

FERNDALE BOROUGH

Regular Meeting
November 13, 2017

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

Vice President Mark Wissinger called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. Those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag.

ROLL CALL

The Roll Call showed the following present: , Connie Hobbs, Robert Gray, Owen Hofecker, Ken Dom, Trisha Corle, and Vice President Mark Wissinger, Jr., Mayor – Ralph Boyle, Chief of Police James Rigby, Street Foreman – Brian McAteer and Secretary – Anita Smith. Those unable to attend the meeting were President Scott Miles and Solicitor Joe Green.

VISITORS

Albert Cooper addressed the Council about the concerns on the combined water and sewer billed issued by the City of Johnstown. He had not received his October bill and was wondering if any of the Councilmembers had received their bills. The Council informed Mr. Cooper that this was a City problem and not the Borough of Ferndale. Councilman Ken Dom stated that you can go online and pay your bill, but we (the Council) cannot do anything about this. Mr. Cooper was satisfied with the answer.

MINUTES

There were 2 changes to the October 9, 2017, upon corrections to the minutes, they were approved with Connie Hobbs making the motion and seconded by Robert Gray. The motion carried.

ENGINEER'S REPORT & SEWER/SEWER PROJECT

Mark Muir had another meeting to attend and did not have any further updates, but to inform the Council that DEP lost the MS4 Report for the second time. The tracking on the package indicated that it was delivered to DEP, but they lost it in the office. Mr. Muir will keep us update on this situation.

Councilman Ken Dom said that he and Brian McAteer checked the manhole cover on Margaret Avenue just below Dollar General. When he checked it the first time it was running clear and today it was just a trickle. It just suggested to get the engineers involved, to start looking to see where the peak in the flow originates.

Chief Rigby reported that a house of Ferndale Avenue has water running into the basement and thinks that the downspouts have not been daylighted. This could be a lot of the trouble with other homeowners that have put the downspouts back into the sanitary sewer lines.

This might be causing the spikes in the infiltration during the rainy season. Councilwoman Connie Hobbs would like to see a letter since to all homeowner's that the Borough and EADS will be checking to make sure on downspouts are not in the sanitary system. We can check this, because the viewports are on the Borough's right-away (between the sidewalk and the curb). Action will be taken against them if this is not corrected.

On Mendall Alley there is a 10" pipe and when it's raining the water is gushing, but today when Mr. Dom checked it, it was dry. He said we may have to have a camera to check to see if the storm sewer is broken. Until this is done we can't move forward on the Goucher St. problem.

Trisha Corle made a motion to accept the Engineer & Sewer/Sewer Project report; it was seconded by Owen Hofecker. The motion carried.

PERSONNEL REPORT

Connie Hobbs and Ken Dom will start to interview for the Secretary/Treasurer's position as soon as possible. The Council has adopted a pay scale.

It is proposed that the office will only be open 3 days and week. It was suggested that those days would be Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, with one of those days, to be open later to accommodate those residents working during the same hours as the Borough office hours.

Secretary Anita Smith will come back in January to help train the new Secretary. She has been given 400 hours in the 2018 budget. She feels that this is more than adequate to train the new employee. There are reports and a billing to go out in January and since this is only once a year, it would be difficult for the new person to do just starting out.

An ad will be placed in the paper to accept resumes for part-time police officers. Also, an ad will be in the Tribune about the tentative budget for 2018.

A motion by Mark Wissinger was made to accept the Personnel Report; it was seconded by Ken Dom. The motion carried.

SOLICITOR'S

The Solicitor was unable to attend tonight meeting.

MAYOR AND POLICE REPORT

Chief Rigby e-mailed all Councilmembers with his October Report. There were no questions on the report.

A letter from President Scott Miles and his wife Sue was given to the Council on what they witnessed at the walking trail. Officer Voytko had seen some boys climbing on the rafters at one of the pavilions at the park. When Officer Voytko had asked if the boys were climbing on the rafters they quickly raised their hands. Officer Voytko explained to the boys how dangerous that was and how they could get hurt.

Mr. & Mrs. Miles said how impressed they were with the officer and how he conducted himself. It also showed the respect that the boys had for the Police Officer.

A salary scale was discussed for the officers and the new hires. Since the Finance Chairman is working on the 2018 budget, she needs the input from not only the Police Department, but from the Street and Administrative offices.

Chief Rigby has contacted the Commissioner's at the Cambria Courthouse about the 911 system in the county. They informed him that they are aware of the dead spots in reception at some locations. They are looking into it. Until then, repeaters in the cruisers may be an option.

Because some part-time officers have found full-time employment, it is necessary to have more part-time officers. Chief Rigby has received 2 applications and will let the Council know how that works out.

There has been some drug activity in the Borough, one on Vickroy Avenue and the other on Ferndale Avenue. The S.W.A.T. team was called to the one on Ferndale Avenue. Again, the Chief was not informed before the raid. He stated that he should know when something like this takes place in the Borough.

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

EMERGENCY MGT. + FIRE CO. + WEST HILLS REPORT

West Hills Regional Fire Department/Hilltop EMS e-mailed their monthly report to the office, if anyone wants a copy, please contact the Secretary and one will be provided for you. No motion needed to accept this report.

FERNDALE FIRE ASSOCIATION

There was a complaint lodged to the Police about the lighted sign on Ferndale Fire Association property endorsing Ralph Boyle for Mayor. Chief Rigby called the State and they informed him, "that if it is not in writing, then there is no compliant." The only other time that this sign was used was to send a message to the residents, that one of our veterans came back safe from the war. Chief Rigby did some research and found out that there is only allowed to be 1 campaign sign in a resident's yard and it cannot be between the sidewalk and the curb. That area is the Borough's right-away.

The Council asked the Mayor's permission to use the Association's Hall for their Christmas Party. We will look into the dates and get back to him but December 10th. seemed to be the best date for the party.

A motion to accept the Fire Association's report was made by Robert Gray and seconded by Ken Dom. The motion carried.

STREETS & PROPERTY

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

Brian McAteer reported that there was a water line break in the restrooms at the park. The line has been fixed, but is unclear how long the water line was broken.

A handicap parking space was requested for the 800 block of Vickroy Avenue. The Street Department will install the sign and will paint the curb, but to paint the stencil on the street will have to wait until spring.

A motion to accept the Streets & Property Report was made by Trisha Corle and seconded by Owen Hofecker. The motion carried.

TREES

No report given.

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT

Anita Smith reported she collected \$626.02 for the month of October 2017. Delinquent Real Estate and per Capita notices will be going out in November 30, 2017.

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

FINANCE REPORT/ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Finance Chair – Trisha Corle, Connie Hobbs and Ken Dom has presented a tentative budget for the Council to review. It was discussed thoroughly at the workshop and there will be no tax increase for 2018. This was approved in Committee and all Councilmembers voted “yes”. The budget will be available for review at the Borough Office during normal business hours. An ad will be placed in the Tribune stating the budget can be reviewed at the office.

Barnes, Saly & Co. have contact Trisha Corle on the matter of the unpaid invoice, they are holding up filing the 2016 audit until this bill is paid.

This matter has been turned over to our Solicitor; he will contact the audit firm and will try to come up with a solution. The filing of the audit with DCED must be done on a timely basis. Trisha Corle will meet with Kyle Shaffer to renew the line-of-credit with Somerset Trust Co. for at least 6 more months, till we can get DEP to approve the final change order and release the remaining money in the PennVest account.

A motion to pay the bills was made by Connie Hobbs and seconded by Owen Hofecker.

A motion to accept the Finance/Accounts Payable Report was made by Owen Hofecker and seconded by Ken Dom. The motion carried.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

No report given.

RECREATION REPORT

Owen Hofecker reported that the Girls 3rd. and 4th. Grade basketball team is playing in tournaments at East Hills Recreation, along with the 5th. and 6th. Grade Girls basketball teams. The 5th. and 6th. Grade girls' basketball has 21 girls participating in the program and 2 teams had to be made.

The cost is \$375.00; this money was raised through personal contributions.

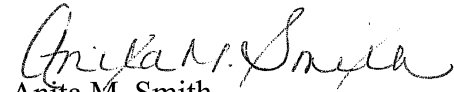
A motion to accept the Recreation Report was made by Trisha Corle and seconded by Connie Hobbs. The motion carried.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

The Borough Christmas Party was discussed during the Fire Association segment. No other business was discussed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m. with Trisha Corle making the motion and seconded by Connie Hobbs.

Respectfully submitted by



Anita M. Smith
Borough Secretary