

## **FERNDALE BOROUGH**

### **Regular Meeting**

**July 7, 2022**

The Ferndale Borough Council met on Thursday, July 7, 2022, 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: VP Eric Baumbaugh, Trish Corle, Connie Hobbs, President Owen Hofecker, Mark Wissinger, Jr, Mayor Ralph Boyle, Attorney Joe Green, Secretary Nancy Hofecker, Street Foreman Sean Simmons and Police Chief Adam Richards. Cindy Dom was absent.

A motion was made by Trish Corle to adopt the July 7, 2022 agenda seconded by Connie Hobbs. The motion carried.

#### **VISITOR'S**

The following visitors were present: Zachary Neal, Wes Neal, Lucien Watson, Sean Glenn and Brett Pribulsky.

Wes Neal addressed council asking about volunteering for the jubilee.

#### **MINUTES**

There were no changes to the June 9, 2022 minutes. A motion was made by Eric Baumbaugh to accept the minutes, seconded by Art Boring. The motion carried.

#### **PERSONNEL**

No report given.

#### **SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

The house at 617 Summit that is owned by Ronnie Jones has been donated to the Ferndale Area School District.

The Edwards property located at 535-535 ½ Vickroy Avenue, Nancy and council are working on getting an exoneration of taxes. The property could then go on the Act 152 list to be demoed. The property will then need to remain clean and green. Trish Corle cautioned council about taking properties out of taxation. She said they need to think long term. She suggested that in

the future they consider using borough funds so the property can be resold. Chief Richards and Nancy have been going after property owners to insure other properties don't get to that point.

Nancy said that the representative from Waste Management reached out to her asking if they would be interested in extending the garbage contract. She said the contract is up at the end of this year. She asked Attorney Green if they are allowed to do that. He said no unless there is an extension clause in the current contract. Nancy did not believe there is. In the next couple of months, the advertisement will go out for bid.

## **MAYOR AND POLICE REPORTS**

Mayor Ralph Boyle said that we are eligible to get license plate readers/cameras for the police cruisers through a grant. We were one of six departments called in the county. We are eligible because of all the traffic citations officers are doing. We will need to set up individual emails for the officers. The only thing we need to purchase are the computers for in the cruisers.

Mayor Ralph Boyle also said that they have officers scheduled for the jubilee.

A motion was made by Trish Corle to amend the agenda and move the Engineers Report after the Recreation Report, seconded by Eric Baumbaugh. 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**

Mayor Boyle and Eric said they will be starting to set up for the jubilee on Sunday, July 10<sup>th</sup>.

## **STREETS AND PROPERTY**

Sean Simmons said that they will be finishing up the draining in the park tomorrow, the final fittings have finally come in.

Quaker will be coming on July 12<sup>th</sup> to pave Station Street. Sean, Roger and Pete did get the catch basin replaced on Station Street.

They are going to start patching the potholes in the borough.

Sean had given council a quote at the last meeting for a trailer to put the mini excavator and mowers on. The price quote was higher than expected. Three quotes will need to be obtained because of the bidding threshold.

## **TREES**

No report given.

## **SEWER/SEWER PROJECT REPORT**

Frank Diloreto was present from EADS.

Three pressure tests were completed in June.

EADS has discussed with Stonycreek's Engineer about the purchase of the mag meter so that they are responsible for providing the flow data to Ferndale, if necessary, in the future.

EADS is preparing the final flow reduction report for DEP discussing the improvements made to the system, amending the sewer ordinance, additional lateral pressure tests, and overall reduced flowrate. The consent order flowrate to be under is 625 GPD/EDU or 378 GPM. The Ferndale peak hourly flow during the flow analysis with the meters in place was 598 GPD/EDU or 353 GPM.

Hystone Avenue Sewer Rehabilitation: Snyder Environmental Services has completed final restoration of the pavement on Hystone Ave. EADS will schedule a final inspection of the project and begin working on the closeout for the project.

A motion was made by Art Boring to approve payment to Snyder Environmental Services for the completed Hystone Ave project in the amount of \$43,355.82. As long as the warranty agreement for the payment on Hystone Ave is signed. Motion was seconded by Eric Baumbaugh. A roll call vote was taken with all present members voting yes.

Station St Walkway Rehabilitation Project: EADS has completed the survey for the area on 6/6/2022. The survey points have been imported and a base map is created. A preliminary design is being laid out to review with Laurel Municipal to determine if a stepped sidewalk is required along Station St or if there are acceptable alternatives.

Local Share Account Statewide Program: All requested equipment quotes were sent on 6/22/2022. All grant questions have been answered to date. Announcement for the grants is anticipated to be the end of 2022.

GTRP Program: Announcement for the grants is anticipated to be the end of 2022.

## **TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT**

Tax Collector's Report was presented for June 2022. Total amount collected was \$10,973.72.

## **FINANCE/ACCOUNTS PAYABLE**

Trish Corle said that herself and Nancy met with Barnes and Saly regarding the audit. The audit is being finalized and will be presented in August. Trish did say that it was a clean audit with only two recommendations. Trish said good job and kudos to Nancy for doing a great job keeping the books.

A motion to pay all Accounts Payable was made by Trish Corle, seconded by Art Boring. The motion carried.

## **PUBLIC RELATIONS**

No report given.

## **RECREATION REPORT**

Mark Wissinger said that the swim program at the YWCA was a huge success. He thanked Trish Corle for taking care of working out the contract with the YWCA.

Nancy said she did receive a donation from the Ferndale United Methodist Church for the playground.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Brett Pribulsky presented council with all the paperwork needed to do the firework show during the jubilee.

Sean Glenn said that the website is live and up to date. He will be getting together with Nancy for training on the website.

Sean Glenn was also there representing the zoning hearing board. He said that the zoning board did have a hearing regarding the school's request to have a digital sign. The zoning board denied the school the variance based off of our ordinances which indicates no animated or digital signs. Sean said the zoning board does feel the ordinance is outdated. They are recommending that the borough updates the ordinance. Council asked Attorney Green to review the ordinance and see how we can bring it up to date.


Trish Corle brought up the subject of possibly hiring another full-time officer to help cover the shifts. After reviewing the financials, it does seem like we would be able to. The other suggestion that Trish brought up was increasing the hourly wage to attract more officers. Trish Corle did say that in a few years taxes will need to be raised to help sustain the full-time officer. Sadly, every department is fighting the same problem. Eric Baumbaugh said he thinks it is more important to have consistency. After some discussion council recommended that Chief Richards ask within the department to see if anyone would be interested in a full-time position. Council would like to interview those interested. Trish asked Chief Richards to create a job description for a full-time patrolman. Trish and Connie would like to review it once it is completed.

**NEW BUSINESS**

No report given.

The meeting adjourned at 7:38pm with Trish Corle making the motion seconded by Connie Hobbs.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Nancy L. Hofecker  
Borough Secretary