

A meeting of Portage Borough Council was held on Monday, September 20th, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. at the Administration Office.

Those in attendance were:

George Wozniak
Kami Rocker-Lidwell

David Hayes
Brent Kinley

Ron Cadwallader

Also present were: Robert Koban, Borough Manager; and Michelle Claar; Borough Secretary. Absent was Todd Learn and Bruna Kissell.

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.

ON MOTION OF MRS. ROCKER-LIDWELL, 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, AND MRS. ROCKER-LIDWELL. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

Mrs. Huschak informed Council that she is seeking some locations for the miner and cart to be relocated. There is not sufficient space on Lee Street at the Museum. They would like to move the miner and coal cart from the lot beside the fire company to possible Caldwell Avenue where it can be seen and viewed more centrally.

Mrs. Huschak also commented that she is having difficulty contacting an Attorney that will perform title searches for the Mainline Walking Trail. Mr. Cadwallader provided Mrs. Huschak with an Attorney for her to contact.

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 is close to approving the IGA for the Portage Area Joint Parks and Recreation Commission between the Borough, Township, and School Board. The next meeting will be held on Monday, September 27th, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

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

Item C: Update on Trout Run Rehabilitation – Mr. Koban advised that a conference call will be held with the DEP, the Borough, and Stiffler McGraw on Thursday morning for an inspection.

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

Item I – Update on DCNR Crichton McCormick Park Improvements-the project is moving closer to final inspection and closeout.

Item J – Update on Mainline Trail Feasibility Study Phase 2-There was no update.

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

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

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

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

Item O - Update on Christmas decorations and mounting issues-Mr. Koban advised that once the poles are installed, measurements for the brackets will be determined if the Christmas Decorations will fit or not.

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

Mr. Koban advised Council that another grant opportunity will be open for a PennDOT MTF funding through November 5th, 2021. Mr. Koban commented that this funding could be used for another source for Phase 4 (Johnson Avenue to Park) sidewalks or a new Phase 5 project. The issue will be discussed further at the October meeting.

Buildings:

Mr. Learn 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): There was no update.

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) – Mr. Wozniak advised that the garage demolition is moving forward with work being done on the weekends.

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

Mrs. Rocker-Lidwell commented on the conditions of a structure on Caldwell Avenue.

New Business

A. Review of the second amendment contribution agreement with PennDot.

Mr. Koban informed Council that Mr. Emerick had reviewed the 2nd contribution agreement for the Main Street Sidewalk Projects. PennDot is requesting a revised signatory resolution. After a short discussion:

ON MOTION OF MR. CADWALLADER, SECONDED BY MRS. ROCKER-LIDWELL, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED RESOLUTION 12-2021 BY NAMING ROBERT KOBAN AND MICHELLE CLAAR AS OFFICIAL SIGNATORIES ON THE 2ND AMENDMENT TO THE CONTRIBUTION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE BOROUGH AND PENNDOT. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

B. Discussion and approval of engineering services

Mr. Koban suggested contacting Stiffler and McGraw to perform engineering services for recommendations to drainage issues on Orchard Street. Mr. Koban commented that he would like to have another set of ideas/eyes to come to a resolution of the drainage issues. After a discussion;

ON MOTION OF MR. CADWALLADER, SECONDED BY MR. HAYES, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR STIFFLER AND MCGRAW TO PERFORM A STUDY ON THE DRAINAGE ISSUES ON ORCHARD STREET, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$1,500.00. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

GOOD OF THE BOROUGH

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

The Portage Public Library sent a letter requesting additional funds/donations. Also attached was a recap of funding of the library from 2018 through 2020. Funds were received through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) as the local municipal portion. These funds can be used for critical infrastructure, cable communications, water/sewer projects and to assist non-profit organizations with negative economic impact from the pandemic. ARPA had also sent guidelines for the spending of funds. The request will be discussed during the 2022 budget preparation.

There being no further business,

ON MOTION OF MRS. ROCKER-LIDWELL, SECONDED BY MR. HAYES, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY ADJOURNED THE REGULAR MEETING. COUNCIL MEMBERS VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. CADWALLADER, MR. HAYES, MR. KINLEY, MR. WOZNIAK, AND MRS. ROCKER-LIDWELL. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

The meeting adjourned at 7:01 p.m.