

## **FERNDALE BOROUGH**

Regular Meeting

May 9, 2016

The Ferndale Borough Council met on Monday, May 9, 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, Tim Leighty, V.P. Mark Wissinger, Owen Hofecker, Mayor Ralph Boyle, Chief of Police James Rigby, Street Foreman Brian McAteer and Sec. Anita Smith. Atty. Joe Green was on vacation.

### **VISITORS**

Mackenzie Vannatter is a student at Ferndale High School and was observing.

Anson Lantzy spoke to the council about a fundraiser for the Fireman's Jubilee. He was looking into space to set-up a stand for his pierogis. Mr. Lantzy would like to make this an annual event starting this year. Ralph Boyle and Jim Rigby will take this back to the Fire Company and present his request. Mr. Lantzy also offered to donation the pierogis to the Fire Company. Mr. Rigby expanded on the idea to use the bingo pavilion and to sale T-shirts for the event. More information will be needed and the Fire Co. will act on this at their next meeting.

### **SOLICITORS REPORT**

The solicitor was not in attendance and no report was given.

### **MINUTES**

A motion to accept the minutes for the April 11, 2016 was made by Ken Dom and seconded by Trisha Corle. All councilmembers voted yes.

### **ENGINEER'S REPORT**

The engineer was not in attendance and no report was given.

### **SEWERS/SEWER PROJECT**

An update to the tap-in for the borough: 1709 Franklin St. has completed the lateral work, 619 Glenwood Avenue has completed the lateral work and both pass the pressure test. The property at 319 Clay Street is in the process of being sold. The previous owner did not install the lateral and the new owners were unaware that the sewer had to be put in. They (the previous owners) will install the lateral in a week or two. Chief Rigby is keeping track of their progress.

Atty. Joe Green is working with Upper Yoder Township and will report next meeting on this subject. Motion to accept the sewer report was made by Trisha Corle and seconded by Connie Hobbs.

## **PERSONNEL REPORT**

Trisha Corle and Ken Dom will start to work on a new personnel policy for the borough employees. They will bring it back to the council for review.

Tracy Rhodes has submitted her resignation effective June 9, 2016, she has accepted a full-time position with a local car dealership.

We will advertise on the internet for the assistant secretary/treasurer position. It will be 2 to 3 days a week, depending on the workload. It will be an hourly wages and the time is from 9:00 to 4:00 pm.

Motion to accept the personnel report was made by Tim Leighty and seconded by Connie Hobbs,

## **POLICE AND MAYOR REPORT**

Chief James Rigby has e-mailed his monthly report to all councilmembers. No questions on the report. Mayor Ralph Boyle had his ride-along with Chief Rigby. He was introduced to Mag. John Barron, the principal and vice principal at Ferndale High School.

Also, they checked on property in the borough pertaining to trees, high grass and debris and junk collections in several yards.

The residents like seeing the police out, either in the cruiser or on foot patrol. Chief Rigby and the part-time police are meeting people in the borough and are establishing a good relationship with them.

Chief Rigby has talked to people about the high grass and debris in their yards. For the ones not obeying the ordinance, he has issued citations to those people.

Numerous complaints have been received on the property at 388 Ferndale Avenue. This house has been abandoned and the owners are out of state. If nothing is paid to the county in two years it will go for sheriff's sale.

Motion to accept the police report was made by Ken Dom and seconded by Mark Wissinger.

## **EMERGENCY MGT. +FIRE CO +WEST HILLS REPORTS**

West Hills Regional Fire Department/Hilltop EMS e-mailed their monthly report to all councilmembers. No questions on the report.

Motion to accept was made by Trisha Corle and seconded by Connie Hobbs.

## **EQUIPMENT/STREETS/BORO PROPERTY**

Equipment -Street foreman, Brian McAteer reported that they put new front tires on the loader and replaced the broken hydraulic hose on the street sweeper and installed new brooms. The F550 was inspected at Sleeks.

Trees – One tree on the 500 block of Harlan had to be cut down. Cleared a tree on Colonial St. that had fallen onto the roadway

Sewers – Installed a new catch basin on the 600 block of Vickroy Avenue and replaced a broken manhole lid on Clay Street.

Recreation – Removed remaining posts and footers of GameTime platform. We are now installing the new sliding board and putting up the swings.

Signs – Put reserved parking signs in for Ferndale Deli and New You Boutique (both on Ferndale Avenue). Also painted the curbs and parking space lines.

Building – Repaired broken cap above the Police Office door.

Grass – The grass was cut at the Recreation field, the triangle and Lois Lane. The lot was the first cutting of the year. Picked up a dump truck load of long grass & roots on Margaret Avenue.

Paving – Met with Quaker Sales and HRI on this year’s paving for bids.

Brush and Wood – We picked up 12 loads of brush and 7 loads of wood since the last council meeting.

The borough received a letter requesting a handicap sign and painting of the curb for a couple on Ferndale Avenue. Motion was made by Trisha Corle and seconded by Tim Leighty to install the sign and paint the curb.

The street department will also repaint the curb in front of Herbert’s CPA, The Ferndale Deli and the New You Boutique.

Tim Leighty reported that the roof on the main building is leaking and is looking into replace or repair the tower roof over the kitchen. Brian McAteer will get estimates.

The siren on the roof is also rusted and the bolts have deteriorated, no one is sure who placed the siren on the roof, but it is not being used and should come down.

It was reported that the catch basin on the corner of Ogle and Ferndale Avenue needs to be repaired. Brian told the council that that basin is being replaced.

Ken Dom asked Brian to watch Scott Bennett’s hours, he is only allowed 30 hours a week, unless something special comes up.

The grass on the borough owned properties are getting high, it was suggested to call Art Boring and see if he would be interested in cutting the grass and sweeping the streets. Ken Dom will call Art and set-up a meeting with him. It would be up to 15 hours every other week. The wages would be \$9.00 an hour. If Art Boring could not cut the grass, Joshua Schalles might be able to. This position is - as needed. Also, at \$9.00 an hour.

Paving – The streets to be paved this year are the 500, 600, 700 block of Vickroy Avenue, the 500 block of Clay Street and Nolte Lane.

Bids for paving – HRI - \$41,794.60  
Quaker Sales - \$37,346.25

Quaker Sales was awarded the bid with the motion being made by Ken Dom and seconded by Mark Wissinger.

Mark Wissinger said that Commissioner Wissinger had secured an additional \$2,000.00 for this year’s paving. The secretary will send a letter to the county requesting these funds.

Motion to accept the equipment/street/property report was made by Tim Leighty and seconded by Owen Hofecker.

## **TREES**

Mr. Adams on Margaret Avenue is concerned about the neighbor's tree, since a lot of the limbs are hanging over onto his property. He was told; he could trim the tree, but if the tree died because of the trimming of the tree he could be liable for it. It was suggested he talks to the neighbor and come to some understanding.

Owen Hofecker reported on three trees that were brought to his attention. The trees are located on Glenwood Ave at 555, 601 and 621. These trees are the responsibility of the homeowner. The trees died after Penelec contracted a tree trimming company to cut the limbs away from the lines. Although the council sympathizes with the resident, it is still their resident's problem.

Jordan Tree Service has offered to donate woodchips for the playground on Ferndale Avenue. Mark Wissinger will contact them about the delivery.

Motion to accept the tree report was made by Ken Dom and seconded by Mark Wissinger

## **TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT**

The tax collector reported that the month of April total real estate tax collected was \$72,491.98. \$250.00 was collected for moving permits.

Motion to accept the tax collector's report was made by Tim Leighty and seconded by Connie Hobbs.

## **FINANCE REPORT/ACCOUNTS PAYABLE**

Trisha Corle reported that Herbert's CPA will have all financial statements ready for the June 13, 2016. The reports will cover the first four months of the year. The accounts payable for all accounts totaled - \$42,943.98.

Motion to pay the bills was made by Mark Wissinger and seconded by Ken Dom.

## **PUBLIC RELATIONS**

Concerned citizens had mention about the light on Goucher Street being too long and the traffic gets back-up. This is Tel-power and Ferndale does not have anything to do with the lights. They are on a delay cycle of 1 to 1 and a half minutes.

No other report was given.

## **RECREATION**

Mark Wissinger reported that the swimming program will be starting and letters have gone out to the kids in the borough. About 20 children participated in the swim program at the YWCA.

John Kowal has given the bill to the father of the child that broke the TV in the elementary gym.

Owen Hofecker reported that there is a sink hole on the walking trail by the bingo pavilion. Brian McAteer will take a look at it tomorrow and will fix it.

The Ferndale Elementary Wrestling team, coached by Pres. Scott Miles held their annual Spaghetti Dinner at the Ferndale Methodist church and the fundraiser brought in \$1,700. Good job.

Motion to accept the recreation report was made by Tim Leighty and seconded by Trisha Corle

**OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

The borough received notification that a property on Vickroy Avenue has gone from a 3 unit house to a double unit as verified by Laurel Municipal Authority.

Barry Himes has applied for a building permit to install a pool. The permit was not granted until after a variance hearing is held.

Tim Leighty has suggested looking into our own garbage truck. This was tabled until more information is available.

No other business was discussed and the meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Anita M. Smith*

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Borough Secretary