

FERNDALE BOROUGH

Regular Meeting
February 13, 2017

The Ferndale Borough Council met on Monday, February 13, 2017 in the Fireman's Recreation Hall at 618 Westinghouse Avenue, Johnstown, PA.

President Scott Miles called the meeting to order at 7:00 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, Owen Hofecker, Mayor Ralph Boyle, Atty. Joe Green, Chief of Police James Rigby, Street Foreman Brian McAteer and Sec. Anita Smith.

VISITORS

Margaret Robine was the only visitor and she was inquiring about a handicap parking space in front of her house on Ferndale Avenue. A resident of the 500 block of Ferndale Ave. was requesting a parking place either on Harlan Ave. or Ferndale Ave. The Council is taking a look at the best place to put the handicap parking place.

MINUTES

The minutes for the January 9, 2017 were approved. Trisha Corle made a motion to accept the minutes and seconded by Ken Dom. The motion carried.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

There were a few issues with Barnes, Saly and Company about the 2015 audit. Atty. Joe Green requested to see the engagement letter and contract; he will review it and report back to the Council on his findings.

It was also suggested to write letters to our State Senator and Representative on the Penn Vest matter and to contact CJL.

A motion by Trisha Corle and seconded by Connie Hobbs to accept the Solicitor's Report. The motion carried.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

No report given.

SEWERS/SEWER PROJECT

Mark Muir supplied the Council with the January Report: 657 inspections complete. The entire system tested 284, tested to inside foundation 127, outside only tested 237, storm verification only 9, vacant and not connected 14, and there were 3 sale transfers.

The field investigation and wet weather inspection is ongoing. They will need traffic control on Ferndale Ave. for that field investigation. The storm interconnected with the sanitary system on Goucher St. and Franklin St (approximately 1,000LF) will be done by Gap Services. This will be done when the weather breaks. It will take about half a day to complete. After viewing the lines it will be determined if the problem is ours or something happen during contraction and the problem lays with the contractor.

Mark Muir will get prices for the work to be done on the 600 block of Ferndale Ave. and will report back to the Council at the March meeting.

A landlord on the 600 block of Glenwood Ave. reported that her tenant is having a problem with the sanitary lines backing into the basement of the house. Roto-Rooter said that it was the Borough's problem, but Mark Muir said he would look into that matter as well.

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

PERSONNEL REPORT

No report was given.

MAYOR AND POLICE REPORT

Chief Rigby e-mailed all Councilmembers his report for January 2017. There were no questions on the report.

Chief Rigby said he has 300 Child Safety Locks for anyone who wants them. They are free to any individual (just not Ferndale residents) if anyone wants some they are to call 288-4131.

An investigation into the robbery in Ferndale is still active and the police are working with Stonycreek Twp. Police on this burglary.

There is a reported fraud case involving stolen check from Western Union in Philadelphia. This is also ongoing.

The police deal with Southmont Borough has fallen through and no contract will be offered.

The cruiser is at Jats Transmission having work done on the transmission. The cost will be around \$2,700. A motion was made to purchase the extended warranty of \$250.00. Also, new tires are needed for the other cruiser at a cost of \$640.00.

Chief Rigby has called in Laurel Municipal on code violations on the Wagner residence on Summit Avenue.

It was brought to the attention of Council that James Rigby has not received his \$35.00 a month for the use of his personal cell phone that he uses for work. Connie Hobbs made the motion to pay Mr. Rigby back pay for his cell phone and to pay him the monthly fee of \$35.00. The motion was seconded by Ken Dom. There were no objections and the motion carried.

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

EMERGENCY MGT. + FIRE CO. + WEST HILLS REPORT

The report was e-mailed to the Borough office; if anyone wants a report the Secretary will make copies.

EQUIPMENT/STREETS/BOROUGH PROPERTY

Street Foreman Brian McAteer gave his report to all Councilmembers and there were no questions on the report.

The old street sweeper has been sold and we are waiting for the title from the state, as soon as it comes in we will notify Lorain Borough.

There is a question about the Gator that the Street Department uses, if it should be licensed, since it has been on state roads. We will look into this matter and report at the next Council meeting.

Verizon will come in this week and look at the trees that fell on the telephone lines between Midway and Harlan Avenue during a recent storm. Mr. McAteer will keep us informed on the matter.

A motion by Connie Hobbs to accept the Equipment/Streets/Borough Property was made and seconded by Mark Wissinger. The motion carried.

TREES

Brian McAteer will call Verizon tomorrow about the fallen trees between Midway and Harlan Avenue.

The tree on Boston Street has been taken care of and the homeowner has turned it in to her insurance company for payment.

Ken Dom made a motion to accept the Tree Report and seconded by Mark Wissinger. The motion carried.

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT

The only report given was that the taxes for 2017 are now being processed and will be mailed out on March 1, 2017.

No motion was needed for this report.

FINANCE REPORT/ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Barnes, Saly & Co. has given another bill to the Borough, upon review of the contract by the Solicitor no monies will be paid to the company.

Because of the Fire Assoc. payment to the Borough, one mill has been taken off the Real Estate Tax to the residents.

Herbert & Assoc. will attend the March Workshop to talk about the 2016 audit.

A motion was made by Trisha Corle to accept the report, seconded by Owen Hofecker. The motion carried.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

The PTO time for the full-time employees will now be kept by Herbert's Payroll Department after all the time sheets have been signed by each department's supervisor.

On February 6, 2017, President Scott Miles attended a meeting at the Holiday Inn in Johnstown pertaining to consolidation, its advantages and disadvantages. One would be the funds to remove dilapidated buildings in the city, but there would need to be more clarification on other items.

This is just a starting point for further conversations.

Motion to accept Public Relations Report was made by Ken Dom and seconded by Connie Hobbs. The motion carried.

RECREATION

Pres. Scott Miles reported that Richland School District contacted him on the person of interest that has been a topic of discussion. This person has been removed from North Star School District; Somerset School District has banned him from the property along with Conemaugh Township, Ferndale School District and Richland School District. He has been seen taken pictures of the elementary boys in their Wrestling uniforms. This person doesn't have any children in any of this school's program. All agreed that the protection of these children is the most important issue.

A motion by Ken Dom to accept the Recreation Report and it was seconded by Robert Gray. The motion carried.

OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

A Borough resident asked if they could make payments on their 2016 garbage and sewer project bills. The Solicitor did not have a problem with it as long as both 2016 and 2017 were paid by the December 31, 2017 deadline. A roll call vote was taken and all Councilmembers vote "yes". Laurel Municipal Inspection needs a representative from Ferndale Borough. The Council needed to know if it could be someone who is not on Council. The secretary will call tomorrow and get the answer for them.

Motion to adjourn was made by Connie Hobbs and seconded by Owen Hofecker.

The meeting adjourns at 8:25 pm

Respectfully submitted by

Anita M. Smith
Borough Secretary