

FERNDALE BOROUGH

Regular Meeting

November 14, 2016

The Ferndale Borough Council met on Monday, November 14, 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, Trisha Corle, Ken Dom, Connie Hobbs, Robert Gray, Vice Pres. Mark Wissinger, Owen Hofecker, Mayor Ralph Boyle, Atty. Joe Green, Chief of Police James Rigby, Street Foreman Brian McAteer and Sec. Anita M. Smith.

VISITORS

Eric Baumbaugh, Michele Baumbaugh, Lisa Glenn, Kathi Swalligan, Joyce Duda, Debbie Goodman, Barry Himes, Henry Eisenhuth, Lori Himes, Zachary Neal, Wes Neal, Dawn Boyle, Eric Plack, Roger Bock, Sean Glenn, Robin Alvarez-Plack and Sophie Boyle

Barry Himes was the spokesperson on some of the visitors, who were there for the sign that was placed at the rear of 618 Westinghouse Ave. (this property belongs to the Ferndale Fire Association). The concerns were that the children in the area would play on that vacant lot. Now that the Fire Association has placed a sign in the middle of the lot the kids don't have a place to play. It was pointed out by President Miles that this property is private and the children should not be playing there. Mr. Himes pointed out that the neighbors have maintained this property with the understanding that the children could play there. Mayor Ralph Boyle has now taken over the upkeep on this lot.

Other concerns is that the Fire Association would rent out this hall to people that could get drunk and disorderly. James Rigby has monitored the parties thus far and that statement is false. This hall has mainly been rented to people having Bridal and Baby Showers and a Graduation Party and reunions. The reason this location is desirable is because it's wheelchair accessible.

The visitor's just thought that this is a safety hazard and it is a moral issue.

Atty. Joe Green stated that if the visitors would pursue this issue in court; they would lose, because the Ferndale Fire Association followed all the codes and has all the permits in place.

Kathi Swalligan expressed her concerns about the fence that was to be going up around the 618 Westinghouse property. She was very upset about the noise – if this would be turned into a business and where the fence would be placed. It might prevent her from getting from the back of her property to her front yard.

Kathi Swalligan stated that none of the Council members understand, because they don't live on Ferndale Avenue. President Scott Miles said, "That doesn't matter, because he represents ALL Ferndale residents, regardless where they live." He was sure that all the councilmembers felt the same.

James Rigby – President of the Ferndale Fire Association – wanted to know how Ms. Swalligan knew about the fence, when this was only a suggestion years down the road. She said that it was a rumor going around.

Trisha Corle told the visitor's that the Council cannot do anything about this, because this is Ferndale Fire Associations property. It was suggested that if the visitors had any further objections to the sign or fence, to attend the next Associations meeting on the first Tuesday of every month.

The visitors asked, if the parties at the Fire Hall got to loud, what were they to do. We have a nuisance ordinance in place, just call the police.

Debbie Goodman was the next to speak and she wanted to commend Brian McAteer and the rest of the street department for their work, keeping the streets clean and working with the residents.

At this time Eric Baumbaugh of the Ferndale Fire Association presented the Council with a check for \$11,000.00 to cover their contribution to the Borough. One mill was put on two years ago for fire protection which now can go back to the General Fund for general purposes.

Mayor Ralph Boyle said their goal is have another successful Jubilee next year so they can meet their obligation to the Borough. Sean Glenn wanted to take this opportunity to thank all the Councilmembers for their help with the Jubilee. It was mentioned that next year they will have a car to give away.

MINUTES

A motion to accept the October 10, 2016 minutes was made by Trisha Corle and seconded by Connie Hobbs. The motion carried.

ENGINEERS REPORT

No report was given.

SEWERS/SEWER PROJECT

Mark Muir distributed his report for October 2016. Inspections completed were 657. Of these 284 were for the entire system. Tested to inside Foundation were 127. Outside only tested were 237. Storm Verification only was 9. Vacant and not connected is 14. No sale transfers were done in October.

Mr. Muir discussed with the Council about the Flow Graph. A meter was installed on Margaret Avenue; he believes that some of our overflow is coming from Upper Yoder Township. The meter on Ferndale Avenue was removed for a line cleaning.

Mr. Muir would like to investigate further on Goucher Street, Ferndale Avenue and Franklin Street, but in order to do this he would need a police officer or two to help with the traffic. It would take about an hour or two. Trisha Corle made a motion and seconded by Connie Hobbs. A roll call vote was taken and all councilmembers voted "yes". Mark tested the viewports on Franklin Street and could not find anything more.

HUD owns a house on Summit Avenue and has sold it to an individual; however, this house does not have a lateral. The owner has escrowed the amount of money needed to finish the project. This house will be put back into taxation. Mr. George Nikta has a property on Franklin Street and has installed a grinder pump for his sewage. Stoykovich's have purchased a property formerly owned by a borough resident, but is using it primarily on storage and not to live in.

The Stonycreek Pump Station on the 1000 block of Ferndale Avenue has not been installed at this time.

A motion was made by Ken Dom to accept the Sewer/Sewer Project Report and was seconded by Owen Hofecker. The motion carried.

PERSONNEL

Michael Chalick turned in his resignation. We are looking for another cleaning person. Ken Dom had suggested Jane Jeschonsek, he would talk with her. Also, Robin Alvarez-Plack has said she would talk to her mother and get back with us.

A motion to accept the Personnel Report was made Trisha Corle and seconded by Mark Wissinger. The motion carried.

MAYOR AND POLICE REPORT

Chief James Rigby e-mailed his October Report to all Councilmembers.

The problem on the 500 block of Ferndale Avenue has been taken care of. Between the Chief and Greg Hall all the residents of the building has moved on.

Chief Rigby stated that it is very hard to get officers to work the school events (ball games, dances) at \$30.00 an event. Chief Rigby would like the Council to raise the amount to \$25.00 an hour with a minimum of 2 hours per event. Trisha Corle was meeting with Mrs. Kakabar this week and would bring this topic up.

A motion was made by Trisha Corle and seconded by Connie Hobbs. Motion carried

THE MEETING WENT INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 8:15 AND THE REGULAR MEETING RESUMED AT 8:45.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

The Borough has adopted a HazMat Resolution. This resolution has been given to us by Allen Kline of Cambria County. A roll call vote was taken and all Councilmember's voted "yes."

The Solicitor had nothing else to report.

A motion was made by Connie Hobbs to accept his report and seconded by Trisha Corle. Motion carried

EMERGENCY MGT. + FIRE CO. + WEST HILLS REPORT

West Hills Regional Fire Department and the West Hills EMT Report was e-mailed to the Borough office and distributed to all Councilmembers.

West Hills SCBA at a cost of \$300,000.00 for the piece of equipment. Judge Krumenacher and Chief Rigby will have a meeting on December 7, 2016.

Mark Wissinger made the motion to accept Emergency Mgt. Report and seconded by Trisha Corle. Motion carried

EQUIPMENT/STREETS/BOROUGH PROPERTY

Street Foreman Brian McAteer gave his report for October to all Councilmembers.

Ken Dom would like to put Art Boring in the rotation for snowplowing. The reason for this is because we used to have 3 full-time employees, now we have 2 full-time and 1 part-time employee and we have to watch his hours. Mr. Dom put that into a form of a motion and it was seconded by Connie Hobbs. All Councilmembers agreed.

A motion by Trisha Corle to accept the Street Departments was made and seconded by Connie Hobbs.
Motion carried

TREES

Owen Hofecker had nothing to report.

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT

Anita Smith had no collections in October. The balance for collections still stands at \$21,142.92.

A motion to accept the Tax Report was made by Owen Hofecker and seconded by Mark Wissinger.
Motion carried

FINANCE REPORT/ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Trisha Corle is working with Debbie Herbert on the 2017 budget. Some items need to be clarified and other line items need to be addressed. Some figures for insurances, wages and hospitalization will need to be supplied to Ms. Corle to bring the budget figures up to date.

There is a discussion on the one mill put on for fire protection. This mill will be removed, since the Ferndale Fire Association gave a check for \$11,000.00. However, this mill will be needed for general purposes to balance the budget.

Trisha Corle will continue to work on the budget and will have it finalized for the Council to have a look at it at their December workshop. There were no additional bills.

A motion by Mark Wissinger was made to accept the Financial Report and to pay the bills. It was seconded by Robert Gray. Motion carried.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

There have been complaints on the 400 block of Vickroy Avenue about soiled baby diapers not being put in garbage bags and put out for the garbage, also rats have been seen in the area. The problem on the 700 block of Glenwood Avenue seems to be resolved.

Scott Miles will meet with John Cammerata on Tuesday, November 15, 2016 in the Borough office to discuss our contract with the electric company. If the cost is lower than what we are paying, we will go with the 30 month plan so we can get the lowest rate.

A motion to accept the Public Relations report was made by Trisha Corle and seconded by Connie Hobbs.
Motion carried.

RECREATION

President Scott Miles went to the October School Board Meeting and the Board had no idea what programs were being offered to all the students in the school district that the residents of Ferndale Borough were paying for. The Superintendent will compose a letter, along with the letter from the Borough explaining the cost of the programs and the cost for additional insurance.

Sarah Riffle and Matt Lushko are handling the girls and boys basketballs teams. Mrs. Riffle has 14 girls in the 3rd. to 4th. levels. She also has a traveling team that plays at East Hills Recreation.

As Mr. Miles pointed out – “we need these programs, because it benefits the JV and Varsity sports in high school.” It was also pointed out that the school did bill the parents for the broken TV in the lobby of the elementary school. This subject is now closed.

Trisha Corle will be meeting with Mrs. Kakabar and the School Board on Wednesday at Penn Highlands and will mention again about the Recreation Programs.

The street department reported that the Ferndale Park restrooms are now closed till next spring.

A motion to accept the Recreation Report was made by Trisha Corle and seconded by Connie Hobbs. Motion carried.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

The delinquent sewer bills are coming in, since we told them that the water can be shut-off in the winter. The employees will be paid on Wednesday before Thanksgiving, since Herbert’s will be closed on Thursday and Friday. (Our normal payday.)
Jim Rigby will handle the Christmas Party since he did such a good job last year.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm. Motion was made by Ken Dom.

Respectfully submitted

Anita M. Smith
Borough Secretary

