

FERNDALE BOROUGH

Regular Meeting

July 11, 2016

The Ferndale Borough Council met on Monday, July 11, 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, Ken Dom, Connie Hobbs, Tim Leighty, V.P. Mark Wissinger, Mayor Ralph Boyle, Solicitor Joe Green, Chief of Police James Rigby, Street Foreman Brian McAteer and Sec. Anita Smith.

VISITORS

Chief James Rigby introduced the two new officers that were hired. They are Greg Hall a Ferndale Area High School graduate and Shawn Hillegas of Windber. Mayor Ralph Boyle swore in Shawn Hillegas and Greg Hall had already been sworn in.

President Scott Miles along with the rest of the council welcomed the new officers.

Al Cooper reported that all property owners are now responsible for all water and sewer bills. If these bills are not paid by the owners, the water will be shut-off.

Eric and Amanda Reighard had questions on their lateral. Those questions will be answered during the sewer report.

MINUTES

Minutes from the June 13, 2016 were approved by the council. Connie Hobbs made the motion and it was seconded by Ken Dom. Motion carried.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

No report was given.

SEWERS/SEWER PROJECT

Mark Muir distributed the Pressure Test Update report. It is as follows: 646 inspections complete:

Entire System Tested – 275

Tested to inside Foundation – 126

Outside only tested – 236

Storm Verification only – 9

Vacant and Not Connected – 15

The house at 572 Margaret Avenue's lateral was installed in 2008, but not connected to the system. The viewport is in, but it needs to be corrected and pressure tested before it can be sold. They informed council that they will have the work done by August 19, 2016.

Mark Muir wants to test all the manholes on Margaret Ave., because of debris found in the sewer system. It was suggested that one day a week EADS would work with one of the street department employee to check all the manholes in the borough.

Because of the heavy rain (1 to 2 inches) this could push the flow meters over the limit. The borough is looking into ways to correct this problem. One solution is to dye test the pipes on Ferndale Avenue, unless we find something major, the residents may have to do their basements.

They reminded residents that if you are selling your house and the pressure test was done over a year ago, you have to contact your plumber and EADS to have your house retested.

There are 4 homes on Ferndale Avenue that the borough is looking to either cure in place or slip line, one of these properties; the line is under a concrete slab. Another owns to the alley and a viewport will have to be installed. An easement line of 1 ½ ft. off the structure of the borough building and the pipe is 7 ft. deep.

This work will have to be coordinated with the residents to get the laterals. The viewports will be the responsibility of the homeowner. All down-spouts will also have to be pulled out.

A motion to have EADS come in to work with the street department on the testing was made by Tim Leighty and seconded by Mark Wissinger. Motion carried.

A motion to have Mark Muir do the reports for JRA & DEP was made by Tim Leighty and seconded by Ken Dom. Motion carried.

Motion to accept the sewer report was made by Connie Hobbs and seconded by Mark Wissinger. Motion carried.

PERSONNEL

A new cleaning person was interviewed for the job, but she felt it was a lot of work and she turned the job down. Ken Dom will post the job at the borough building and has asked councilmember if they know of anyone that may be interested.

Motion to accept personnel report was made by Tim Leighty and seconded by Connie Hobbs. The motion carried.

MAYOR AND POLICE REPORT

Chief Rigby e-mailed all members of the council his monthly report. A total of \$990.00 was brought into the borough for the month of June. Also, reports from Mag. John Barron's office brought in an additional \$428.00 through fines and citation.

A total of \$990.00 was brought into the borough for the month of June. Also, reports from Mag. John Barron's office an additional \$438.00 was brought in through fines and citations.

Two new officers were hired and therefore badges, shirts and pants were ordered through Trapazzano's. Greg Hall has been on the job for one week and Sean Hillegass will start next week.

Connie Hobbs, asked if there were any problems in the borough. Chief Rigby said, "That his officers are connecting with the residents by doing foot patrols and even playing basketball with some of the kids at the park on Ferndale Avenue."

The officers are putting on about 30 to 40 miles a shift, so the residents can see that they are out and providing a sense of security.

Chief Rigby is looking into bulletproof vests for the officers. They vary in price from \$400.00 to \$700.00. If we can get a grant for the vests and if the officers would like to have a better vest, we can do payroll deductions for the difference. Chief Rigby stated that the Ferndale Police Force has been called to back-up the city on calls and felt that they should have the proper protection.

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Solicitor Green indicated that this should be made mandatory to wear your vest at all times while on duty.

Chief Rigby will call Rep. Keith Rothus to see about any grants that are available.

The Ferndale Jubilee will start on July 18th, and Jim Rigby asked the street department if they could cut back some branches and clean up the ones that have fallen near the walking trail.

Two uniformed officers will be on duty from 7-11 at a cost of \$96.00 a day and on Saturday there will be four officers on duty. Chief Rigby will be on the grounds every night, but not in uniform. So, if anything would happen he would be available. There will not be a trailer on the grounds; however, if they need to hold someone, they will use the police office.

The police officers will also use the motorcycle and the bicycle for the week of the jubilee.

Mayor Ralph Boyle asked if the borough could pay half of the week's police protection, the cost would be about \$300.00.

A motion was made by Ken Dom and seconded by Connie Hobbs, a roll call vote was taken and all members voted "yes".

Motion to accept the police report was made by Tim Leighty and seconded by Ken Dom. Motion carried.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Atty. Green advised against sending anyone to the appeal hearing on Chris Matcho's unemployment issue.

The zoning board will hold a meeting on 7/14/16. The meeting is for a variance on a swimming pool. Atty. Green will be unable to attend this meeting and James Rigby will tape it.

A motion made by Tim Leighty to accept the solicitor's report. It was seconded by Ken Dom. Motion carried.

EMERGENCY MGT. + FIRE CO. + WEST HILLS REPORTS

West Hills e-mailed the report to all councilmembers and there were no questions on the report.

A motion to accept the report was made by Connie Hobbs and seconded by Mark Wissinger. Motion carried.

EQUIPMENT/STREETS/BOROUGH PROPERTY

Equipment: Had to repair sweeper twice in the last two outings.

Heater hoses had to be repaired, along with the radiator hose for the second time.

There is a chance to buy the sewer truck from Berkebile Excavating for \$5,000, plus the repairs to the truck or rent the truck from Robinson Pipe Cleaning for \$210.00 an hour. If we rent from Somerset it would be \$175.00 an hour. If we would go with Robinson Pipe Cleaning it would cost \$8,400 + hotel costs. Somerset would cost us \$7,000.00

Paving: We got all three basins finished in time for the paving. Paving was done by Quaker Sales. They finished on 6-23-16 and they did a good job.

Basins: We replaced the basin on Ogle Street due to a sink hole – we will pave it sometime this week.

Roof: Chapple Bros. and Guy Roofing have checked out the roof on the borough building. Guy Roofing gave two estimates: one of \$18,000.00 and the other one of \$5,000.00. The difference in the cost was due to the work that would be done.

Recreation: We put up new lights at the Recreation Field. We took several trees down near the walking track. Got the table back from Simko's and placed it back in the playground area. We installed a new water fountain at the playground.

Lighting: We have replaced numerous amber lights recently and three more are out. The Hite Co. admitted that they were having trouble with these traffic lights, but offered no compensation for them, unless they are under the 5 year warranty.

Borough Garbage: We hauled 7 loads of wood and 13 loads of brush.

Ehrlich Co. was called in at a residence on Glenwood Avenue, because of a rodent problem. They have decided to bait themselves. They have dogs and were worried that the dogs may be harmed. Atty. Green stated that this would become a health problem.

Ken Dom made a suggestion to put Scott Bennett on full-time. Connie Hobbs felt that this should be tabled until Trisha Corle and her committee take a look at the finances and come back at the next meeting with a finding.

A motion to accept the street department report was made by Ken Dom and seconded by Mark Wissinger. Motion carried

TREE

Owen Hofecker was on vacation, so no report was given.

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT

Total real estate tax collected for June, 2016 was \$11,348.10.

Motion to accept the tax collector's report was made by Mark Wissinger and seconded by Connie Hobbs. Motion carried.

FINANCE REPORT/ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Herbert's CPA prepared the finance statements for May 2016 and distributed them to the councilmembers.

Connie Hobbs made a motion, seconded by Tim Leighty to accept the financial statements and to pay the bills. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

No report

RECREATION REPORT

No report

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

The students from Bishop McCort has asked for permission to "Turn the Town Teal". This project is to promote ovarian cancer awareness. The council gave their permission.

The meeting adjourn at 9:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted by



Anita M. Smith

Borough Secretary