

## **FERNDALE BOROUGH**

Regular Meeting

February 11, 2021

The Ferndale Borough Council met on Thursday, February 11, 2021, in the Fireman's Recreation Hall at 618 Westinghouse Avenue, Johnstown, PA.

President Owen Hofecker called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. Those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag.

### **ROLL CALL**

The Roll Call showed the following present: President Owen Hofecker, VP Connie Hobbs, Eric Baumbaugh, Trish Corle, Cindy Dom, Mark Wissinger, Jr, Mayor Ralph Boyle, Attorney Joe Green, Police Chief John Blake, Secretary Nancy Hofecker and Street Foreman Sean Simmons. Art Boring was absent.

### **VISITOR'S**

Visitors present were Al Cooper, Zachary Neal, Matthew Raich and Wes Neal.

Al Cooper wanted to thank the street department for doing such a wonderful job keeping the streets clean.

Matthew Raich spoke with concerns on our police coverage.

Wes Neal addressed council with questions regarding the increase of the sewer project quarterly payment. He also had some concerns on police coverage.

### **MINUTES**

There were no changes to the January 14, 2021 minutes. A motion was made by Trish Corle to accept the minutes, seconded by Connie Hobbs. The motion carried.

### **PERSONNEL**

No report given.

### **SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

President Owen Hofecker shared with Attorney Joe Green information regarding the consent order between Ferndale Borough, Stonycreek Township and JRA. Frank from EADS is going to find out from JRA what will happen if the consent order is violated.

A motion to accept the Solicitor's Report was made by Trish Corle seconded by Connie Hobbs. The motion carried.

## **MAYOR AND POLICE REPORTS**

Mayor Ralph Boyle addressed the residents that were present and encouraged them that if they saw something going on in the borough that they think wasn't right they should say something. Either by calling 911 non-emergency number or contacting the police.

Mayor Boyle reviewed some of the things that have been an issue in the borough that Chief Blake has addressed. Chief Blake is working with Laurel Municipal to get the owner of the property on 617 Summit Ave cited for failing to comply with upkeep of the property. Chief Blake is in contact with the owners of 806-808 Ferndale Ave in regards to their garage. Chief Blake went through the borough contacting owners that have televisions placed outside. He explained to the residents that the trash hauler will not take them. The residents need to contact Ebensburg to dispose of them.

Chief Blake said that everyone is aware of the issues in the area. He has been asked to be part of the FBI and ATF task force to help combat the problems in the area.

A motion to accept Mayor and Police Reports was made by Cindy Dom seconded by Mark Wissinger. The motion carried.

## **WEST HILLS REPORT**

West Hills Regional e-mailed their report to the office, if anyone would like a copy, please contact the secretary.

## **FERNDALE FIREMAN'S ASSOC. REPORT**

No report given.

## **STREETS AND PROPERTY**

Sean Simmons said that they have been busy plowing snow. For now, they are good on salt but will have to order more soon.

Nancy Hofecker read a note of thanks from one of the residents regarding the street department and how hard they work during a snow storm.

A motion to accept Streets and Property Report was made by Eric Baumbaugh seconded by Cindy Dom. The motion carried.

## **TREES**

No report given.

## **SEWER/SEWER PROJECT REPORT**

Frank Diloreto was present from EADS.

Three pressure tests were completed in January. The final date for residents to be fully pressure tested is September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021.

Frank said that B. Hale has completed the mainline work for Station Street Phase 1. He only needs to replace the viewport at the 609 Ferndale Avenue property.

Since the quotes have been high for the Station Street Phase 2 project it will be bid together with the Hystone Ave project but under a separate contract.

Frank said that EADS will schedule their confined space employees to complete the repairs on the manhole rehabilitation.

EADS is going to apply for the CFA Mini Grant on behalf of the borough. The mini grant will help fund the audit. The audit will increase the chances of being awarded funds to repair/upgrade the building.

James Excavating anticipates completing the work at 1713 Franklin Street by the end of April 2021.

EADS has a preliminary design of the Hystone Avenue project. Survey work needs to be conducted to confirm elevations and inverts of the proposed lines. They plan to bid the project early 2021 and construct in the summer 2021.

Frank shared with council DCNR will begin accepting applications for its Community Conservation Partnerships Program on January 19<sup>th</sup>. If council is interested, they should contact their Bureau of Recreation and Conservation Regional Advisor to discuss project ideas and application requirements prior to submitting.

EADS surveyed the area at 317 Ferndale Ave and determined that the existing elevations will allow the mainline to be replaced outside of the state right of way and set a new viewport for the property owner. Once the new viewport is installed the property owner can install their lateral and connect to the sewer system.

A motion was made by Eric Baumbaugh to allow the contractor to complete the mainline work on 317 Ferndale Ave provided the quote is less than \$10,000.00 the motion was seconded by Cindy Dom. A roll call vote was taken with all present members voting yes. The motion carried.

A motion to accept the Sewer/Sewer Project Report was made by Eric Baumbaugh seconded by Trish Corle. The motion carried.

## **TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT**

A motion to accept the Tax Collector's Report for January was made by Cindy Dom seconded by Connie Hobbs. The motion carried.

## **FINANCE/ACCOUNTS PAYABLE**

Trish Corle said that Nancy has taken over the books for the borough. Trish is going to work with her to get monthly reports generated.

A motion to pay all Accounts Payable was made by Trish Corle and seconded by Eric Baumbaugh. The motion carried.

A motion to accept Finance/Accounts Payable was made by Mark Wissinger seconded by Eric Baumbaugh. The motion carried.

## **PUBLIC RELATIONS**

No report given.

## **RECREATION REPORT**

Council discussed working with the EADS group as an engineering firm to try and get a grant to update the playground/recreation park. The grant is a 50/50 matching grant.

A motion to accept the Recreation Report was made by Eric Baumbaugh seconded by Trish Corle. The motion carried.

## **OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

Nancy Hofecker read Ordinance 500 - AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF FERNDALE, CAMBRIA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, ELECTING TO AMEND ITS NON-UNIFORM PENSION PLAN ADMINISTERED BY THE PENNSYLVANIA MUNICIPAL RETIREMENT SYSTEM PURSUANT TO ARTICLE IV OF THE PENNSYLVANIA MUNICIPAL RETIREMENT LAW; AGREEING TO BE BOUND BY ALL PROVISIONS OF THE PENNSYLVANIA MUNICIPAL RETIREMENT LAW AS AMENDED AND AS APPLICABLE TO MEMBER MUNICIPALITIES.

A motion to pass Ordinance 500 was made by Eric Baumbaugh seconded by Mark Wissinger. A roll call vote was taken with all present members voting yes. The motion carried.

Nancy Hofecker asked council to think about what streets they would like to see paved this year. She would like to schedule Mike Bowser from Penndot to come in.

Chief Blake said he hasn't forgotten about the stop sign ordinance. He is going to have either Mayor Boyle or Eric Baumbaugh help him with the ordinance.

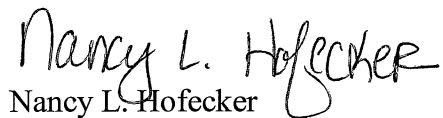
Eric Baumbaugh said he drafted two letters in regards to the ordinances for waste water and moving permits. Attorney Green reviewed the letters and said they looked good. Eric is going to work with Nancy in mailing them out as needed.

A motion to accept Old/New Business was made by Eric Baumbaugh seconded by Cindy Dom.

At 7:05pm the meeting went into executive session regarding a personnel issue.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00pm with Cindy Dom making the motion seconded by Trish Corle.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Nancy L. Hofecker  
Borough Secretary