



BOROUGH OF PARKESBURG

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PARKESBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, August 15, 2024

7:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to Order by Council President Todd Brade at 7:03 p.m.

Roll call was held. Council Members present were: Council President Todd Brade, Council Vice-President Sharon Wolf, Council Member Nick Ohar, Council Member Mark Agen, Council Member Rhett Lipscomb, Council Member David Mellema, and Council Member Monique Baylor. Also present were Police Chief Ryan Murtagh, Borough Solicitor John Carnes, Borough Secretary Rebecca Durnall, Public Works Director Todd Witmer and Interim Borough Manager Richard Sichler. Mayor John P. Hagan, II was absent.

An Executive Session was held at 6:30PM on Thursday, August 15, 2024, for personnel matters.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

A Motion to Approve the Agenda was made by Lipscomb and seconded by Wolf. All in favor.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A Motion to approve the minutes of the July 18, 2024, Regular Council Meeting was made by Lipscomb and Seconded by Baylor. All in favor.

Yareli Pantoja of Chester County Domestic Violence Center “Paint the Town Purple” Event in October for Domestic Violence Awareness Month- Spoke about giving 50 ribbons to each community and looking to coordinate this event with someone.

PUBLIC COMMENT (AGENDA ITEMS ONLY):

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS:

A Motion for approval of the bills was made by Rhett Lipscomb and seconded by Monique Baylor. All in favor. The treasurer report is attached as presented by Secretary Durnall.

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS:

Police Chief Report- Ryan Murtagh

Fire Chief Report – Assistant Fire Chief Marks presented that in the month of July there were 158 calls for EMS with 41 in Parkesburg. 28 fire calls with 7 in Parkesburg.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Fire District Administrator-Brian Gathercole

Engineer - Arro Consulting – Engineer was not present, but the report was in the meeting packet.

Code Enforcement -Code Inspections Inc.- Rhett discussed some concerns near North Park

Public Works Department- Todd Witmer- No report.

Manager’s Report- Rich Sichler- No Report

Mayor -John P. Hagan, II –No report.

Solicitor- John S. Carnes, Jr., Esquire- Discussed the MPC review period

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Police (Sharon Wolf)- Civil Service Exam is in process and NNO was rescheduled.

Parks & Recreation (Todd Brade) – Haunt this Halloween event discussion

North Park Garden (Margaretta “Rhett” Lipscomb)- Several pounds of food were given to the community.

Budget & Finance (Mark Agen)- 2023 audit is in the process of completing and beginning the 2025 budget. Mark discussed the Liquid Fuels Allocations.

Community and Business (Monique Baylor) -

Fire and EMS (Rhett Lipscomb)- EMS in Crisis presentation at Coatesville Training Center on August 20, 2024.

Economic Development and COG (David Mellema)- No report.

Streets and Property (Nicholas Ohar)- New building ideas for the Road crew their current building have a lot of issues with leaks and lack of heat. A meeting is scheduled for next week to discuss several new building ideas or repair of current building.

Historic Commission (Rhett Lipscomb)- Wednesday the 20th of August they will be getting together to organize items. Our goal is to have Parkesburg Museum.

New Business

MOTION to authorize to hire an additional temporary Public Works Employee at up to \$19.00 per hour or up to \$35.00 per hour if through a temporary employment agency to bring the staff the crew staffing level to a total of seven (7) employees made by Lipscomb. Seconded by Baylor. All in favor.

MOTION to adjust the pay of current public works employees to a minimum of \$19.00 per hour after the employee has successfully completed their probationary period made by Lipscomb. Seconded by Agen. All in favor.

Discussion was held on Parkesburg Free Library. There is a new Director starting on Monday. In the past the library used to receive a donation annually from the borough for \$12,000.00. They are requesting a donation of \$12,000.00 this year. Comment was made that our budget states \$6,500.00 for this year and discussion was held on sending the library their funds for this year.

MOTION to send the budget amount of \$6,500.00 to the library was made by Lipscomb. Seconded by Agen. All in favor.

MOTION to approve Council Members and manager's ability to sign checks; update all council members, manager's signatures at Fulton Bank was made by Ohar. Seconded by Wolf. All in favor.

Old Business

MOTION to confirm hiring date of August 16, 2024, and salary of \$80,000.00 for Borough Manager Rochelle Gresh as approved by Council on July 18, 2024, made by Mellema and seconded by Ohar.

Roll Call Vote:

Agen Yes Baylor No Brade Yes Lipscomb No Mellema Yes Ohar Yes Wolf Yes

MOTION to approve the extension under the MPC extending the period of review period from August 16, 2024, through October 31, 2024, for Meadowview Subdivision made by Lipscomb. Seconded by Agen. All in favor.

MOTION to approve execution of financing documents for purchase of Dodge Pick-up truck for public works by Mellema. Seconded by Ohar. All in favor.

Our new truck is estimated to arrive on August 26th.

Oaks Ministry- Parkesburg Arms Project-Several members of the community spoke regarding support for the Oaks Ministry. Chester County Commissioner Eric M. Roe was in attendance and spoke of support for this organization in the community for Chester County is need of organizations like this in the county.

Public Comments (*Limited to three minutes*)

John Romanoff resident of Main Street expressed his concerns about speeding on Main Street. The speed limit is posted at 25 and people are speeding up to 70 miles an hour. He discussed that there are grants to help in this. He was also concerned with the motorcycles' noise levels and how it causes the buildings to vibrate. Chief Murtagh mentioned the issues on the 300 block his officers took care of.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

President Todd Brade introduced to the public the new Borough Manager Rochelle Gresh. Rochelle Spoke briefly to the public.

Council member Baylor mentioned the water tower would be coming down and wondered if residents would be impacted by it. It was discussed that no one in the community will be impacted by it.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION to adjourn was made by Lipscomb and seconded by Baylor. All in favor. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rochelle M. Gresh
Borough Manager