

Borough Council Meeting Minutes – March 22, 2023

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

Roll Call – The following members of the Borough Council were present; Cori Belles, James Daly, Jessie Dekar, Gabriel Felt, Irene Slocum, Jessica Meyer, and Patrick Gillette. Also present; Henry Farley, Mayor; Gil Crossett, Assistant Fire Chief; Kandy Ferguson, Administrative Services Coordinator; Christopher Kaiden, Code Enforcement Director; Taylor Landis, Borough Treasurer; Robert Repasky, Fire Chief; Daniel Reynolds, Police Chief; and David Jarrett Borough Manager.

Citizens to be Heard – Paul Blythe, Sayre Little League President addressed the Borough Council regarding the organization's interest in making improvements the facilities in Riverfront Park. Mr. Blythe explained that the proposed improvements include finishing the batting cages which was delayed due to COVID, updating the lighting so that the league could have night games, and installing fiber optic so that games could be live streamed for parents and family members who are unable to attend the games. Mr. Blythe explained that the cost of these and all other proposed improvements would be the responsibility of the league and that he would like to include language in the lease agreement to address these items. Mr. Blythe explained that the Sayre Little League is the only local organization that has multiple fields in one location and that there is potential to host regional and state tournaments which would draw more visitors to the area. Mrs. Belles asked about the potential increase in cost of electricity by hosting night games and Mr. Blythe stated that the league would be responsible for the electricity bill during the baseball season. Mr. Blythe stated that the proposed improvements are part of a 2-3 year plan.

Approval of Minutes – The minutes of the Borough Council meeting held on February 22, 2023 and Borough Council Workshop meeting held on March 8, 2023 were placed on file.

Approval of Bills List – A motion was made by Miss Meyer and seconded by Mr. Daly to approve the bills list. **Under the question:** There were none. **Roll Call: Mrs. Belles, Mrs. Dekar, Mr. Felt, Miss Meyer, Mrs. Slocum, Mr. Daly, and Mr. Gillette; YES.**

Correspondence Report – There were no questions or comments.

Finance Report – February 28, 2023 – There were no questions or comments. Mr. Jarrett asked the Borough Council to review the report and contact him if there are any questions.

Elected & Appointed Officials – Mrs. Belles asked if there is a plan for a Borough-wide cleanup now that the weather is getting nice, and Mr. Jarrett stated that the Sayre Revitalization Initiative (SRI) group is spearheading the project. Mrs. Belles also asked about the status of park survey that was developed last year, and Mr. Gillette explained that the SRI is also interested in completing a survey and will work with the Borough on that project. Lastly Mrs. Belles asked if the information relating to electronics recycling could be updated on the Borough’s website.

Consent Agenda - Mr. Gillette 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.

- a. Park Use Requests
 - 1. Guthrie ICU Nurses – Howard Elmer Park – April 15
 - 2. Sayre Public Library – Howard Elmer Park – April 22
 - 3. Bradford County Treatment Court – Riverfront Park – April 30
 - 4. Guthrie Gallop – Howard Elmer Park – May 13
 - 5. Pound the Ground for Ultrasound – Riverfront Park / Diahoga Trail – May 27
 - 6. Church of the Redeemer Street Fair – Howard Elmer Park – June 10
 - 7. Catholic Community of Epiphany Church – Howard Elmer Park – June 11
 - 8. Sayre Elks Club Flag Day Ceremony – Howard Elmer Park – June 14
 - 9. 1st Annual Martha Greer Memorial Walk– South Elmer Avenue – June 17
- b. Conference Attendance Requests
 - 1. CD&H Practitioners’ Conference
 - 2. PA-DEP Flood Protection Workshop
- c. Resolution 2023-05 Bradford County Emergency Action Plan Update

A motion was made by Mrs. Belles and seconded by Mrs. Slocum to approve the items listed on the Consent Agenda. **Under the question:** Mrs. Dekar asked if the Borough charges fees for the use of its parks and facilities, and Mr. Jarrett explained that there is a provision to charge fees however most of the requests are from non-profit organizations and community groups so the fees are often waived. Mr. Jarrett stated that there have been very few issues with litter left behind after an event. **Roll Call: Mrs. Belles, Mrs. Dekar, Mr. Felt, Miss Meyer, Mrs. Slocum, Mr. Daly, and Mr. Gillette; YES.**

Norfolk Southern Agreement – Parker Avenue Bridge Improvements - A motion was made by Mr. Daly and seconded by Mr. Felt to approve the agreement with Norfolk Southern to incur and bill costs associated with project coordination and the review of project plans for the repairs to the Packer Avenue Bridge as proposed by the Larson Design Group in an amount not to exceed \$20,000. **Under the question:** Mr. Jarrett explained that Norfolk Southern must review the project engineer’s design to ensure that the project does not impede rail traffic on the line that goes under the bridge. **Roll Call: Mrs. Belles, Mrs. Dekar, Mr. Felt, Miss Meyer, Mrs. Slocum, Mr. Daly, and Mr. Gillette; YES.**

Introduction of Borough Treasurer – Mr. Jarrett and Ms. Ferguson officially introduced Taylor Landis to the Borough Council. Mr. Jarrett explained that Miss Landis is a graduate of Mansfield University and had previously worked as an accountant before coming to the Borough. Ms. Ferguson stated Miss Landis has been training on payroll, accounts payable responsibilities, and preparing the monthly bills list. Mrs. Belles thanked Ms. Ferguson for her hard work during the period that she was performing the Treasurer's duties during the transition to a new treasurer.

Recess – Mr. Gillette recessed the meeting at 5:50pm prior to the Borough Council going into executive session.

Executive Session – The Borough Council went into executive session at 5:55pm and discussed a real estate issue and a personnel issue. The session ended at 6:50pm.

Adjourn – A motion was made by Mrs. Dekar and seconded by Mr. Gillette to adjourn the meeting at 6:50pm.

