

FERNDALE BOROUGH

Regular Meeting

October 10, 2024

The Ferndale Borough Council met on Thursday, October 10, 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, Police Chief Adam Richards and Secretary Nancy Hofecker. Art Boring and Attorney Joe Green were absent.

A motion was made by Cindy Dom to adopt the October 10, 2024 agenda seconded by Connie Hobbs. The motion carried.

VISITOR'S

Al Cooper, Zachary Neal and Wes Watson were present to observe.

Susan Bird addressed council in regards to parking on Pilgrim Court. She indicated that there are issues with the way the neighbors are parking making it hard to get through the roadway.

MINUTES

There were no changes to the September 12, 2024 minutes. A motion was made by Mark Wissinger Sr to accept the minutes, seconded by Eric Baumbaugh. The motion carried.

President Owen Hofecker did a recap of the committee meeting. Those in attendance were: VP Eric Baumbaugh, 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. Art Boring was absent (excused).

PERSONNEL

No report given

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

No report given

MAYOR AND POLICE REPORTS

Resolution #7 was presented: Reducing Police Officer Contributions to the Police Pension Plan for 2025. A motion was made by Cindy Dom to pass resolution #7 seconded by Mark Wissinger Jr. A roll call vote was taken with all present members voting yes. The motion carried.

Chief Richards introduced Nathan Kniss as Ferndale's newest officer. We sponsored him as a cadet at the academy.

Mayor Ralph Boyle said that Chief Richards and Nancy have been actively pursuing those not sewer complaint. Chief Richards will be sending another round of citations up to the magistrate's office.

Our officers have now been walking the Rigby Park grounds making sure that everyone using the park is safe and behaving.

All our officers have completed annual qualifications on the firearms. They will be doing taser and defensive tactics next.

WEST HILLS REPORT

Kevin Schrock was unable to attend tonight. Ralph Boyle said that money was received to start up the fire commission. As soon as he knows more, he will share the information.

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

FERNDALE FIREMAN'S ASSOC. REPORT

Ralph Boyle said that they will be having their jubilee banquet on November 16th. They did also purchase new tables for the back hall that will be lighter to lift. They are still working on details for the Santa Sleigh.

STREETS AND PROPERTY

Eric Baumbaugh introduced Eric Huffman as the newest member to our street department.

Eric Baumbaugh said they will be starting to pick up leaves on Monday. He has created a list of things that need to be accomplished daily.

Nancy said they have turned in more scrap items and received \$230.00. The money was placed in the general fund.

TREES

No report given

SEWER/SEWER PROJECT REPORT

Frank DiLoreto was present from EADS.

Three pressure tests were completed in September.

Station St Walkway Rehabilitation Project: Closeout documents were sent to DCEC for final review. We are waiting approval to pay final invoices.

Rigby Park Improvements Project: DCNR has approved the JCM camera quote. They can be awarded the project and begin work when they are available.

A motion was made by Connie Hobbs to accept JCM to install security cameras at Rigby Park in the amount of \$13,295.46 seconded by Eric Baumbaugh. The motion carried.

Ferndale Ave Sidewalk Rehabilitation Project: EADS has begun base mapping the layout of the existing sidewalk/path.

Station St Phase 2 Project: PennDOT is to be working on the Resolution agreement for the grant.

DCED LSA 2023 Grant: Grant announcement is anticipated for October 22nd.

DCED Greenways, Trails, and Recreation Program (GTRP): Grant announcement is anticipated for Spring 2024.

DCED LSA 2024 Grant: Funding for the Municipal Building roof is eligible. EADS will procure an estimate on the roof for the grant.

Resolution #8 was presented: LSA Grant, Borough Building Roof. A motion was made by Eric Baumbaugh to pass resolution #8 seconded by Cindy Dom. A roll call vote was taken with all present members voting yes. The motion carried.

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT

Tax Collector's Report was presented for September 2024. The amount collected in September was \$66.00.

FINANCE/ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

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

A motion to accept the 2023 audit was made by the committee, seconded by Cindy Dom. A roll call vote was taken with all present members voting yes. The motion carried.

Nancy presented council with a proposed balanced budget for 2025. The balanced budget has no text increase or decrease. It will be advertised and voted on at the November council meeting.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

No report given

RECREATION REPORT

No report given

OLD BUSINESS

No Old Business

NEW BUSINESS

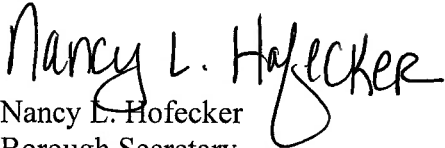
Eric Baumbaugh mentioned that with the rising cost of health care he feels we should remove Subsection G that allows an employee to receive compensation for not taking health care coverage. It would be effective January 1, 2025.

Nancy shared an email that was received from Gail Bowman regarding people speeding and driving carelessly on Hystone Avenue. Chief Richards is going to look and see if anything can be done to slow traffic down.

The meeting went into executive session at 6:45pm for a personnel issue. The meeting came out of executive session at 7:10pm.

The meeting adjourned at 7:11pm with Cindy Dom making the motion seconded by Eric Baumbaugh.

Respectfully submitted,


Nancy L. Hofecker
Borough Secretary