT IN THE MAINLINE NEWSPAPERS. VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. MORGAN, MR. YETSKO, MR. WOZNIAK, MR. HAYES, AND MS. MCCARTHY, MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

D. Request from the Trout Run Watershed to assist with the annual earth week clean-up

ON MOTION OF MR. MORGAN, SECONDED BY MR. HAYES, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE REQUEST FROM THE TROUT RUN WATERSHED ASSOCIATION TO HAVE THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT ASSIST IN THE ANNUAL EARTH WEEK CLEAN-UP ON FRIDAY, APRIL 26TH, 2019 FROM 12:30 TO 2:30 P.M. VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. MORGAN, MR. YETSKO, MR. WOZNIAK, MR. HAYES, AND MS. MCCARTHY, MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

E. Request from the Portage Women's Club to replace the fence on both sides of the Arch

The Women's Club submitted a cost estimate for fencing and posts to replace the deteriorating ones on both sides of the Arch on State Route 164. The existing fence is approximately 32 years old and in major need of repair. Members of the Women's Club will volunteer their time to erect the new split rail fence. Mr. Yetsko suggested obtaining additional quotes. Ms. Jean Kinley suggested having the Women's Club approach the Portage Rotary for any financial assistance. Mr. Morgan suggested donating an amount not to exceed \$1,000.00. After a short discussion,

ON MOTION OF MR. MORGAN, SECONDED BY MR. HAYES, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE REQUEST FROM THE PORTAGE WOMEN'S CLUB TO REPLACE THE FENCING ON BOTH SIDES OF THE ARCH ON STATE ROUTE 164 AND DONATING AN AMOUNT OF "NOT TO EXCEED \$1,000.00". VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. MORGAN, MR. YETSKO, MR. WOZNIAK, MR. HAYES, AND MS. MCCARTHY, MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

F. Approval to donate the Ricoh multi-function copier to the Portage Vol. Fire Company

Ms. Claar informed Council that she spoke with the Portage Vol Fire Company to inquire if they would be interested in the Borough donating the copier. Mrs. McCabe suggested that in the near future, to consider any donations of equipment to the Portage Library.

ON MOTION OF MR. WOZNIAK, SECONDED BY MR. MORGAN COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED TO DONATE THE RICOH MULTI-FUNCTION COPIER TO THE PORTAGE VOL. FIRE COMPANY. VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. MORGAN, MR. YETSKO, MR. WOZNIAK, MR. HAYES, AND MS. MCCARTHY, MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

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. WOZNIAK, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED TO PAY THE BILLS IN WRITTEN FORM, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$26,221.28. VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. MORGAN, MR. YETSKO, MR. WOZNIAK, MR. HAYES, 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. The deadline for the rsvp is April 5th, 2019. Council will advise at the April 1st, 2019 regular meeting.

Ms. Claar provided copies of the 2019 Street Sweeping and PIP Schedule to Council. The schedule will be published in the Dispatch.

ON MOTION OF MR. WOZNIAK, SECONDED BY MR. YETSKO, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY WENT INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR LITIGATION AND PERSONNEL PURPOSES. COUNCIL MEMBERS VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. MORGAN, MR. YETSKO, MR. WOZNIAK, MR. HAYES, AND MS. MCCARTHY. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

ON MOTION OF MR. WOZNIAK, SECONDED BY MR. MORGAN, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY WENT OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION AND INTO THE REGULAR MEETING. COUNCIL MEMBERS VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. MORGAN, MR. YETSKO, MR. WOZNIAK, MR. HAYES, AND MS. MCCARTHY. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

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There being no further business;

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

The meeting concluded at 8:32 P.M.