

PARKESBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, December 19, 2024
7:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Council President Todd Brade at 7:01 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 Monique Baylor, Council Member Margareta “Rhett” Lipscomb, Council Member David Mellema, and Mayor John P. Hagan, II. Also present were Police Chief Ryan Murtagh, Borough Solicitor John Carnes, and Borough Manager Rochelle Gresh.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

A MOTION to approve the agenda was made by Baylor and seconded by Lipscomb. All in favor.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A MOTION to approve the minutes of the November 21, 2024, Regular Council Meeting was made by Lipscomb and seconded by Agen. All in favor.

PRESENTATIONS:

Police Officer Award Ceremony – The annual awards ceremony was held. Several officers were recognized for their actions taken during various incidents in 2024. Chief Murtagh congratulated all the award recipients and thanked all the officers who serve and protect the residents in Parkesburg Borough, Highland Township, and Atglen Borough. Deirdre Bruno was named the 2024 Police Officer of the Year.

MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) -Andrew Tuleya from ARRO Consulting Inc. held a very lengthy discussion with council regarding developing a Stormwater Management Program for the Stormwater Permit, which the Borough’s previous permit is set to expire on June 30, 2025. The Borough will be submitting a permit renewal application for the next MS4 permit cycle. Mr. Tuleya spoke on stormwater education and informed the public that part of the MS4 permit process involves educating the public. The Borough’s Pollutant Reduction Plan (PRP) and Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Plan projects for the 2020-2025 MS4 permit cycle are to be completed by June 30, 2025. Mr. Tuleya informed council the borough could buy credits with other municipalities within the watershed and complete a joint project. There are opportunities to apply for county and state grants to pay for restoration. Council requested a proposal for costs at each stage for next meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT (AGENDA ITEMS ONLY): None

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Engineer - No report

Police Chief Report- Written report was submitted to council. Chief Murtagh informed council members the police department was holding off on full-time testing.

Public Works Department- Written report was submitted to council.

Fire Chief Report – Written report was submitted to council

Fire District Administrator- Informed council that applied for a \$25,000 grant for the parking lot. There will be a Building and Streets meeting in January.

Code Enforcement -Code Inspections Inc.-No Report

Treasurer's Report –

A **MOTION** for approval of bill list as presented and payment of all recurring bills and payroll was made by Lipscomb and seconded by Ohar. All in favor.

A **MOTION** for approval of Treasurer's report was made by Agen and seconded by Lipscomb.

A **MOTION** to accept a proposal from M&T bank for TRAN in 2025 was made by Lipscomb and seconded by Agen. All in favor.

A **MOTION** to pass Resolution authorizing and approving the 2025 TRAN was made by Agen and seconded by Mellema. All in favor.

A **MOTION** to adopt the budget for 2025 was made by Lipscomb and seconded by Agen. All in favor.

Borough Solicitor Carnes announced to the public and amended the agenda, he also requested public comment on amending as an action item. No comment from the public. Solicitor position is passing the budget implicates required passing the Tax Ordinance that had been advertised for passage and had to be posted for that purpose.

A **MOTION** to amend the agenda to was made by Lipscomb and seconded by Baylor. All in favor.

A **MOTION** to approve the Tax Ordinance for 2025 was made by Mellema and seconded by Agen. All in favor.

Manager's Report –

MOTION to authorize Borough Secretary to sign 457 Amendments was made by Mellema and seconded by Ohar. All in favor.

MOTION to advertise for full-time administrative assistant position was made by Lipscomb and seconded by Mellema. All in favor.

Mayor – Mayor Hagan thanked and commended Chief Murtagh for keeping a safe environment for all citizens. Mayor Hagan informed council about the history of Christmas and his interpretation as well as wishing everyone a Merry Christmas. See attached document at back of minutes for entire article.

Borough Solicitor –

A **MOTION** to approve the Culvert Street Underpass Sponsorship of signal changes-TE160 was made by Baylor and seconded by Lipscomb. All in favor.

A **MOTION** to approve Resolution for Meadowview confirming and approving a waiver of open space requirements under section 425c of SALDO as approved by Borough Planning Commission on December 16, 2024 was made by Mellema and seconded by Lipscomb.
Ayes – 6 Nay -1

A **MOTION** to approve Resolution granting conditional final approval for Meadowview subdivision, subject to conditions including inter alia a clean engineer’s review letter was made by Ohar and seconded by Agen. All in favor.

A discussion was held on the technical and price proposals for East and West Bridge. Council requested clarification on the fiscal responsibilities and going to table until next meeting.

A **MOTION** to approve Historical Commission/Society 5-year lease was made by Lipscomb and seconded by Mellema. All in favor.

A **MOTION** to approve advertisement of scheduled meeting dates and move June 19, 2025 meeting to June 18, 2025 was made by Lipscomb and seconded by Agen. All in favor.

New Business:

A Breakfast with the Commissioners will be held on January 15, 2025. Council Members Lipscomb and Baylor as well as Borough Manager Gresh will be in attendance.

Old Business:

Trash billing late fees/penalties- Borough Manager Gresh informed council members of the February Workshop discussing trash.

A notification that the R2 District changes in zoning and subdivision are being advertised for January 16, 2025 as a public hearing.

Minch Park – Discussion was held regarding the baseball agreements with Minch Park. Council requested more information as to schedule, costs, and maintenance of fields.

Council determined there will not be a special meeting added on Thursday, December 26, 2024.

Public Comments (*Limited to three minutes*)

COUNCIL COMMENTS-

Agan informed council that the Chair of the Zoning Hearing Board, George Evans, has resigned.

Mellema stated he had been on the roof since last council meeting and removed rotted material from the cupola. Mellema suggested replacing the pieces in the spring.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION to adjourn was made by Lipscomb and seconded by Brade. All in favor. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 9:18p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Wanda Harner
Borough Secretary

2025 Council Meeting Schedule:

“3rd Thursday of each month”

Next Meeting: January 16, 2025

Office of the Mayor
Borough of Parkesburg 315
West First Avenue
Parkesburg, Pennsylvania
19365

December 19, 2024

Christmas' history is rife with interpretation. Many on the internet quote paganism as the root for the date. Citing Saturnalia the source for December 25th being adopted by the church as it sought to broaden appeal to the heretofore uninitiated- as Christ's birthdate-

Surrounding the winter solstice- This Roman decreed celebration encouraged gluttony, avarice and riotous behavior-

In fact, Roman courts closed, and the law dictated no one would be held accountable. An enemy of the Roman people was selected in each community. Titled the Lord of Misrule, this sad sack was forced to indulge in food and other physical pleasures to the extreme throughout the week. At the conclusion, December 25th- authorities enforced the destruction of these "forces of darkness" by murdering this here to for innocent man or woman.

Over the ensuing centuries many of these behaviors have remained commercials that encourage overspending and indulging every whim of the young giftee- Riotous parties that hatch regrettable dysfunctional behavior sometimes requiring Police involvement to protect participants form harming themselves and their loved ones.

Wow- The message brought by the man boom seemed lost from the very roots of the birth.

But to be fair not everyone contributing had Jesus (Yeshua) in mind. The motives to convert-- compromised the Very intention of conversion. Accepting even

encouraging participation in the pagan rituals from singing in the streets to violating as many of the seven deadliest as possible in record time must have felt right to the initiators at that time for the greater good of the preferred faith.

Misled, misguided, even mistrustful this holiday became. So much so early settlers to these shores of the Puritan reformed movement made celebration of Christmas illegal. Later during our revolution and for some time afterward Christmas was considered English and socially if not legally banned. Our Congress was in session on Christmas day in the first year of ratified constitutional government. Christmas would have to wait until 1870 to be ordained a federal holiday.

What a struggle.

No one ever told me this stuff. I was enlightened. I watched the Bell Telephone Company broadcast of "The Night before Christmas" and "The Nativity" frequently — including just this past week. I went to Sunday school more regularly than now. I like giving (and receiving) gifts. I enjoy the decorations. I ride around town and the surrounding communities just to take them in. I hope it snows a little.

In the end I like what the Christmas Holiday is to me and many I meet. I find my memories of Christmas' past more and more endearing as my family of origin wanes.

Politically correct manners forced upon us require utterance of phrases such as Seasons Greetings and Happy Holidays or be more particular-to wish everyone a Happy Hanukah/Kwanza/Christmas individually or en-mass. To those whose faith leans to atheism, a belief therefore a faith, a smile and nod will have to do.

For though the man-for whom this Holiday- this observance- has been assigned this birth date--was borne bereft of pride and in all humility- I wish everyone, proudly so, a very Merry Christmas.