

Oakland Borough Council
380 State Street
Susquehanna, PA 18847
Regular meeting minutes
February 19th 2020

The regular meeting of the Oakland Borough Council was called to order at 7:02pm. Present were council members Debra White, Robert Muieter, Ronald Beavan, Gary Boughton, Patrick Gall, Brad Krayeski; Solicitor John Martin; and Secretary Rhonda Parfitt. Absent were Councilwoman Valerie Senese and Mayor Randy Glover.

Also present were Doug and Susan Arthur, Dan Vinsko, and Brandie Hallisey.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and a moment of silence was observed.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Mr. Krayeski requested to add a police contract update to Old Business. He then made a motion to adopt the amended agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gall and approved unanimously by vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There were no noted changes to the January 6th minutes. Mr. Beavan made a motion to approve the January 6th minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Krayeski and approved unanimously by vote. It was asked if the January 23rd minutes were being approved at this meeting. Ms. Parfitt stated that due to the timing of her maternity leave she had not completed the minutes in time for them to be reviewed by Council and that they would need to be approved at the next meeting to allow time for Council to properly review them. It was noted that the next meeting is March 18th.

RESIGNATION

Mr. Boughton stated that the Borough had received a letter from Kimberly Tuttle dated for January 27th which stated that she was resigning immediately from her position as the Borough's EMC. Dan Vinsko, interested in being appointed as the new EMC, was present and introduced himself. He stated that he was the EMC for Susquehanna Borough. Mr. Beavan asked if he was up to date on all of his training, to which Mr. Vinsko responded that he was,

except for one class he was working on. Mr. Boughton checked with Mr. Martin that there was no conflict of interest and Mr. Martin stated that there was not. Mr. Beavan made a motion to appoint Dan Vinsko as Oakland Borough EMC. The motion was seconded by Mr. Muiter and approved unanimously by vote.

TREASURER'S REPORT, BILL LIST, AND TIME SHEETS

Ms. Parfitt stated that the Borough's annual insurance payment to PIRMA was coming due on April 12th. It was in the amount of \$8,173.00 and she inquired if Council felt it should be paid immediately or if it should wait a little closer to the due date. It was asked if the payment could be made in installments and Ms. Parfitt stated that last year, the Borough had been allowed to make two payments- one by the April renewal and one by the end of July. Ms. Parfitt offered to look into this option and stated that she would be advised on any installment fees this may incur. She would bring the information to the March 18th meeting. Mr. Martin asked Ms. Parfitt if the Property and Equipment section of the bill included fire insurance, because he felt the cost was too low to include such insurance. Ms. Parfitt stated that she was unsure but that she had a detailed packet in the office which showed what exactly the insurance premium included. She stated that she would look into it and be sure about what was included. Regarding the treasurer's report, Ms. Parfitt stated that the numbers looked promising to last until the tax deposit was made in April. A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report and Bill List was made by Mr. Muiter, seconded by Mr. Gall, and approved unanimously by vote. Time sheets were reviewed throughout this time and there were no noted objections, other than Chief Creamer's name being written on one of his sheets.

POLICE REPORT

Chief Creamer, who arrived late due to an incident, stated that he did not have his police report on him, but that there had been approximately 16 calls and noted some of the incidents.

CODES REPORT

Mr. Krayeski stated that he had been contacted by the Water Authority, per the arrangement made at the January 23rd meeting, regarding two residences whose water had been shut off. Greg Scheer, the IPMC codes enforcer through COG, had sent notices regarding the violations to the property owners and this incurred a \$38.70 bill to COG, which was noted on the bill list. Mr. Krayeski stated that he had recently received a complaint about garbage on the curb at 150 Westfall Ave which had been sitting there for a few weeks. He was waiting to hear from COG and would follow-up on the issue. He also questioned about the paperwork for the Flood Plain Management that was due for PEMA. Ms. Parfitt stated that she had taken care of the form.

STREETS REPORT

Due to Mayor Glover's absence, there was no streets report.

CODES COMMITTEE

Mr. Krayeski stated that the codes committee had met before the meeting to discuss the Burn Ordinance. They suggested structuring the penalties based on a three-year time period as follows: First offense- \$75.00; second offense- \$150.00; Third offense- \$325.00; Fourth offense- \$500.00. The wording of the ordinance would make the time period a rolling three years so that the "clock was always ticking." It was noted that there would be no warning and that the first offense would be fined as such. Mr. Martin stated that the publication and adoption of the ordinance was fair enough warning.

A second change the committee wanted to make was to clean up the language of the ordinance to state only which materials are allowed to be burned and exclude which materials were not allowed. This would make it less ambiguous and there would hopefully be fewer issues with burning unauthorized materials.

Ms. White questioned what would happen if the resident did not pay the fine. Mr. Martin stated that they could end up with a judgment lien against their property. Mr. Muiter asked if this result would have to be defined in the ordinance. There was some discussion on this and Mr. Martin stated that he would take care of it when he drafted the ordinance.

A third change the committee wished to make was to place a size limit on the burning pit to something like a 4ft by 4 ft area. This would prevent large fires. It was noted that the ordinance prohibits fires within a certain distance of a building. Mr. Beavan asked about the distance from a property line. Mr. Martin stated that this prohibition should be included.

Mr. Krayeski wished to address leaf burning, as leaves are currently allowed to be burned in the ditches. Chief Creamer stated that this would be taken advantage of. Some council members expressed that it was not safe. They agreed that the leaves should have to be burned in the burning pit and that all burning should be contained. Mr. Arthur expressed that he felt it would be too much work to put the leaves in a burn barrel and wait for them to burn down far enough to put more leaves in and that nobody would burn leaves anymore. Mr. Boughton wondered if the Borough should give the residents a way to dispose of the leaves. There was a discussion about this. Some council members were in favor of the streets worker collecting bags of leaves and disposing of them in the old dump. No decision was reached.

Mr. Beavan stated that the current ordinance allowed burning from 9:00AM to 9:00PM and wondered if this should be kept the same or changed. There was fairly lengthy discussion which reached the conclusion that BBQ or fire pits should have no time limit but burning papers should be something like sun up to sun down. Mr. Martin stated that he would take care of this

when he drafted the ordinance. Ms. White wondered about banning burning altogether. Mr. Beavan voiced his support but other council members were opposed.

Mr. Krayeski stated that he would be in contact with the solicitor regarding the drafting of the new ordinance.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Ms. White had no report for the committee but wondered how they could go about finding property not owned by residents that could be used to plant flowers. Mr. Krayeski stated that there was a parcel map in the back of the Borough that could be looked at. He also noted that if the Borough intended to place flags for Memorial Day, they would need to start looking into finding new holders to place on the poles as the current ones were too small to hold the flags. Mr. Muiter expressed interest in helping with this cause and he and Mr. Krayeski agreed to look at the flags after the meeting.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

There was no finance committee report due to lack of meeting.

PARKS REPORT

Mr. Arthur presented updated park plans from Delta Engineers. He stated that the placement of the scoreboard was currently up for debate. The walking path could not go all the way around due to there not being enough clearance with the field and Mr. Krayeski proposed a solution which would involve an agreement with Little League. Mr. Arthur stated he would look into the solution. Mr. Arthur noted that the new plans had moved the shuffleboard to allow for a larger splash pad. They were considering a ramp instead of stairs leading down to the ball field. Mr. Arthur stated that they were working on getting pricing for the phases so that the committee would know what to be looking at for grants and fundraising.

Mr. Beavan had a question about the reorientation of the ball field. Mr. Krayeski answered that currently, the pitchers are pitching into the sunset. The reorientation of the field will fix this issue, along with making the field more sensible for right-handed hitters, which most players are.

Mr. Arthur stated that the concession stand was in need of a new refrigerator as the other one had quit, as mentioned at a previous meeting. He intended to put jugs in town requesting donations for this and for some fencing. Mr. Muiter asked about fundraising and Mr. Arthur told him what they had in mind, but said that they will always take new ideas for raising funds.

VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE

Mr. Krayeski stated that the volunteer committee had not met due to lack of projects that could be completed.

OLD BUSINESS

It was discussed that the ordinances would be completed one at a time. The next priority would be the fireworks ordinance. Mr. Martin also stated that he had been in contact with Mr. Eby regarding the flood plain ordinance and this could be discussed at the next meeting.

Regarding the NEP contract, Ms. Parfitt was requested to contact Mr. Tourje and ask if Section 10 of the franchise agreement was negotiable. This section prohibits other providers from being in the area and Council does not wish to limit the provider options for residents.

Regarding the properties in question for SWN royalties, Mr. Martin stated that there is no lease in place for the property containing the dump. After some clarification about the property in question near Jessie Colwell, Mr. Martin stated that the Borough does not own the acres and cannot get the royalties for them.

Regarding furnace repair, Ms. Parfitt stated that she had not heard from Mr. Williams and would need to contact him. It was noted that there had been no issues since the emergency servicing he had done, but there were still the repairs to make from his original visit.

Regarding Employee Policy Review, Ms. Parfitt stated that she had received several emails from Ms. Senese which she had forwarded from an employee of the PSAB. She had not had time to review the emails or discuss them with Ms. Senese.

Regarding the lease addendum with TBMA, Mr. Martin clarified that the fencing work had been done. It was answered yes. He also wanted Council to clarify that they had no need or desire to go inside the fenced property of TBMA. Council answered that there was no need or desire to enter the property, just that they needed to be able to access the garage. Mr. Martin stated that in his conversation with one of TBMA's representatives, the sewer authority just wanted to know who was going to have keys to the gate. It was agreed that keys should be given to the Council President, Chairman of the Volunteer Committee, two streets workers, and the Secretary's office. Mr. Arthur questioned if Mayor Glover should have a key and Mr. Boughton stated that TBMA had an issue with Mayor Glover having a key and that him having one was part of the issue in the first place.

Regarding the police contract, Mr. Krayeski stated that he had attended Susquehanna Borough's last meeting with the hope that the police contract was going to be discussed but it was not. He stated that Susquehanna was going to have a special meeting on Thursday, February 20th to discuss the contract and they would inform the Borough of any decision

made. Mr. Muiter questioned what was left to discuss as he thought that a proposal had already been made. Mr. Krayeski stated that there were some changes that had gone back and forth. Mr. Beavan asked if money was being negotiated. Mr. Krayeski answered that no, it was just terms of the contract. He stated that he thought it had been set when they had the meeting with Susquehanna and made the minor corrections, so he wasn't sure what else had happened to hold up the agreement. Mr. Boughton read an email from Ms. Senese, wishing to signify her removal from the police contract envoy. Mr. Beavan asked who was currently on the envoy. Mr. Boughton answered that it was himself, Ms. Senese, and Mayor Glover. Mr. Muiter asked what their job was. Mr. Krayeski answered that they were appointed to talk with Susquehanna and negotiate and answer questions. Mr. Muiter wished to clarify that Ms. Senese didn't want to be part of the negotiations anymore. Mr. Martin answered that Ms. Senese felt she may be part of the tension surrounding the police contract. Mr. Martin requested to be informed of any new information that might need to be reviewed as a result of Susquehanna's special meeting. Mr. Beavan asked Mr. Krayeski why he was attending the meeting if he was not part of the envoy that was assigned to negotiate. Mr. Boughton answered that he had asked Mr. Krayeski to attend as the President Pro-Tem since he himself was unable to make it. Additionally, Ms. Senese attended the meeting but is an employee of Susquehanna Borough and she was uncomfortable serving a dual-purpose at the meeting. Mr. Beavan was accepting of this explanation. Mr. Martin suggested putting in the minutes that Mr. Krayeski was being added to the envoy in Ms. Senese's place. Ms. Parfitt clarified for the minutes that the police contract envoy was Mr. Boughton, Mr. Krayeski, and Mayor Glover. Mr. Boughton confirmed.

Mr. Beavan had a question regarding the Open Records Officer. He asked Ms. Parfitt if she had been appointed to fill such position for the Borough. Ms. Parfitt answered that to her understanding, the Secretary automatically filled the ORO position for a small Borough. Mr. Beavan answered that according to the OOR's website, Florence Brush was still registered as the ORO and that Ms. Parfitt would need to be appointed and registered. Mr. Boughton made a motion to appoint Rhonda Parfitt as Open Records Officer for the Borough. The motion was seconded by Mr. Muiter and approved unanimously by vote.

Mr. Krayeski wished to publicly thank Ms. Senese for her recommendation for all council members to attend Bootcamp. He felt it was very important and he learned a lot. Other council members voiced their agreement.

Mr. Boughton wished to congratulate Ms. Parfitt on the birth of her child.

Mr. Beavan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. This was seconded by Mr. Gall and approved unanimously by vote. The meeting was adjourned at 8:32pm.