

Oakland Borough Council
General Business Meeting Minutes
380 State Street
Susquehanna, PA 18847
February 8, 2024

Attendance: President Valerie Senese, Vice-President Robert Muiteer, Debra White, Brad Krayeski, Patrick Gall, Teena Gall, William Deakin, Solicitor John Martin, Administrator Jennifer Bixby.

Absent: Mayor Randy Glover, Treasurer/ Asst. Administrator Rhonda Parfitt.

Meeting was called to order by President Valerie Senese at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence was observed.

THE MEETING WAS ANNOUNCED IT WAS BEING RECORDED

1. Agenda:

Motion by Mr. Robert Muiteer, 2nd by Ms. Debra White to adopt the agenda with addition as follows:

Under New Business number 14, letter E audio recording

All in favor, motion carried

2. Approval of minutes:

Motion by Mr. Brad Krayeski, 2nd by Mr. Patrick Gall to accept January 2, 2024 Meeting Minutes as presented.

All in favor, motion carried.

3. President Valerie Senese opened public comment at 7:02 p.m.

Mr. Doug Arthur 5157 Prospect Street, Susquehanna, PA 18847 thanked the Council for installing the light over the flag outside the Borough Building. Also requested Council to contact Penelec about a tree leaning on wire on Prospect Street.

Ms. Susan Arthur 5157 Prospect Street, Susquehanna, PA 18847 questioned Council why the Deputy Tax Collector was on the agenda. President Senese explained that since reorganization of Council members it will be discussed under new business.

Mr. Daniel Boughton 82 Main Street, Susquehanna, PA 18847 presented money for the park in Gary Boughton's name. President Senese accepted the money and thanked Mr. Boughton.

President Senese closed public comment at 7:05 p.m.

4. Community Development:
 - A. There were no Meeting Minutes to submit to record.
 - B. Verbal report given by Chairperson Heather Krayeski.
 1. The community development has not formally met this year. Will reconvene the first Wednesday of the month. Next meeting held on March 6, 2024.
 2. The Oakland Borough will be discussing the clean-up event that will be coming in April.
 3. Also discussing the removal of holiday flags and putting up the Veterans flags for Memorial Day.

3. Financial Reports:
 - A. Mr. Robert Muter gave a verbal report in the absence of Treasurer Rhonda Parfitt.
 - B. Motion by Mr. Patrick Gall, 2nd by Mr. Brad Krayeski to approve Treasurer's Report as presented.
All in favor, motion carried.
 - C. Motion by Mr. Patrick Gall, 2nd by Mr. Robert Muter to approve and pay Bill List as presented.
All in favor, motion carried.
 - D. Motion by Mr. Robert Muter, 2nd by Ms. Debra White for donation to Susquehanna Fire Company of \$500.00 (five hundred dollars) for taking down Veterans Flags, hanging the holiday flags.
Yay: Ms. Valerie Senese, Mr. Robert Muter, Ms. Debra White, Mr. Brad Krayeski, Mr. Patrick Gall, Mr. William Deakin.
Nay: Ms. Teena Gall.
Motion carried.

4. Correspondence:
 - A. Mr. Robert Muter motioned, 2nd by Mr. Brad Krayeski to donate \$100.00 (one hundred dollars) for Susquehanna County Conservation District Envirothon.
All in favor, motion carried.

5. Codes Report:
 - A. Verbal report was given by Mr. Brad Krayeski, Head of Codes.
 - B. Mr. Brad Krayeski explained he did not receive any phone calls or letters of codes complaints.
 - C. Mr. Brad Krayeski stated that a lot of property owners have complied with the rental permit. Ms. Bixby sent out 2nd notices out on January 25, 2024. No responses as of yet.
 - D. Mr. Brad Krayeski spoke with Mr. Roy Williams. Mr. Roy Williams explained Council should do a roll call vote to proceed revoking rental properties owner's license of an owner. Mr. Brad Krayeski explained the file he has is on one owner that owns multiple rentals and 4 out of 5 rentals are not up to code if any Council member would like to review. Property owner is not working with Mr. Roy Williams to get the

problems resolved on these properties. Mr. Brad Krayski would like a roll call vote to be formal and able to proceed. Ms. Teena Gall asked Council if anyone has been in contact with the owners? Mr. Brad Krayski and President Valerie Senese explained the situation that Goldstein Couriers have not complied to get these properties up to code.

President Valerie Senese proceeded with the Roll Call Vote to revoke Goldstein Couriers rental privileges.

President Senese did the Roll Call Vote:

Ms. Valerie Senese: Yay; Mr. Patrick Gall: Yay; Mr. Brad Krayski: Yay; Mr. William Deakin: Yay; Ms. Teena Gall: Yay; Mr. Robert Muter: Yay; Ms. Debra White: Yay.

Motion Carried unanimously to revoke rental privileges to Goldstein Couriers LLC.

6. Police Report:

Chief Officer Creamer or Mayor Randy Glover was unavailable to give a verbal report. President Senese explained that Council has the report and log for December to review as Oakland Borough did not receive December's report or log for January meeting. Oakland Borough did not receive January's report or log in time for February's meeting. Solicitor John Martin opened a discussion about the December's log report and many days there was no patrolling and some days patrolling 3 times on the same day. President Valerie Senese did state that if there is any future discussion on this it should be done in executive session under contractual.

7. DPW Report:

A. Mr. Randy Glover, Head of DPW was unavailable to give a verbal report.

Ms. Senese did explain that DPW has been doing a lot of ditch cleaning and adding screens to the pipes in the ditches. Cleaning up the streets and taking advantage of the good weather.

8. Finance Committee Report:

A. There were no meeting minutes to submit to record.

B. Mr. Robert Muter stated Finance Committee did not meet. There is nothing to report.

C. Motion by Mr. Robert Muter, 2nd by Mr. Patrick Gall for Resolution #2024-3 Fixing Tax Rates at the sum of 24.7 mills for the year 2024.

All in favor, motion carried.

9. Food Pantry:

A. Verbal report was given by Ms. Bixby. Ms. Bixby stated the food pantry is up and running well. The food pantry had 7 new applicants since January 1, 2024 and 4 of them just in February. Mr. Robert Muter asked if the new applicants were more local or from Susquehanna County. Ms. Bixby explained that all the new applicants were all local residents.

10. Grant Update:

- A. Ms. Valerie Senese explained that there was a meeting on January 26, 2024 with IB Abel and Penelec about the removal of the one pole that is owned by Penelec and connecting everything to the one pole closer to the road.
- B. Ms. Senese gave an update for KSG sidewalk updates for upper Westfall Avenue sidewalk project:
 Motion by Mr. Brad Kraveski, 2nd by Mr. Patrick Gall for letter of credit for PennDOT for upper Westfall Avenue with PSBT for \$28,346.00 (twenty-eight thousand three hundred and forty -six dollar), only to be used if project does not meet PennDOT requirements. If in an event it needed to be used it would be at 6% interest charge. All in favor, motion carried.
 Paperwork has been submitted to PennDOT for the lower Westfall Avenue sidewalk project.

11. Old/Tabled Business:

- A. There was no old/tabled business to discuss this month.

12. New Business:

- A. Ms. Valerie Senese explained that Administrators of Oakland Borough PA News Facebook page was not discussed in the January meeting. Current people with access are Ms. Jennifer Bixby, Ms. Rhonda Parfitt, and Mr. Robert Muiter.
 Motion by Mr. Brad Kraveski, 2nd by Mr. Patrick Gall.
 All in favor, motion carried.
- B. Council discussed the Pennsylvania State Association of Borough's renewal \$40.00 (forty dollars). Oakland Borough will not renew the \$40.00 (forty dollars), but will send in the updated paperwork for membership directory.
- C. Ms. Valerie Senese explained that we have 2 new Council members, Ms. Teena Gall and Mr. William Deakin. In the past it is the Borough's job to sign off on a nomination for a Deputy Tax Collector. The Borough has said the Deputy Tax Collector position is if something should happen to the Tax Collector, incapacitated, death, severe illness and is unable to the job. It is the Deputy Tax Collectors job to do the Tax Collectors job in that event. The motion of the previous Council past was to choose someone outside of the tax collectors' household. In the event that the Tax Collector is incapacitated the Deputy Tax collector in the same household would be taking care of the tax collector and unable to pay full attention to collecting the taxes. Since reorganization Ms. Valerie Senese wanted to put it on the table as the Tax Collector has requested Deputy Tax Collector be Mr. Doug Arthur with the same residence. Ms. Valerie Senese asked if there should be any changes or modification. There was a discussion by Council. The Borough's practice would make sense not to have the Deputy Tax Collector in the same household.
 A motion by Mr. Kraveski to continue with the policy of the Borough that the Deputy Tax Collector should be outside the residence of the Tax Collector.
 Motion by Mr. Brad Kraveski, 2nd by Mr. Robert Muiter.
 All in favor, motion carried.

- D. Motion by Mr. Patrick Gall, 2nd by Ms. Teena Gall for Resolution 2024-4 for Susquehanna County 2023 Hazard Mitigation Plan.
All in favor, motion carried.
- E. Ms. Senese proposed a motion to post audio recordings on the Borough website a You Tub channel.
Motion by Ms. Teena Gall, 2nd by Mr. Robert Muiteer.
All in favor, motion carried.

13. Adjournment:

Motion by Mr. Patrick Gall, 2nd by Mr. Robert Muiteer to adjourn the meeting. Meeting ended at 7:35 p.m.

Oakland Borough went into executive meeting at 7:40 p.m. for contractual, personnel, and litigation purposes. Meeting ended at 9:00 p.m.