

A committee of the whole meeting of Portage Borough Council was held on Monday, August 17th, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

Those in attendance were:

George Wozniak	Todd Learn	Bruna Kissell	James Kissell
David Hayes	Ron Cadwallader	Bent Kinley	

Also present were: Robert Koban, Borough Manager; Scott Maul, Public Works; and Michelle Claar, Borough Secretary.

### **REFLECTION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mr. Wozniak proceeded with the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **RECOGNITION OF GUESTS**

Mr. Wozniak recognized the guests which included: Jean Kinley, Ron Portash; Portage Dispatch, Jean Kinley, Mr. Donald Squillario and Mr. Joseph Beyer; Representing the Portage Area Sewer Authority; and Mr. James Laird; Laird Recreation Company.

ON MOTION OF MR. KINLEY, SECONDED BY MR. CADWALLADER, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED TO GO OUT OF ORDER ON THE AGENDA TO RECOGNIZE THE PUBLIC. COUNCIL MEMBERS VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. CADWALLADER, MR. HAYES, MR. KINLEY, MR. LEARN, MS. KISSELL, MR. KISSELL, AND MR. WOZNIAK. MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

Mr. Squillario and Mr. Beyers, from the Portage Area Sewer Authority attended the meeting at the request of Council from the August 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting. Council had several questions regarding the PennVest loan guarantee and scope of the sanitary and storm sewer separation project. The PASA is in the process of applying for DCED grant funding but with other projects being highly competitive, the PASA will be seeking funding from PennVest. Mr. Squillario and Mr. Beyers provided the following information:

- ✓ Plan-to reduce the volume of inflow and infiltration entering the system
- ✓ Detailed locations being in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward and area within Portage Township
- ✓ Replacement of service laterals (from sewer main to property line)
- ✓ Approximate cost of project estimated at \$5,500,000.00
- ✓ Project estimated to commence in 2022

Council had several questions after the detailed project items were addressed:

- ❖ Contractor performance and cooperation
- ❖ Construction with road closures over several blocks of the project
- ❖ Resident complaints with contractor and work progress
- ❖ Landscaping on residential properties within the right of ways
- ❖ Notification to residents of where construction will take place that day/week
- ❖ Contractor cooperation with scheduling and accountability
- ❖ Cost to residents

Mr. Squillario advised that he will research some of the contractor issues and keep constant communication between all parties. Mr. Squillario also commented that when the preliminary drawings and project are approved, the PASA will hold a public meeting. Council thanked Mr. Squillario and Mr. Beyer for attending the meeting and providing the detailed information on the project

Mr. Jim Laird, representing Laird Recreation and Land Planning was in attendance to provide an update on the Main Line Canal Greenway Trail Feasibility Study from the section of Ehrenfeld to Portage. The Main Line Greenway is 1/3 completed with additional sections being studied when funding is available. Mr. Laird has worked on the study for over two years but was never developed due to issues with trails placement and land usage. The planned trail will would connect the current path of the Flood trail in Ehrenfeld to Portage and continue to the Allegheny Portage Railroad National Historical Site in Gallitzin. There is one major issue: confirmation of an unopened alley in Summerhill Borough as a right-of-way that can be developed for trail use. Mr. Laird explained that thus far, he has not been able to contact the borough solicitor to confirm the alley. Mr. Laird provided several possible locations that have been proposed for the Portage Trailhead; the Portage Football Stadium, Crichton McCormick Park, and 53 near the rail bed and emphasis on the Station Museum on Lee Street. Mr. Laird also commented that once he is in contact with the Summerhill Solicitor, the feasibility study will be presented to the involved municipalities. Mr. Laird suggested that Council be pro-active on the section that pertains to the Borough and seek funding for the study. After the lengthy discussion; Council thanked Mr. Laird for attending the meeting and providing an update up to this point.

Mr. Wozniak called for the opening of bids for the 2020 Street Resurfacing Program. Mr. Koban opened and read aloud the bids as follows:

New Enterprise Stone & Lime	\$ 81,928.60
Grannas Brothers	\$ 72,965.20
HRI, Inc.	\$107,446.65
Quaker Sales	\$ 85,010.10

Mr. Koban handed the bids to Mr. Maul for bid compliance and accuracy.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Mr. Wozniak questioned Mr. Koban if he had any updates on the agenda items.

- Item A: Update on Recreational Peer Group Committee-Mr. Koban advised that a peer study meeting will be held on August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020.

Item B: Update on Borough Building Roof – There was no update.

Item C: Update on Trout Run Rehabilitation – There was no update.

Item D – Update on PennDot Project on SR 164 –There was no update.

Item E – Update on Phase II for Main Street Multimodal Grant – There was no update

Item F – Update on Phase 3A for Main Street Improvements/Sidewalks Right Side Caldwell and Mountain – No update

Item G – Update on Phase 3B for Main Street Improvements/Sidewalks for the left side of Caldwell and Mountain –There was no update.

Item H – Update on Sonman Avenue Bridge 12 Year Plan – There was no update.

Item I – Update on Small Community Grant Funding through DCNR for Park Improvements-No update

Item J – Update on Mainline Trail Feasibility Study Phase I- discussed earlier in the meeting.

Item K – Update on Norfolk Southern representative for emergency access-No update

Item L- Discussion on 1007 Conemaugh Avenue request to purchase property-No update

Item M- Discussion on Portage Sewer Authority project and loan guarantee-discussed earlier in the meeting.

**Buildings:**

Item A – Mark Greenwalt/Rebecca Windsor, 922 Sonman Avenue (penalty dated 4/8/19): no update.

Item B – update on 616 Dulancey Drive property (Clair Adams): judicial sale in 2020.

Item C – Update on junk vehicles: No update.

Item D – Update on 828 North Railroad-Ligonier Construction demolition completed. Awaiting final inspection and costs.

Item E – Update on Roy and Patricia Plummer at 720 Orchard Street – remain on agenda until costs for engineering and legal fees are calculated.

Item F – Update on Jason and Sarah Barclay at 406 Caldwell Ave-Judicial Sale 8/18/2020

Item G – Update on Drayton Lewis for 925 Main Street (penalty hearing 7/22/19) - no update.

Item H – Update on 901 Main Street (Fox) The issue was to be removed from agenda last month.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

A. Review, approve and award the 2020 Street Resurfacing program

Mr. Maul had reviewed the bids for accuracy and proper documentation, including bonds and stated that all were in compliance.

ON MOTION OF MR. KISSELL, SECONDED BY MR. HAYES, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY AWARDED THE 2020 STREET RESURFACING PROGRAM TO GRANNAS BROTHERS, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$72,955.20. COUNCIL MEMBERS VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. CADWALLADER, MR. HAYES, MR. KINLEY, MR. LEARN, MS. KISSELL, MR. KISSELL, AND MR. WOZNIAK. MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

B. Review and approve a CFA Grant Application for Main Street Improvements Phase 3B

Mr. Koban informed Council that the grant funding opportunities through the CFA MTF Fund is open and Stiffler, McGraw has prepared the application and commitment of funds.

ON MOTION OF MR. CADWALLADER, SECONDED BY MR. HAYES, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE COMMITMENT OF FUNDS AND RESOLUTION 21-2020 BY MAKING APPLICATION FOR THE CFA MULTIMODAL TRANSPORTATION GRANT FOR MAIN STREET IMPROVEMENTS FOR PHASE 3B, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$127,785.50. COUNCIL MEMBERS VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. CADWALLADER, MR. HAYES, MR. KINLEY, MR. LEARN, MS. KISSELL, MR. KISSELL, AND MR. WOZNIAK. MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

- C. Approval to advertise for bids for Crichton McCormick Park prepared by Stiffler, McGraw  
Mr. Koban advised that the PA DCNR specs, permits, compliances, and grant paperwork have been submitted to DCNR and were accepted to go out for bids.

ON MOTION OF MR. CADWALLADER, SECONDED BY MR. LEARN, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE ADVERTISING OF BIDS FOR THE PA DPCR CRICHTON MCCORMICK PARK IMPROVEMENT PROJECT. COUNCIL MEMBERS VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. CADWALLADER, MR. HAYES, MR. KINLEY, MR. LEARN, MS. KISSELL, MR. KISSELL, AND MR. WOZNIAK. MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

### **APPROVAL OF BILLS**

Ms. Claar provided an itemized list of bills and additional bills for Council to review and approve.

FOLLOWING A ROLL CALL VOTE, ON MOTION OF MR. HAYES, SECONDED BY MS. KISSELL, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE BILLS AS PRESENTED IN WRITTEN FORM, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$33,950.71. COUNCIL MEMBERS VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. CADWALLADER, MR. HAYES, MR. KINLEY, MR. LEARN, MS. KISSELL, MR. KISSELL, AND MR. WOZNIAK. MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

### **GOOD OF THE BOROUGH**

Residential complaint regarding the storage box at Rex Alley.

Mr. Kinley questioned if the letter received from the Portage Water Authority was going to be discussed. Mr. Wozniak advised that the issue is solely the Water Authority, not the Borough.

There being no further business,

ON MOTION OF MR. LEARN, SECONDED BY MR. CADWALLADER, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY ADJOURNED THE MEETING. COUNCIL MEMBERS VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. CADWALLADER, MR. HAYES, MR. KINLEY, MR. LEARN, MS. KISSELL, AND MR. WOZNIAK. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

The meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m.