

FERNDALE BOROUGH

Regular Meeting

August 8, 2016

The Ferndale Borough Council met on Monday, August 8, 2016 in the Fireman's Recreation Hall at 618 Westinghouse Avenue, Johnstown, PA.

President Scott Miles called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. flag.

ROLL CALL

The roll call showed the following present: Pres. Scott Miles, Trisha Corle, Ken Dom, VP Mark Wissinger, Owen Hofecker, Mayor Ralph Boyle, Atty. Joe Green, Sec. Anita Smith. Brian McAteer was called out and did not arrive at the meeting until 7:35 p.m.

VISITORS

Officer's Lehman and Edwards attended the meeting, but were only observing.

MINUTES

Minutes from the July 11, 2016 were approved by the council. Mark Wissinger made the motion and it was seconded by Owen Hofecker. Motion carried.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

No report was given.

SEWER/SEWER PROJECT

Mark Muir of EADS distributed his report for July 2016. 655 inspections completed. 283 have had the entire system tested. 126 have been tested to inside the foundation. 237 – outside the foundation only. 9 only had storm verification. 15 properties are vacant and not connected. Ferndale Ave. – 2 of 4 not complete (601 and 609 Ferndale Avenue. 1 downspout needed day lighted.

Mark Muir completed the semi-annual report to DEP; it was signed by Pres. Scott Miles and mailed to DEP in Pittsburgh.

Mark Muir distributed the peak flow monitoring chart, which showed that after the heavy rains we received that we were over the acceptable amount on the chart. There could be some answers for this problem, one on Ferndale Ave. at the four lanes and checking some other catch basins and possible laterals. A property on Margaret Avenue, which is to be sold, will be pressure tested. This lateral was installed in 2008 and some problem may be connected to the manholes on Margaret Avenue. Mark Muir and Brian McAteer will check on this. If there is a problem, this lateral may have to be replaced. If the peak flow chart continues to spike, we may have to go a revisit some houses at a later date. One aspect of this is located at the old Artic Al's building on Ferndale Avenue. The state may have to open the basin under Route 403 and have it dye tested to see where this water is flowing.

Atty. Green will contact Upper Yoder Township solicitor's pertaining to the money owed to the borough from the township and the armory. If will report on this at our September meeting.

A motion by Trisha Corle was made to accept the sewer report and seconded by Ken Dom. Motion carried.

PERSONNEL REPORT

Mike Chalich was hired as the new custodian. He will work 10 hours a week (Mon., Tue., and Thurs.) He works part-time as a custodian at Zion Lutheran Church.

It was suggested to hire a full-time employee for the street department. It was to move Scott Bennett from part-time to full-time. A motion to table this was made by Trisha Corle and seconded by Mark Wissinger all council was in agreement. Ms. Corle mentioned that more information would be needed to make a decision. It was a question of the hospitalization, pension and the pay rate. Atty. Green said a motion is needed to withdraw this request. Ken Dom made the motion and all council was in agreement. Trisha Corle suggested that we wait until the Profit/Loss and other financial statements were reviewed and the 2017 budget was made being worked on.

After meeting with Debbie Herbert, she wants to go over line items and made adjustments to next year's budget, in order to get a more accurate accounts. We will have a better view for a full-time employee or any other part-time help needed for summer projects and shoveling snow for the winter months.

A motion to accept the Personnel Report was made by Trisha Corle and seconded by Connie Hobbs. Motion carried.

MAYOR AND POLICE REPORTS

Chief Rigby e-mailed all the councilmembers his report for July 2016 along with August's Police Schedule.

Mayor Ralph Boyle has asked council to send 3 officers – Edwards, Lehman and Rigby to a conference on October 10, 2016, this conference is all day and pertains to sexual assault. The cost is \$65.00 a person. Scott Miles made a motion to send the officers and seconded by Connie Hobbs.

A councilmember questioned Chief James Rigby vacation time. Mayor Boyle reported that he was here one year in the Chief of Police position and has earned the vacation time.

There is no new information on the police providing services to a municipality.

A motion to accept Mayor and Police Report was made by Ken Dom and seconded by Connie Hobbs. Motion carried.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Atty. Green provided a drawing of the 8" line few feet off the property line for the sewer work. A decision by Atty. Green was handed down and a letter is to be sent to Barry Himes. The certified letter will be mailed out on Tuesday, August 9, 2016. The contents of the letter stated that no survey was done and you cannot guess as to your property line. A Rite of Summons was filed by the borough's former solicitor on this property.

Brian McAteer came in at 7:35. He was called out by the police; there was a problem on Plainfield Avenue.

Mark Muir said that the line should be scoped before doing the next step, which is to see if it was cured in place.

Mark Muir will look into the next step on the 8" line sewer pipe, to see if it can have a sleeve and then connect into the line. Then the viewport will have to be placed in the side of the building.

This will be our expense; Mark Muir will look into getting prices for this procedure. Brian McAteer will call Portage Borough Water Co. to do this scoping and will provide us with a tape. The water company will certify the report 1-5 (with 5 being the worst). They will send a report to the office.

A motion was made by Ken Dom to accept the Solicitor's report. It was seconded by Connie Hobbs. Motion carried.

EMERGENCY MGT. + FIRE CO. + WEST HILLS REPORTS

West Hills e-mailed their July and August 2016 report to the Borough Office and copies were distributed to the councilmembers.

Ralph Boyle reported that the ladders were check and the Rescue will be certified.

A motion was made by Trisha Corle to accept the West Hills Report and was seconded by Mark Wissinger. The motion carried.

EQUIPMENT/STREETS/BOROUGH PROPERTY

Street foreman Brian McAteer distributed his work report to the councilmembers and asked for any questions on the report.

Mr. McAteer was told by Telepower that our traffic fuse box is an old system and should be replaced. Both fuse boxes (Station St. @ Ferndale Avenue and Summit Ave. @ Franklin St.) should be replaced, not just the one Ferndale Avenue. Brian McAteer is not sure of the cost, but will look into it.

Mr. McAteer said that the storm sewers have not been cleaned out for 3 years and is asking council to approve for him to get them clean. Roto-rooter charges \$125.00 an hour, it process should take about 40 hours. SR & G gave a quote of \$5,000.00 for the entire job. Ken Dom made a motion to have Roto-rooter do the job; it was seconded by Connie Hobbs. All councilmembers voted, "yes".

Ken Dom called Signal Services about our amber (yield traffic light) we are having trouble with them going out. They may be able to help with the cost of replacing these lights. The Hite Co. has admitted to Brian McAteer that they are having trouble with them and there could be a defect with the amber lights.

The Wissinger's and Burkett's on Boston Street are having trouble with skunks in their area. They will contact Ehrlich's and get their advice.

Connie Hobbs made the motion and Ken Dom seconded to accept the Equipment/Streets report. The motion carried.

TREES

No report given.

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT

Anita Smith reported that no taxes were paid in July.

A motion was made by Owen Hofecker to accept the Tax Collector's Report and seconded by Mark Wissinger. The motion carried.

FINANCE REPORT/ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Herbert's CPA supplied the Profit & Loss Statements and balance sheet for all the accounts. The council reviewed the accounts payable bill list and the additional bills to be paid. Trisha Corle is working with Debbie Herbert on the upcoming budget and will have more information at the next council meeting.

A motion was by Trisha Corle to accept the Finance Report and to pay the bills; it was seconded by Mark Wissinger. The motion carried.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

The Ferndale Fireman's Association thanked all the councilmembers for their help and cooperation with this year's Fireman's Jubilee.

Connie Hobbs made a motion, seconded by Mark Wissinger to accept the Public Relations report. The motion carried.

RECREATION

Todd Shaffer of UPJ called the borough to see about painting the playground equipment. He was instructed to call Mark Wissinger, chairman of the Recreation Committee. This program is done by the incoming freshman class as a community outreach project. The council had no problem in granting their permission for this project.


A motion was made by Owen Hofecker and seconded by Ken Dom to accept the Recreation Report. The motion carried.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Nothing to discuss.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by


Anita M. Smith
Borough Secretary

**FERNDALE BOROUGH
COMMITTEE MEETING**

August 29, 2016

Those attending the committee meeting is as follows: Scott Miles, Pres., Trisha Corle, Connie Hobbs, Ken Dom, Owen Hofecker, Tim Leighty, Chief James Rigby, and Mayor Ralph Boyle. V.P. Mark Wissinger was not in attendance.

Items that were discussed were the Himes property, the rodent problem on Glenwood Avenue and the resignation on Councilmen Tim Leighty.

The Barry Himes's swimming pool issue is now in the hands of the attorney's and will be addressed at the council meeting on September 12, 2016.

Carol Rex has complained about a rodent problem she is experiencing. Her property borders two other neighbors and she feels that the rodents are coming from underneath a garage. She wants this to be solved, but is not willing to have Ehrlich's come in with baiting boxes, because she has dogs. This is an ongoing situation.

Tim Leighty has submitted his resignation. Because of his work, he feels that he cannot devote the necessary time to the borough.

The council viewed a video of the borough sewer lines behind the borough building and there were a few cracks in the line. Also, there was water at the Harlan Avenue catch basin that intersects with Ferndale Avenue.

Notes were taken by Pres. Scott Miles and give to the secretary to type.