

FERNDALE BOROUGH

Regular Meeting
September 12, 2016

The Ferndale Borough Council met on Monday, September 12, 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, Mark Wissinger V.P., Owen Hofecker, Mayor Ralph Boyle, Atty. Joe Green, Chief of Police James Rigby, Street Foreman Brian McAteer and Sec. Anita Smith.

VISITORS:

Susan Miles was just observing.

Jerry and Carol Rex addressed the rodent problem on the 700 block of Glenwood Avenue. They are satisfied that the problem has been resolved, but they are unhappy with the way the council handled it. Stating that they were not informed when the bait boxes were going to be placed, even though they were placed on another property. Other questions were how long this poison is affective, since they have dogs and would like to put them in the back yard. Brian McAteer will call Ehlich's and get these questions answered. Ehlich's did tell the neighbors that they must keep the yards clean. This means cut down the weeds, clean up after your pets and stop feeding the birds and other animals. The Solicitor stated that this problem is mainly due to all the sewer work going on with the city.

The council went into an Executive Session at 7:22 pm.

The meeting continued at 7:25 pm. A motion by Trisha Corle and seconded by Owen Hofecker to terminate the employment of Officer Eric Yakulich was made. A roll call vote was taken and all councilmembers voted "yes". Motion carried.

MINUTES

A motion to accept the August 8, 2016 minutes and the minutes of the Council Workshop meeting was made by Trisha Corle and seconded by Connie Hobbs. Motion carried.

ENGINEERS

No report was given.

SEWERS

Mark Muir passed out his monthly report. It is as follows: 656 inspections complete – Entire system tested, 283 – Tested to inside the foundation, 127 – Outside only tested, 237 – Storm verification only, 9 – Vacant and not connected, 15. There were 3 sale transfers in the month of August.

The next topic of discussion was the graph on the peak flow. Mark Muir is not sure if the new pump has been installed. He will check on this matter. The question was asked if these meters are recalibrated. Mark Muir assured them that they were. Mark will work with Brian and the street department on checking the lines in the borough. The pipe behind the borough building is not done and that could be some of the problem with the overflow on the graph. Also, some residents may have put their downspouts into the system again. Mark Muir stated that we need a good rain event to find out about the flow. The street department will pull some manhole covers and check.

There is a manhole cover on Hystone Avenue that is covered with asphalt, but that maybe a dead line. Brian McAteer will check on this. Another problem area is the manhole at the corner of Harlan and Ferndale Avenues. There a connection that was not tied into the main and Brian is not sure if Bear Contractors connected this correctly.

Mark Muir will check with Roto-Rooter to get prices to fix the line behind the Borough building, He will give us the quotes and the next meeting.

President Scott Miles reported that a check from Stonycreek Township in the amount of \$199,404.31 for their portion on the sewer line on Ferndale Avenue. This check was deposited and a check written to Somerset Trust to pay on the line-of-credit.

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

PERSONNEL

Tim Leighty has submitted his resignation to the council, stating that his job has become more demanding and he feels that he cannot devote enough time to the Borough. The resignation was accepted by Pres. Scott Miles and a roll call vote was taken. All councilmembers voted "yes". Trisha Corle asked that a letter be written to Tim to thank him for his service to the Borough.

All the next council meeting (October 10, 2016) they will appoint a resident to fill the vacancy. It will be on the Borough's website and listed in The Tribune-Democrat. All applications need to be in the office by Oct. 3, 2016 by 4:00.

A motion was made by Ken Dom and seconded by Owen Hofecker to accept the Personnel Report. Motion carried.

MAYOR AND POLICE REPORTS

Chief Rigby e-mailed all councilmembers his August reports and schedule for September.

He has asked the street department to look at the curbs and signs in the borough to make sure they are clearly mark, so there are no questions when the officers issued tickets for certain ordinances. They will start on Vickroy and check all curbs and signs.

The Chief will have a meeting with his officers to go over varies issues. One of the issues is the vandalism on the other side of the railroad tracks. The businesses of Bird Electric and Milkie's are concerned about this problem. The Borough also stores equipment and has a salt bin in the back.

Connie Hobbs made a motion to accept the Police Report. It was seconded by Owen Hofecker. The motion carried.

SOLICITOR

The solicitor reiterated that Eric Yakulich has the opportunity to resign or his will be dismissed.

On August 25, 2016 he had an onsite meeting with Barry Himes attorney Mr. Raho. Atty. Raho agreed that the pool must come down. In question still is the sewer line behind the borough building. Mr. Himes will have to have his property surveyed before anything else can be pursued.

Mr. Himes told the attorneys that he was never served a Rite of Summons by our former solicitor. Atty. Joe Green will follow up on this matter.

Codes officer Jim Rigby has asked that the council review the cost of having a variance hearing. Since the cost has gone up the cost of a hearing should reflect that cost. Also, that all bills owed to the borough must be paid up-to-date. This includes taxes, garbage, sewage and per Capita.

Atty. Green addressed the issue of retaining an Attorney for the Zoning Board. He stated that he cannot be both.

Also, according to Act 90 all bills payable to the Borough must be paid in full before a variance is issued. They can, however; still have the meeting, but the payments must be paid first.

The minutes of the Himes Zoning Hearing were approved by the zoning board and a motion by Trisha Corle and seconded by Ken Dom to accept them as well. Motion carried.

EMERGENCY MGT. + FIRE CO. + WEST HILLS REPORTS

West Hills Regional Fire Department/Hilltop EMS e-mailed to the Borough Office their report for September 2016.

Ralph Boyle and Jim Rigby reported that the Jubilee was a success this year. Hopefully the Fireman's Association will be able to meet their obligation to the Borough. A check for \$11,000.00 will be issued at the November 2016 meeting. The council should be able to remove a mill, because of this payment.

A motion was made by Ken Dom and seconded by Owen Hofecker to accept the Emergency Mgt. report.

EQUIPMENT/STREETS/BOROUGH PROPERTY

Brian McAteer submitted his monthly report to the council. There were no questions on the report.

Ken Dom, Brian McAteer and Art Boring traveled to Bensalem, PA. to look at a street sweeper, since our street sweeper is 37 years old and needs a lot of work done to it. The cost of this sweeper is \$12,000.00 and the amount of \$6,000.00 can come out of the Highway Aid Fund (Liquid Fuels) and the other half will come out of the Sewer Maintenance Fund. The cost for transport will also come out of the Sewer Maintenance Fund. This sweeper that the Borough wants to purchase is 11 years old and in good condition.

The old sweeper needs a radiator, water pump and hose. Brian asked if they wanted to put the money into the old sweeper or sale as is. The council decided to sale as is. The mirrors will be taken on the old sweeper and installed on the new sweeper.

A motion to purchase the new street sweeper was made by Trisha Corle and seconded by Mark Wissinger.

A roll call vote was taken and all councilmembers voted “yes” motion carried.

Ken Dom said that Art Boring went with them, because he knows how to work on the equipment and would be a good judge on the piece of equipment. Ken Dom asked if he we could pay Art Boring for his time. Trisha Corle said that he should get paid, because he will be operating the sweeper.

Trisha Corle made a motion to accept the Street/Equipment Report. It was seconded by Connie Hobbs. Motion carried.

TREES

Owen Hofecker reported that Dennis Marone on Vickroy Avenue had a dead tree cut down in front of his house and Mike Fetsko on Glenwood Avenue had a tree cut down as well. Owen had nothing else to report.

Connie Hobbs made a motion to accept the Tree report; it was seconded by Mark Wissinger. Motion carried.

TAX COLLECTOR’S REPORT

Anita Smith reported that the Real Estate taxes collected for August 2016 totaled \$1,328.25. She also presented the council with the 2017 MMO’s. The Police Pension Fund was \$17,842.00 and the Non-Uniform Pension Fund was \$0.00, this fund is overfunded, thus no Borough funding is required. However, the Police Pension Fund is mainly paid with State Aid money with the Borough making up the difference.

A motion to accept the Tax Collector’s report was made by Trisha Corle and seconded by Connie Hobbs. Motion carried.

FINANCE REPORT/ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Herbert’s and Co. distributed the monthly reports for July. Trisha Corle asked the council to look over all the financial statement on all the accounts. Noting that the police budget was at 75% of budget, this was due to the settlement \$6,500.00 paid to a former police officer.

Bills to be paid out of General Fund account totaled \$51,546.18 (\$10,400.00 of the total was paid to Quaker Sales for paving). All other accounts totaled \$33,299.59 (\$27,182.20 of the total was paid to Quaker Sales for paving). Liquid fuel money from the state paid for this paving.

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

PUBLIC RELATIONS

No report given.

RECREATION REPORT

Mark Wissinger reported that the incoming freshman class at UPJ had painted the equipment at the playground.

The Borough needs to purchase an additional insurance policy for the Recreation program. This policy will cover liability for any child participating in the programs provided by the Ferndale Recreation Committee. The estimated cost is \$1,222.20. This includes the basketball and wrestling teams. A discussion on the contribution from the other boroughs (Brownstown, Dale, Lorain and Middle Taylor Township) should share some of the cost. The council felt that this isn't fair for the Ferndale Borough residents to pay the entire cost. Scott Miles will go to a school board meeting and voice his concerns on the matter. Mark Wissinger also stated that the borough has been paying for the swimming program at the YWCA for years and children from all the borough are allowed to attend.

Motion to accept the Recreation report was made by Trisha Corle and seconded by Mark Wissinger.
Motion carried.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

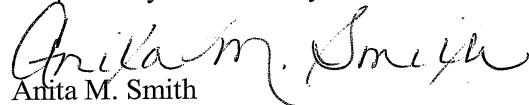
The Verizon contract has been renewed.

The specs for the garbage contract for three years were distributed and no changes were made, so the specs stay as previous bid.

Highmark sent the new rates and will be reviewed by the council for the next meeting,

Motion to adjourn was made by Trisha Corle and seconded by Connie Hobbs.
The meeting adjourn at 9:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted by



Anita M. Smith
Borough Secretary