

FERNDALE BOROUGH

Regular Meeting
November 9, 2023

The Ferndale Borough Council met on Thursday, November 9, 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 Cindy Dom to adopt the November 9, 2023 agenda seconded by Eric Baumbaugh. The motion carried.

VISITOR'S

Mark Wissinger, Sr was present to observe.

MINUTES

There were no changes to the October 12, 2023 minutes. A motion was made by Trish Corle 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, 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

Attorney Green and Council had some further discussion on approving a health care waiver. They talked about the exact wording that needs to be in the policy. The approving of the health insurance waiver was tabled till next month.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

No report given

MAYOR AND POLICE REPORTS

Mayor Ralph Boyle said that the new cruiser has been completely outfitted. It is now on the road being used.

Our police department is participating in Cuddles for Kids. Donations can be accepted at the police station or the borough office.

The new heating unit for the police office and street department will be installed next week.

WEST HILLS REPORT

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

Mayor Ralph Boyle shared that he was just notified that West Hills Regional Fire Department is increasing the cost we pay for fire protection. It went from \$15,500.00 a year to \$31,300.00 a year. All the municipalities connected to West Hills Regional Fire had an increase. The increase was based off of road miles.

FERNDALE FIREMAN'S ASSOC. REPORT

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

STREETS AND PROPERTY

Sean Simmons said that they have been busy picking up leaves at least 3-4 times a week.

Eric Baumbaugh said the roof has been repaired they used adhesives and tape. They sealed all the seams. We did sign a contract with SR&G to get the ceiling replaced and new lighting.

TREES

No report given

SEWER/SEWER PROJECT REPORT

Frank DiLoreto was present from EADS.

Two pressure tests were completed in October.

Station St Walkway Rehabilitation Project: Construction for the project is ongoing and approximately 70% has been completed to date. Change Order # 1 for the fence mounting modification and upgrading the fence to black vinyl coated was approved.

Change Order # 2 is for the additional block necessary to bring the wall up to grade. Ferndale is willing to cover part of the project pending Straw accepts that no additional change orders will be submitted for the retaining wall.

A motion was made by Cindy Dom to approve change order request #2 seconded by Mark Wissinger. The motion carried.

The retaining wall issues have been resolved. The sidewalk and curb are being completed. Straw anticipated wrapping up construction before Thanksgiving until returning to pave the road in the spring.

Rigby Park Improvements Project: The layout of the playground needs to be finalized per the discussion from last week's meeting. EADS will work with Sports Recreation Associates on the layout of the playground equipment.

The draft DCNR bid review set for the pavilion and sidewalk was submitted on 11/6/2023 for their review. Once completed the documents can be finalized for bidding. EADS met with Eric and Ralph on 11/6/2023 to discuss the repairs that need to be made to the existing structure for properly attaching the gutter to the pavilions. The bid advertisement is planned for January 2024.

PennDOT MTF Grant Application: The Rigby Park pedestrian lighting has been resubmitted for funding on 11/7/2023. PennDOT anticipates a 2024 spring/summer announcement.

DCED Small Water and Sewer/H2O Grants: Announcement for the grant is expected to be on Tuesday, November 21st.

DCED MTF Fund: Grants were submitted for Station St Walkway Rehabilitation Phase 2 and Ferndale Ave Sidewalk Rehabilitation. Announcement date for the grant has not been determined.

PennDOT TASA Grant: Applications were submitted on 9/11/2023. The announcement is expected to be April 2024.

DCED LSA Grant: Applications were submitted on 11/8/2023. Grant announcement is anticipated for Fall 2024.

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT

Tax Collector's Report was presented for October 2023. The amount collected in October was \$3,971.95.

FINANCE/ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

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

Trish Corle presented the proposed budget to council. The proposed 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.

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.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

No report given

RECREATION REPORT

No report given

OLD BUSINESS

No Old Business

NEW BUSINESS

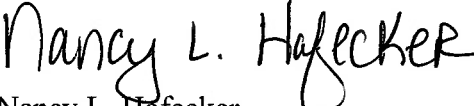
Owen Hofecker reminded those that will be on council in 2024 that a reorganizational meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 2nd at 6pm.

The meeting went into executive session at 6:48pm regarding a personnel issue.

The meeting came out of executive at 8:00pm

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

Respectfully submitted,


Nancy L. Hofecker
Borough Secretary