

FERNDALE BOROUGH

Regular Meeting

April 10, 2017

The Ferndale Borough Council met on Monday, April 10, 2017 in the Fireman's Recreation Hall at 618 Westinghouse Avenue, Johnstown, PA.

President Scott Miles 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

The Roll Call showed the following present: President Scott Miles, V.P. Mark Wissinger, Trisha Corle, Connie Hobbs, Robert Gray, Owen Hofecker, Ken Dom, Mayor Ralph Boyle, Chief of Police – James Rigby, Street Foreman – Brian McAteer and Secretary – Anita Smith.

VISITORS

Ferndale High School students there to observe were: Alexia Bier, Chad Christofes and Sarah Noble. Also observing were Wes Neal and Zach Neal.

Jay Bruce requested to be on the agenda, but did not attend the meeting. Pres. Miles summarized his requested for another handicap parking placard. He is upset because other people use the spot, but they have a handicap placard as well. Mr. Gray questioned where this place was, the Chief responded that it is located on Station Street between Clem Alley and Summit Avenue.

MINUTES

A motion by Trisha Corle and seconded by Connie Hobbs to accept the March 13, 2017 was made and all Councilmembers approved. The motion carried.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

No report was given.

SEWERS/SEWER PROJECT

PennVest Representative, Dan Mikesic is now working with the Secretary to revolve the funding for the Sewer Project. Mr. Mikesic will contact CJL and work with them along with the Council. He will setup a meeting and Scott Miles and Trisha Corle would like to be in this meeting. It was reported that Dale Mills has tried to contact CJL and no phone call was returned. This account has been inactive since 2015 and the Secretary and Mr. Mikesic had problems getting into the program and had to call the IT consultant at PennVest. This account has now been activated and can be accessed by the Secretary.

Mark Muir represented EADS at the Meeting and he passed out Pressure Testing Updates.

Pressure Testing Inspections

657 inspections complete

- Entire System Tested – 285
- Tested to inside Foundation – 128

- Outside only tested – 235
- Storm Verification only – 9
- Vacant and Not Connected – 14
- 1 Sale transfer in March
- 2 Sale transfer in April

Items for Discussion

The Field Investigation and Wet Weather Inspection have not been completed at this time and will report at the next Council Meeting.

Franklin and Goucher Storm line. Mr. Muir will check with PennDot on this matter, because the intersection will have to be closed. Also, there is permits involved and additional cost. Mr. Muir will receive quotes once permit requirements are done.

Station Street CIPP – There was a discussion about options for 2 laterals CCTV. This line impacts four houses along Ferndale Avenue. It was suggested to avert going to Ferndale Avenue, because it's a state road and would involve additional permits and cost. One house has basement service and needs to be televised to make sure where the water is going. One house maybe excluded from the pressure test until the line is in place. One of the house's lateral is 8ft. deep, so the line must be the same depth. Options for these houses would be to have the line along the Borough Building, having the line cured emplaced or have it slip lined. Until all the investigation is done, an accurate decision cannot be made. But one suggestion was to dig along Ferndale Avenue and run a parallel line.

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

PERSONNEL REPORT

Councilman Ken Dom brought up the 60 banked sick days. These days have accumulated over several years with the stipulation that it is limited to 60 days. Those banked sick days were taken away from the Street Department (by the former administration) a couple of years ago and now has been reinstated. The purpose of these sick days was to be used in a catastrophic situation is an employee had to be off for an extended period of time. It was determined that these days can be used after 5 PTO days (of the current year) were used first, and then they can use the banked sick days. This was discussed, because the Street Foreman will be having surgery and could be off for 4 to 5 weeks. Trisha Corle made a motion, seconded by Connie Hobbs to allow the Street Foreman to use 5 PTO days of the current year and then use the banked sick days. A roll call vote was taken and all Councilmembers voted "yes". The motion carried.

The President Scott Miles has asked the Personnel Committee to take a look at the policy in place for both the Police and Street Departments and to have an amendment to grandfather the sick days for the one employee still under that policy.

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

MAYOR AND POLICE REPORTS

Chief Rigby e-mailed his March 2017 Report to all Councilmembers; there were no questions on the Report.

The Chief reported that the new cruiser was at Suppes Motors, because of a problem with the steering column.

He has taken Officer Lehman off the schedule until further notice. She is dealing with some medical issues. The other part-time Officers have stepped up to fill the shifts.

There were two situations in the Borough that the Police Department was not informed about, before the other authorities came into the Borough. Chief Rigby will discuss this problem with the proper agencies, so this does not happen in the future. He stated that the welfare of the residents and students were a top priority in his Department.

Chief Rigby said that the ITT guy – had the citations of 15 traffic violations – that Mag. John Barron will not take handwritten citations, now the Officers can put them into the computer and get a print-out. He will update the computer.

A Councilmember would like the police to check out a property on the 800 block of Vickroy Avenue.

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

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Due to a prior engagement, Atty. Joe Green was unable to attend the Council Meeting. No report given.

EMERGENCY MGT. + FIRE CO. + WEST HILLS REPORT

West Hills Report was e-mailed to the Borough Secretary, it is on file and copies can be made for those requesting the report.

FERNDALE FIRE ASSOCIATION

The Ferndale Fire Association has requested the Recreation Park for the 2017 Jubilee. The Jubilee will be held from July 17th to July 22nd. They will need the week before for set-up and the week after to clean-up the park.

All Councilmembers were in agreement to grant the request.

STREETS AND PROPERTY REPORT

Street Foreman, Brian McAteer sent his report to all Councilmembers. There were no questions on the report.

There were questions on the use of the Gator. Since it can't be licensed, the liability if it was involved in an accident on a state road is a concern for the Borough. Even though it has lights, brake lights and back-up lights, it is not considered safe for the highway. The Street Committee will look into other options for the Gator or sell it and use the money on other machinery.

A motion to accept the Street and Property Report was made by Connie Hobbs and seconded by Ken Dom. The motion carried.

TREES

No formal report was given, but President Scott Miles stated that Penelec has a program that they will come into the Borough and look at trees to be taken down. If you have a tree that you want cut down, they will do it and bill your electric bill. The cost must be over \$1,000.00.

No motion was needed.

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT

Tax Collector, Anita Smith reported that she collected \$35,974.80 in Real Estate Tax in March. In order for Ms. Smith to report all the Pension information to the correct entities, she had to be appointed to the position of Chief Pension Officers. Trisha Corle made the motion and was seconded by Connie Hobbs. The motion carried.

A motion to accept the Tax Collector's Report was made by Mark Wissinger and seconded by Connie Hobbs. The motion carried.

FINANCE REPORT/ACCOUNT PAYABLE

All Financial Statements for February 2017 were given to the Council at the April 3, 2017 Workshop. No questions on the report.

Accounts Payable list was given to the Council for approval for payment.

A motion to accept the Report and pay all Accounts Payable was made by Connie Hobbs and seconded by Mark Wissinger. The motion carried.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

The Ferndale Football Boosters has contacted the President Scott Miles about a donation towards the lights for a night game this fall. They would like to have 3 night games and is asking the Borough for a contribution for a game. Since it would help some of the businesses in the Borough, it was suggested in donating to the boosters the cost for one game. The cost is estimated to be about \$1,000.00. Since the other Boroughs and Township has given the Borough Recreation money, it was felt that they could help out with the cost of the lights.

A motion to give the money to the Ferndale Football Boosters was made by Trisha Corle and seconded by Mark Wissinger.

A motion to accept the Public Relations report was made by Connie Hobbs and seconded by Ken Dom. The motion carried.

RECREATION

Street Foreman, Brian McAteer reported that the playground is in need of some mulch. He was told to order a truck load. He reported that the restrooms will be opened 2 weeks before Memorial Day.

A motion by Robert Gray and seconded by Owen Hofecker to accept the Recreation Report. The motion carried.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Sean Glenn is asking the Council to choose a plan to renew a subscription for our website. A motion to go with Go-Daddy at a price of \$71.19 for 8 years was made by Trisha Corle and seconded by Mark Wissinger.

Victim Services is asking for 2 or 3 parking places in front of their business on Ferndale Avenue. The sign would designate parking for Victim Services – Monday thru Friday, 8:00 to 5:00. A motion to grant the parking spaces was made by Trisha Corle and seconded by Owen Hofecker.

Tim Storms who resides on the 500 block of Ferndale Avenue is requesting a handicap parking space on Harlan Avenue between Ferndale Avenue and Westinghouse Ave. He will have to have it in writing before the Council can act on his request.

Robert Forte is asking the Council if he could use the upstairs community room for acting classes in the summer. He would like to know how much we could charge. It was suggested that he would have to give the Council more information.

Edward Hadix on Quaker Avenue is asking the Council to forgive the 1st. and 2nd. Quarter of the sewer bill, because he had the pipes removed from that side of the house. But the pipes were not removed until July of 2016. The Council refused his request. He must pay the first 2 quarters of 2016.

Seven people will attend the CCBA Spring Dinner in Ebensburg on April 18, 2017.

The regular meeting adjourned at 8:35. The Council then went into Executive Session.

Respectfully submitted by,

Anita M. Smith
Borough Secretary