

A meeting of Portage Borough Council was held on Monday, January 3rd, 2022 at 6:48 p.m.by teleconference.

Those in attendance were:

Todd Learn	Bruna Kissell	Kami Rocker-Lidwell
David Hayes	Ron Cadwallader	Bent Kinley (Teleconference)

Also present were: Robert Koban, Borough Manager; Brian Shura with Stiffler-McGraw; Patrol Officer John Branick, Michael Emerick, and Michelle Claar, Borough Secretary. Absent was Scott Maul, Public Works Director and Chief of Police; Shaun Gregory.

Mrs. Rocker-Lidwell motioned, seconded by Ms. Kissell to go out of order to recognize the visitors. Those in attendance were Edward Alexander and John Morgan; Portage Water Authority Board, Mr. Doug Wagner, and Mr. George Wozniak.

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 he did not speak with Bruce Schweitzer due to a scheduling conflict. Mr. Koban commented that he does have a punch list of issues that are of main concern to council and the overall project to review with Bruce.

Mr. Hayes questioned a letter of interest that was on Mr. Koban's report from Mr. Dino Scarton for the Portage Municipal Water Authority. Mr. Koban commented that he only wanted Council to be aware that one was received (after the deadline). A discussion took place on whether to hold a meet and greet with Mr. Scarton. After a discussion, Council agreed to hold a meet and greet with Mr. Scarton for the Portage Municipal Water Authority Board for the January 17th committee meeting.

B. Solicitor's Report

Attorney Emerick provided a copy of his report prior to the meeting.

- American Roofing-No update
- As it relates to DCNR Park Project, there was no update.
- Kowalczyk Litigation-Still pending in Commonwealth Court-No update
- Brickley Assessment – There will be a hearing held on January 18th, 2022.

C. Engineer's Report

Mr. Shura provided a report prior to the meeting and elaborated on the following:

Trout Run-Mr. Shura advised Council that they have updated the plan for the permit to be submitted to DEP and falls within the scope of the Army Corps of Engineers. Mr. Shura also advised that he will be seeking a 12-month extension on the grant.

909/911 Jefferson Avenue-Mr. Campbell has tried to arrange a site inspection but has not received a response from Mr. Nicholson.

D. Public Safety

Chief Gregory provided a written report to Council prior to the meeting. Officer Branick had nothing additional to report.

E. Director of Public Works Report

Mr. Maul was absent but provided his report to Council prior to the meeting. There was nothing additional to report.

Correspondence

There was no correspondence

CITIZEN'S INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS

None

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

Mr. Hayes commented on a section of the minutes from December relating to a comment that was made by Mr. Kinley concerning the meet and greet of Mr. Wagner to the Portage Municipal Water Authority Board. A lengthy discussion took place on several issues including personal agendas, EPA/DEP reports on file with the Water Authority Board concerning the water authority property, and appointments to various boards in the past.

ON MOTION OF MRS. ROCKER-LIDWELL, SECONDED BY MS. KISSELL, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE MINUTES FROM THE DECEMBER 6TH, 2021 REGULAR AND THE DECEMBER 17TH, 2021 SPECIAL MEETING. COUNCIL MEMBERS VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. CADWALLADER, MR. HAYES, MRS. ROCKER-LIDWELL, MR. LEARN, AND MS. KISSELL. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

ON MOTION OF MS. KISSELL, SECONDED BY MR. CADWALLADER, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE TREASURER'S REPORT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$33,874.86. COUNCIL MEMBERS VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. CADWALLADER, MR. HAYES, MRS. ROCKER-LIDWELL, MR. LEARN, AND MS. KISSELL. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

REPORTS RECEIVED

Mr. Learn noted minutes from the Portage Sewer and Water Authority, LMIA, and the Portage Area Planning Commission.

ON MOTION OF MR. CADWALLADER, SECONDED BY MRS. ROCKER-LIDWELL, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY ACCEPTED THE REPORT RECEIVED FROM THE PORTAGE WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY FOR DECEMBER, LMIA FOR DECEMBER AND THE PORTAGE AREA PLANNING COMMISSION FROM OCTOBER-NOVEMBER, 2021. COUNCIL MEMBERS VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. CADWALLADER, MR. HAYES, MRS. ROCKER-LIDWELL, MR. LEARN, AND MS. KISSELL. 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. 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 \$12,593.95. COUNCIL MEMBERS VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. CADWALLADER, MR. HAYES, MR. LEARN, MRS. ROCKER LIDWELL, AND MS. KISSELL. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

Mayor; Mrs. Rocker-Lidwell motioned, seconded by Mr. Cadwallader to go out of order on the agenda to address New Business. Motion carried 5-0.

New Business:

1. Nomination and appointment of Ward 2 vacant Council position. Mr. George Wozniak submitted a letter of interest and there were no other letters of interest received.

ON MOTION OF MRS. ROCKER-LIDWELL, SECONDED BY MR. CADWALLADER, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY APPOINTED MR. GEORGE WOZNIAK TO WARD 2 COUNCIL POSITION FOR A 2 YEAR TERM COMMENCING ON JANUARY 3RD, 2022 THROUGH DECEMBER 31ST, 2023. COUNCIL MEMBERS VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. CADWALLADER, MR. HAYES, MR. LEARN, MRS. ROCKER-LIDWELL, AND MS. KISSELL. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

2. Request from WinterFest to close Main Street on Saturday, January 8th, 2022

ON MOTION OF MRS. ROCKER-LIDWELL, SECONDED BY MS. KISSELL, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE CLOSE MAIN STREET ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 8TH, 2022 FROM 1:30 P.M. UNTIL 6:00 P.M. FOR THE SLEIGH RIDES THAT WERE CANCELLED IN DECEMBER. COUNCIL MEMBERS VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. CADWALLADER, MR. HAYES, MR. LEARN, MRS. ROCKER-LIDWELL, AND MS. KISSELL. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

Item A: Update on Recreational Peer grant-waiting on review of the DCNR. All documents uploaded in the grant portal.

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

Item C: Update on Trout Run Rehabilitation – Discussed earlier in the meeting.

Item D – Update on PennDot Project on SR 164 – There was no update.

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 –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- There was no update.

Item K – Update on Sidewalk/Curb Ordinance-There was no update

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

Item M – Update on Kowalczyk Litigation-Discussed under Solicitor report-No update.

Item N – Update on Portage Sewer Authority resolution for testing-There was no update.

Item O – Update on Christmas Decorations – There was no update.

Item P – Update on grant funding for Phase 4 CFA grant (Johnson Avenue) project awarded

Item Q – Update on applications, permitting and inspections for utility lines-There was no update.

Item R – Update on PennDot MTF Grant funding for Phase 5 Sidewalk Improvements-No update.

Item S – Update on drainage issues at 514 Orchard Street – There was no update.

Buildings:

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

Item A – Mark Greenwalt/Rebecca Windsor, 922 Sonman Avenue- There was no update.

Item B – update on 616 Dulancey Drive property (Clair Adam) Property purchased by Borough

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

Item D – Update on 925 Main Street – Demolition still in progress.

Item E – 909/911 Jefferson Avenue – Discussed earlier in the meeting.

GOOD OF THE BOROUGH

There was no further business,

ON MOTION OF MS. KISSELL, SECONDED BY MRS. ROCKER-LIDWELL, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY ADJOURNED THE MEETING. COUNCIL MEMBERS VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. CADWALLADER, MR. HAYES, MR. LEARN, MRS. ROCKER-LIDWELL, MR. WOZNIAK, AND MS. KISSELL. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

The meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.