

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

The meeting was called to order by Council President Todd Brade at 7:05 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, Council Member Monique Baylor, 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 Agen and seconded by Liscomb, All in favor.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A Motion to approve the minutes of the August 15, 2024, Regular Council Meeting was made by Agen and seconded by Lipscomb. All in favor.

PRESENTATIONS:

Baseball Little League- Discussion was held later in the meeting due to Treasurer David Semanyk arriving late. Discussion was borough is supportive of the baseball leagues but needs signed contracts and preparation time for this. The solicitor explained the liability issues and how our insurance company stated that the waivers they provided are not standard.

PENNDOT- The consultant for PENNDOT spoke about the different signage and the hope to get this started next year. There is an option of solar powered flashing yellow signs. Council to give Borough Manager the direction they would like to go. Dave Mellema asked if Maple Street would be narrowed. The street will not be narrowed.

Meadowview – Nate Fox spoke about the waivers and an overview of the development plan. Keith Marshall also gave an overview of the development. The roads in the development will be public roads and various sized townhomes. The traffic engineer explained the traffic impact study. Monique Baylor asked if stormwater would go into the pond. The pond will be eliminated. The road is going to be where the pond currently is. The traffic engineer commented that there will not be a traffic light on Route 10 because we do not meet any of the requirements for a traffic light to be installed according to PENNDOT. Lipscomb commented that Route 10 will be celebrating their 100-year anniversary in 2025. Members of the planning commission were also in attendance. Carnes explained the waivers to the public. Mellema asked about rerouting Sadsbury Road. The solicitor mentioned that the development is not on that side of the street and it is outside the scope of work that PENNDOT would allow.

PUBLIC COMMENT (AGENDA ITEMS ONLY):

Public comments were would it affect the parking on Main Street? The traffic engineer commented that there are no proposed changes to Main Street. Residents expressed concerns with speeding and possibly putting a fence between the development and the adjacent property to avoid trespassing.

After public comment the solicitor commented on how this would be an action item.

A MOTION was made to approve the waivers as per planning commissions recommendations made by Mellema and seconded by Lipscomb. 6 Ayes 1 Nay (Baylor). The motion carries.

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS:

A MOTION for approval of the bills was made by Wolf and seconded by Agen. All in favor.

Treasurer report-No report

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS:

Police Chief Report- Ryan Murtagh presented his report as attached and commented that he received the certified list of candidates. Chief Murtagh mentioned earlier this week several of their officers were able to participate in an apprehending the operation that supplied the drugs that resulted in the deaths of a few residents in Parkesburg in 2016 & 2017.

Fire Chief Report – Report is attached

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Fire District Administrator- There were 34 fire calls for the month and 172 EMS Calls

Engineer - Arro Consulting – Was present and his report was attached for council

Code Enforcement -Code Inspections Inc.- Report attached in packet

Public Works Department-Report was presented at Sept 12th meeting. Witmer was on vacation and is returning this upcoming week. Council members asked how to reach out to the road crew and President mentioned that council needs to go through Borough Manager with concerns.

Manager's Report- Report attached in packet.

Mayor -John P. Hagan, II –No report.

Solicitor- John S. Carnes, Jr., Esquire- Report attached in packet.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Police (Sharon Wolf)- Looking to increase services to other municipalities and police department still working on their 2025 budget.

Parks & Recreation (Todd Brade) – Gave an update on Parks and Recreation.

North Park Garden (Margaretta “Rhett” Lipscomb)- Several pounds of food were given to the community. Chester County Food Bank likes to know how many pounds of food we harvest, since they supply the plants. Thursday October 4 the Chester County Food Bank Harvest Party, celebrating the harvest season. Many communities in Chester County will be participating.

Budget & Finance (Mark Agen)- Manager working with bookkeeper to get the books up to date and budget for 2025 has started.

Community and Business (Monique Baylor) - Gave an update on all the community events happening.

Fire and EMS (Rhett Lipscomb)- EMS is in Crisis and we need to support our local EMS. Their next meeting is October 17.

Economic Development and COG (David Mellema)- We had a meeting with ECON to bring the manager up to date with the grants that they applied for. Mellema is meeting later this week with the borough manager.

Streets and Property (Nicholas Ohar)- We have several estimates for the building.

Historic Commission (Rhett Lipscomb)- Historic Society agreement to sign and Lipscomb will check to make sure the room is ready for them to use.

New Business

Civil Service- Joe Reali commented that they did their due process for full-time police officer, and they have the list in front of council for acceptance.

MOTION to make an offer of employment to one of the police officer candidates made by Mellema and seconded by Agen. All Ayes.

MOTION to accept the resolution on anonymous right-to know requests by Baylor. Seconded by Lipscomb. All Ayes.

MOTION to authorize for advertisement the Borough Secretary position made by Lipscomb and seconded by Baylor. All Ayes.

MOTION to advertise for an ordinance on a one-way street to benefit train station parking lot on Maple going westbound by Liscomb. Seconded by Mellema. All Ayes.

LOCAL TAX- Discussion was held on local tax increase. The solicitor commented that it is a process that would take time to complete and that he is checking in on a municipality that just recently passed that increase in Montgomery County.

Old Business

MOTION to approve the Parkesburg Lions Club Parade made by Baylor. Seconded by Mellema. All Ayes.

Public Comments (*Limited to three minutes*)

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Agen commented that Brian Gathercole gave the pickleball players AED training.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION to adjourn was made by Ohar seconded by Mellema. All in favor. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 9:13 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rochelle M. Gresh
Borough Manager