

A meeting of Portage Borough Council was held on Monday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. at the Administration Office.

Those in attendance were:

George Wozniak	David Hayes	Ron Cadwallader
Kami Rocker-Lidwell	Brent Kinley	Todd Learn

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

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

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

### **RECOGNITION OF GUESTS**

Mr. Wozniak recognized the guests that were in attendance; Ron Portash; Portage Dispatch, Mrs. Irene Huschak, representing the Portage Historical Society and Mainline Trail, Jean Kinley, and Bonnie Fox with the Winterfest Committee.

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

Mrs. Fox provided Council with an update on the upcoming plans for Winterfest 2021. The event will be held on December 10<sup>th</sup> thru the 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021. She provided the following details:

- Rotary will not be sponsoring any Christmas Parade this year
- Sleigh Rides will be held on Saturday from 5-8:00 p.m.
- Christmas Concert by the Portage High School Band
- Soup Sales
- Road Closure requests for specific events and times
- Donation request
- A WinterFest Schedule of events will be forthcoming

Council thanked Mrs. Fox for the update and all their efforts put forth for the event.

Mrs. Huschak updated Council on several issues regarding the Mainline Trail (from Wilmore to Portage) is progressing rapidly. The September 11<sup>th</sup> National Memorial Trail is also assisting the Mainline Trail Committee with various documents, permits, and donations to complete other areas on the trail and additional grant funding. Discussions with Norfolk Southern Railroad are going well also to acquiring a portion of the original Railroad Mainline trail bed. Mrs. Huschak also submitted a request to the Borough for ARPA funds for financial support and needed repairs to the Station Museum. Mr. Stager is working on the 501C-3 paperwork for the organization.

### **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 informed Council that the Peer Study Group progress. The proposed Intergovernmental Agreement for the Portage Area Regional Parks and Recreation Commission was properly advertised for adoption at the November 1<sup>st</sup> regular meeting. Mr. Koban advised that Ms. Ashely and the DCNR rep had

assisted us in the DCNR Grant Portal for uploading various documents and reports for grant compliance. The next meeting will be held on October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

Item B: Update on Borough Building Roof – No update.

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

Item D – Update on PennDot Project on SR 164 – No update.

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

Item F – Update on Phase 3A (CFA) for Main Street Improvements-No update.

Item G – Update on Phase 3B (MTF) for Main Street Improvements- No update.

Item H – Update on Phase 4 (CFA) for Sidewalk Project grant funding-There was no update.

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

Item J – Update on DCNR Crichton McCormick Park Improvements-There was no update.

Item K – Update on Mainline Trail Feasibility Study Phase 2-Mrs. Huschak addressed.

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

Item M-Update on sump pumps and drainage-There was no update.

Item N - Update on the Portage Sewer Authority resolution for testing-No update.

Item O. Update on Kowalczyk Litigation-There was no update.

Item P - Update on Christmas decorations and mounting issues-Mr. Hayes questioned the status of the light fixtures. Mr. Koban advised that there will be no Christmas Decorations mounted this year that are on Main Street.

Item Q – Update on utility road permit and inspections application-Mr. Shura provided other municipal applications to be considered.

Item R. Kowalczyk notation of minutes from April, 2021. Ms. Claar advised Mr. Koban that the minutes in August reflected a notation concerning the topics he had addressed at the April meeting.

#### Buildings:

Mr. Wozniak questioned if there were any updates on the buildings:

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

Item B – update on 616 Dulancey Drive property (Clair Adams): Mr. Koban advised Council of the new procedures for Judicial Sales and new documents are required. The Judicial Sale is scheduled for November 19<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. in Courthouse 1 in Ebensburg.

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

Item D – Update on Steve Panick at 925 Main Street– Steve is in the process of demolition.

Item E- Discussion on 400 Caldwell Avenue garage (Thomas) – The Thomas’s are moving forward and almost have it completed. The demolition permit was extended to November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

Item F. Update on 909 Jefferson (Nicholson) There was no update.

**New Business**

1. Review and approve a PennDot MTF Grant Application for Phase 5 Sidewalk Improvements and local commitment due by November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

ON MOTION OF MR. HAYES, SECONDED BY MRS. ROCKER-LIDWELL, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED RESOLUTION 15-2021 BY MAKING A PENNDOT MTF GRANT APPLICATION FOR PHASE 5 OF THE SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS FROM DULANCEY DRIVE TO SR 53 ON BOTH SIDES OF MAIN STREET. MEMBERS VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. CADWALLADER, MS. KISSELL, MR. HAYES, MR. KINLEY, MR. LEARN, MR. WOZNAK, AND MRS. ROCKER-LIDWELL. MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

Stiffler McGraw submitted the resolution and local commitment letter reflecting the total project cost is estimated at \$576,108.00. The borough’s 30% grant match would be \$133,108.00 with a grant funding request of \$443,000.00.

**Approval to pay bills**

Copies of the bills to be paid were distributed prior to the meeting.

ON MOTION OF MS. KISSELL, SECONDED BY MR. CADWALLADER, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE PAYMENT OF BILLS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$13,846.13. COUNCIL MEMBERS VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. CADWALLADER, MR. HAYES, MR. KINLEY, MR. WOZNAK, MS. KISSELL, MR. LEARN, AND MRS. ROCKER-LIDWELL. MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

**GOOD OF THE BOROUGH**

Trick or Treat will be held on Sunday, October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

The Tax Assessment Appeals Hearing for Brickley Construction will be held on Monday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 2:30 p.m.

The 2021 Fall Leaf Schedule was advertised twice in the Dispatch.

There being no further business,

ON MOTION OF MR. LEARN, SECONDED BY MS. KISSELL, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY ADJOURNED THE MEETING. COUNCIL MEMBERS VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. CADWALLADER, MS. KISSELL, MR. HAYES, MR. KINLEY, MR. LEARN, MR. WOZNAK, AND MRS. ROCKER-LIDWELL. MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

The meeting adjourned at 6:56 p.m.