

## **FERNDALE BOROUGH**

Regular Meeting

January 11, 2024

The Ferndale Borough Council met on Thursday, January 11, 2024, 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, Cindy Dom, Connie Hobbs, President Owen Hofecker, Mark Wissinger Jr, Mark Wissinger Sr, Mayor Ralph Boyle, Attorney Joe Green, Secretary Nancy Hofecker, and Street Foreman Sean Simmons. Art Boring and Police Chief Adam Richards were absent.

A motion was made by Cindy Dom to adopt the January 11, 2024 agenda seconded by Eric Baumbaugh. The motion carried.

### **VISITOR'S**

Al Cooper and Zachary Neal were present to observe.

### **MINUTES**

There were no changes to the December 14, 2023 minutes. A motion was made by Eric Baumbaugh to accept the minutes, seconded by Connie Hobbs. The motion carried.

There were no changes to the January 2, 2024 reorganization minutes. A motion was made by Mark Wissinger Sr to accept the minutes, seconded by Connie Hobbs. The motion carried.

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

### **PERSONNEL**

No report given

### **SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

No report given

## **MAYOR AND POLICE REPORTS**

Mayor Ralph Boyle said that we are looking at sponsoring two cadets from the upcoming class.

Chief Richards and Officer Sherle are scheduled for an Evidence Management Course on 1/23 and 1/24. They are both also scheduled for annual MPOETC training.

Chief Richards has scheduled a defensive tactics class in February for our officers.

The use of force and evidence policy are both being updated.

Nancy and Chief Richards will be sending out letters for stump removals in the spring.

## **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 talk about creating a fire commission as an authority board and not an advisory board as in the past.

Kevin also talked about the fire fighter tax credit ordinance.

## **FERNDALE FIREMAN'S ASSOC. REPORT**

Ralph Boyle gave council a check from the fire association in the amount of \$6,000.00. It is their donation from the 2023 jubilee.

Santa made his rounds through the borough on Christmas Eve. The weather was decent and it was a huge success.

## **STREETS AND PROPERTY**

Sean Simmons said that the snow kept them busy this past weekend. He will be looking at ordering salt soon.

Sean said he is working to get some quotes to upgrade the electric in the borough building. Eric said he talked to Security One in regards to upgrading the camera system.

Nancy Hofecker said that Locher Excavating has demoed the Edwards property on Vickroy Avenue.

## **TREES**

No report given

## **SEWER/SEWER PROJECT REPORT**

Frank DiLoreto was present from EADS.

Five pressure tests were completed in December. Semi-annual progress reports were submitted to the JRA and DEP in compliance with the Consent Order.

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. Straw informed EADS in December that the fencing upgrades and handrail are to be installed in Mid-January.

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 plan for the project is to remove the existing equipment, fencing, benches and trees. Excavation for the mulch matting will be completed by Ferndale Borough.

EADS has been coordinating with DCNR over a variety of items for the bidding of the project. Currently the DCNR is doing their final draft review of the specifications. Once completed a final draft bid can be submitted prior to bidding. The bid advertisement is now planned for February 2024.

DCED Small Water and Sewer/H2O Grants: The grant announcement was on December 19, 2023. Unfortunately, Ferndale did not receive funding for either of the projects submitted.

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

DCED MTF Fund: The announcement date for the grant is anticipated to be spring 2024.

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

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

EADS is working on projects for Peoples Natural Gas and EADS was instructed to show the Borough's ROW. EADS sent a request to Ferndale Borough for widths of the ROW on various streets.

## **TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT**

Tax Collector's Report was presented for December 2023. The amount collected in December was \$3,908.75.

## **FINANCE/ACCOUNTS PAYABLE**

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

## **PUBLIC RELATIONS**

No report given

## **RECREATION REPORT**

No report given

## **OLD BUSINESS**

No Old Business

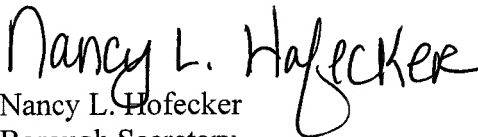
## **NEW BUSINESS**

No New Business

The meeting went into executive session at 7:00pm regarding a personnel matter. The meeting came out of executive at 7:10pm.

The meeting adjourned at 7:11pm with Eric Baumbaugh making the motion seconded by Mark Wissinger Jr.

Respectfully submitted,



Nancy L. Hofecker  
Borough Secretary