

A meeting of Portage Borough Council was held on Monday, August 3rd, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

Those in attendance were:

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

Also present were: Robert Koban, Borough Manager; Michael Emerick, Solicitor; Scott Maul, Public Works; Chief Ed Miller, Public Safety; and Michelle Claar, Borough Secretary. Absent were James Kissell and Scott Maul; Public Works Director.

REFLECTION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Wozniak offered a reflection and then proceeded with the Pledge of Allegiance.

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS

Mr. Wozniak recognized the guests which included: Jean Kinley, Ron Portash; Portage Dispatch, and Randy Griffith; Tribune Democrat.

ON MOTION OF MR. KINLEY, SECONDED BY MR. CADWALLADER, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED TO GO OUT OF ORDER ON THE AGENDA TO RECOGNIZE ANY PUBLIC INPUT. COUNCIL MEMBERS VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. CADWALLADER, MR. HAYES, MR. KINLEY, MR. LEARN, MS. KISSELL, AND MR. WOZNIAK. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

Ms. Kinley commented on the mask policies and had nothing additional.

REPORTS

A. Borough Manager's Report

Mr. Koban provided a copy of his report to Council prior to the meeting. Mr. Koban advised that most of the issues and updates are listed on the agenda.

- Mr. Koban informed Council that the ad for a Police Chief was advertised in the Tribune, Altoona Mirror, Monster.Com, Indeed.com and the 5 papers for the Mainliner.
- Mr. Koban informed Council that the latest Main Street Grant funding for Phase 3A was not successful. Mr. Koban and Mr. Wisor advised that the next round of grant funding from the CFA MTF for Phase 3B will be open and will be applying for it.
- The DCNR Small Community Park Grant is moving forward with Mr. Chris Foster of Stiffler and McGraw spearheading the project. A timeline was presented for Council to review.
- Mr. Cadwallader questioned the Phase 2 project with PennDot concerning the aprons on the sidewalks for the fire department. Mr. Koban advised that PennDot will be submitting drawings for Council to review when the project is closer to determine how much of the sidewalks they will be covering with funds.

B. Solicitor's Report

Attorney Emerick reported that he provided a copy of his report prior to the meeting. Mr. Emerick provided updates on the following:

- American Roofing-There was no update.
- Mr. Emerick questioned if there was any update on the Plummer property at 730 Orchard Street. The property has been demolished and the foundation filled in. The issue was not removed from the agenda until all the costs for engineer and legal fees are reviewed.
- Regarding the Nicholson issue-there is one vehicle remaining and a title is required before they can remove it.

- Kowalczyk litigation-Mr. Emerick advised that there was no update.
- Mr. Emerick advised that another Right to Know Request was received from Raymond Kowalczyk seeking a list of complaints. Chief Miller and Mr. Koban will assist with the compiling the information, if any.

C. Engineer's Report

Mr. Wisor provided a report prior to the meeting. Mr. Wisor had nothing additional to report.

D. Police Chief's Report

Chief Miller reported that he provided a copy of his report prior to the meeting. Chief Miller had nothing additional to report.

E. Director of Public Works Report

Mr. Maul was absent but had provided his report to Council prior to the meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

A thank you card was received from Lee Street residents thanking the Borough for all their efforts in the demolition of the former Starlight Hotel.

The Portage Area Food Pantry sent a letter of thanks for the 2020 donation provided for in the 2020 approved budget.

CITIZEN'S INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS

None

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

The minutes of the July 20th regular meeting was distributed to Council prior to the meeting.

ON MOTION OF MR. CADWALLADER, SECONDED BY MR. KINLEY, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE MINUTES FROM THE JULY 20TH, 2020 REGULAR MEETING. COUNCIL MEMBERS VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. CADWALLADER, MR. HAYES, MR. KINLEY, MR. LEARN, MS. KISSELL, AND MR. WOZNIAK. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Wozniak noted that copies of the Treasurer's report were distributed for review by Council members prior to the meeting.

ON MOTION OF MR. KINLEY, SECONDED BY MR. CADWALLADER, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE TREASURER'S REPORT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$43,302.02. COUNCIL MEMBERS VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. CADWALLADER, MR. HAYES, MR. KINLEY, MR. LEARN, MS. KISSELL, AND MR. WOZNIAK. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

REPORTS RECEIVED

Mr. Wozniak noted minutes from the Portage Water Authority and Portage Sewer Authority, LMIA, and the PAJRC from May through July, 2020.

ON MOTION OF MR. HAYES, SECONDED BY MR. CADWALLADER, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY ACCEPTED THE REPORTS RECEIVED FROM THE PORTAGE WATER AUTHORITY AND SEWER AUTHORITY FOR JUNE, 2020, LMIA FOR JULY, PORTAGE AREA JOINT RECREATION FROM MAY-JULY,

2020. COUNCIL MEMBERS VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. CADWALLADER, MR. HAYES, MR. KINLEY, MR. LEARN, MS. KISSELL, AND MR. WOZNIAK. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

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 MR. CADWALLADER, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE BILLS AND ADDITIONAL BILLS TO BE PAID, AS PRESENTED IN WRITTEN FORM, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$22,528.30. COUNCIL MEMBERS VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. CADWALLADER, MR. HAYES, MR. KINLEY, MR. LEARN, MS. KISSELL, AND MR. WOZNIAK. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

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 31st, 2020.

Item B: Update on Borough Building Roof – discussed earlier in the meeting.

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

Item D – Update on PennDot Project on SR 164 –The issue was discussed earlier in the meeting.

Item E – Update on Phase II for Main Street Multimodal Grant – 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 – discussed earlier in the meeting.

Item J – Update on Mainline Trail Feasibility Study Phase I- Mr. Koban advised that he will try to contact Mr. Laird.

Item K – Update on Norfolk Southern representative for emergency access- There was no update.

Item L- Discussion on 1007 Conemaugh Avenue request to purchase property.

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: Discussed earlier in the meeting.

Item D – Update on Roy and Patricia Plummer at 720 Orchard Street –discussed earlier in the meeting.

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

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

Item J – Update on 828 North Railroad Demolition-Discussed earlier in the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Request from the Portage Area Food Pantry to install a handicap sign at 813 Jefferson Avenue and to approve the advertising of an amendment to the handicap parking ordinance.

Ms. Claar informed Council that Mr. Kissell requested the sign but did not have an official letter prior to the meeting. Mr. Kissell was also requesting to waive any fees. After a short discussion;

ON MOTION OF MR. CADWALLADER, SECONDED BY MR. LEARN, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED TO EXONERATE ANY FEES TO THE PORTAGE AREA FOOD PANTRY FOR THE HANDICAP SIGN AND TO ADVERTISE AN AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIAL PARKING HANDICAP ORDINANCE WHEN THE OFFICIAL LETTER IS RECEIVED. COUNCIL MEMBERS VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. CADWALLADER, MR. HAYES, MR. KINLEY, MR. LEARN, MS. KISSELL, AND MR. WOZNIAK. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEM:

A. Request from the Portage Area Sewer Authority to apply for funding through PennVest for a sanitary and sewer project.

Mr. Donald Squillario with the Portage Area Sewer Authority sent notice of a preliminary sanitary sewer project they will be planning for the Borough (1st and 3rd Wards) and the Township. The project will be proposed between 2022 and 2024 based on any type of grant funding. The Authority will be submitting a grant application to DCED but due to the highly competitive projects, they are hesitant with having any success and will apply for funding through PennVest. The projected preliminary cost of the project is \$5,500,000.00. The request being sought is for the Borough and the Township to be willing to guarantee the loan request for PennVest. Mr. Learn and several members of Council had several questions that Mr. Koban could not provide answers. After a lengthy discussion, Mr. Koban suggested contacting the Portage Area Sewer Authority to attend the August 17th committee meeting to discuss the project.

GOOD OF THE BOROUGH

Mr. Hayes commented on a speed limit sign at Cunard Street.

Mr. Cadwallader informed Council that the Portage Water Authority will be temporary blocking off Caldwell Avenue tomorrow for the complete the water replacement project.

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 7:02 p.m.