

Borough Council Meeting Minutes – October 25, 2023

Call to Order – Mrs. Dekar called the meeting to order at 5:30pm. Mrs. Slocum led the Pledge of Allegiance and offered the meeting prayer.

Roll Call – The following members of the Borough Council were present; Cori Belles, Jessie Dekar, Gabriel Felt, Jessica Meyer, and Irene Slocum. **Excused:** James Daly & Patrick Gillette. Also present; Henry Farley, Mayor; Gil Crossett, Assistant Fire Chief; Jonathan Foster, Jr., Solicitor; Christopher Kaiden, Code Enforcement Director; Blane Lathrop, DPW Foreman; Robert Repasky; Fire Chief; Daniel Reynolds, Police Chief; and David Jarrett, Borough Manager.

Citizens to be Heard – The following citizens addressed the Borough Council;

- Debra Landy and Nancy Menio of the Valley Gardening Group provided the Borough Council with an overview of what the group does in the community. Mrs. Landy explained that the group has maintained the plant beds in Triangle Park, the walkway between Desmond Street and the municipal parking lot, and at the Sayre Library. Mrs. Landy explained that the group would like to reconfigure the planting beds in Triangle Park and remove ornamental grass and bush now that PennDOT has finished working on that portion of South Keystone Avenue. Mrs. Dekar asked Mr. Lathrop to take care of the request when the Department has time.
- Gary Wheeler addressed the Borough Council regarding the trash collection proposal for Athens Township. Mr. Wheeler stated that he has been a taxpayer in the Borough for 41 years and is also a Borough Public Works employee. Mr. Wheeler outlined the various services that the Borough provides to its residents and asked what the impact would be on Sayre residents if the Borough began collecting trash in Athens Township. Mr. Wheeler reminded the Borough Council that they were elected by Sayre residents and it is not their job to save Athens Township residents money.

Mrs. Dekar explained that the Borough is only in the process of assessing interest from Township residents for trash collection services and determine if it will be feasible to provide the service. Mrs. Dekar further explained that the proposal does not include the collection of recyclables and that the opportunity to provide trash collection service to Athens Township residents would provide growth for the Borough.

Mr. Wheeler stated that Township residents would not be interested in trash collection services from the Borough if recycling collection is not provided to them.

Mrs. Belles explained that Borough Council has no intention to take away services from Borough residents and that there needs to be an assessment to determine if this will be an opportunity for the Borough to grow.

- Tom Forbes, no address given asked if the Borough Council has taken into consideration the wear and tear on vehicles and that there is a lot more to the issue.

Mrs. Dekar stated that expenses related to wear and tear has been taken into consideration.

Mr. Wheeler stated that he is concerned with safety on Elmira Street because all of the streets off of Pennsylvania Avenue enter and exit onto Elmira Street.

- Michael Henrich of Riverside Drive addressed the Borough Council regarding the Athens Township trash proposal. Mr. Henrich explained that he has been a DPW employee for seventeen (17) years and most of his career has been as the driver of the garbage truck. Mr. Henrich explained that the Borough's DPW is the best in the Valley and that the employees take pride in their work. Mr. Henrich stated that it currently takes forty-five (45) man hours to collect trash in the Borough and an additional six (6) hours to transport to and from the landfill. Mr. Henrich explained that there are several outside factors that impact the amount of time it takes and that it will be difficult to pick up additional trash on the Wednesday route. Mr. Henrich shared a recent experience that collection crew had caused by the ongoing PA 199 project and difficulty that road conditions caused with collecting trash that day.
- Spencer Short who is also a Borough DPW employee addressed the Borough Council regarding the Athens Township trash proposal and explained that he is the substitute laborer on the garbage truck. Mr. Short stated that collecting additional trash on Wednesday's route will take more time and that he is concerned about getting lunch as specified in the contract.

Mrs. Belles explained that the Borough Council spent time earlier this year meeting with each Borough Department to discuss their strengths, threats, opportunities, and weaknesses. Mrs. Belles stated that one of the Public Works Department's strengths is longevity and that growth will only be made in a way that makes sense.

Mr. Wheeler spoke again and expressed concern with trash collection on Shepard Road because there is not a safe place to turn around on the Township portion of the roadway. Mr. Wheeler stated that the driver would have to drive 1.4 miles further up the road after the intersection with Robb Street to turn around safely. Mr. Wheeler also stated that collecting trash on Mondays will be impacted by observed holidays and winter weather resulting in collection being rescheduled to another day.

Mrs. Dekar stated that change is uncomfortable but it is sometimes necessary.

- Colleen Bentley, President of the Sayre Business Association presented Mr. Jarrett with a plaque on behalf of the Business Association recognizing Mr. Jarrett's years of service with the Borough. Mr. Jarrett thanked Mrs. Bentley and the Business Association for the thoughtfulness.

Approval of Minutes – A motion was made by Mrs. Belles and seconded by Mrs. Slocum to approve the minutes of the Borough Council Regular Meeting held on September 26, 2023 and Borough Council Workshop Meeting held on October 11, 2023. There were no objections.

Approval of Bills List – A motion was made by Mrs. Slocum and seconded by Mr. Felt to approve the bills list and supplemental bills list for the period of October 12 thru October 25, 2023. **Under the question:** There were none. **Roll Call: Mrs. Belles, Mrs. Dekar, Mr. Felt, Miss Meyer, and Mrs. Slocum.**

Correspondence Summary – There were no questions or comments.

Finance Report – September 30, 2023 – Mrs. Belles asked when the budget will be provided to the Borough Council. Mr. Jarrett explained that he is working on the draft budget and it will be provided to the Borough Council on Friday, October 27th.

Elected & Appointed Officials – There were no questions or comments.

Consent Agenda – Mrs. Dekar explained that items of business and matters listed under the Consent Agenda are considered to be routine and non-controversial and will be enacted by one motion and one roll call vote. There will be no separate discussion of these items. If discussion is desired by a Council Member, that item is to be identified and removed from the Consent Agenda, and will be considered separately at the appropriate place on the Agenda.

- A. Approval of Engineer's Proposal for Howard Elmer Park Bandstand Project - \$8,900.00
- B. Approval of Downtown Streetscape Project Pay Application #1 - \$198,563.30

- C. Approval of Hayden Street Pump Station Project Pay Application #2 - \$314,301.19
- D. Authorize the Borough Manager to send a letter to Athens Township residential property owners on the designated "hybrid" route informing them of the Borough's interest in providing trash collection service.
- E. Approval of Street Closures for Rusty Rail Game Parade – October 27, 2023

A motion was made by Mrs. Slocum and seconded by Mr. Felt to approve the items listed on the Consent Agenda. **Under the question:** Mrs. Belles stated that it is important to keep the line of communication open regarding the trash collection proposal. **Roll Call: Mrs. Belles, Mrs. Dekar, Mr. Felt, Miss Meyer, and Mrs. Slocum; YES.**

Approve the Proposal Submitted by Kai Pan Consulting to Furnish and Install A New Dell PowerEdge Computer Server For The Administration Department - \$4,349.00. A motion was made by Miss Meyer and seconded by Mr. Felt to approve the Proposal Submitted by Kai Pan Consulting to furnish and install a new Dell PowerEdge computer server for the Administration Department in the amount of \$4,349.00. **Under the question:** Mrs. Dekar asked if there was an issue with the current server, and Mr. Jarrett stated that the current server is outdated. **Roll Call: Mrs. Belles, Mrs. Dekar, Mr. Felt, Miss Meyer, and Mrs. Slocum; YES.**

Vote to approve the transfer of \$2,948.00 from the General Fund to Capital Reserve Police SWAT. A motion was made by Mrs. Slocum and seconded by Miss Meyer to approve the transfer of funds. **Under the question:** There were none. **Roll Call: Mrs. Belles, Mrs. Dekar, Mr. Felt, Miss Meyer, and Mrs. Slocum; YES.**

Adjourn – A motion was made by Mrs. Slocum and seconded by Mrs. Dekar to adjourn the meeting at 6:05pm.