

White Haven Borough Council meeting was called to order at 7:00pm with the following members present: Charlie Best, Tim Janosco, Bob Lamson, John Zurgarek. Also, present: Mayor Meier, Chief Szoke, Borough Manager Linda Szoke, Engineer Don Totino, Attorney Sean Logson and Joe Wychock public works. Absent: Rose Diel – illness, John Klem – work, and Zane Writer – illness.

Minutes were presented from the January 2019 meeting. A motion was made by Lamson and seconded by Janosco to approve minutes. All in favor, motion carried.

Petitions and Complaints

- Gordon and Doreen Ackers – Woodhaven, still upset that the smell is a problem from Standard Farms. The Fogco machine was down and needs repairs. Its not acceptable to us that it keeps breaking. Linda provided an update on the test process and what Standard Farms provided to her about the testing for odor. Linda also said she was told by Gerry at Standard Farms that an agreement was signed with Charlie Weaver to remove rocks and stumps at the back of the building. Gordon asked to please make the landscaping as part of the record because it was supposed to be done. Doreen also said this industry is moving at a face paced and I'm worried there is going to be an issue there, an explosion my house is close. My kids live there and I'm scared. Gordon asked if there was an update on Lt Governors letter. Linda stated that the letter was sent and they were invited to come to the borough. Copies of letters will also be sent out to Mullery and Yudichek

Engineers Report

- CFA meeting is March 20th where they are to award the grants, hopefully we are under consideration.
- Phase II building improvements advertisement prepared for March meeting to select Architect
- Library phase 4, received one bid. Checking to see if we need to rebid it with DCED
- At Library for drainage with Bob and Charlotte, we looked at some options to elevate some of the ponding near the railroad and front doors. A sump pump will help remove it and it will be put there to keep the water moving.

Attorneys Report

- Council has considered entering into a lease for hunting club over in East Side Borough. We don't have anything in place right now but need a motion to enter into discussions with them. A motion by Janosco and seconded by Zurgarek that the attorney start to negotiations with the hunting club attorney to lease the land and report back to council.
- We have been working on an amendment to the zoning industrial zone have permitted use. Council would like to change that all uses require a hearing and impact study. The study requirement "may" be required by council at their discretion since they get the complaints or concerns about what is occurring in those areas. Council would need to advertise for a hearing.

A motion was made by Janosco and seconded by Zurgarek to hold a public hearing about the ordinance change prior to the council meeting. All in favor, motion carried.

- DCNR request for quick claim of land at the end of Main Street to continue the bike trail down into the Lehigh Gorge. Council is willing to grant this at our March meeting but Sean should contact them to let them know we want our legal fees covered for this project and all the paper work involved they would take care of? Additional discussion occurred about the improvement at the end of the parking lot at the market into the state park. Lamson said we want to ensure gate stays open, the borough continue to try and secure the easements and pave that area and have them provide signage then to close that off all together. Council directed attorney to continue to pursue easements with Market, Aqua PA, and Pocono White water so the borough can pursue funds to pave that section. Lamson said we don't want to hold up the project for them.
- Mary Kiel real estate issues: No one can come in an out bid us but executing on the property is \$2500 retainer not including attorney fees. Property is assessed at \$114,000.00 right now. The sheriff department would basically sell the property to us. Chief Szoke assisted with getting in touch with another source to obtain address for her. Sean suggested we send an officer down to serve a letter to Mrs. Kiel that she turns the property over to us. She could also deal with the code violations and get the property back up to standards. She could also be responsible for the safety at the property as well. A motion made by Lamson that a letter be sent by an officer to the new address and offer to take the property from her, a second from Zurgarek, all in favor, motion carried.
- Proposed Nuisance ordinance was worked on before this meeting, its not ready to be advertised but we will continue to work on it and will be on March agenda as well.

Manager Report

- Linda, Charlotte and Brian will be meeting with State Rep Mulley's grant writer to go over projects in the borough.
- Linda along with Charlotte will be going to a trail property owner meeting in Allentown with the D&L to see what funding is available.
- Spring water permits are still under review.
- Home town hero flags are at 30 as of today, the 28th is the last to receive applications. Goal is to have flags back and hung before the Memorial Day Parade

Tax Collector – taxes just started to come in report next month

Code/Zoning/Building – report on file

Fire Chief – no report

Ambulance – no report

EMA Coordinator – no report

Mayor/Police Chief – the new Tahoe for police patrol will be delivered this week.

Public Works – we have the tar bugging so we will be able to start that as soon as the weather breaks, we also have some patching to do. Keeping up on the winter weather issues. Chief has flag for top of Susquehanna street it came down in the wind. Joe asked about the F650. Linda explained a motion

was made to put it out on bid but then John Klem suggested we hold off and discuss at meeting because if the F550 goes down and we are in the winter we won't have a truck to handle the clean-up. Suggest we come up with a plan for the future of the trucks with Zane. Joe would like a possible box with a flat bed on it. It would be nice to get the equipment on a schedule to replace them.

Police Committee – working on resolving the police contract, hopefully that will be resolved shortly.

Finance Committee – no funds until tax money comes in, Tahoe was financed with First Keystone for three years

Recreation Committee – nothing, Joe mentioned we are going to look at Linesville Park

Building and Grounds – Mayor asked if someone could look on the third floor there is a vent and most of its missing, we could be getting water in there. Joe said he would go up and look at it from the inside. Linda said to go now as we have been advised by Fire Dept that there are bees up there.

Water Committee – things are a little up from the fall, they are hoping things pick up in the spring

Planning – nothing

Parade – Meeting will be in March; a lot of the same entertainment will be coming back for 2019

Payment of bills – Charlie presented for payment, motion made by Lamson and seconded by Zurgarek, with no questions, all in favor, motion carried.

Motion was made to adjourn meeting at 7:55 by Lamson and seconded by Janosco, all in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted

Linda Szoke
Borough Secretary