

A meeting of Portage Borough Council Committee of the Whole was held on Monday, August 20th, 2018, at 6:30 p.m.

Those in attendance were:

Sharon McCarthy
Todd Learn

James Kissell
Jerome Yetsko

George Wozniak
John Morgan

David Hayes

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

Visitors:

Ron Portash, Mainline Newspapers, Randy Griffith, Tribune Democrat, Resident Lydia Dobrowolsky,

Mrs. Dobrowolsky requested that the media refrain from direct quotes or comments. Mrs. Dobrowolsky was advised that it is a public meeting. Mrs. Dobrowolsky informed Council that she was in attendance to address the sump pump issue in the alley behind the borough maintenance garage. Mrs. Dobrowolsky advised there are 6 issues she would like to have addressed:

- There are no ordinances or regulations regarding sump pumps within the borough
- Lack of maintenance on the borough alleys and ruts
- Mrs. Dobrowolsky advised that the contractor had permission from the borough PWD to divert the water into the alley.
- Neighbor, Mrs. Gallo complaint regarding the ponding in the alley
- Lack of communication between the borough and Mrs. Dobrowolsky, notice
- Overhanging trees and branches in accordance to the Borough ordinance "Chapter 25, Part 1, subsection 101.

Mrs. Dobrowolsky presented pictures that were taken on her cell phone to show council where the alley and drainage issues are. She advised that the tree within the alley is collecting a substantial amount of water and the branches are hanging over into the alley and also on her garage. She also commented that the alley is dry except for where the tree is. Mrs. Dobrowolsky commented that she will make the adaptations to her sump pump diversion sometime in September. A lengthy discussion took place on ways to remedy the situation but once again, Mrs. Dobrowolsky advised that she is not in any violation. Mr. Koban advised that there was no complaint filed on the tree within the alley. Mrs. Dobrowolsky advised that she will now make a formal complaint to have the tree trimmed back or removed. Council commented that there were no complaints received in the past regarding the water issues until the sump pump was installed and diverted into the alley. Mr. Maul commented that there has been a substantial amount of rain this year, in turn, saturating the ground. Mr. Koban advised Mrs. Dobrowolsky that the borough will be investigating regulations for sump pumps and any diversions onto borough alleys and streets. Council that Mrs. Dobrowolsky for attending the meeting and addressing the issue.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. Update on Recreation Director/Manager

Mr. Koban advised that he spoke with Mr. Longwell and the grant application is in the final draft stages.

B. Borough Building Roof litigation

No update. Mr. Koban informed Council that American Roofing will be sending out a specialist to check out the roof.

C. Update on Trout Run Flood Protection Grant-there was no update.

D. Update on PennDot Project on SR 164 and Main Street

Mr. Koban advised there will be a meeting on Tuesday, August 28th, 2018 at 8:00 a.m. in Council Chambers. Mr. Koban presented design plans on the S curves for Council to review.

The design indicated Caldwell Avenue being widened by Jaytar's and Central Alley. The other side of Caldwell Avenue will be moved back onto the property owners. Mr. Koban advised that PennDot Rep; Bruce Schweitzer, would like to at least get an okay to move forward with the design. Mr. Kissell commented that he still does not believe there will be enough room for trucks to make the turn onto Central Alley. After a brief discussion, Council consensus was to move forward with the next step. Mr. Kissell questioned if there would be any bridge repairs on Main Street.

- E. Update on PennDot MTF Grant for the Main Street Phase II Improvements
There was no update but moving forward.
- F. Update on Sewer at the Administration Building
Mr. Koban advised that the sewer lines have been installed and completed by B&R Construction. The issue can be removed from the agenda but Mr. Koban suggested placing sump pump issues at the Administration Building. Mr. Morgan questioned if the PASA has sent a certified letter regarding the sump pump. To date, the Borough has not received a letter.
- G. Update on Sonman Avenue Bridge 12 Year plan
There was no update. Mr. Wisor to verify that the bridge is still on the list.
- H. Update on grant funding for generator
No update.
- I. Update on retainer wall at Johnson Avenue
There was no update but waiting on the Public Works Dept to complete the work.
- J. Update on Restroom Project at Crichton McCormick Park
Mr. Koban advised that there will be a pre-construction meeting with the Engineer, Contractors and Borough. Members of Council and the PAJRC are welcome to attend.
- K. Sump Pump issue on Making and Caldwell (Gallo and Dobrowolsky)
The issue was discussed earlier in the meeting.
- L. Update on proposed ordinance for sump pump and drainage issues within the Borough
Mr. Koban advised that Mr. Emerick and Mr. Wisor are still researching various legislation that has been adopted in other municipalities.
- M. Discussion on Memorial event for World War II Vet; Mr. Walter Mintus
Mr. Kissell had several suggestions on a procession to and from Serenko-Claar Funeral Home, to the Cemetery, and through Portage. Mr. Hayes commented that he spoke with Rich Kozak and would like to have some type of statue. Other suggestions were the veteran motorcycle club and atv clubs, The US Navy, Sen. Frank Burns, Main Street Bridge dedication, and flags throughout Main Street.

Buildings:

- A. 1309/1315 Jefferson Avenue (Kissell)
There was no update on the transfer.
- B. 616 Dulancey Drive (Adams)
There was no update

- C. 907 Jefferson Avenue (Crums)
Mr. Koban commented that he investigated the area prior to the meeting. The structure has been removed however; the yard is accumulating a lot of junk. The issue can be removed from the agenda.
- D. 933 Sonman Avenue-(Greenawalt)
No Update
- E. Shoenfeld property at Orange and Grove
Mr. Koban commented that the trailer boxes need to be addressed by the Police Dept. but the grass is being cut. Mr. Morgan commented that the trailer boxes have been there for many years. Mr. Wozniak and Mr. Koban suggested having Council investigate the area in question and prepare to discuss it at the regular meeting in September.
- F. Update on 828 North Railroad (Gaunts)
The Civil Suit was filed with Cambria County. Mr. Morgan advised that he walked by the property and the front porch is cracking hopes it doesn't cave in. Caution tape was strung around the property as a safety measure.
- G. Update on 730 Sherman Street (Plummer)
Mr. Koban advised that an e-mail was sent to the Borough from Laurel Municipal Inspection Agency regarding the cribbing under the structure. The work has passed inspection by LMIA inspector. LMIA also advised that any other work will have to have another permit. There is still junk on the front porch that needs to be removed. Per Council, keep issue on the agenda for now.
- H. Update on 720-722 Orchard Street Property (Plummer)
There was no update.
- I. Update on 514 Prospect Street (Casey)
The owners obtained the demolition permit with G&R Excavating performing the work. The demolition should be complete with a month.
- J. Update on 406 Caldwell Avenue (Barclay)
There was no update but the property is on the tax sale in September.
- K. Update on 925 Main Street (Lewis)
Mr. Koban advised that Ms. Claar provided the names and addresses of the various owners and tenants surrounding the 925 Main Street Property. Mr. Emerick and/or Mr. Wisor will be submitting a letter to each owner and tenant.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Review and approval of the 2019 MMO for non-uniform employees
Ms. Claar presented the 2019 MMO for council to review. The MMO was determined by the 2018 estimated W-2wages and PMRS administrative costs.

ON MOTION OF MR. WOZNIAK, SECONDED BY MR. YETSKO, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE 2019 NON-UNIFORM MMO WITH PMRS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$22,198.00. COUNCIL MEMBERS VOTING AFFIRMATELY WERE MR. LEARN, MR. MORGAN, MR. YETSKO, MR. WOZNIAK, MR. HAYES, MR. KISSELL AND MS. MCCARTY. MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

- B. Review and approval of the 2019 MMO for uniform employees
Mr. Steve Feaster prepared the 2019 MMO for the uniform employees. The current Police Pension Plan is overfunded so there is no MMO for 2019.

ON MOTION OF MR. WOZNIAK, SECONDED BY MR. HAYES, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE 2019 UNIFORM MMO IN THE AMOUNT OF \$0. THE POLICE PENSION IS OVERFUNDED. COUNCIL MEMBERS VOTING AFFIRMATELY WERE MR. LEARN, MR. MORGAN, MR. YETSKO, MR. WOZNIAK, MR. HAYES, MR. KISSELL AND MS. MCCARTY. MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

- C. Review and approval of advertising an amendment to the Handicap Parking Zones.
Ms. Claar presented Council with an updated list of handicap parking zones. Some residents have either passed, moved, or have had a new installation. The zones have been painted by the Public Works Department and have been invoiced by the Borough Secretary.

ON MOTION OF MR. KISSELL, SECONDED BY MR. WOZNIAK, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE ADVERTISING OF AN AMENDMENT TO CHAPTER 15, SECTION 406, SPECIAL PURPOSE HANDICAP PARKING ZONES ORDINANCE. COUNCIL MEMBERS VOTING AFFIRMATELY WERE MR. LEARN, MR. MORGAN, MR. YETSKO, MR. WOZNIAK, MR. HAYES, MR. KISSELL AND MS. MCCARTY. MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

Paying of the Bills

Ms. Claar presented a copy of the bills and additional bills to be paid in written form.

ON MOTION OF MR. HAYES, SECONDED BY MR. KISSELL, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED TO PAY THE BILLS IN WRITTEN FORM, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$10,600.10 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

NONE

There being no further business;

ON MOTION OF MR. YETSKO, SECONDED BY MR. HAYES, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY ADJOURNED. VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. LEARN, MR. MORGAN, MR. YETSKO, MR. WOZNIAK, MR. HAYES, MR. KISSELL, AND MS. MCCARTHY, MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

The meeting concluded at 7:57 p.m.