

White Haven Borough
Council Meeting Minutes
June 24, 2024

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

Public Hearing for tow truck ordinance that was advertised has been canceled at this time.

Minutes were presented from the May meeting for approval, motion made by Fallon and seconded by Zugarek to approve the minutes as presented, with all of council in favor, motion carried.

Public Comments on Agenda items:

- Eric Siglin representing the White Haven Presbyterian Church came to speak about a concern. First, he wanted it noted he didn't have access to Borough agenda that it should be posted on the borough doors. Concern was noted for borough. Second, he wanted to bring up the road conditions on Chemung Street by the church and provided council with photos. Siglin asked if there was a 5-year plan on paving done for the borough and where Chemung is on that plan. The attorney stated there is no 5-year plan for streets. The Borough Manager stated that the borough is in a financial situation and that a paving loan must be finished paying off before another loan can be taken out. No one resides on Chemung Street, so it does not qualify for community block grant funds. Borough Manager also spoke with

street supervisors and asked that he look and see what asphalt patching can be done on that road. Eric did explain that there is also a rain run off problem and the water is missing the drain. Eric understands and he let the church members know he would bring it to the council and thank you for hearing their concerns.

- A letter from Mr. Pinchot came in because the truck traffic is affecting his quality of life in his home. Borough Manager reported that the dip in the road on route 940 is a road cut from UGI and they are aware of it and there is a work order for the work to be fixed in August. Also, adding some police patrolling the area a bit more. The mobile speed sign can be moved over by the area to help notify residents to slow down entering town. The council asked the Street Supervisor to find the best place to put it along the road and try and help slow traffic down in that area.

Note: Verizon and other similar services were affected by a outage and made it difficult to use cell phones and have residents log on to zoom for the meeting tonight.

Engineer Report – on file

- Byran from Barry Isetts was to come tonight to get council's final approval on street scape plans, we may need a special meeting since there is a grant open right now for the street scape. Attorney suggested we go ahead and approve resolution 10 of 2024 to make application to multi-model grant thru DCED to keep the project moving. A motion was made by Zugarek and seconded by Fallon, roll call vote was taken: Best-yes, Fallon-yes, Lamson Yes and Zugarek -yes. The motion carried.

Attorneys Report

- The contract with Casella is completed and is just waiting for signature from Casella. The new contract starts on July 1, 2024. Attorney will follow up on its return.
- Discussed the drafted ordinance for Northumberland Street. There will be no parking on Northumberland Street on Mondays, Church Street (route 940) to Towanda Street on the even side numbered street from 6am to 1pm. The borough will need to order and install signs along this area for this ordinance. A motion was made to advertise it for next month's meeting by Lamson and seconded by Zugarke, all in favor, motion carried.
- Luzerne County is not doing lot consolidation and won't allow the borough to record them.

Discussed repealing our current ordinance and maybe relax some of the other formalities so it would still be filed and run through our own planning commission. After discussion by the council, it will be tabled, and we will see what other municipalities will be doing to address this issue.

Manager's Report

- Provided an update on construction for 180 and river street is closed as of today. Construction is underway for the new bridge.
- Request a motion to approve John Klem and Linda Szoke to Sign the contracts for the LSA grant of \$100,000 for the library to work on their second floor project. It is the same contract the state uses for each of the LSA grants. A motion to approve and sign the contract was made by Fallon and seconded by Zugarek, with all council members approving the motion carried.
- There was some issues that arose on Main Street events and issues, an email list was developed of those businesses along Main Street so they will get updates as things are happening that may impact their business. This should stop business owners from stating they didn't know something was occurring.

Tax Collector – reports on file

Code Enforcement, Building and zoning – reports on file

White Haven Fire Chief – Reports on file

White Haven Ambulance – reports on file

Mayor/Police Chief/police committee – reports on file

- Mayor had nothing to ad tonight

Public Works- report on file

- Best mentioned that there was a large tree that came down on Susquehanna Street. Sean was there in minutes and had the road opened quickly.

Committee Reports

Building and grounds – the new fountain is in Linesville Park and thank you volunteers. Caboose is almost finished and again thank you to those volunteers for their work.

Blueprint Planning group – meeting set tomorrow and then at end of month they are headed to Sunbury.

Finance – funds that were used until taxes came in have been turned back into our reserve accounts.

Planning – nothing/no meetings

Parade Committee -nothing/no meetings

Water – it picked up a little bit, Best will continue to keep an eye on it.

200th Birthday – next meeting is July 1, 2024, 6pm at the borough building

Correspondence –

- Final audit is in everyone's work for 2023 from auditor
- Thank you to Attorney Karpowich for sponsoring cupcakes for the 200th birthday celebration

Bills were presented for approval, a motion was made by Lamson and seconded by Zugarek to pay the bills, all of the council were in favor, and the motion passed.

Public Comments on non-agenda items

- Eric Siglin mentioned some bills going before the state he would forward to borough to consider about Penn Dot and small communities with drainage issues.

A motion was made at 7:42 pm by Lamson and seconded by Julie, all of council was in favor, and motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Szoke

Linda Szoke

Borough Secretary