

FERNDALE BOROUGH

Regular Meeting

January 12, 2023

The Ferndale Borough Council met on Thursday, January 12, 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, Cindy Dom, Connie Hobbs, President Owen Hofecker, Mayor Ralph Boyle, Attorney Joe Green, Secretary Nancy Hofecker, Street Foreman Sean Simmons and Police Chief Adam Richards. Absent: Art Boring, Trish Corle (excused) and Mark Wissinger Jr (excused).

A motion was made by Cindy Dom to adopt the January 12, 2023 agenda seconded by Connie Hobbs. The motion carried.

VISITOR'S

No visitor's present

MINUTES

There were no changes to the December 8, 2022 minutes. A motion was made by Eric Baumbaugh 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, Trish Corle, Cindy Dom, Connie Hobbs, President Owen Hofecker, Mayor Ralph Boyle. Art Boring and Mark Wissinger were absent. They created the agenda for this evening's meeting and reviewed the action items that are listed.

Connie Hobbs addressed all fellow council members by saying they are elected officials and it is important that they all attend the workshop and council meetings. She said that if someone was unable to attend, they need to reach out to President Hofecker or VP Baumbaugh and let them know. It is also the responsibility of those that miss to find out what happened at the meeting so time isn't wasted in the meeting recapping what happened.

PERSONNEL

President Hofecker presented Resolution #1 Waiving Employee Contribution for Non-Uniform Pension for 2022. A motion to pass the resolution was made by Cindy Dom seconded by Eric Baumbaugh. A roll call vote was taken with all present members voting yes. The motion carried.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Attorney Joe Green said he received the documents back from Delores Edwards signing the property over to the borough. He will record them when he goes to the court house next week.

It was brought up that Act 152 funds might be available to help tear the property down. Attorney Green is going to look into that to verify if that is so.

MAYOR AND POLICE REPORTS

Mayor Ralph Boyle said that they had an annual audit by state police. There were four findings, everything has been corrected and submitted to the state police. They are now in compliance.

The mounts and computers have been installed in the cruisers. Chief Richards asked if they could get an AT&T First Net stick for \$36.99/month. It will help run individuals when they have a traffic stop.

Mayor Ralph Boyle said Attorney Joe Green is looking into a program called sponsor an officer. The program is being offered through Penn Highlands police academy.

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 and Bill Cornell were present from West Hills Regional Fire Department. They talked about an ordinance(s) that Attorney Green prepared. The ordinance(s) allows West Hills Regional Fire Department to bill insurance companies when they respond in Ferndale Borough. It would also allow West Hills Regional Fire Department to bill businesses for excessive false fire alarms.

FERNDALE FIREMAN'S ASSOC. REPORT

Mayor Ralph Boyle said that the fire association plans on purchasing an AED for the police department.

STREETS AND PROPERTY

Sean said that he hasn't needed to order salt yet for this winter. He will need to do so soon so that he can meet the contract requirements with Costars.

TREES

No report given

SEWER/SEWER PROJECT REPORT

Frank DiLoreto was present from EADS.

Four pressure tests were completed in December.

Hystone Avenue Sewer Rehabilitation: EADS has received all the closeout documentation from Snyder and final payment can be submitted. EADS will submit a final invoice and prepare the grant closeout.

Station St Walkway Rehabilitation Project: The project's design is completed and being prepared for bidding. The project's advertisement will be January 25th. Provided bidding goes according to plan construction can begin May 29, 2023 when school is not in session. Ms. Richards signed the easement to complete the retaining wall work and remove the existing maple tree. The signed easement will be given to Joe Green to record at the courthouse.

A motion was made by Connie Hobbs approving the bid advertisement for the Station Street stairs, seconded by Eric Baumbaugh. The motion carried.

Local Share Account Statewide Program & GTRP Program: Announcement for the grants is anticipated to be March 2023.

DCNR Fall Supplemental Grant Program (Park Rehabilitation and Development): The DCNR notified the borough that they were awarded \$170,000.00 for the Rigby Park Project. This included replacing the playground equipment, pavilion roofs, and adding ADA walkways to the pavilions and playground.

PennDot MTF Grant Application: Submitted grant for the Rigby Park Pedestrian Lighting Project on 11/14/2022. Announcement for the grant is anticipated to be April 2023.

DCED Small Water and Sewer Grants: Grants will be submitted for the following projects: Goucher St Storm Sewer Rehabilitation & Stormwater improvements and Manhole Rehabilitation. Applications were submitted on December 14, 2022. Announcement for the grant has not been determined.

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT

Tax Collector's Report was presented for December 2022. Total amount collected was \$7,611.93.

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 7:06pm regarding a personnel issue.

The meeting came out of executive session at 8:00pm.

The meeting adjourned at 8:01pm with Cindy Dom making the motion seconded by Eric Baumbaugh.

Respectfully submitted,


Nancy L. Hofecker
Borough Secretary