

Oakland Borough Council  
General Business Meeting  
380 State Street  
Susquehanna, PA 18847  
October 13, 2022

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

**Absent:** Solicitor John Martin, Chief Officer John Creamer.

**Announcement:** Before the general business meeting on October 13, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. Oakland Borough Council went into an executive session for contractual, personnel, and litigation purposes. Meeting ended at 6:59 p.m.

Meeting Called to Order at 7:01 p.m.

**THIS MEETING IS BEING RECORDED.**

Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence was observed.

1. Agenda:
  - A. Motion to adopt the agenda with addition:
    1. Under number 13 Grants.
      - A. Add letter D- Dam Update.

Motion by Robert Muiteer, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Brad Krayeski to accept agenda with addition. All in favor, motion carried.

2. Minutes:
  - A. Motion to approve the September 8, 2022 minutes as presented with the following changes:
    1. Under number 5 Financial Reports letter C.
      - A. Should read Treasurer Rhonda Parfitt explained that the account has been set up with Edward Jones Financial Investments.

Motion by Robert Muiteer, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Vice-President Gary Boughton to approve the September 8, 2022 minutes as presented with the changes. All in favor, motion carried.

3. Public Comment was opened by President Valerie Senese at 7:05 p.m.
  - A. Doug Arthur, address 5157 Prospect Street, Susquehanna, PA. 18847. Mr. Arthur inquired about the second pole from intersection of Westfall Avenue on Route 92 is leaning. Mr. Krayeski inquired when Mr. Arthur noticed it. Mr. Arthur stated about

two weeks ago. Mr. Arthur is asking the that Oakland Borough to call Penelec to see if the pole could be fixed.

President Valerie Senese closed public comment at 7:06 p.m.

4. Community Development Committee Report:

A. Verbal report was given by Chairperson Heather Krayeski.

1. Community Development Committee held a meeting on October 5, 2022.

2. Yard of the month will be for Halloween theme. Holiday lights will be done in December. Will be putting it on the Community Development Facebook.

3. There are nine more Veteran's flags to be ordered. Chairperson Heather Krayeski would like to order a "in-between" Welcome to Oakland to be hung up in-between the holidays and Memorial Day as the Season's Greeting flags aren't appropriate for that time of year.

4. Vice-President Gary Boughton also added that Ms. Krayeski agreed with Parks Committee there will only be trick or treating this year as the park will be under construction. Robert Muiter questioned if Susquehanna was doing anything at the Ira Reynolds Park. President Senese stated Susquehanna was only doing trick or treating. The school is having trunk or treat and school dance on October 29, 2022 on the school grounds.

5. Financial Reports:

A. Motion by Robert Muiter, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Patrick Gall to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented by Treasurer Rhonda Parfitt. All in favor, motion carried.

B. Motion by Patrick Gall, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Vice-President Gary Boughton to approve and pay Bill List as presented. All in favor, motion carried.

C. Treasurer Rhonda Parfitt explained that the budget for 2023 will be drafted and sent to Council Members to review by next week. That will give Council three weeks to review before next Council meeting.

6. Correspondence:

A. President Valerie Senese read a thank you letter from B/S/S/T Area Agency on Aging for Oakland Borough's donation of \$500.00.

B. President Valerie Senese read the letter from Court of Common Pleas.

NOW TO WIT this 6<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2022, the matter having come before the Court pursuant to two (2) separate Petitions Seeking Appointment to Vacant Seats in Oakland Borough, and the Court not having jurisdiction under 8 PACS 901(e) as there are no vacancies in more than a majority of the offices of council, the underlying Petitions are dismissed without prejudice by the court. Signed by Jason J. Legg, P.J. on October 7, 2022.

7. Codes Report:

A. Verbal report given by Brad Krayeski. Mr. Krayeski has not received any calls. Mr. Krayeski reported there was nothing to report.

8. Police Report:
  - A. Chief Officer Creamer was not present to give report. Report was given by Mayor Randy Glover. Mayor Glover reported the Police did patrol, attended a meeting and one assault. Oakland Borough Council reviewed the Police Log Sheet and Police Service to be paid.
  
9. DPW Report:
  - A. A verbal report was given by Randy Glover, Head of DPW. Mr. Glover explained that he received a complaint from a resident on Wilson Avenue.
    1. President Senese and Mayor Glover met with the resident on September 9, 2022 and reviewed the stormwater drainage problem. Mr. Glover contacted a few contractors for a quote on excavation, clearing and repair to the highlighted open ditch that needed repair. If the quotes had exceeded the DPW budget or requires bid notice, Mr. Glover would present it to the Council for approval. The quote Mr. Miller gave was within the DPW budget and very reasonable. Mr. Miller received the bid charging \$10.00 a linear foot amounting to \$950.00 for the first phase. For the second phase was over 200-foot charging \$10.00 a liner foot amounting to \$1,800.00. Total cost for the project was \$2,750.00. Mr. Glover explained the before and after pictures to the Council Members consisting of pictures where the stormwater problem began and the after pictures of what Mr. Miller did to address the problem. President Senese said thank you to Mr. Glover for volunteering and clearing the ditch temporarily for the anticipated rain event that was coming the next day.
    2. Mr. Glover reported that the dump truck is back and ready for winter if it is needed. The salt and antiskid bins are full. Mr. Glover spoke with Mayor Maby from Lanesboro Borough and Lanesboro will purchase the next load of salt and antiskid. Mr. Glover stated that Lanesboro Borough wanted to continue with the agreement With Oakland Borough for the salt and antiskid.
    3. Mr. Glover informed Council the DPW employee had mowed and weed whacked up by the abandoned home up on Prospect Street. Mr. Glover stated the employee is in the process of doing High Street. Mr. Glover would like to get some yellow paint in the spring and have DPW employee paint the guard rails, and fire hydrants.
  - B. President Senese opened the seal bids for the salt dogg and the truck back rack. There was only one bid from DeNaples Auto Parts, Inc. for \$801.50 for both the salt dogg and truck back rack. It was agreed by Council Members the bid was to low for both the salt dogg and truck back rack. President Senese requested that Ms. Bixby write a letter to DeNaples Auto Parts, Inc. explaining the bid was too low and the bid was denied. Ms. Bixby will advertise the salt dogg and truck back track on Municibid.
  - C. Help Wanted. No applications has been submitted.
  - D. President Senese asked for an amendment for authorizing signature to transfer the 2006 Crown Victoria car to Susquehanna to be Ms. Bixby. Motion by Vice-President Gary Boughton, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Patrick Gall. All in favor, motion carried.

10. Finance Committee Report:

- A. Verbal report by Robert Muieter. Mr. Muieter informed Council there was no formal Meeting. The budget for 2023 is in the works.
- B. Mr. Muieter reported there was a phone conversation with Treasurer Rhonda Parifft about the ARPA funds and the Dirt and Gravel money Oakland Borough received. Mr. Muieter asked Ms. Parfitt to explain. Ms. Parfitt explained to Council that the ARPA fund was around \$30,000 dollars. Ms. Pafitt explained that there is not an immediate use for the funds. Would like Council to consider putting \$25,000 into a CD to let it grow. Ms. Parfitt continued that Susquehanna County Conservation for the Dirt and Gravel grant for upper Boyden Street had sent Oakland Borough half of the grant money. The amount was \$27,373.00 Since the Boyden Street project will be going out to bid sometime in January or February would like to also put that money in a CD. Mr. Muieter asked if the rates are higher for a 3 month or 6 months. Ms. Parfitt explained that the rate would be higher for the 6-month CD. President Senese asked to get CD rates from places and present the numbers at the November meeting. Ms. Bixby will do Resolutions for these also for November's meeting.

11. Parks Committee Report:

- A. Gary Boughton gave a verbal report. There was no meeting this month for the Parks Committee. Mr. Boughton did explain that there was a meeting with Community Development Committee.
- B. Mr. Boughton explained that tree thinning at lower end park will be put on hold till the leaves are off the trees. President Senese explained then we could have people come in and put in a bid to remove trees.
- C. Mr. Boughton informed Council that the fence around basketball court was removed on September 30,2022.
- D. Mr. Boughton gave an update that the playground equipment will be going in at park tentatively October 31, 2022 thru week of November 1, 2022. Mr. Glover also stated that a big thank you should go to Mr. Miller for the great job he did at the park helping clear 5 stumps for the playground equipment that is going in.

12. Food Pantry:

Ms. Bixby gave a verbal report that the food pantry is going well. Ms. Bixby explained that the Food Pantry ordered from Schneider's market 50 whole chickens and 2 cases of butter.

13. Grant Update:

- A. President Senese gave an update on the STMP grant. The grant was resubmitted on September 16, 2022. Oakland Borough will know in 4- 7 weeks. Last checked on 10/11/2022 still under review.
- B. President Senese gave an update on MAP grant. The 2022 MAP grant is not available for municipalities due to lack of funding since transition of the program from DCED to PEMA. President Senese asked Ms. Bixby if we are going to get our \$100.00 back

- for the grant application. Ms. Bixby informed President Senese she has not received an answer yet. President Senese asked Ms. Bixby to check again with them.
- C. President Senese explained to Council members that President Senese saw this grant to Endless Mountains Visitor Bureau for Overlook. President Senese explained that it is a 25% match. President Senese asked Ms. Bixby to submit the grant. If Oakland Borough gets the grant the goal, then is to submit a grant to Endless Mountain Heritage Region and explain that Oakland Borough got this money and it will pay 75% of the project. Oakland Borough would like Endless Mountain Heritage Region to pay 50% of the project. With the match from Endless Mountain Visitor Bureau, we would end up paying nothing.
  - D. President Senese gave an update on the Dam. President Senese explained that the Dam will not be removed this year due to diesel prices and the money that was needed the dead line was missed of the first week of September due to water levels to be safe to be operating in the water. The removal of the Dam will begin in the spring.

#### **Old/Tabled Business**

- 14. President Senese informed Council that Mr. Glover and President Senese will be doing a check at The Pond after the leaves are off the trees. If anyone from the Council would like to join them. President Senese stated Oakland Borough should then start some preliminary impact studies. President Senese informed Council that two grants can go into Endless Mountain Heritage Region a year. One grant for the Overlook and for The Pond. Mr. Boughton asked when the walk was being planned for. President Senese stated end of October early November.
- 15. President Senese informed Council that Susquehanna Fire Department reached out and asked if Council approved the 3- year contract. President Senese explained to Susquehanna Fire Department that Oakland Borough is waiting for a price. Ms. Bixby will reach out to Susquehanna Fire Department and ask for the pricing.
- 16. Update on Security Camera for inside Borough Building. Price range \$500.00 to \$1,000.00 for wire or wireless.
- 17. President Senese informed Council to review the draft of the Newsletter. If anything needs to be modified in the Newsletter for October please reach out to Ms. Bixby, Ms. Parfitt or President Senese.
- 18. President Senese stated that Council will address the Letter from the Oakland Borough Water Authority in executive session for contractual purposes.

#### **New Business:**

There was no new business for the month of October.

#### **Adjournment:**

Motion by Robert Muter, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Patrick Gall. All in favor, motion carried. Meeting ended at 7:46 p.m.

Oakland Borough Council went into executive session after the general business meeting for contractual purposes at 7:50 p.m. Meeting ended at 8:15 p.m.