

Oakland Borough Council
380 State Street
Susquehanna PA 18847
Regular meeting minutes
March 17, 2021

The Council held an executive session for personnel, litigation, and contractual purposes from 6:10-6:45pm.

The regular meeting of the Oakland Borough Council was called to order on March 17th at 7:00pm. Present were Council members Valerie Senese, Debra White, Robert Muter, and Brad Krayeski. President Gary Boughton arrived at a later time. Pat Gall was absent.

The pledge of allegiance was recited and a moment of silence was observed.

1. Adoption of the agenda:
 - a. A motion to add a public statement regarding the Oakland Park to the agenda was made by Mr. Krayeski, seconded by Mr. Muter, and approved by unanimous vote.
 - b. A motion to add consideration of a Facebook group to the agenda was made by Mr. Krayeski, seconded by Ms. Senese, and approved by unanimous vote.
2. Minutes
 - a. A motion to approve the minutes of the February 8th minutes as presented was made by Mr. Muter, seconded by Ms. White, and approved by unanimous vote.
3. Public statement
 - a. A motion to approve the public statement regarding the Oakland Park as presented was made by Mr. Krayeski, seconded by Ms. White, and approved by unanimous vote. Ms. Senese read such statement aloud as included in these minutes.
4. Public comment
 - a. Resident Carol Trevarthan stated that she was proud of how hard the Council had been working, not only for the park, but for the Borough as a whole, and that she knew from experience that there was a lot of work put in that nobody else could see. She stated that she knew the Council had “worked their butts off” and she was thankful. She expressed her excitement for the happenings in the Borough. There was no other public comment.
5. Finance reports
 - a. A motion to approve the treasurer’s report as presented was made by Mr. Muter, seconded by Mr. Krayeski, and approved by unanimous vote.

- b. Ms. Parfitt stated that the solicitor bill of \$1,868.50 needed to be added to the bill list. She stated that this bill was for 3.5 months of service. A motion to approve the bill list with the addition was made by Mr. Krayeski, seconded by Mr. Muiter, and approved by a unanimous vote.
 - c. A motion to approve the employee time sheets as presented was made by Mr. Muiter, seconded by Mr. Krayeski, and approved by unanimous vote.
6. Correspondence:
 - a. Ms. Parfitt stated that she had received a thank you note from Mirabito Energy for the furnace replacement. She also stated that they had been easy to work with and she felt the Borough had gotten a good deal with the furnace. She also noted that they had only charged for parts and not labor while working on the sensor and the thermostat.
 - b. Susquehanna County had announced a burn ban to be in effect from April 1st to April 30th.
 - c. Penelec had announced scheduled outages for pole replacements and these were announced at the meeting.
7. There was no information to present for the codes report.
8. Chief Creamer presented the police report. Included in the report were a harassment, a domestic dispute, traffic stops, and thefts, among others. Ms. Senese made a motion, seconded by Ms. White, to approve the police report. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.
9. DPW report: Due to Mayor Glover's absence, Ms. Parfitt stated that in addition to the report on the agenda, the streets department had begun discussing sealing the Borough's roads and patching potholes.
 - a. Ms. Senese made a motion, seconded by Mr. Krayeski, to approve the DPW report as presented. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.
10. There was no information for the codes committee to report.
11. Community Development Committee Report
 - a. Mr. Krayeski made a motion, seconded by Ms. White, to allow the Community Development Committee to solicit donations on behalf of Oakland Borough for a yard-of-the-month program. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.
 - b. Ms. Senese made a motion, seconded by Ms. White, to approve a budget of \$500 to be spent at the discretion of the Community Development Committee for a yard-of-the-month program. Ms. Senese stated that she felt this would be a very inexpensive blight remediation effort. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.
12. There was no information for the finance committee to report.

13. Parks Committee Report: In addition to the reports provided, Mr. Boughton stated that he had received an anonymous donation of \$50.00 from someone who had heard about the situation with Susquehanna Area Little League and knew that what was being said about the Borough Council was not true. The Council gave the anonymous donor a round of applause.
 - a. Ms. Senese made a motion, seconded by Mr. Krayeski, to accept the parks committee report. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.
 - b. Mr. Krayeski made a motion, seconded by Ms. Senese, to approve an expenditure of \$8,760.00 to Delta Engineering for the park construction plans. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.
 - c. Ms. Senese made a motion, seconded by Mr. Krayeski, to approve the March 16th parks committee report as presented. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

14. There was no information to report for the volunteer committee.

OLD BUSINESS

15. Ordinance codification- Ms. Parfitt and Ms. Senese made clear that the Council would not be reimbursed through the StMP program for the codification of the ordinances, but they felt the codification could not wait any longer and that \$5,000 was a reasonable price to pay to have better, more enforceable codes.
 - a. Ms. Senese made a motion, seconded by Mr. Krayeski, to approve an expenditure of \$5,000 paid to Shepstone Management Company, LLC for the codification of the Borough's ordinances and to allow Brad Krayeski and Rhonda Parfitt to act as contact persons and decision-makers regarding such codification (final approval of all ordinances will be by vote of the entire Council.) The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

16. PML education update: Mr. Muiter presented a packet of information to the Council which outlined what the Pennsylvania Municipal League had to offer for education. Ms. Senese stated that PML offers education that the PSAB does not. There was some back-and-forth consideration about the offerings and Council had some questions. PML offered a free membership for 2021 and a 50% reduced membership for 2022, along with a continued tiered discount for several years thereafter. Council asked Mr. Muiter to ask some final questions before making a decision.
 - a. Ms. Senese made a motion, seconded by Mr. Boughton, to move forward with the process of the PML membership; clarify what is included for what cost; if the Council would be allowed to cancel the membership after the first year if it was unsatisfactory. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.
 - b. Ms. Senese made a motion, seconded by Ms. White, for Rob Muiter sign Oakland Borough up for the PML membership on the conditions that the Borough would

not be locked in for a commitment and would not be paying anything for 2021 under any circumstances. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

17. Police contract: Borough solicitor John Martin reminded all present of the history surrounding the police contract, specifically regarding the amending of the police ordinances. On the advice of Mr. Martin, Ms. Senese made a motion, seconded by Mr. Muiteer, to accept the police contract as it was prepared by Susquehanna Borough solicitor and presented; the the contract will be effective April 1st; subject to the letter dated March 17th 2021 from the Borough of Susquehanna to the Borough of Oakland as it pertains to section 4D of said contract. Mr. Martin then read the letter into the record and it is attached in the official Borough minutes book. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.
18. Ms. Parfitt provided a streetlight replacement update as presented on the agenda.
19. Ms. Parfitt provided an update on the petition to Penelec for better electric service to the Borough as presented on the agenda. She also stated that they had received information that the person who needed to be contacted was the commissioner of Penelec and requested permission to move forward with the task.
 - a. Ms. Senese made a motion, seconded by Ms. White, to move forward with pursuing better electric service to the Borough. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.
20. Food Pantry
 - a. Mr. Muiteer made a motion, seconded by Ms. White, to approve Tim Senese to have access to the Borough building for the purpose of volunteering for the food pantry. The motion was approved by unanimous vote. Mr. Arthur stated that his sister had been approved a few months back but had never gotten a phone call. Ms. Senese apologized, stating that the pantry had been slow and that a letter or phone call to Ms. Roth would be made.

NEW BUSINESSES

21. After Ms. Senese provided the proposal for the scenic overlook, Mr. Arthur questioned if PennDOT would need to be involved in the Overlook Project due to the work that they were planning to do on State Street. Ms. Senese stated that a meeting would be had with PennDOT in order to coordinate and to find out exactly what area they would be needing to complete the slide project. It was agreed that the overlook would be a project handled by the Community Development Committee until it was completed and then it would be handed over to the Parks Committee. Ms. Senese stated that the overlook would be easy maintenance and would not require a lot of attention.
 - a. Ms. Senese made a motion, seconded by Ms. White, to pay \$100 for an EMHR membership; to allow Rhonda Parfitt to apply for the mini-grant which would cover half the cost of the Delta Engineers proposal for the overlook work; to commit to the 50% grant match equal to \$5,430.00, which is to be paid out of Impact Fee monies. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

- b. Ms. Senese noted that the Borough would be receiving \$55,000 in federal funding as part of a COVID-19 relief measure and that this money could be used for tourism. The Council could discuss at a later time what to use the money for.

Ms. Senese then lead a discussion about applying to have State Street marked as a Pennsylvania Byway. Ms. Senese stated that she felt this measure would encourage clean-up and nicer properties on the main street. She corrected the statement on the agenda regarding the removal of billboards, stating that she had been told that the billboards could be grandfathered in but would not be allowed to be fixed if they were to become structurally unstable. There was also discussion about how having a byway makes the Borough potentially look better to receive grants. Ms. Senese explained that simply having a byway would not help with receiving grants, but if the Borough Council was willing to interact with the proper organizations, they could use the byway designation in the right way.

- c. Mr. Krayeski made a motion, seconded by Ms. Senese, to complete and submit the application to the state of Pennsylvania for State Street to be listed as a byway. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.
22. Mr. Martin stated that he had handled the engagement letter which had been delivered to his office regarding the 2020 financial audit.
 23. Regarding the change of meeting date, Mr. Krayeski stated that he didn't mind switching the meeting but desired that it not be switched again because he did not feel that it was right to keep changing it and confuse residents. Ms. Senese explained that the reason for the change of day was because they were conflicting with the school board meetings.
 - a. Mr. Muiter made a motion, seconded by Ms. White, to switch the monthly meeting day back to the second Thursday of the month at 7:00pm effective April 8th. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.
 24. Ms. Senese made a motion, seconded by Mr. Krayeski, to approve ordinance #2021-2 (Joining COG for Sewage Enforcement) for advertisement in the County Transcript and adoption at the next meeting. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.
 25. Council discussed the possibility of creating a Facebook Group which members of the public could request to become a part of. The solicitor had advised that commenting could be turned off in order to keep everyone equal and to publish information fairly. Contact information would be published if a member of the public had any questions or comments.
 - a. Ms. Senese made a motion, seconded by Mr. Krayeski, to allow Rhonda Parfitt to manage an official Oakland Borough Facebook group for the purposes of publishing information to the public; to make Robert Muiter an additional administrator on the group; to keep commenting turned off but to respond to individual inquiries. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

26. Ms. Senese made a motion, seconded by Mr. Krayeski, to adjourn the meeting at 8:10pm. The meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote.