

**Oakland Borough Council  
General Business Meeting Minutes  
380 State Street  
Susquehanna, PA 18847  
May 9, 2024**

**Announcement: Oakland Borough Council went into executive session before the General Business meeting on April 11, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. for contractual, litigation and personnel purposes. Meeting ended at 6:52 p.m.**

**Oakland Borough Council had an executive session on April 25,2024 at 7:00 p.m. for personnel and litigation purposes. Meeting ended at 8:19 p.m.**

**Oakland Borough Council held a special Council meeting on May 2, 2024 at 7pm**

**Oakland Borough Council went into executive session on May 9<sup>th</sup> from 6:00pm to 6:49pm for contractual, litigation and personnel purposes**

**Meeting Called to Order**

**THIS MEETING IS BEING RECORDED**

**Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence was observed**

**1. Agenda:**

**A motion to approve the agenda with the following changes:**

- **Under Mayors Report**
  - **Letter B: Approval of Bid Advertisements**
    - **Sewer Line**
    - **Fill Cracks**
    - **Berms**
- **Under New Business**
  - **Discussion from Councilman Debra White**

**A. Motion by Councilman Muiter, Seconded by Councilman Patrick Gall. Motion carried unanimously.**

**2. Approval of minutes:**

**A. Consider a motion to accept the April 11, 2024 Meeting Minutes as presented.**

**A. Motion by councilman Krayeski, seconded by councilman Muiter. Motion carried unanimously.**

**B. Consider a motion to accept the May 2, 2024 Special Meeting Minutes as presented.**

**A. Motion by councilman Muiteer, seconded by Debra White. Motion carried unanimously.**

**C. Public Comment:**

Please state your name and address for the record. Comments and Questions will be directed to the presiding councilman, where appropriate responses will be provided, or the subject will be added to the Agenda under New Business or discussed later in the meeting. Please limit comments to 3 minutes or less. "The rules of conduct for public meetings and hearings will be enforced. Thank you for your comment." This meeting is being recorded.

- Mary Weaver: Filed a complaint and requested an update
- Annette Martinos: would like the Borough to look into getting local police back. Feels the May 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting was a personal attack on a councilman
- Doug Arthur: Concern regarding water coming out of a driveway

Public comment closed at 7:07 PM

**3. Community Development:**

**A. Meeting Minutes**

- A. Council President corrected a verbal mistake regarding a meeting date at the April Meeting.**

**B. Verbal report.**

**C. Discuss the flower box**

- A. The Council discussed the benefit of not replacing the flower box. A motion was made to not replace the flower box.**

**Motion by Patrick Gall, seconded by Teena Gall. Motion carried unanimously.**

**D. Discuss dog park at the park**

- A. Discussion regarding the volunteer efforts to start marking the dog park included insurance, clean-up, and review of rules and regulations.**

**E. An update was provided regarding the community clean up day. Ten bags of trash were collected and councilman Muiteer was thanked for donating donuts for the volunteers.**

**F. The draft vacancy ordinance was discussed. Committee member, Larena Nickerson explained how the ordinance will address the negative impact that vacant buildings have on the community. She asked the council to look at the draft and bring their notes to the next meeting and to reach out to her with their notes. A motion was made to allow the draft version to go to the codes committee for review.**

**Motion by councilman Muiter, seconded by councilman Kraveski. Motion carried unanimously.**

- G. Motion to approve Susquehanna Fire Department to hang Veteran's Flags.**  
**A. Motion by councilman Kraveski, seconded by councilman Teena Gall. Motion carried unanimously.**

**4. Financial Reports:**

- A. Consider a motion to approve Treasurer's Report as presented.**  
**A. Motion by councilman Kraveski, seconded by councilman Patrick Gall. Motion carried unanimously.**
- B. Consider a motion to approve and pay Bill List as presented.**  
**A. Motion by councilman Patrick Gall, seconded by councilman White. Motion carried unanimously.**

**5. Correspondence:**

- A. Councilman Kraveski provided an update and read a flyer that went out regarding a proposed rate change from Penelec in the amount of 9.8% that is under review with the Public Utility Commission. Discussion took place regarding sending a letter what this rate increase could mean to our community and CC'd to Representatives serving Oakland Borough. A motion was made to draft a letter from the Council for review at the June meeting**
- a. Motion by councilman Patrick Gall, seconded by councilman Muiter. Motion carried unanimously.**
- B. Resignation from Jennifer Bixby.**
- Motion to regretfully accept the resignation at the end of day May 10,2024 of Jennifer Bixby.**
    - A. Motion by councilman Kraveski, seconded by councilman Deakin. Nay by councilman Muiter. Yay: Senese, White, Teena Gall and Patrick Gall. Motion Carried**
  - A motion for permission for President Valerie Senese to access secretary's office and continue necessary daily tasks in absent of secretary.**
    - B. Motion by councilman Muiter, seconded by councilman Kraveski. Motion carried unanimously.**
  - The council reviewed the job description and hours for the administrator position. It was motioned to advertise for the full time, 40 hour a week, salaried position.**
    - C. Motion by councilman White, seconded by councilman Kraveski. Motion carried unanimously.**

**6. Codes Report:**

- A. Verbal report given by Brad Kraveski. Items regarding final letters for codes and follow-up on rental permits as well as a complaint and a driveway permit. A complaint regarding garbage on Third avenue was investigated and a letter from**

codes was sent. Discussion regarding clean up for another property ensued. Councilman Muiter requested to know if there is anything in place regarding barking dogs in the Borough. Discussion regarding the potential of a local ordinance to address the issues presented.

**7. Mayor's Report:**

- A. Report was tabled.
- B. A motion to approve the advertisements and costs to bid each project out. Motion by councilman Teena Gall, seconded by councilman Muiter. Motion carried unanimously.
  - a. Sewer Repair
  - b. Crack fill repair
  - c. Berm

**8. Finance Committee Report:**

- A. Councilman Muiter provided a report regarding the audit. Councilman Muiter formally recommended using ARPA funds for the bid projects for the sewer, crack fill and berm.

**9. Food Pantry:**

- A. It was discussed to advertise for a Food Bank manager. A motion to advertise for the volunteer position
  - a. Motion by councilman Muiter, seconded by councilman Teena Gall. Motion carried unanimously.

**10. President Senese provided a Grant Update:**

- A. DCNR grant update: Adams Cable moved the pole on April 15, 2024. No cost to Oakland Borough. The Penelec pole at the park will be moved the week of June 3, 2024. Project is going out to bid. If anyone is interested in project details and to submit a bid, please contact Carl at Atlas [Carl.Schimmell@onealtas.com](mailto:Carl.Schimmell@onealtas.com).
- B. KSG sidewalk updates for sidewalk projects:  
CDBG grant for lower end has been approved by PennDOT and is ready to bid out. Upper Westfall Ave. has been approved by Penn DOT and is ready to bid out.
- C. The council was provided the employee handbook draft and was asked to review it and be ready to discuss and approve at the June Meeting. A thank you was provided to councilman Muiter and Kraveski as well as solicitor John Martin.

**11. Old/Tabled Business:**

- A. Committee Members have not heard anything regarding River Bounty.

**12. New Business:**

- a. Councilman White recommended a community work session to meet with the community and council to bring ideas from everyone in the community to work together. Discussion ensued and the council was receptive to the idea. The council agreed to discuss potential dates at the June meeting

**13. Adjournment: Motion by councilman Patrick Gall, seconded by councilman Krayeski.  
Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:54**