

FERNDALE BOROUGH

Regular Meeting

July 10, 2017

The Ferndale Borough Council met on Monday, July 10, 2017, in the Fireman's Recreation Hall at 618 Westinghouse Avenue, Johnstown, PA.

President Scott Miles called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M., and those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag.

ROLL CALL

The Roll Call showed the following present: President – Scott Miles, V.P. – Mark Wissinger, Connie Hobbs, Robert Gray, Owen Hofecker, Ken Dom, and Mayor – Ralph Boyle, Chief of Police – James Rigby, and Solicitor – Joe Green, Street Foreman – Brian McAteer and Secretary Anita Smith.

VISITORS

Mary Ann Minahan of Summit Avenue stated that she had water in her basement, because of the new Sewer System. She had her basement finished and she had a lot of damage. She had a sump pump installed prior to the sewer project and even the pump could not keep up with the water. It was coming up from the flooring in the basement. She had a plumber come in, but he said it might be from the sewer lines. She will call Mark Muir of EADS and see if anything can be done. It was suggested that a French drain around her house may help. The Council also stated that we had two heavy rain events and the ground is saturated. A Councilmember will stop and take a look at the problem.

Jody Ingram of Vickroy Avenue also had water in her basement, and asked what can be done. It was determined that the water table was disturbed, because of the sewer project and the water will find a new path of least resistance. The Council will stay on top of this situation. But the flooding was storm water and not sanitary sewer water. The problem is with the storm sewer system, but with the amount of rain in 5 days and the ground being saturated, contributed to the flooding of area basements.

Lisa Glenn has called the Street Department and would like to see the curb on Vickroy Avenue extended so the water goes to the storm manholes and not down over the hillside behind their house. The Street Department is aware of this and will correct it over the next few days.

MAYOR AND POLICE REPORT

Chief Rigby has e-mailed all Councilmembers the June Report. There were no questions on the Police Report.

Two new Police Officers have been hired; they are as follows Nathan Homyak and Matthew Bridge.

Chief Rigby will put a sign-up sheet in the Police Office for officer's to work the Jubilee. Mr. Rigby feels that two additional officers will be enough; because the crowds have not been as large as in prior years and he will be on the grounds. A motion to that request was made by Mark Wissinger and seconded by Connie Hobbs. The motion carried
Mr. Rigby has asked that the accounting of his reports show all the fingerprint income that he has brought into the Borough this year. The secretary will check on this.

The one cruiser is leaking anti-freeze and needs the rotor's turned down and inspected, the cost will be around \$900.00.

Kir-Con Breco has donated two trailers, one to the Fire Association and the other for the Police Department to use during the week of Jubilee.

There is still no agreement with Ferndale Area High School about the Police protection for this year's upcoming Athletic events. No officer is willing to work for \$30.00 an event. The Chief contacted Mrs. Kakabar, but got no responds.

James Rigby is Ferndale's Code Enforcer and has asked the Council if we could limit the use of having Laurel Municipal come in for minor repairs or for fencing. He feels that he can handle all these projects. Just have them come in for major projects, such as additions, sheds or garages, roofs and electrical. The secretary will check to see if we have a contract with them that directly prohibits this action.

Connie Hobbs made a motion to accept Mayor and Police Report; it was seconded by Mark Wissinger. The motion carried.

MINUTES

A motion by Ken Dom to accept the minutes of the June 12, 2017 was made and seconded by Connie Hobbs. The motion carried.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

No report given.

SEWER/SEWER PROJECT

Mark Muir was unable to attend the meeting, but he faxed his report, it is as follows:

Pressure Testing Inspections,

657 – Inspections

Entire System Tested – 285

Tested to inside Foundation – 128

Outside only tested – 235

Storm Verification only – 9

Vacant and Not Connected – 8
4 Sale transfer in June
1 Sale Transfer in July

Items for Discussion – 1) Franklin and Goucher Storm line – Receiving quotes.
2) Station St. CIPP – Receiving quotes.

The Council thinks that there is infiltration of storm sewer water into the sanitary system. Councilman Dom would like to map and mark some of the storm sewer during wet and dry weather to check on the flow. The flow meters on Margaret Avenue have been pulled, because there was not an enough flow to monitor.

We might have to have the lines televised and then check against the as built to compare any changes.

Our flow charts shows high peaks flow after a rain event, but are normal all the other times. It was stated that Daisytown is having the same problem that we have. Mark Muir reported that in 2017 so far; 24 properties in Ferndale Borough have been sold and all have passed the Pressure Test.

Midway Drive will be milled and paved; risers on the sanitary sewer system were fixed and ready for the paving.

A motion to accept the Sewer/Sewer Project report was made by Mark Wissinger, and seconded by Connie Hobbs. The motion carried.

PERSONNEL REPORT

No report given.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Atty. Green said that the DVD was never done. The line was not televised either. He will have to do more work on this matter.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – 8:20 TO 8:30.

EMERGENCY MGT. + FIRE CO., + WEST HILLS REPORT

The West Hills Report was e-mailed to the office, if anyone would like copies, please contact the office and a copy will be sent to you.

STREETS AND PROPERTY

It was suggested that Harlan Avenue be put on the Street Cleaning list, because of the debris that is coming off of the hillside between Midway Dr. and Harlan Avenue. It was approved and signs will be ordered and posted. It was suggested to give the residences a week or two to get accustomed to the street cleaning and not to ticket them, but give them a warning.

The Ordinance has to be amended to add Harlan Avenue to the list. A letter will be sent to the homeowners to make them aware of the change.

Councilman Gray was at Thunder in the Valley and said, "He saw about 7 four-wheelers on the streets in downtown Johnstown and was wondering why they can ride them on the streets." Atty. Joe Green said that they may have an Event Permit that allows them to run them on the streets, but just for that event.

This subject has been tabled until the next meeting. So we can get more information on this matter.

On Summit Avenue at Fernwood Place is property belonging to the Borough, however; a resident has been walking his dog and not cleaning up after the fact. He was approached and he said he would mow the grass. To date, he has not mowed the grass and Anna Custer has asked that the Borough please mow the grass at this property. Council has instructed the Street Department to mow the grass as soon as possible. On another matter on Vickroy Avenue at the steps, (also Borough property) there are weeds and limbs to be trimmed back. Brian McAteer said they will do that the same time they mow the grass.

The Street Department was instructed to change the Handicap Parking Signs to be placed at the beginning of the parking place and not in the middle. It was discussed about putting a Handicap Parking space on Glenwood Avenue and eliminating the one on Clay St.

A proposal to put a Bike Lane on Route 403 (Ferndale Avenue) was made by the State. Scott Miles will attend a meeting at Sen. Wayne Langerholc's office on July 25, 2017 to get more information on the proposal.

A motion to accept the Streets and Property report was made by Connie Hobbs and seconded by Robert Gray. The motion carried.

TREES

No report was given.

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT

The Tax Collector reported that the collections for June were \$14,419.26.

A motion to accept the Tax Collector's report was made by Mark Wissinger and seconded by Connie Hobbs. The motion carried.

FINANCE REPORT/ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Trish Corle was not in attendance, but was instructed by the Secretary to review the Financial Statements and if they had any questions to contact her in the office. A motion by Mark Wissinger to pay the additional bills was made and it was seconded by Owen Hofecker. The motion carried.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

No report was given.

RECREATION

Mark Wissinger report that the summer swimmer program is over, but we had between 8 to 10 children in both morning and afternoon sessions.

There was no motion made to this report.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

No Councilmember had any further business to discuss.

Ken Dom made a motion to adjourn.

The meeting ended at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by

Anita M. Smith
Borough Secretary