

FERNDALE BOROUGH

Regular Meeting

March 14, 2016

The Ferndale Borough Council met on Monday, March 14, 2016 in the Fire Company'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, Connie Hobbs, V.P. Mark Wissinger, Tim Leighty, Owen Hofecker, Atty. Joseph Green, Police Chief James Rigby, Street Foreman Brian McAteer and Sec. Anita Smith.

APPOINTMENT OF THE MAYOR

Pres. Scott Miles acknowledged the candidates who applied for the mayor's position. He thanked them for their willingness to help better the community with their service. At this time Mr. Miles turned the meeting over to Attorney Joe Green.

Pres. Scott Miles made a motion to appoint a mayor of Ferndale Borough, seconded by Tim Leighty. Two names were submitted for consideration, they were Arthur Boring and Ralph Boyle.

A roll call was taken and the results are as follows – Arthur Boring had two votes and Ralph Boyle had five.

A resignation letter from the former mayor was not received, but verbally at the Feb. 8, 2015 meeting he stated that he was moving at the end of February. We are within the 30 days of appointing a new mayor. Mr. Boyle was not present at the meeting, so he will have to be sworn in before assuming the duties as mayor.

VISITOR'S

Ferndale High School students there to observe were: Lana Maniakline, Bella Hauger and Claudia Mikulsky. Also, in attendance were Tammy Mikulsky and Al Cooper.

MINUTES

A motion to accept the minutes for the February 8, 2016 and the Special meeting on March 8, 2016 was made by Trisha Corle and seconded by Connie Hobbs.

ENGINEERING REPORT

No report given.

EMERGENCY MGT. + FIRE Co. + WEST HILLS REPORTS

The March 2016 report of the West Hills Regional Fire Department / Hilltop EMS was submitted to all councilmembers for their review. No questions on the report.

James Rigby asked the council if they could take over the repairs to the one pavilion of the park grounds. It is in need of spouting and fascia.

There are monies available in the recreation account to pay for the materials and the street department along with volunteers from the fire association could make the repairs needed.

No money is charged for the use of the park, if someone wants to reserve the pavilion, they have to come into the office and fill out forms. Most people do make a contribution to the borough for the use of the park.

A motion to make the necessary repairs to the pavilion and to accept the report was made by Ken Dom and seconded by Mark Wissinger.

EQUIPMENT / STREETS & BORO PROPERTY

Street Foreman Brian McAteer introduced the new employee; Scott Bennett, stating that he is a good worker and has learned the job quickly. Scott Bennett said, "He is very happy to be working for Ferndale and thank you to the council for hiring him."

The street sweeper is at Johnstown Hydraulics getting fixed, should have it back in 2-3 weeks. Also, we got new brooms for the sweeper and installed them.

We replaced the rubber cutting edges on all 3 plows, and had transmission cooling lines repaired at JATS. Bought a new battery for the front loader and installed it. Also, we bought 2 new batteries for the gator and gator winch.

We poured two sidewalk slabs on Glenwood Avenue and finish landscaping with topsoil.

Repaired broken viewport on Glenwood Avenue at Station Street (716) someone ran over it with a truck. Repaired the broken handrail on Station Street that was damaged when a car lost control and ran into the railing.

We installed new lights in the salt bin. Patching all the potholes on borough streets this process is ongoing.

Repaired catch basin on Ogle Street at Ferndale Avenue.

An accident on Ferndale Avenue had caused the overhead sign and cable to sag on the northbound lane of 403. Since this was an emergency situation, the street department fixed it themselves. If another truck would have come along, it would have brought the whole sign down.

A decision was made by the street foreman to use the front-end loader to fix the sign.

A safety issue was brought up by Scott Miles to make sure that a safety harness or straps are used to make it safe for the person in the bucket of the front-end loader. The Chief worked on traffic control until the job was finished. He stated that this was an emergency.

We have started working on the playground. We are removing the Gametime platform.

We need to have the 500 and 600 block of Vickroy Avenue videoed, because we may have to have roots cut out of the sewer system. Brian is to get estimates to get this work done.

Motion to accept the Street Department Report was made by Trisha Corle and seconded by Ken Dom.

TREES

Owen Hofecker had two phone calls on trees. The first was from Jessica Leppert on Glenwood about a tree she would like to trim or cut down. The second call was from Melissa Rapp on the corner of Summit and Vickroy Avenues. The tree is on Vickroy Ave. she had a company come and look at it and told her

that the tree was rotted and should come down. Owen will look at the tree this week. Ms. Rapp did get a tree permit.

Pres. Miles told us that Mr. Bowser was logging on the backside of Hystone Ave. and we may want to take a look at logging some of the property that the borough owns and get estimates on logging this land as well.

A motion to accept the Tree Report was made by Mark Wissinger, seconded by Connie Hobbs.

MAYOR AND POLICE REPORTS

An update on the tires at the property of Howard West (who is deployed) – Suter and Quaker Ave. A resident placed the seven tires on the property to keep motorist from going onto the property. This property is still owned by Mr. West. The resident was instructed that she had three days to remove the tires or be cited.

A house of Harlan Avenue was having a new roof put on by the Amish, but they did not obtain a building permit to do so. We will contact Laurel Municipal Agency to make sure they get a building permit. There is no fee for this work, but a permit must be on file.

All councilmembers received the February Police Report, no questions on the report.

Laurel Municipal received a request on a dwelling to return a duplex apartment on Ferndale Ave to a single dwelling. The entire owner wanted to do was remove the sink. However, all plumbing from the basement to the second floor must be removed. This was requested last year from another resident and the magistrate instructed him about removal of all plumbing to that unit.

After which, Laurel Municipal will come in and inspect it.

This is a three unit house that the new owners want to convert back to one unit.

A few months ago, our police officer stops a vehicle that was fleeing the city police. The D.A. though out the case, but the guns and heroin was confiscated. Scott Miles asked the police what happens to the confiscated items.

The guns will be tracked back to the owner and he has a right to claim it, if no owner is found, then the gun will be destroyed. The drugs are turned over to the county.

Motion to accept the Police Report was made by Ken Dom and seconded by Connie Hobbs.

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT

The Real Estate Tax bills went out on March 5, 2016 and the March report will be made at the April 11, 2016 meeting.

The moving permits for February totaled \$175.00 and for two weeks in March the total is \$200.00.

Motion to accept the Tax Collector's Report was made by Trisha Corle and seconded by Connie Hobbs.

FINANCE AND ACCOUNTS PAYABLE REPORT

Debbie Herbert and Shawn Toth attended the workshop on March 7, 2016 to make sure that the reports they are doing is what the council wants. Along with the statements and the Accounts Payable bill list.

Pres. Scott Miles made the statement that the council can understand all the finance statements and they are very easy to follow.

Motion to pay the bills and accept the finance report was made by Connie Hobbs and seconded by Ken Dom.

SEWER / SEWER PROJECT

Tim Leighty has talked to Mark Muir about the flow meters by the Stoneycreek and he said that the flow meters are not working properly and may have to be replaced, because it is not accurately monitoring the flow.

This monitoring will be a minimum of six months, and it could take a lot longer.

Mark Muir would like to set up a meeting with the sewer committee and Atty. Green about the properties that are not tied in.

All occupied properties in Ferndale that have been tied into the system, has been pressure tested.

Mark Muir will check to make certain that this is accurate.

If they are not tied into the system, their water has been shut-off.

The project for March and April will be to check on all sewer project payment and to make sure that all sewer projects are paid. If the resident is delinquent, they will receive a 10 day notice to bring the bill up –to-date or have their water shut-off in twenty days.

Tim Leighty will look into the progress with Upper Yoder Township and Stoneycreek Township and the agreement with them. Also, the agreement with the Armory about the EDU's and the payment of one lump sum to the borough.

A resident is requesting to see the original contract with the contractors and engineers for the sewer project. A right-to-know document must be obtained in the borough office and signed. We will then let him know when he can come in and look at the documents. A member of the sewer committee or police officer will be present at this time.

Atty. Green will get all the boxes from Atty. Wayne Langerholc's office and go over some of the files on the sewer project to bring him up to date.

Motion made by Trisha Corle, seconded by Owen Hofecker

PERSONNEL REPORT

Ken Dom said that the previous personnel committee had removed three holidays from the borough employees and he would like to see them reinstated. The holidays being – Good Friday, the day after Thanksgiving and Christmas Eve. If any of the Christmas holidays falls on a weekend the previous and following days will be taken as the holiday.

Ken Dom made the motion to give the 3 holidays back to the employees and seconded by Tim Leighty. A roll call vote was taken all councilmember voted "yes"

James Rigby will use his floating holiday for Good Friday, instead of using a vacation day.

Mr. Rigby also reported that a former police officer of Ferndale – George Stiffler had a stroke and was taken to Pittsburgh and was operated on. He is doing well after the surgery and will be home soon.

Motion to accept the Personal Report was made by Connie Hobbs and seconded by Tim Leighty.

RECREATION REPORT

Recreation chairman Mark Wissinger made a recommendation to eliminate the director's position. Mr. Wissinger will assume those duties again. Mr. Riffle will be paid for the 1st. quarter of 2016.

Motion was made by Trisha Corle, and seconded by Tim Leighty to eliminate the director's position and to accept the Recreation Report.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

No report

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

The solicitor reported that he attended a seminar on the drug NAR-CAN. He is making a recommendation to adopt this policy. This drug is to be administering to a drug overdosed victim. There will be no liability to the borough and will probably be mandatory in the near future. There will be no cost to the borough and it will be replaced after the expiration date. This program will be funded through a grant.

The meeting then went into Executive session at 7:55

Motion was made by Trisha Corle and seconded by Ken Dom for the solicitor to resolve to employee issue.

Roll call vote – all councilmembers voted “yes”.

OLD / NEW BUSINESS

A vacancy board had been discussed at a workshop and now going to be acted upon. It would consist of three councilmembers and an at large register electorate. The purpose of this board would be to recommend to the full council body a name to fill a vacancy, whether it would be on council, mayor, etc. Atty. Green will look into the borough codes to find exactly how to proceed.

West Hills Regional Police Department has contacted the President of Council as to the feasibility of merging police forces. More information will be needed before any action of any kind can be taken.

Chief Rigby would like permission to talk to Dale Borough about police protection.

The PSAB Dinner will be coming up. Those wishing to attend will have to let the secretary know by April 7, 2016. The borough will pay for the employees, but they will have to pay for spouse/guest.

The meeting was adjourn at 8:50 pm with Trisha Corle making the motion.

Respectfully submitted


Anita M. Smith
Secretary