

White Haven Borough
Council Meeting Minutes
July 22, 2024

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: Julie Fallon, John Klem, Bob Lamson, Zane Writer, and John Zugarek. Absent: Charlie Best and Harvey Morrison. Also in attendance: Attorney Karpowich, Borough Manager Linda Szoke, OIC Rich Mocofoan, Mayor Fred Meier, and Sean Reynolds from Public Works.

Minutes from the June meeting were presented. A motion was made by Fallon and seconded by Writer to approve the minutes. All in favor, the motion carried.

Attorney Karpowich stated that there had been an executive session regarding the façade grant and potential litigation. He also stated there would be another executive session immediately following this meeting for personnel.

Public comment on agenda items – none tonight

Engineer Report – on file

Attorney's Report –

- Attorney Karpowich gave an update regarding policies and procedures with resolution for the Police Department to follow the District Attorney's policies. He has asked to table this at this time until they can ascertain more information.
- Attorney Karpowich stated that the no parking ordinance public hearing for next month's meeting has been advertised.

Manager's Report –

- Borough Manager Linda Szoke stated that she had attended the Mountain Council of Government meeting. She met with Alan and the Police Chief from Butler Township while there to discuss being able to use the Live Scan Unit for fingerprinting. We were a member and had access to the equipment but then our courts changed to Mountain Top. It did not make sense to run to Butler Township to do fingerprinting and then have to run to Mountain Top and have an officer out that long. By taking on Foster Township, that put us back in Butler Township as much as we are in Mountain Top. We are also going to reach the point where the FBI will no longer accept manual fingerprints and will mandate Live Scan. Rather than buy this \$20,000 to \$30,000 piece of equipment, we would share it with Butler Township, Sugarloaf, and Conygham. Alan will be sending Attorney Karpowich the mutual agreement and the fees we would be looking at. The fees are based on per capita. This means White Haven, Dennison, and Foster would go into our equation since that is our coverage area. It is much more affordable, and their officers will also assist our officers with the training needed to use the equipment.

Another piece of equipment that Butler Township uses was also discussed. This is a camera system called the Flock system. Butler Township, Weatherly, Hazleton, and West Hazleton all use them and they all talk to each other. The Butler Township Police

Chief thought that maybe White Haven Borough would like to participate and get a few cameras. It is basically a tall, black pole with a solar light on it. It sends alerts to an officer when a car goes by that there is an issue with that car. An example would be if there is a warrant linked to the car. Our participating was suggested to us because of the Interstate. Sometimes we have someone getting on or off the Interstate and heading to Hazleton or Hazleton has somebody fleeing and heading to White Haven. The officers would get the alerts from this system and be able to work together in solving more things going on in the area. Linda stated she would like to get some more information and group that with some other equipment the police department is looking for to see if we can get an LSA Grant for it.

The last item discussed at the COG Meeting was truck traffic and getting officers certified in truck inspections. Linda had mentioned in that meeting, that we have tried for the last few years and according to the Pennsylvania State Police, our statistics say we do not have a truck problem in White Haven. There was a conversation amongst the COG members that if we were to get an officer certified, we partner up and let that officer do the truck stops and inspections in all those municipalities. A possible idea is if that officer has to go to another municipality for the day, that municipality pays their salary for that time frame they are doing truck stops. The only problem is manpower and the new requirements for these inspections. The requirement is 80 inspections per quarter which would be tough in White Haven. If we partner with the COG members to do them in other locations, the fine money may offset the cost of the officer salary to do this. It was something the COG said they would talk about further. The new COG members have become very active and are looking to partner up so Linda thinks it is a good thing for us to look at. Councilman Lamson had a few concerns on the number of stops required, the time it would take to do these stops, and where in the borough these stops could be done for the weighing of the trucks.

- The Blueprint Community coach the Blueprint team works with, Linda Falcone from Penn State, has a potential grant for the borough. The grant is for \$4,000 and it is to work with a master gardener to improve an area in the borough. The honor roll and the caboose are two locations that were discussed. The caboose was in question as that is not technically borough property. Linda did speak with Aqua and they gave her permission to pursue this for them. Aqua also would like to sub divide that parcel sometime in the future and return to the borough so the borough would own the land around the caboose. This grant had been made available to another group and they could not use it so they asked if we could use it.
- St. Patrick's Church sent the borough an invitation and two tickets to their 150th Anniversary. They are celebrating their 150th Anniversary as a parish with a mass on August 18th followed by a dinner program in the parish center. They are inviting two members of council or council member and a guest to attend. It was also suggested a proclamation be prepared and presented to them. A motion was made by Writer and seconded by Klem to present St. Patrick's Church with a proclamation for their 150th Anniversary on August 18th signed by Borough Council President and the Mayor. All in favor, the motion carried.

- Current taxes collected for June \$10,825.05
- Local Realty Transfer Tax for June \$2,109.45
- Delinquent taxes for May \$923.99

Building, zoning, Code enforcement – Report on file

Fire Department – report on file

- There will be two firefighters going to the Federal Fire Academy in Maryland in September for training.

Ambulance – report on file

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

- The Mayor brought up that there is an alley behind the garages on Buffalo St that you would not get a fire truck down. President Klem stated there are no buildings there, one building at Laurel St, and then that street. Everything else there is vacant and the street is unpaved. There was a discussion to vacate this land. Attorney Karpowich will work on drafting something for next month's meeting.
- OIC MocoFan stated they are having issues with the Durango police cruiser. He stated it is being sent out to Chrysler.

Public Works / Public Works Committee –

- Mileage – F550 28,899 Pick-up truck 50,150
- Street Supervisor Sean stated everything is looking good and our new hire is doing well.

Committee Reports

- Building and Grounds – The caboose is almost done.
- Blueprint planning group – Training in Sunbury next week.
- Finance –
- Planning – no meetings
- Parade Committee – no meetings
- Water – report on file
- 200th Birthday – We are all set for final celebration July 26 & 27th. Thank you to Ed Jarick for helping to get the electricity set up. Thank you to The Journal Herald for supplying the electricity to the inflatable. Cupcakes will be available thanks to sponsorship from Attorney Karpowich. The Historical Society will be setting up in the Borough Building. Almost every spot from Berwick St to the end of Main St is filled with vendors and food trucks. The Borough staff will be taking off and the Borough Building will be closed on Monday due to everyone working Friday and Saturday.

Correspondence / Unfinished Business – none tonight

Seminars & Workshops – none

Payment of bills –

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

Public Comment on non-agenda items – none tonight

A motion was made to adjourn at 7:32 pm by Writer and seconded by Lamson. All in favor, the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Holly Potance

Holly Potance
Assistant Borough Secretary