

A meeting of Portage Borough Council was held on Monday, December 18th, 2017 at 6:30 p.m., in Council Chambers.

Those in attendance were:

Sharon McCarthy
George Wozniak

James Kissell
Jerome Yetsko

David Hayes
John Morgan

Todd Learn

Also present were: Robert Koban, Michelle Claar, Secretary, and Jr. Councilors; Emily Canavan and Kaelyn Wozniak.

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. McCarthy called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m., which was followed by a roll call with a quorum being present.

I. RECOGNITION OF GUESTS

Ron Portash, Mainline Publications; Mr. Paul Kulick-Township Resident

Mr. Kulick informed Council that his property located at 619 Johnson Avenue was damaged by fire on December 9th, 2017. Mr. Kulick advised that he does have homeowners' insurance through State Farm. Ms. Claar provided Council with an e-mail from Mr. Emerick concerning a municipal lien that was placed on the property back in 1977 for curbing on Johnson Avenue. The original lien amount was \$743.50 with interest accruing from 3/7/1977. Mr. Emerick provided the calculation for the lien satisfaction, including a 5% attorney's commission and \$10.00 satisfaction fee in the amount of \$2,568.49 that is valid until December 31st, 2017. Mr. Kulick is requesting that Council consider reducing the accumulated interest on the lien. Mr. Kulick informed Council that the house was his father's and took possession back in 2008. Mr. Kulick questioned if interest could be accumulated from that time. Mr. Koban commented that it has been past practice that all interest was paid by other residents to satisfy the lien. Mr. Learn, Mr. Morgan, and Mr. Hayes were not aware of the past practices regarding municipal liens relating to construction projects. Ms. Claar provided Council with a listing of municipal liens that are recorded at the Cambria County Courthouse. After another lengthy discussion, Ms. McCarthy informed Mr. Kulick that Council will have further discussion at the January regular meeting on Tuesday, January 2nd, 2018. Mr. Kulick thanked Council for their attention in his request for Council to reduce the interest on the municipal lien.

BILLS AND TREASURER'S REPORT

Ms. McCarthy noted that copies of the bills, additional bills, and Treasurer's report were distributed for review by Council members prior to the meeting.

ON MOTION OF MR. WOZNIAK, SECONDED BY MR. YETSKO, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE BILLS TO BE PAID; AS PRESENTED IN WRITTEN FORM, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$4,512.01. COUNCIL MEMBERS VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. LEARN, MR. MORGAN, MR. YETSKO, MR. WOZNIAK, MR. HAYES, MR. KISSELL AND MS. MCCARTHY, MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Approval of the 2018 tax millage rate at 17 mills.

ON MOTION OF MR. KISSELL, SECONDED BY MR. MORGAN, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED ORDINANCE 2-2017 BY SETTING THE 2018 TAX MILLAGE RATE AT 16.5 MILLS FOR GENERAL PURPOSES AND .5 FOR FIRE PROTECTION FOR A TOTAL OF 17 MILLS. COUNCIL MEMBERS VOTING

AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. LEARN, MR. MORGAN, MR. YETSKO, MR. WOZNIAK, MR. HAYES, MR. KISSELL AND MS. McCARTHY, MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

2. Approval of setting the 2018 wage rates for borough employees, uniform and non-uniform

ON MOTION OF MR. LEARN, SECONDED BY MR. KISSELL, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED ORDINANCE 3-2017 BY SETTING THE 2018 WAGE RATES FOR UNIFORM AND NON-UNIFORM EMPLOYEES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE 2018 COMPENSATION PLAN. COUNCIL MEMBERS VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. LEARN, MR. MORGAN, MR. YETSKO, MR. WOZNIAK, MR. HAYES, MR. KISSELL AND MS. McCARTHY, MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

3. Approval of the 2018 adopted budget for the General Fund, State Liquid Fuels, and Capital Improvement Funds.

ON MOTION OF MR. KISSELL, SECONDED BY MR. YETSKO, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED ORDINANCE 4-2017 BY ADOPTING THE 2018 GENERAL FUND, STATE LIQUID FUELS, AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUNDS BUDGET. COUNCIL MEMBERS VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. LEARN, MR. MORGAN, MR. YETSKO, MR. WOZNIAK, MR. HAYES, MR. KISSELL AND MS. McCARTHY, MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

4. Review of the Opting in/out of the Category 4 casino ancillary location within Portage Borough
Mr. Emerick presented a resolution for Council to review concerning the opting in/out of the Category 4 license from the PA Gaming Control Board. A short discussion was held on the pro's and cons of a casino within the borough limits.

ON MOTION OF MR. KISSELL, SECONDED BY MR. YETSKO, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED RESOLUTION 9-2017 BY OPTING OUT OF THE CATEGORY 4 CASINO'S ANCILLARY LOCATION WITH THE BOROUGH LIMITS. COUNCIL MEMBERS VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. LEARN, MR. MORGAN, MR. YETSKO, MR. WOZNIAK, MR. HAYES, MR. KISSELL AND MS. McCARTHY, MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

GOOD OF THE BOROUGH

Mr. Koban informed Council that Stagers Chevrolet was bought out by a Mitsubishi investor from Philadelphia. The investors are also in the process of purchasing the Nidage building and the vacant lot on the corner of Caldwell and Main Street.

A discussion took place on the old Starlite property.

A special thank you letter was received from Kevin Williams for Chief Miller, Officer Leyo, and Officer Krupa.

A short discussion took place on several properties that have no water, sewer, garbage. A discussion also took place on the mandating of sewer connections onto the new system.

Council wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

ADJOURNMENT

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, ON MOTION OF MR. YETSKO, SECONDED BY MR. WOZNIAK, THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 7:24 P.M.