

A Portage Borough Council Committee of the Whole meeting was held on Monday, May 20th, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.

Those in attendance were:

Sharon McCarthy
David Hayes

George Wozniak
James Kissell

Jerome Yetsko

Also present were: Robert Koban, Borough Manager and Michelle Claar, Borough Secretary. Absent were Mr. Learn and Mr. Morgan.

Visitors:

Ron Portash, Mainline Newspapers, Members of the Portage WinterFest, members of the Portage Women's Club, Devonie McCabe, Jean Kinley, and Deb Shope.

Mr. Brian Arnold; from Rileighs Outdoors's, presented two different styles (LED snowflakes and a poinsettia) of Christmas Decorations for Council to view. One decoration had the garland which would be more visible during the day light hours. Rileighs Outdoor Décor is a Co-Stars vendor within the Commonwealth. Mr. Arnold provided a brief history and the role he has within the company. Mr. Arnold also presented several catalogs with 20% discount specials if purchased prior to May 31st, 2019. Mr. Koban commented that the 2019 budget approved for the purchase of \$20,000.00 of new Christmas lights and displays. Several decorations were reviewed within the catalog: 14' panel tree that can have additional panel heights added, ground displays with Merry Christmas, Pole decorations consisting of holly, soldiers, angels, snowflakes, wreaths, and candles. Mr. Arnold showed the Council the difference between the LED lights, garland, and silhouettes. The mounting brackets and bands were also discussed. Mrs. Fox had other choices for Council to consider also. There are currently 22 Christmas pole decorations in storage. Mr. Koban suggested focusing on theme ideas for the decorations. Angels and snowflakes were also suggested with Council having their opinions as well. After a lengthy discussion on the types and prices of the decorations and the placement, Borough Council was in agreement to purchase the following:

- 4 saluting soldiers
- 6 Holly Candles pole decorations
- 6 Holly Clusters/wreaths
- 6 Angels
- 14' Panel Christmas Tree
- 36' Merry Christmas Display

ON MOTION OF MR. KISSELL, SECONDED BY MR. YETSKO, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED TO PURCHASE 22 POLE DECORATIONS, A 14' CHRISTMAS TREE AND A 36' MERRY CHRISTMAS DISPLAY FROM RILEIGH'S OUTDOOR DÉCOR AT AN APPROXIMATE COST OF \$20,100. VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. LEARN, MR. YETSKO, MR. WOZNIAK, MR. HAYES, MR. KISSELL, AND MS. MCCARTHY, MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

Mr. Koban commented that the prices quoted with the 20% savings would be approximately \$19,500, not including the shipping. The shipping would be approximately \$575.00. The estimated total cost would be around \$20,100. A purchase order will be generated once Mr. Arnold submits a proposal reflecting all the prices and shipping charges prior to ordering.

Mrs. Devonie McCabe; representing the Portage Library Board, was in attendance to provide an update on the new services and programs that are being offered during the summer at the Library. Among the programs are: A summer Youth Food Program, mobile planetarium, DVD Rentals, Summer Reading Program for ages 2-5 and for 6-12, Adult activities and dietary needs,

PA CareerLink information, copier, scanner, fax, and resume programs. Portage Library can also be found on social media Facebook for additional information and programs. Mrs. McCabe invited members of Council to tour the library since they have had interior renovations.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Update on Recreation Manager
Mr. Koban contacted the DCNR grant specialist for the consultant position. Additional details will be provided at the June meeting.
- B. Update on Borough Roof-No update
- C. Update on Trout Run Rehabilitation-Mr. Wisor submitted a commitment letter and resolution to be acted upon later in the meeting.
- D. Update on PennDot Project on SR 164-There will be a meeting with PennDot representatives On May 25th, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. in Council Chambers.
- 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. Mr. Dave Squillario informed Mr. Koban the grass needs planted by the walk at the restroom.
- H. Update on Sonman Avenue Bridge-12-year plan- No update
- I. Update on repairs to the creek walls at Johnson Avenue
Mr. Maul sent an e-mail for prices on caps, brick face barriers.
- J. Mainline Trail Feasibility Study Phase I
Mr. Portash commented that the Allegheny Ridge Corporation is moving forward with permission from property owners, etc. Forest Hills Alliance also invited him to the fall meeting.
- K. Update on grant funding for Crichton McCormick park through DCNR and Frank Burns Office.
There was no update.
- L. Update on welcome signs
There was no update.
- M. Community Foundation Grant for PAYA field repairs
Ms. Claar advised that the grant submitted to the Community Foundation was approved. The Foundation sent in a \$3,500.00 check to the Borough and in turn will be disbursed to the Portage Area Youth Association field repairs. The bill is on the list of bills to be approved
- N. Update on Tree Revitalization Grant through Mr. Burn's Office and DCNR.
Brittany Blackham and Mrs. Sharon Squillario have been working diligently on a tree revitalization grant project for the Crichton McCormick Park. Additional information will be provided for at the June Meeting.

Buildings

- A. 933 Sonman Avenue Property (Greenawalt)
Mr. Koban informed Council that he received a letter from Mr. Greenawalt requesting a notarized statement giving permission for him to sale his property, only to someone we know so the house can be fixed up. Mr. Koban in turn contacted Mr. Emerick to have Mr. Greenawalt contact Mr. Roman Tiracave to discuss the property.
- 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)-Mr. Emerick provided Council with documentation he obtained from the Cambria County Recorder of Deeds Office and the Register of Wills. In summary:
- Mr. Roy Plummer, deceased in 2016. There was no estate opened.
 - In the answer to the complaint, the Plummers are willing to offer the deed and land to Portage Borough at no cost.
 - There are seven (7) judgements docketed in the Cambria County Prothonotary Office. The judgements total \$20,377.79.
 - There are delinquent taxes in the amount of \$2,300.11. The property has been in the delinquent tax upset sale and is now waiting for a bidder, private, or judicial sale.
- 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.

MOTIONS:

A. Approval of a resolution to apply for grant funding for the Trout Run Rehab project and commitment of funds.

ON MOTION OF MR. WOZNIAK, SECONDED BY MR. YETSKO, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED RESOLUTION 7-2019 BY MAKING APPLICATION THROUGH CFA FOR GRANT FUNDING ON THE TROUT RUN REHAB PROJECT AT A GRANT AMOUNT OF \$499,800.00 AND A BOROUGH COMMITMENT OF FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$93,625.00. VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. YETSKO, MR. WOZNIAK, MR. HAYES, MR. KISSELL, AND MS. MCCARTHY, MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

B. Approval to purchase guardrail for Johnson Avenue creek wall.

A lengthy discussion took place on the options available to repair the wall and place guardrail prior to the wall from PennLine in the amount of \$9,615.00.

ON MOTION OF MR. KISSELL, SECONDED BY MR. WOZNIAK, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY TABLED THE GUARDRAIL OPTION FOR THE JOHNSON AVENUE CREEK WALL PROJECT. VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. YETSKO, MR. WOZNIAK, MR. HAYES, MR. KISSELL, AND MS. MCCARTHY, MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS**A.** Approval of a Drainage Maintenance agreement between Portage Borough and PennDot.

Mr. Bruce Schweitzer submitted a PennDot Drainage Maintenance Agreement for Council to approve.

ON MOTION OF MR. KISSELL, SECONDED BY MR. WOZNIAK, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED RESOLUTION 8-2019 BY ENTERING INTO A DRAINAGE FACILITIES MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT WITH PENNDOT FOR THE MAIN STREET (164) PROJECT. VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. YETSKO, MR. WOZNIAK, MR. HAYES, MR. KISSELL, AND MS. MCCARTHY, MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

B. Approval of a Sidewalk Maintenance agreement between Portage Borough and PennDot.

Mr. Bruce Schweitzer submitted a PennDot Sidewalk Maintenance Agreement for Council to approve.

ON MOTION OF MR. KISSELL, SECONDED BY MR. WOZNIAK, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED RESOLUTION 9-2019 BY ENTERING INTO A SIDEWALK MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT WITH PENNDOT FOR THE MAIN STREET (164) PROJECT. VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. YETSKO, MR. WOZNIAK, MR. HAYES, MR. KISSELL, AND MS. MCCARTHY, MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

C. Approval of a resolution to the PA State Legislatures to amend the PA Right to Know Law

Mr. Koban received an e-mail requesting the Borough support to send a resolution to the PA State Legislators to amend the PA Right to Know Law and to provide relief from vexation requestors. Mr. Koban explained that we receive multiple requests from survey companies, data companies, and citizen requests that are time consuming and seem to be harassing.

ON MOTION OF MR. WOZNIAK, SECONDED BY MR. YETSKO, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED RESOLUTION 10-2019 BY ENCOURAGING THE PA STATE LEGISLATURES TO ENACT AN AMENDMENT TO THE RIGHT TO KNOW LAW FROM VEXATIOUS REQUESTERS. VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. YETSKO, MR. WOZNIAK, MR. HAYES, MR. KISSELL, 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 \$14,235.91. VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. YETSKO, MR. WOZNIAK, MR. HAYES, MR. KISSELL, AND MS. MCCARTHY, MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

GOOD OF THE BOROUGH

Deepest sympathy was extended to Mr. George Wozniak.

Ms. McCarthy commended PAHS Lauren Shaffer on her track accomplishments.

Ms. McCarthy questioned the status of a part time police officer. Chief Miller advised that the individual has not returned all his paperwork.

Mr. Kissell expressed his concerns on the lack of flags on Main Street and stated there were only six (6) for Memorial Day.

There being no further business;

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

The meeting concluded at 8:35 P.M.