

Oakland Borough Council
General Business Meeting
380 State Street
Susquehanna, PA 18847
January 12, 2023

Announcement: Oakland Borough Council went into an executive session before the General Business meeting on January 12, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. for contractual, personnel, and litigation purposes. Meeting ended at 6:54 p.m.

Attendance: President Valerie Senese, Vice- President Gary Boughton, Robert Muiteer, Patrick Gall, Mayor Randy Glover, Solicitor John Martin, Administrator Jennifer Bixby, Treasurer/ Assistant Administrator Rhonda Parfitt.

Absent: Brad Kraveski

Meeting Was Called to Order at 7:00 p.m. by President Valerie Senese

This Meeting Was Announced It Was Being Recorded.

Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence was observed.

1. Agenda:

A. Motion to adopt the agenda with one change:

1. Under number 11 Park Committee Report Letter E to be tabled.

Motion by Robert Muiteer, 2nd by Patrick Gall. All in favor, motion carried.

President Senese informed Council members if they do not say Yay or Nay when voting. The vote would be considered a Yay.

2. Motion to approve the December 8, 2022 minutes as presented by Vice-President Gary Boughton, 2nd by Robert Muiteer. All in favor, motion carried.

3. Public Comment was opened at 7:05 p.m. by President Senese.

President Senese asked Code Enforcer Roy Williams if he would like to speak in Public Comment or wait till Code Report. Mr. Williams requested to speak in public comment.

Code Enforcer Roy Williams explained that we have received the cards back from certified letters to Goldstein Couriers. Mr. Williams has been in touch with rental property landlord Mayer for the six (6) properties that Goldstein Couriers own. Mr. Williams and property landlord will be meeting on Tuesday.

Mr. Williams explained to Council that according to the rental ordinance if three (3) disruptive conduct incidents in a twelve (12) month period by an occupant, the owner or agent shall have ten (10) working days from the date of receiving the notice to begin eviction proceedings against the occupants. There had been thirteen (13) police responses to 89 Westfall Avenue in the year 2022. One (1) response so far in the year 2023. Property manager stated to Mr. Williams that Goldstein Couriers are closing down 89 Westfall Avenue. Mr. Williams proposed to Council to revoke Goldstein Couriers privileges to rent in Oakland Borough until all six (6) properties are up to code. After much discussion among the Council members. President Senese asked Council if there is a motion to revoke Goldstein Couriers rental privileges in Oakland Borough until all six (6) properties are up to code. President Valerie Senese motioned to revoke Goldstein Couriers rental privileges in Oakland Borough, 2nd by Patrick Gall. All in favor, motion carried.

President Senese closed public comment at 7:20 p.m.

4. Community Development Committee Report:
 - A. There are no meeting minutes to be submitted.
 - B. Chairperson Heather Krayeski was not present to give a verbal report.

5. Financial Reports:
 - A. Motion by Patrick Gall, 2nd by Vice -President Gary Boughton to approve Treasurer's Report as presented. All in favor, motion carried.
 - B. Treasurer Rhonda Parfitt explained that under Liquid Fuels the bill was blocked out as it was Lanesboro Borough's turn to purchase salt. Motion to approve and pay Bill List as presented by Patrick Gall, 2nd by Robert Muiter. All in favor, motion carried.

6. Correspondence:
 - A. President Senese explained to Council that the hotel tax collected in Susquehanna County which is well over \$200,000.00 is turned over to Endless Mountains Visitors Bureau located in Tunkhannock. Commissioners Judy Herschel and Alan Hall would like to keep this money in Susquehanna County. Solicitor John Martin asked why Commissioner Arnold was not on the letter. President Senese explained that Commissioner Arnold is on the board for the Endless Mountains Visitors Bureau. After much discussion the Council agreed to keep the tax money in our County. Commissioners Herschel and Hall are asking to pass the Resolution to partner with the County in bringing tourism back into the County where it belongs. Motion by Robert Muiter, 2nd by Patrick Gall to accept the Resolution from County Commissioners for Tourism. All in favor, motion carried.

7. Codes Report:
 - A. Brad Krayeski was not present to give a verbal report.

8. Police Report:

A. Chief Officer Creamer was present at meeting. Verbal report was given by Mayor Randy Glover. The police did a lot of patrolling, 1 suspicious person, 1 suspicious vehicle, 1 trespasser, 1 verbal argument, 1 property check.

Council reviewed the report, and the report will be submitted to the record.

9. DPW Report:

A. Verbal report was given by Randy Glover, Head of DPW.

1. The ditch at 5017 Prospect Street had been done and surrounding a driveway which needed a sluice pipe. The resident purchased the pipe from the Borough. The cost for this project from Chris Miller Contracting Services was \$1700.00.

2. A purchase of plow edges for the plow was made at Powell's. Mr. Glover stated that prices had gone up 60% since the last purchase two years ago.

3. Vice- President Gary Boughton stated that the ditch that was done on upper Boyden Street is working well. President Senese also stated that that a permission form was signed by property owner for the ditch work on upper Boyden Street to move some dirt and the owner is very happy with the work that was done.

10. Finance Committee Report:

A. There was no finance committee meeting this month. No meeting minutes to be submitted.

B. A verbal report given by Robert Muter. The water and sewer bill has been increased. The quarterly payment will increase to \$140.00 each. This is \$80.00 increase over the adopted budget.

C. Motion by Patrick Gall, 2nd by Robert Muter to reimburse Susquehanna Depot for the VFC/Ambulance Workers Compensation Billing for years of 2020-2021, 2021-2022, 2022-2023 for \$5,482.00. All in favor, motion carried.

D. Motion by Patrick Gall, 2nd by Robert Muter to sign Resolution for tax rates that did not go up in year 2023. All in favor, motion carried.

E. Motion by Patrick Gall, 2nd by Robert Muter to sign Engagement Letter from Brian T. Kelly, CPA for 2022 audit services for \$5,750.00.

11. Parks Committee Report:

A. There was no meeting this month. No meeting minutes to submit.

B. Verbal report given by Gary Boughton.

C. Internet is needed for the surveillance cameras at the park. Ms. Bixby will check with Adams Cable for hookup.

D. Tree thinning at lower end park.

- E. **Consider a motion** to pay the extra \$3,038.00 for extra pour and place. This has been tabled till February meeting.

12. Food Pantry:

- A. Ms. Bixby gave a verbal report that the Food Pantry has been running well. Have been very busy with some new residents signing up. Ms. Bixby purchased 25 packets of 1 lb. hamburger, 25 packs of pork chops, 50 lbs. butter and 2 cases of peanut butter. Schneider's Market gave the food to the pantry at cost. Ms. Bixby will be sending a thank you letter to Schneider's Market.

13. Grant Update:

- A. Motion by Robert Muiteer, 2nd by Vice-President Gary Boughton to sign Resolution for STMP grant. All in favor, motion carried.
- B. The RFP for Westfall Avenue Sidewalk project will be put out for sealed bids.
- C. President Senese stated that the grant money from Conservation District will be returned with a thank you letter.
- D. DCNR grant update Ms. Bixby and President Senese will be having a start up meeting with the project manger this month. Will need to get the bid documents ready.
- E. President Senese explained the CDBG grant update on Westfall Avenue sidewalk. CDBG uses Delta Engineering Services. Oakland Borough will pay for the engineering service which will be about \$2,000.00.

14. **Old/ Tabled Business:**

- A. The Pond.
- B. Update on Security Cameras for inside Borough Building. This has been tabled till February meeting.
 - 1. OEM charges \$55.00 per hour for installation.
 - 2. Tec 42 charges \$130.00 per hour for installation.

15. **New Business:**

There was no new business for this month.

Adjournment:

Motioned by Vice- President Gary Boughton, 2nd by Robert Muiteer to adjourn meeting. All in favor, motion carried. Meeting ending at 8:04 p.m.