

White Haven Borough Council meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by President John Klem. Roll call was taken, and the following were present: Charlie Best, John Klem, Bob Lamson, Zane Writer, and John Zugarek. Absent: Julie Fallon and Harvey Morrison. Also in attendance: Attorney Karpowich, Borough Manager Linda Szoke, OIC Rich Mocofoan, Mayor Fred Meier, and Sean Reynolds from Public Works.

Public Hearing –

- President Klem opened a public hearing at that was advertised regarding changes to parking on Northumberland Street at 7:00 pm. Attorney Karpowich began by stating the ordinance proposed is to amend Chapter 18 Motor vehicles and traffic part 4 parking regulations, to prohibit parking in certain areas on certain dates, and certain times. This specifically pertains to the even numbered side of Northumberland Street between Church Street and Towanda Street on Mondays from 6:00 am to 1:00 pm. This ordinance would also include omitting Main Street from being part of the regulations. It would repeal a portion of the prior ordinance that prohibited parking on Main Street between Susquehanna Street and the alley every day from 2:00 am to 7:00 am. President Klem opened the floor to public comment and Borough resident Richard Geiersbach of Northumberland Street spoke next. He had concerns regarding the side of the street selected for this ordinance. Borough Manager Szoke explained the selection was made based on the side of the garbage truck the arm comes off of and so that the truck would not have to go the wrong way down the street. Mr. Geiersbach showed council members a picture of how cars are parking on Northumberland Street. OIC Mocofoan suggested that he can call 9-1-1 or the station at any time to report this parking issue as it could cause a safety concern. The changes are being made to aid in the collection of garbage and recycling and to help residents not have to take garbage to the back of their property which may be an inconvenience. President Klem conclude the public hearing at 7:10 pm.

Minutes – Minutes from the July meeting were presented. A motion was made by Best and seconded by Lamson to approve the minutes. All in favor, the motion carried.

Public comment on agenda items – none tonight

Engineer Report – on file

- Borough Manager Szoke stated the borough engineer had sent information regarding brake retarder prohibitions for the borough's consideration.

- We are working on the Community Block Grant. The discussion is about paving Oak or Chemung Street. Chemung is probably the worst. Borough Manager Linda talked with Sean from Public Works about maybe concentrating on Chemung from Hazle to Cherry Street as this section has gotten pretty bad. The good news is that the mod levels for low income have changed. Before the change, only certain streets qualified but now the entire borough is considered low mod. That means we do not have to survey but do need to qualify that residents live on the street. That would take Power House Road out of the mix. Sean from Public Works has spent a lot of time on Chemung Street by the church and on Oak Street behind Verizon doing paving work. This being said, the section of Chemung from Hazle to Cherry seems to be the area to focus on. The Borough Engineer would have to do the specs and get the costs for us. Council agreed this was the best idea.

Attorney's Report –

- A motion was made by Lamson and seconded by Best to Adopt ordinance 1 of 2024 pertaining to Northumberland Street parking. Roll call vote – Best – yes, Fallon – absent, Klem – yes, Lamson – yes, Morrison – absent, Writer – yes, Zugarek – yes. All in favor, the motion carried.
- Borough Attorney Karpowich stated he has advertised a rezoning hearing for October 28, 2024.

Manager's Report –

- A request was made by the Borough Manager to council to approve the Penn Dot Winter Maintenance agreement for the 2024-2025 season of plowing with total expected income of \$18,760.85. A motion was made by Writer and seconded by Zugarek to approve the agreement. All in favor, the motion carried.
- A request was made by the Borough Manager to acknowledge approval of the uniform and non-uniform PA Municipal Retirement Reports. A motion was made by Writer and seconded by Lamson to acknowledge this information was presented to council. All in favor, the motion carried.
- The Blueprint Community shared statistic from the 18661 zip code with council. Zugarek shared that there are 5,518 people and 2,390 households in the 18661 zip code. He then shared that in the 18661 zip code the median household income is \$66,800.00 and average household income is \$88,000 plus. This data can be used to apply for grants. The first time the statistics were run was just for the borough, the expansion to the 18661 zip code gave us bigger numbers to work with.
- Serve pro was at the MCOG meeting that Borough Manager Szoke had recently attended. They offer a free emergency readiness plan and she thought it may be a good idea for the borough and the library to speak with a representative. If a catastrophe hits this provides a guidebook to get started.

Tax Collector –

- Current taxes collected for July \$1,078.00
- Local Realty Transfer Tax for July \$896.70
- Delinquent taxes for June \$1,494.45
- Elite Revenue has 11 properties in the borough listed for Sheriff's Sale in September

Building, zoning, Code enforcement – Report on file

- Borough Manager Szoke mentioned that there have been some complaints regarding vegetation and other issues that she has been working to get taken care of. The property owners affected have already begun working to fix the issues.

Fire Department – report on file

Ambulance – report on file

- DCED is providing a free study on our ambulance service to see what makes sense on how to keep the ambulance service moving in a positive direction.

Mayor / Police Chief / Police Committee Report – report on file

- The Mayor announced that we will be advertising for part time officers.
- Councilman Lamson made a recommendation to promote Sargeant Richard Mocofan to Chief of the White Haven Police Department. This would be a 3% increase to pay starting now. On behalf of Borough Council, Lamson thanked Sargeant Mocofan for taking the responsibility of Officer In Charge (OIC) until this promotion. A motion was made by Lamson and seconded by Zugarek to promote Sargeant Mocofan to Chief. Roll call vote– Best – yes, Fallon – absent, Klem – yes, Lamson – yes, Morrison – absent, Writer – yes, Zugarek – yes. All in favor, the motion carried. President Klem congratulated the new Chief on his promotion.

Public Works / Public Works Committee –

- Mileage – F550 29,230 Pick-up truck 50,407
- Sean from Public Works stated things are going well and they are working on paving. They are looking good on winter supplies and getting ready for winter and plowing.

Committee Reports –

- **Building and Grounds –**
- **Blueprint planning group –**
 - The next meeting is September 7th in Reading.
 - The team is has applied for a \$5,000.00 grant to replace the 3 borough welcome signs. These signs would be located on 437, near the park and ride, and coming

over the bridge from East Side near the caboose. They will be wooden and have hooks underneath so signs can be made to swap out for announcements of events. The team will know by the end of September if the grant has been awarded to them and they will then have until May of 2025 to use it. The wording on the signs is still in discussion.

- The team hosted a conference at St. Patrick's Church on August 23, 2024. The guest speaker is the head of outdoor recreation at DCNR. The discussion involved economic development, trails, and the impact on our area.
- **Finance** – Best stated the bills are being paid but the General Fund account is getting low and we will probably need to transfer money from the Investment account soon.
- **Planning** – no meetings
- **Parade Committee** – no meetings
- **Water** – report on file
- **200th Birthday** –
 - Councilman Writer extended a thank you to everyone involved in the Street Festival.
 - Councilman Zugarek shared a thank you letter and donation had been sent to the borough the Monday after the festival by the owners of Bill's Soda Stand. He shared that they were already excited to be part of next years event.
 - Borough Manager Szoke stated she would like to prepare a final report of all the birthday year events. She wants to share the story and pictures of each event in the minute book at the end of the year so future generations will get to see and experience the borough's 200th birthday.

Correspondence / Unfinished Business –

- Luzerne County Boroughs & Townships Association Meeting sent an invite to Borough Council.
- Darrin Gallagher inquired if the Borough would discuss vacating an undeveloped road to the south of the property he is looking to purchase at 225 Towanda Street. It was determined this road cannot be vacated as a municipality.

Seminars & Workshops – none

Payment of bills –

- A motion was made by Best and seconded by Zugarek to pay the bills. All in favor, the motion carried.

Public Comment on non-agenda items – Resident Chris Roberts asked about a time capsule in the Borough and if it was supposed to be opened this year. This needs to be researched to find an answer.

Adjournment - A motion was made to adjourn at 7:57 pm by Lamson and seconded by Writer. All in favor, the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Holly Potance

Holly Potance
Assistant Borough Secretary