

A committee of the whole meeting of Portage Borough Council was held on Monday, April 19th, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

Those in attendance were:

Todd Learn	Kami Rocker-Lidwell
David Hayes	Bent Kinley Ron Cadwallader

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

REFLECTION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Kinley commenced with a reflection and then Mr. Learn proceeded with the Pledge of Allegiance.

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS

Mr. Ron Portash; Dispatch

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

Mr. Koban informed Council that the Borough was successful on the grant submission for the Main Street Phase 3B project through the PennDot MTF. The grant award was \$327,654.00 with a borough thirty percent match of \$98,296.50. Mr. Koban will speak with PennDot to determine if the sidewalks could be extended with this grant funding.

Item A: Update on Recreational Peer Group Committee-Meeting to be held on April 26th, 2021

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

Item C: Update on Trout Run Rehabilitation – Mr. Koban informed Council that Brian Shura would like to file for a grant extension for the flood control walls. Engineering will need to be performed prior to any bid notices being published.

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 – To be incorporated with Phase II for funding and construction phase.

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 DCNR Park Improvements Deeds-No update.

Item J – Update on proposed sidewalk ordinance- Council was presented with prior draft ordinances but commented that Brian Shura would need to discuss it further with Council.

Item K – Update on Swift Reach Network with the Portage Municipal Authority.

Item L – Update on sump pump and drainage issues/Brian Shura

Item M- Update on Kowalczyk fence No update

Item N - Update on Christmas Decorations-No update

Item P – Update on proposed fence ordinance-Mr. Koban had presented Council with a proposed fence ordinance he received from LMIA. Mr. Koban advised that several incidents have occurred with property owners for placement of the fences. A discussion took place and Council would like to establish the location, size, corner lots with a line-of-sight issues, privacy, facing of the fence toward neighbor, grandfathering, etc. Mr. Koban will contact Mr. Emerick for the suggested wording for the proposed ordinance for the May meeting.

Item Q – Update on pickle ball court versus tennis court-A discussion took place on altering the previous plans for the tennis court paving and painting by making a dual tennis and pickle ball court. The bottom courts will remain tennis courts. The previous plans were to have one court be a tennis court and the other as a roller hockey area. After a discussion;

ON MOTION OF MR. KINLEY, SECONDED BY MR. CADWALLADER, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED TO ALTER THE PREVIOUS PLANS OF THE TENNIS COURTS PROJECT AT CRICHTON MCCORMICK PARK TO BE ½ OF A PICKLE BALL COURT AND THE OTHER A HOCKEY AREA. COUNCIL MEMBERS VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. HAYES, MR. KINLEY, MR. LEARN, MR. CADWALLADER, AND MRS. ROCKER-LIDWELL. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

Item R – Letters of interest was advertised for the vacant seat on the Portage Sewer Authority board in the Dispatch.

BUILDINGS:

Item A – Update on Mark Greenwalt- 922 Sonman Avenue- Vacate notice posted 10/16/2020

Item B – Update on 616 Dulancey Drive property (Clair Adams): Placed on judicial sale in 2021.

Item C – Update on Roy and Patricia Plummer at 720 Orchard Street – payment received.

Item D – Update on Jason and Sarah Barclay at 406 Caldwell Ave-There was no update.

Item E – Update on Steve Panick - 925 Main Street – In the process of demolition

Item F – Update on 909 Jefferson Avenue - Patrick Nicholson.

Item G – Update on Thomas garage at 400 Caldwell Avenue-Mr. Koban had presented Council with pictures of the structure. Mr. Koban commented that if Council wanted to proceed with any resolution on it being a dangerous structure, an engineering study would need to be performed for structural integrity in accordance with the dangerous structure ordinance. After a discussion;

ON MOTION OF MRS. ROCKER-LIDWELL, SECONDED BY MR. KINLEY, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED TO HAVE STIFFLER, MCGRAW PERFORM AN ENGINEERING STUDY FOR A DANGEROUS STRUCTURE AT 400 CALDWELL AVENUE. COUNCIL MEMBERS VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. HAYES, MR. KINLEY, MR. LEARN, MR. CADWALLADER, AND MRS. ROCKER-LIDWELL. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Request for a handicap parking space at 827 Orchard Street and motion to advertise. A resident submitted a request for a handicap parking space at 827 Orchard Street on the East Side.

ON MOTION OF MR. CADWALLADER, SECONDED BY MR. KINLEY, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE HANDICAP PARKING SPACE AND ADVERTISEMENT OF 827 ORCHARD STREET, PENDING THE INSPECTION OF PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR; MR. MAUL. COUNCIL MEMBERS VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. HAYES, MR. KINLEY, MR. LEARN, MR. CADWALLADER, AND MRS. ROCKER-LIDWELL. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

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. CADWALLADER, SECONDED BY MR. CADWALLADER, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE BILLS AS PRESENTED IN WRITTEN FORM, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$9,513.90. COUNCIL MEMBERS VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. HAYES, MR. KINLEY, MR. LEARN, MR. CADWALLADER, AND MRS. ROCKER-LIDWELL. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

GOOD OF THE BOROUGH

Spring Clean-up to be held on April 27th and 28th, 2021

Mr. Kinley prepared a statement that he read to Council listing out several issues that has occurred with Mr. Hayes over the last few years, in both Council meetings and the public. In summary, he stated that these issues are not professional and create a negative image for Council. Mr. Kinley asked for Mr. Hayes to not run in the next municipal election. Mr. Hayes, denied the request.

Mrs. Rocker-Lidwell questioned who is responsible for tree removal at the Park to which Mr. Koban informed the PAJRC maintenance dept. There is a tree behind the concession stand. Also, she questioned the same with the sidewalks by the tee ball field.

There being no further business,

ON MOTION OF MR. CADWALLADER, SECONDED BY MR. HAYES, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY ADJOURNED THE MEETING. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.