

FERNDALE BOROUGH

Regular Meeting
December 14, 2023

The Ferndale Borough Council met on Thursday, December 14, 2023, in the Fireman's Recreation Hall at 618 Westinghouse Avenue, Johnstown, PA.

President Owen Hofecker called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. Those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag.

ROLL CALL

The Roll Call showed the following present: VP Eric Baumbaugh, Art Boring, Trish Corle, Cindy Dom, Connie Hobbs, President Owen Hofecker, Mark Wissinger Jr, Mayor Ralph Boyle, Attorney Joe Green, Secretary Nancy Hofecker, Street Foreman Sean Simmons and Police Chief Adam Richards.

A motion was made by Trish Corle to adopt the December 14, 2023 agenda seconded by Eric Baumbaugh. The motion carried.

VISITOR'S

Mark Wissinger Sr, Zachary Neal and Merle Keppler were present to observe.

MINUTES

There were no changes to the November 9, 2023 minutes. A motion was made by Eric Baumbaugh to accept the minutes, seconded by Cindy Dom. The motion carried.

President Owen Hofecker did a little recap of the committee meeting. Those in attendance were: VP Eric Baumbaugh, Art Boring, Trish Corle, Cindy Dom, Connie Hobbs, President Owen Hofecker, Mark Wissinger and Mayor Ralph Boyle. They created the agenda for this evening's meeting and reviewed the action items that are listed.

PERSONNEL

Trish Corle and the Personnel Committee presented a health care waiver to be added to the personnel policy. A motion to approve the waiver was made by the committee seconded by Art Boring. The motion carried.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

No report given

MAYOR AND POLICE REPORTS

Mayor Ralph Boyle said that the new class is starting in January and we will be looking to sponsor a cadet again. MPOETC did reimburse us our part of the tuition for the two cadets we just sponsored.

The old cruiser was listed on Municibid and has been sold for \$7,100.00.

Chief Richards did finish his defensive tactics teacher training. He is now certified to teach defensive tactics.

WEST HILLS REPORT

West Hills Regional e-mailed their report to the office, if anyone would like a copy, please contact the secretary.

Kevin Schrock from West Hills Regional was present to discuss the increasing cost for fire protection.

FERNDALE FIREMAN'S ASSOC. REPORT

Santa will be making his rounds through the borough on Christmas Eve.

STREETS AND PROPERTY

Sean Simmons said that the railroad tie wall on Plainfield Ave is starting to crumble. Recently they had to go up twice to clean up some debris that fell.

As long as it stays nice the street sweeper will be out. They are still picking up leaves.

Owen Hofecker said that Westmont Borough is selling their old leaf vacuum. Sean Simmons and Eric Baumbaugh are going to look at it to see if it is something we could use. A motion was made by Trish Corle to approve the purchase of the leaf vacuum spending up to \$10,000.00 seconded by Art Boring. A roll call vote was taken with all present members voting yes. The motion carried.

Nancy Hofecker said that Locher Excavating won the bid to demo the Edwards property on Vickroy Avenue. He is hoping to start the work in the next two weeks.

TREES

No report given

SEWER/SEWER PROJECT REPORT

Frank DiLoreto was present from EADS.

Three pressure tests were completed in November.

Station St Walkway Rehabilitation Project: Construction for the project is ongoing and approximately 90% has been completed to date. The only remaining items for the project are the fencing wingwalls, handrail and final paving in the spring.

EADS will investigate the option to remove the existing utility pole within the sidewalk and if Penelec is willing to have it relocated.

Rigby Park Improvements Project: The final layout of the playground has been drafted and will be coordinated with Ferndale for approval. EADS will work with Sports Recreation Associates on confirming the playground equipment layout.

Currently the Ferndale Borough is planned to remove the existing equipment, fencing, benches, and trees. Does the Borough have the capabilities to excavate the project area 12" for the mulch matting or should it be bid out with the contractor?

The draft DCNR bid review set for the Pavilion and sidewalk was submitted on 11/6/23 for their review. DCNR provided comments for the project and EADS has been working on the revision to meet their requirements and finalize the documents for bidding. The bid advertisement is planned for January 2024.

PennDOT MTF Grant Application: PennDOT anticipates a 2024 spring/summer announcement.

DCED Small Water and Sewer/H2O Grants: The announcement for the grant was expected to be on Tuesday, November 21st but has been pushed back to 2024. No announcement date has been determined.

DCED MTF Fund: The announcement date for the grant has not been determined.

PennDOT TASA Grant: The announcement is expected to be April 2024.

DCED LSA Grant: Grant announcement is anticipated for Fall 2024.

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT

Tax Collector's Report was presented for November 2023. The amount collected in November was \$938.15.

FINANCE/ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

A motion to pay all Accounts Payable was made by the committee, seconded by Eric Baumbaugh. The motion carried.

The 2024 budget was presented along with the salary schedule. The budget shows a tax increase. 16.50 mills to the general fund, 1 mill for recreation, .25 mills for street lighting and 3 mills for fire protection, for a total of 20.75 mills. A motion was made by the committee to pass the budget and salary schedule seconded by Cindy Dom. A roll call vote was taken with the following members voting yes: Eric Baumbaugh, Trish Corle, Cindy Dom, Connie Hobbs, and Mark Wissinger. Art Boring and Owen Hofecker abstained. The motion carried.

Ordinance 506 was then presented and read: AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF FERNDALE, CAMBRIA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, LEVYING TAXES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2024 AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2024.

A motion was made by Trish Corle to pass Ordinance 506 seconded by Cindy Dom. A roll call vote was taken with all present members voting yes. The motion carried.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

No report given

RECREATION REPORT

Mark Wissinger expressed his appreciation to State Representative Jim Rigby, Eric Baumbaugh and Frank DiLoreto from EADS for working on getting the playground updated.

OLD BUSINESS

Nancy Hofecker reminded those that will be on council in 2024 that a reorganizational meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 2nd at 6pm.

NEW BUSINESS

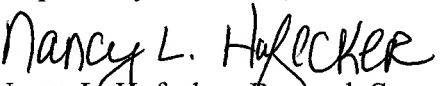
Karen Slezak from 906 Louisa Place sent a letter to council requesting a handicap spot be placed on Vickroy Avenue for her husband. Council all agreed and asked Sean Simmons to place the spot.

Owen Hofecker thanked Trish Corle for her years of service on council.

The meeting went into executive session at 6:55pm regarding a personnel issue and possible litigation. The meeting came out of executive at 7:08pm.

The meeting adjourned at 7:09pm with Cindy Dom making the motion seconded by Connie Hobbs.

Respectfully submitted,


Nancy L. Hofecker, Borough Secretary