

A committee of the whole meeting of Portage Borough Council was held on Monday, January 18th, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. via teleconferencing.

Those in attendance were:

George Wozniak	Todd Learn	Bruna Kissell
David Hayes	Bent Kinley (arrived late)	Ron Cadwallader

Also present were: Robert Koban, Borough Manager; and Michelle Claar, Borough Secretary.

REFLECTION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS

Mr. Wozniak recognized the guests which included: Ron Portash; Portage Dispatch, Mrs. Kami Rocker-Lidwell, and District Magistrate; Mr. John Prebish. Mr. Wozniak called for any visitors that might have been on the teleconference call, there were none.

Mr. Koban commenced with the explanation from the previous meeting of January 4th, 2021, regarding the appointment of Mrs. Kami Rocker-Lidwell. Council had adjourned the meeting prior to the appointment and then re-adjourned without notifying the public that may have teleconferenced in. Council President Wozniak requested the appointment be officially re-done with the public present or via teleconference.

ON MOTION OF MR. HAYES, SECONDED BY MS. KISSELL, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY APPOINTED MRS. KAMI ROCKER-LIDWELL AS THE MAYOR OF PORTAGE BOROUGH THROUGH DECEMBER 31ST, 2021. COUNCIL MEMBERS VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. HAYES, MR. LEARN, MS. KISSELL, AND MR. WOZNIAK. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

District Magistrate; Mr. John Prebish attended the meeting to administer the oath of office to Mrs. Rocker-Lidwell. Council welcomed Mrs. Rocker-Lidwell and took her seat for the remainder of the meeting.

Mr. Wozniak commenced with the items on agenda. Mr. Koban provided updates on the following items:

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 Monday, January 25th, 2021.

Item B: Update on Borough Building Roof – Legal and engineering costs were submitted to Mike for his review.

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
Mr. Emerick is in the process of working with DCNR on the deed language.

Item J – Update on Mainline Trail Feasibility Study Phase I-Mr. Hayes questioned the status of the study and the \$5,000 donation request from Allegheny Ridge. Mr. Koban commented that the prior feasibility study has not been released yet to Council and suggested waiting on the decision for another \$5,000.00 donation request from Allegheny Ridge. Council suggested contacting Ms. Jane Sheffield to invite her to a committee meeting in February to bring everyone up to date on the status of the project. Ms. Claar will reach out to Ms. Sheffield for setting up a meeting on February 15th, 2021. Mr. Koban also suggested inviting the Portage Township Supervisors and the Portage Area Planning Commission.

Item K – Update on Nicholson court order to pay monthly fines-There was no update.

Item L- Update on proposed sidewalk ordinance-There was no update.

Item M – Update on Swift Reach Networks-Mr. Cadwallader provided information to Mr. Koban for his review.

Mr. Wozniak questioned the status of the Kowalczyk fence issue. The issue was not listed on the agenda. There was no update but Mr. Wozniak suggested adding it to the next agenda.

Buildings:

Item A – Mark Greenwalt/Rebecca Windsor, 922 Sonman Avenue (penalty dated 4/8/19): There was no update. Mr. Koban only commented that the prospective buyer has not contacted him yet and neither has Mr. Greenawalt or Mr. Lombardo.

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

Item C – Update on junk vehicles: No update.

Item D – Update on Roy and Patricia Plummer at 720 Orchard Street – to remain on agenda until payment plan is agreed upon.

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

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

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Discussion on sump pumps and drainage issue within the Borough
Mr. Koban requested the issue be placed on the agenda for discussion. The issue has been brought up several times with home owners utilizing sump pumps that are flowing into neighboring properties and onto borough streets and roadways. Several Council members commented that it is becoming an issue with storm water drainage from the pumps with no resolution to area residents. Prior to the new sewer system, the water flowed into the lines that caused infiltration problems and residents having difficulty with basements flooding, etc. Council had a lengthy discussion on how to come to a resolution with suggestions as utilizing the old sewer lines and becoming storm water outlets. Mr. Koban and Council suggested

researching other municipalities for ordinances relating to sump pumps and storm water drainage and seek the advice of the Borough Engineer. Some municipal ordinances can also be found on-line.

B. Update on Portage Area Planning Commission appointment

Ms. Claar informed Council that Mr. Larry Duray has declined the position for the appointment to the Portage Area Planning Commission.

C. No letters of interest received for the advertisement on the Planning Commission

Ms. Claar advised that no letters of interest were received. Mr. Koban suggested having the Planning Commission seek for another member and/or canvas the borough for interested residents. Mr. Wozniak suggested contacting Mr. Mark Slebodnick to see if he would be interested on serving on the Planning Commission. Ms. Claar will reach out to Mr. Slebodnick.

D. Designation of authorized signers for all financial checking accounts and other

documentation. Ms. Claar advised that she will need an additional signer on the accounts. Currently, Ms. Claar and Mr. Cadwallader are on the signature cards, at First Summit Bank. A short discussion took place and;

ON MOTION OF MR. HAYES, SECONDED BY MR. LEARN; COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY AUTHORIZED MS. BRUNA KISSELL, MS. CLaar, AND MR. CADWALLADER AS SIGNATORIES ON ALL CHECKING, SAVINGS, AND OTHER FINANCIAL DOCUMENTATION AT FIRST SUMMIT BANK. COUNCIL MEMBERS VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. HAYES, MR. LEARN, MS. KISSELL, MR. KINLEY, MRS. ROCKER-LIDWELL, 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 MR. CADWALLADER, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE BILLS AS PRESENTED IN WRITTEN FORM, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,744.24. COUNCIL MEMBERS VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. HAYES, MR. KINLEY, MR. LEARN, MS. KISSELL, MR. CADWALLADER, MRS. ROCKER-LIDWELL, AND MR. WOZNIAK. MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

GOOD OF THE BOROUGH

A. Mr. Koban informed Council that he received traffic control plans for the Main Street project for Council to review.

B. Mr. Koban informed Council that he has not received any e-mails or phone calls back from David Layo regarding the real estate taxes. Numerous attempts by Ms. Claar via e-mail, have not been returned for specific questions, etc. Mr. Koban also informed Council that Mr. Layo sent an e-mail on January 14th, 2021 asking for a signature to certify the 2020 uncollectable real estate taxes. Ms. Claar informed Mr. Koban that there was no report to verify for the certification and that the report was due to the County on January 15th, 2021. She also commented that there has been nothing received for December for any tax payments or reports. There were no e-mails or even return calls from Mr. Layo for that information. Mr. Koban advised Council that he left a voice mail message for Mr. Layo to determine if he would either meet with him or come to a council meeting to discuss the issues, with no response back. Several members of Council explained that they had several issues and concerns with Mr. Layo Ms. Claar questioned the paychecks currently being held, per Council, so that year end reports and W-2 forms could be processed and completed. Mr. Koban commented that a resolution was passed in June for the

processing requirements and reports that could be subject to a fine. After another lengthy discussion, Council agreed to have Mr. Koban contact Mr. Emerick to review the resolution to determine the next course of action and will advise Ms. Claar when the paychecks can be released and if any penalties would be incurred.

There being no further business,

ON MOTION OF MR. CADWALLADER, SECONDED BY MR. LEARN, COUNCIL
UNANIMOUSLY ADJOURNED THE MEETING. MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

The meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.