

Council meeting was called to order at 7:00pm with the following members present: Charlie Best, Rose Diel, Tim Janosco, John Klem, Bob Lamson, Zane Writer, John Zurgarek and Mayor Fred Meier. Also, present Police Chief Thomas Szoke, Attorney Sean Logson, Engineer Don Totino, Public Works Joe Wychock and Borough Manager Linda Szoke.

Council President Klem announced that there was an executive session prior to this meeting to discuss police contract.

Minutes from the December 2018 meeting were presented. A motion was made by Best and seconded by Lamson to approve meets as presented, all in favor, motion carried.

Petitions and Complaints

- Robert O'Hearn 120 Church Street, complaint about neighbor and abandoned vehicles at the property. Chief Szoke responded to complaint and indicated that the trailers are not abandoned they are registered with exception of a few of them. Sergeant O'Brien is working with neighbor to complete correcting those. Linda asked attorney if we can send a letter about the toilets and building material. Sean stated yes, we can send a letter.
- Mr. Trumbauer – Peace Lane, just wanted to thank everyone for a great job during the snow clean up in the borough.
- Joe Kearns – Woodhaven, still experiencing odor from Standard Farms. Any update to the rumors of the company being sold. Standard Farms did share with us that this is a merger and they will continue to hold the permit as Standard Farms. As per the attorney, there is nothing further the borough has to do with the sale of their property.
- Gordon and Doreen Ackers, asked the Borough Council to step and do something to stop the smell. Its not going away and now they are selling the business. They are not going to be here and they are going to move on and we won't be able to afford to fight this bigger company. We have to do something to stop any future construction. Gordon asked if we can get the state involved. Gordon asked if the Lt Governor is going to come around to get feedback on legalizing Marijuana that we would need to get them here. Councilman Zurgarek said we are the only place in Luzerne county that has experience on the front lines of this and we should have them come here. Chief Szoke asked if we can send a letter. Councilman Zurgarek said recreational use is bigger and we know all the ins and outs. Councilman Lamson said this is an excellent idea. Councilman Klem asked attorney to send a letter to the Lt Governor asking for them to come to White Haven as part of his tour.

Engineers Report

- Reillys will continue to work on permit with Delaware River Basin
- Reillys will continue to work on New Fire House and they were recently at planning. They still need to go to zoning, just waiting on property ownership to be decided.
- CBG Multi modal grant announcements have been postponed

- Phase II of the borough building, we will be up at the borough offices on Friday to start working on the plans. We will also meet with the Library about drainage issues.

Attorney's report

- Continuing work with the land issues and request with DCNR on Main Street
- 911 Cell Tower agreement is here for John to execute for signature.
- Code issue at Mary Keil property. We want to execute the judgement. We need two to three weeks to have a title sheriff done. The sheriff department wants a \$2500 deposit to execute the sheriff sale, attorney fees and cost of title search would be responsible of borough. Linda asked if it goes to Sheriff sale what happens if someone else buy it out from under us. Sean said they would have to pay off our judgement. Sean would double check on that for us and get back to us on it.
- Quick update sent several letters out to landlord tenant inspection process. Looks like about 9 land lords that the letter was returned so we will work with Linda to get these outstanding ones completed.
- There is a draft of an amendment to the code of ordinances to deal with nuisances for council to take a look at it, maybe have a work session over it. Chief Szoke asked in the event that it's a corporation are we able to hold someone specific liable at the corporation. Sean said I would have to research it further. This draft covers a lot of items and everyone should review to see what we would want for in town.
- Quiet Title action with order from Judge Hughes has been resolved. The portion of Elmira Street will be deeded to White Haven Fire Company #1. Council needs to approve the transfer the deed to the fire dept and allow Charlie Best to sign and executive the documents to transfer the deed. This would be done by resolution. This is resolution 1 of 2019. A motion by Lamson and seconded by Janosco to adopt resolution 1 of 2019. Roll call vote: Best-yes, Diel-yes, Janosco-yes, Klem-Abstain, Lamson-yes, Writer-yes, Zurgarek-yes. Motion carried. Note: Klem abstained due to involvement in fire department and submitted abstain in writing as per the borough code.
- Trash hauling contract needs to be prepared to go out to bid. Sean reviewed questions about the bid and what council would want included. Linda had a few items to add to the bid and went over those with Sean. Do we want to bid 1 year, 3, year or 5 year. Recycling or not. Lamson asked if we see any savings by having residents recycle? Linda stated I am required to report our recycling activities to Luzerne County. Continue with a 5 year seems to make the most sense.
- Request for business applicant to allow a temporary use of the building until the zoning hearing takes place on February 21, 2019. It would allow them to operate legally at the property until the hearing. The council requested more information. Linda read the application and the request to operate a machine shop. After a lot of discussion and the request of the business owner's attorney to allow them to operate if zoning is declined and they appeal which could be carried on for months. It was also felt that the zoning board is in place to serve a function and as a council they should not circumvent that process. Council

Managers' Report

- Copier lease is expiring we can purchase it and own it for \$500 and then a yearly service contract for \$500 for copiers, service and toner. Motion by Lamson and seconded by Zurgarek to buy out the copier from Sharp. All in favor, motion carried
- We are working with Pay pal for accepting credit cards. There would be a 3.5% fee to residents if they want to use this service. Pay pal assumes the risk of the cards. Linda is working with Kathy to get more information from Pay pal on how this program would work.

Code/Zoning Building – reports on file

Fire Chief – Reports on file

Tax Collection – on file

EMA Coordinator – report on file

Ambulance – report on file

Mayor/Police Chief - Chief said we need to start looking for another vehicle the explorer is up over 120,000 miles. We also could use some part time police officers. John asked if money was in budget for new car. There is 10,000 allocated in budget.

Public Works – the F650 the PTO went on it we will have to fix it.

Committee reports

Police/Fire committee – we should think about a fuller timer instead of a part timer.

Finance – we did transfer \$50,000 to pay bills till tax money comes in than we will pay it back

Recreation – nothing

Building/grounds – pipe issue on Towanda Street, Aqua repaired it but we may need to fix rest of pipe.

Discussed further with Engineer that we can just put a smaller pipe inside the existing one.

Library parking lot is flooding is it possible to place a box to catch some of the water? Don Totino said he would know more after their meeting on Friday.

Water – working on selling more spring water from various sources company has been out to test water

New Business – What is everyone's thoughts on the hunting club land lease. Lamson suggested a possible work session to kick around the information. Linda suggested maybe we should speak to the adjacent hunting club for their interest before we did it with an outside company. Consider speaking further at next work session.

Payment of bills – Charlie Best presented them for payment and made motion to pay bills as presented, with no questions, Janosco seconded, motion carried.

Motion by Lamson to adjourn at 8:35pm and seconded by Janosco, all in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Szoke

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Borough Secretary