

FERNDALE BOROUGH

Regular Meeting
November 9, 2015

The Ferndale Borough Council met on Monday, November 9, 2015 in the Fire Company's Recreation Hall at 618 Westinghouse Avenue, Johnstown, Pennsylvania.

President Mary Rose Shaffer 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

Roll call showed the following present: Mary Rose Shaffer, Trisha Corle, Timothy Leighty, Al Lushko, Mark Wissinger, Jr., Chief of Police James Rigby, Street Foreman Brian McAteer and Secretary Anita Smith.

APPOINTMENT OF NEW COUNCILPERSON

Three letters of interest were submitted to the council for consideration for vacancy on the Borough Council. They were as follows: Connie Hobbs, Owen Hofecker and Heidi Wallace.

President Mrs. Shaffer instructed the council that they could only vote for one person. Vote was taken by a show of hands. Connie Hobbs received three votes and Owen Hofecker received two votes.

The new councilwoman was Connie Hobbs. Her term will be for 23 months.

A discussion followed about the additional terms and councilperson.

We will have the solicitor look into this and report back to us of the procedure.

VISITORS

Jody Ingram was present, but was just observing.

Al Cooper addressed the council about a mandated pressure testing. An article in the Reader's Forum indicated that DEP does not mandated pressure testing and this is not Pennsylvania law. PA. Code # 25 which can be found on-line with special sections pertaining to this action is not required. This is misleading because water that is going to the treatment is mandated through the Clean Streams Act, so this sewer water is not going into the streams.

We are following the guideline set-up by the treatment plant, because of the regulation they have to follow. They will be doing flowmeter monitoring to check on the storm water and the flow to the treatment plants.

MAYOR

Mayor Edward Dallape came into the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

At this time Mayor Dallape swore in Connie Hobbs and the new councilperson.

MINUTES

The minutes were not approved, because corrections needed to be made. These corrections will be made and ready for approval at the December 14th council meeting.

A motion was made by Mark Wissinger to accept the minutes, with the understanding that these changes will be made. Seconded by Tim Leighty.

ENGINEERS REPORT

Mark Muir will be late to the meeting and his report will be given at that time.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Report was submitted to all councilmembers by e-mail. Motion was made by Trisha Corle and seconded by Tim Leighty.

STREET

Brian McAteer reported that the street department replaced a broken pipe (lateral) at 525 Glenwood Ave.

Kircon-Breco reported a sink hole at the end of Atlee Street near their property. The street department replaced the basin that was causing the problem.

The crosswalks had to be blacked out at the intersection of Clay Street and Summit Ave., because they are state roads. The state will come in and replace them.

They patched the road on Clem Alley at Henry Court, also, patched the bottom part of the curve on Breezewood Drive. A total of 5 ton was laid on these projects.

Maintenance – Pulled 14 posts in the Hyston area put a new light above Police entrance door and put no stopping or standing signs below Ferndale Middle School.

Mark Wissinger questioned Brian about the curbing on Summit Ave., he will look into it.

Mary Rose Shaffer stated that she has received numerous phone calls on open trenches in the borough, due to the digging of the laterals. She researched the Ord. # 480 and found no mention of restoring the property to its original state or a timetable to close the trench.

Chief Rigby reported there are three properties that are obstructing the sidewalk. (Two on Summit and one on Glenwood.) The property owners have been notified about this and have been given a week to correct this problem.

Also, a property on Vickroy Ave. has filled in the trench, but during heavy rains, soil washes out and down on the sidewalk.

The mayor stated that we do have ordinances in place to take care of properties that have become a blight issue. Chief Rigby said he has issued citations and has called in Laurel Municipal Inspection Agency to look at some of these properties. The Chief reported that we have made a lot of progress in this area.

Motion to accept the street department report was made by Tim Leighty and seconded by Mark Wissinger.

TREES

No report at this time, Scott Miles will be coming in later.

MAYOR AND POLICE REPORT

The police are assisting with the sewer committee on the termination of water to 20 vacancies. A \$50.00 fee is charged to turn off, then on the water. Only 3 properties had their water turned off. All have complied and had water service restored. The water that was terminated because of not paying the water bill will only be charged \$25.00 after it passes the pressure test.

There is one property on Midway Drive that still needs to be tied in. They could be charged \$600.00 a day until they comply with the new system. Chief Rigby has tried to contact this person, if unable to do so, he will site him.

The mayor asked if the vacant houses were paying the quarterly fee, the secretary answered that she would need the addresses of those properties in order to give him a correct answer. Letters are sent to the homeowners stating that the money is owed. If there is no response, a lien is placed on the property, when it is sold the borough will receive this money,

Al Lushko made a motion to accept the police report, and seconded by Trisha Corle.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Mark Muir first addressed the sewer bill from Johnstown Regional Sewer. A new company has been retained to do the billing for JRS and inadvertently charged all residents the \$27.00, instead of the \$17.00 (if you had your complete system done). This problem was due to a software glitch and it will be corrected on the next billing cycle.

Mr. Muir's reported that 641 inspections are complete (19 inspections were done since the last meeting. There were 275 structures had the entire system tested, 124 tested to inside the foundation, 233 on the outside only. Storm verification was 9 and vacant and not connected were 15. Some structures are connected but not tested; he will prepare a list of these properties for the borough.

The borough should contact DEP about conversion and water shut-offs. They will use flowmeters to monitor the discharge.

A question was asked by Pres. Shaffer about the directional drilling, what has to be done with it. Brian McAteer said that it has to be televised every year and we call in Portage Water Authority to do this for us. They (Portage Water Authority) will then give us discs, one will be sent to DEP and the other will be kept in the street department. This inspection is done every November. Mary Rose Shaffer instructed Brian McAteer to call them in to inspect the line. Brian McAteer said that he only gives them to DEP when a request them. Mark Muir wanted Brian to check the records to see if they have requested any of the discs.

Letters have been resent to homeowners on Ferndale Avenue about the storm verification. Homeowners were informed they could still have to install viewports and/or pressure testing, depending on flows. 2 of the 4 structures have passed the storm verification.

Letters have been sent to the residents on Tillman Ave.

Al Lushko made a motion to accept the engineer's report, seconded by Mark Wissinger.

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT

Total of real estate tax collected in October 2015 was \$2,354.31, which leaves an outstanding balance to collect of \$22,425.96.

Motion to accept tax collector's report was made by Mark Wissinger and seconded by Al Lushko.

FINANCE REPORT

Trisha Corle reported on the additional bills to be paid. Ms. Corle met with Herbert CPA and was informed that they will reconcile all bank accounts and help with the budget; this should all be done sometime next week. After this is all in place with the expenses and income, this will give us a more accurate account for the line items.

Tim Leighty asked Trisha Corle where we stood on the police wages. At this time we are no closer to a decision than we were last month. We have to consider all Borough employees and look at the budget to see how this can be done. We are looking at all aspects of this and have three scenarios on this subject.

Al Lushko stated that there are police officers with 25 years' service and that this should be taken into consideration.

The hospitalization for the borough employees went up 5%, this according to William Helsel of FWF. At this time we probably will not be doing anything with hospitalization.

With the retirement of Chief Boring, he has been taken off the policy. This is a savings to the borough.

Motion by Al Lushko and seconded by Mark Wissinger was made to accept the finance report.

SEWERS/SEWER PROJECT

Tim Leighty, sewer chair, reported that John Zlatovich, said something in the sewer system was causing a backup in his house. Until he has a chance to talk to Mr. Zlatovich, to find out exactly what this problem is.

Brian McAteer said that he should have his downspouts dye-tested to make sure they are not going into his sanitation system.

Mr. Zlatovich has not contacted anyone in the borough, since his initial call, leaving to believe that his problem has been solved.

The mayor asked if he should have his downspouts daylighted, but if he is using the old sewer lines for his downspouts, he would not have to have them daylighted.

Tim Leighty stated that Chief Rigby's report was accurate about the water shut-offs and that we as a borough have done everything possible, so DEP cannot come back on us. We are now in compliance by their standards.

Motion to accept the sewer report was made by Al Lushko and seconded by Trisha Corle

PERSONNEL REPORT

No Report.

RECREATION REPORT

Mark Wissinger reported that Basketball and Wrestling has started and Matt Lushko is helping out with the Basketball program.

Al Lushko made a motion to accept the recreation report, seconded by Trisha Corle.

PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORT

No Report

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

No Report

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

We received a letter from CCTCC cost was \$109.05. A question was asked by Trisha Corle as to what this is for. More information is needed before the Council can act on it.

Annette Paluchak sent a letter and invoice to the borough, because of issue she is having with rodents. No request was made by this resident to look into her problem.
No action will be taken on the letter or invoice.

The Council went into executive session at 7:55p.m.

Adjourn after the executive session.