

Oakland Borough Council
General Business Meeting
380 State Street
Susquehanna, PA 18847
September 12, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 7:02pm.

Present at the meeting were council members Brad Krayeski, Robert Muiteer, Teena Gall, Patrick Gall, Bill Deakin, and Debra White; Mayor Randy Glover; Treasurer Rhonda Parfitt.

Also Present were residents: Doug and Sue Arthur, Marie Curtis, Annette Martinos and Bette Rae and Jim Bucci.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and a moment of silence observed.

Mr. Krayeski stated that the Council had held an executive session following the August 15th meeting from 7:41pm to 8:09pm for litigation and personnel purposes.

Mr. Krayeski also stated that the Council had held an executive session before this meeting from 6:29pm to 6:53pm for personnel purposes.

Mr. Krayeski informed the public that the meeting was being recorded.

1. Agenda:

- A. Mr. Krayeski added discussion of the Oakland Dam signs under correspondence and discussion of Veterans flags under old business. Mr. Gall made a motion, seconded by Mr. Muiteer, to adopt the agenda with the changes. All in favor, motion carried.

2. Approval of minutes:

- A. Mr. Muiteer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Gall, to approve August 15th minutes as presented. All in favor, motion carried

3. Public Comment:

Mr. Krayeski opened public comment at 7:06.

Sue Arthur, 5157 Prospect Street, addressed flooding issues with Mayor Glover. She wanted to know why the ditches were not cleaned and why he would say that he didn't care about her flooded basement as he was the mayor and he was supposed to be for the people. Mr. Glover stated the basement flooding is not the borough's issue, but that the streets and the

ditches are. Mr. Glover also stated that with 4-5 inches of water coming off the mountain there is nowhere to go.

Annette Martinos, 39 West Fall Ave, inquired about road markings she saw at her and her neighbors' houses. She stated that some were five feet into her driveway. Mr. Krayeski stated the markings were for the contractors to know where the utilities are located. Different color markings indicate different utilities. Ms. Martinos also requested to know why the meeting recordings were not available on the website as the Council had previously stated that they would be. Mr. Krayeski answered that there had been a backup due to a lack of office staff but that it would be addressed as soon as possible.

Bette Rae Bucci, 35 East High Street, stated she had seen DPW out cleaning ditches and working hard to try to prevent future flooding and that she was appreciative. Ms. Gall stated with the amount of water we have been getting this is the new normal and as things to continue happen the borough is looking into grants and other resources to do the best the borough can to prevent future damage but it is going to take time for this to happen. Mr. Krayeski thanked them for their comments.

4. Community Development:

- A. The committee did not meet and no update was available.
- B. Mr. Glover stated that volunteers from International Paper were at the future dog park on Sunday September 8th. They raked and cleared some brush and sticks. He stated that the Council should look into renting a chipper for the brush.

5. Financial Reports:

- A. Mr. Muiter made a motion, seconded by Ms. Gall, to approve the treasurer's report as presented. All in favor, motion carried.
- B. Mr. Muiter made a motion to approve and pay Bill List as presented, seconded by Ms. Gall. All in favor, motion carried.

6. Correspondence:

- A. Mr. Krayeski shared the signs about the Oakland Dam which had been emailed to the administrator by American Rivers. All signs will be in color, explain Dam history, removal of the Dam, and its benefit to wild life. Signs will be placed in the Ira Reynolds Park and will guide walkers to the dam site. After reviewing the signs, Council was in favor of the signs being displayed and appreciated the opportunity to comment.

7. Codes Report:

- A. Mr. Krayeski stated that the department was following up on a few previous complaints and that there had been no new complaints. He stated that the Borough's Code enforcement officer was out of town for a while but things would be handled to the best of their ability in his absence. Renewals of rental

properties will need to be done in January and forms will be distributed in December.

8. Mayor's Report:

- A. Mr. Glover stated they will be continuing to dig ditches. He explained that the Borough's responsibility is to try to keep the water in the ditches, but if there is so much water coming down that the water doesn't stay, the residents need to try and divert the water on their own as well.
- B. Mr. Gall made a motion, seconded by Mr. Muite, to hire Gateway Lawn Care to remove leaves at a one-time rate of \$2,600 per the proposal provided and to accomplish this at the end of November. All in favor, motion carried.

9. Finance Committee Report:

- A. No updates.

10. Food Pantry Update:

- A. Marie Curtis stated that the pantry needs to be recertified and Weinburg is not taking new pantries right now. Ms. Curtis and the Borough administration will research to see if we need Weinburg or what it would look like to operate without them. A discussion was also had about finding out what would need to be done with the items currently in the pantry if the pantry were to close.

11. Grant Updates:

- A. StMP: Ms. Gall made a motion, seconded by Mr. Muite, to sign the letter of intent to enter into the Technical Assistance Program for the purpose of obtaining free training for Trish Hendrickson. All in favor, motion carried.
- B. DCNR: After much discussion, Ms. Gall made a motion, seconded by Mr. Muite, to see if Minichi would be willing to hold their current bid for the ball field until we get more money together to do the project. All in favor, motion carried. A second motion was made by Mr. Muite and seconded by Mr. Gall to reduce the scope of the project if putting the bid on hold is not an option and to keep an open line of communication. All in favor, motion carried.
- C. CFA: Pioneer Construction has signed a contract and provided all necessary bonding paperwork. We are waiting to hear a start date.
- D. CDBG: Boland's Excavating has signed a contract and provided all necessary bonding paperwork. We are waiting to hear a start date.

12. Old/Tabled Business:

- A. River Bounty had no met and no update was available. Mr. Deakin stated that the disbanding of River Bounty would be a lengthy process.
- B. Meeting with county EMA regarding disaster response: Ms. Hendrickson and Ms. Parfitt attended a meeting with several community leaders present. See attached informal meeting minutes.

C. **Veteran Flags-** it has come to the attention of the Borough that at least one flag is torn, which launched the question about who would pay for damaged flags since it doesn't seem fair to the family to have to replace it. Ms. Parfitt suggested fundraising to cover the cost of damaged flags and the maintenance of them, but it was also discussed that perhaps the flags should be retired and reordered since they had been hanging for three years. It was determined that this was something that could be decided at a later date since the flags would be coming down soon.

13. New Business: There was no new business to discuss.

14. Adjournment: Ms. Gall made a motion, seconded by Ms. White, to adjourn the meeting at 8:03pm. All in favor and the meeting was adjourned.