

Borough Council Workshop Meeting Minute – June 11, 2025

Call to Order – Mrs. Dekar called the meeting to order at 5:30pm.

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

Citizens to be Heard – There were none.

Approval of Bills List & Supplemental Bills List – May 24 – June 11, 2025 – A motion was made by Mr. Daly and seconded by Mr. Hall to approve the bills list and supplemental bills list. Under the question: There were none. Roll Call: Mrs. Belles, Mr. Daly, Mr. Hall, Mr. Wayman, and Mrs. Dekar; YES.

Finance Report – May 31, 2025 – There were no questions.

Correspondence Summary – There were no questions.

Department & Committee Reports – The following reports were presented;

Fire Department – Assistant Chief Repasky provided an update on the progress of the Fire Truck Committee and explained that the Committee has received specifications from two (2) manufacturers and they are waiting on information from a third manufacturer. Assistant Chief Repasky explained that the early projections for the new fire engine is \$920,000 - \$1.1 million. Mrs. Belles asked if the Department has gained any new members and Assistant Chief Repasky stated that four (4) new members of joined the Department since February.

Police Chief – Chief Reynolds asked the Borough Council to consider hiring a per diem officer(s) to help reduce overtime. Chief Reynolds explained that the Department is currently down two (2) full-time officers and that it will likely take three (3) months to get a new officer started. Mr. Wayman asked how many officers are assigned to a shift, and Chief Reynolds stated that the highest number of officers on duty during one shift is four including himself if there are none of the officers on a scheduled vacation or personal day. Mrs. Belles asked what the hourly rate is for a per diem officer, and Mr. Jarrett explained that the 2025 Resolution stipulates that the hourly rate is based on the per diem officer's experience.

Chief Reynolds provided an update on the Civil Service process and explained that the Physical Agility Test and Written Examination are scheduled on Saturday, July 12, 2025 and the Oral Interviews are tentatively scheduled on Friday, July 18th. Mr. Jarrett stated that three (3) applications have been received since the job was posted last week.

Borough Manager – Mr. Jarrett reported that the 2025 Paving Project is scheduled to begin in the second week of July, the Summer Events Program will begin on June 18th and continue throughout the summer until August 23rd and that \$30,000 has been donated so far by local sponsors; more than \$108,000 has been donated so far for the Bandstand Roof Project including \$2,000 during the past month; an E-Recycling Event for Borough residents is scheduled on June 21st and is provided free of charge to Borough residents and that early registration has been slow and press releases but it will likely increase as we get closer to the date; and lastly that Kali's Mission will be placing traps on June 15 for the Trap | Neuter | Release Program and the traps will be picked up on June 16th. Mrs. Belles asked how the neighborhood was notified about the program and Mr. Jarrett stated that a notice was posted on the Borough's Facebook page, letters were mailed out, and notices were left at each residence.

Code Enforcement – Mr. Kaiden asked the Borough Council to consider purchasing a new air conditioning system for the Borough Hall that will be installed in the Administration Office, Code Enforcement Office, and Borough Manager's Office. Mr. Kaiden explained that new systems were previously installed in the fire truck bay and on the third floor but these other areas utilize wall and window units which are not efficient. Mr. Kaiden stated that the proposed system is also a heating system which will increase heating efficiency because of how difficult it is to maintain a comfortable temperature in the building during the winter months. Mr. Kaiden presented proposals from Jeff Paul Plumbing & Heating in the amount \$27,075.00 and from C&S Residential LLC. in the amount of \$12,310.00 and explained that both contractors are proposing identical equipment for the project. Mr. Kaiden stated that neither proposal includes repairing the exterior walls where the current air conditioning units are and that the repairs would need to be completed by a different contractor.

Solicitor's Report – Attorney Foster stated that he would like to discuss a real estate issue involving 310 East Lockhart Street with the Borough Council in executive session. Mrs. Belles asked about the status of the code book updates and Attorney Foster and Mr. Daly explained that the project is more than 90% completed.

Public Works – Mr. Lathrop reported that he is working with vendors to secure pricing on four (4) pieces of equipment for the Department including a new garbage truck. Mr. Lathrop explained that the new garbage truck is expected to cost \$313,000.00. Mrs. Dekar asked if any of the equipment purchases will be funded by grant money, and Mr. Jarrett stated the refuse body and recycling truck cab & chassis will be funded by a \$200,000.00 grant. Mrs. Belles asked if any of the equipment that was being replaced would be sold or repurposed and Mr. Lathrop stated that he is looking at options and that any revenue generated from selling the equipment could be used to fund repairs to other pieces of equipment including a new dump box on one of the large plow trucks.

Mr. Lathrop also reported that the Department is very busy working on a variety of projects including catch basin repairs, and installing new patriotic and event banners.

Emergency Management – Mr. Daly reported that he attended a training session that discussed possible changes in assistance levels from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Mr. Daly explained that FEMA would increase damage costs before a disaster recovery project would qualify for FEMA funding and therefore increase the responsibilities on state agencies such as PEMA and local governments after an emergency event.

Planning Commission – Mr. Daly reported that the Commission reviewed the proposed ordinance amendment to the Business Incubator Zoning District and that additional language is needed before the ordinance can be advertised. Attorney Foster stated that the ordinance amendment can be advertised and adopted in July.

Playground Equipment Purchase – Mr. Jarrett explained that the type of equipment has been selected but a decision on the location is still needed. Mrs. Belles stated that the original location near the boat launch is the most practical location due to the fact that the area is in close proximity to the ballfields. Mrs. Dekar suggested that the smaller pieces of equipment be purchased and installed and Mr. Wayman agreed. Mr. Lathrop stated that the new equipment will be installed closer to the pavilion. Mr. Wayman asked where the large piece would be installed, and Mr. Lathrop stated that it would be installed closer to the softball field. Mr. Jarrett stated that a local business has committed to a \$5,000 donation for the project and that they would like to do a check presentation with the Borough soon.

First Citizens Bank Playground Project – Mr. Jarrett asked if there were any questions or comments regarding the presentation by Futurescapes at the May Borough Council meeting. Mrs. Dekar stated that she does not object to the Borough taking over ownership of the project property as long as the the existing equipment in the park is removed and remains open space until grant funds are secured by Futurescapes for the project. Mr. Wayman asked Attorney Foster if he had any concerns with the property being transferred to the Borough in light of the zoning decision requiring that the property be kept as playground, and Attorney Foster stated that he did not have any concerns because the intent of the zoning decision is that a playground be maintained which would happen based on the proposal by Futurescapes.

Recess – Mrs. Dekar recessed the meeting at 6:15pm.

Executive Session – The Borough Council went into executive session at 6:20pm to discuss the status of 310 East West Lockhart Street. Mr. Hall was excused from the executive session. The session ended at 6:25pm.

Adjourn – Mrs. Dekar adjourned the meeting at 6:25pm without objection.

Respectfully submitted,



David M Jarrett
Borough Manager/Secretary

