

Re-Scheduled Meeting Minutes
August 15, 2024

President Bob Tate called the meeting to order. Jason Heaton and Solicitor Joseph Budicak were excused.

The July minutes were approved.

The Agenda was reviewed and approved without changes

The Officer's Reports were approved.

Correspondence was read as follows:

1. Request from Senator Vogel to provide a letter to our state representatives in support of Senate Bill 525 (Right to Know Law Vexatious Requesters), request motion to accept and vote. Kevin Farkas interjected and said that it was not properly stated to vote and the citizens had a right to review the request. The vote will now be taken at the September meeting.
2. Request from Beaver Falls to adopt the ACT 537 plan by September. This has been approved and discussed for some time now regarding the sale of the water treatment plant to Aqua. We had responded with no comments to make. A motion was made by Bill Heaton and seconded by Jake Tate to accept Resolution 2022. The motion passed unanimously.
3. The Mayor and Bill Heaton met with Robert Bielunas about the heavier truck traffic. We were asked to send a letter to our congressmen which was provided stating our opposition to legislation that would allow even heavier and longer commercial semi-trucks on our roads. Jake Tate explained some things about this legislation. Currently trucks weighing over 80,000 tons are required to get permits to travel on highways. They want that increased to 90,000 tons. Not one state road has been named in West Mayfield and only 2 in the county. Since the only state maintained road in West Mayfield is 37th Street Extension, there is little truck traffic. Anything over 80,000 requires a permit and if 90,000 is approved they will require a permit also. President Bob Tate requested that we think about this and discuss at September meeting before any decision is made.
4. Request from Scott Treaster and the Beaver County Planning Commission to participate in sharing data for the Infrastructure Project which deals with water, wastewater and sewer asset data. Council was given a copy of the email from Scott along with a letter from the planning commission and details of the project and asked to review all of the information. Any questions should be directed to Scott. This will be discussed at the September meeting to make a decision as to whether or not to participate in the project. Everyone should look at the information, contact Scott and come back next month ready to make a decision.

Citizen's Comments

Kevin Farkas, Citizen Co-chair of the Fire Service Review Committee reported that their research is now complete and they unanimously approved 36 recommendations which will be ready for the September council meeting. These will be handed out to have council review them; will also be given to citizens and will posted on line. The entire document is 180 pages. An Executive report

will be given to council as an abbreviated version of the 180 page document. This committee has been in existence since February and will be dissolved after the September meeting.

Debbie Kostelich, 1015 Rock Avenue has lived in the borough for 23 years and has never had this problem. Property at 1015 Rock Avenue which was recently purchased by Jeremy Tate caused flooding on her property after the heavy rains last week. All of the brush, trees and grass surrounding the property has been removed and now there is nothing holding back the water and it came down on her property causing flooding in her garage which holds classic cars. They have never had a problem with flooding prior to this. There is a pipe that has been cut off and water is coming down the road also. Water coming from the upper neighbor and flooding their basement so a French drain was installed. She spoke with Mr. Tate and he wasn't going to do anything to try to correct it so she called DEP and lodged a formal complaint. Mr. Tate also burned the brush etc. that he removed from the property even though burning is not permitted in the borough. Lou Little replied that the fire department was called and they responded and had Mr. Tate put out the fire. The Kostelichs called in a landscape engineer to see what could be done to correct the problem and he contacted Mr. Tate. Jake Tate, Jeremy's brother spoke and he has spoken with DEP. They are going to do a study to see what can be done to correct this and will move forward from there. This is now up to DEP and the borough is not at fault; it is a dispute between the property owners. They are ready to sue both Mr. Tate and the borough if nothing is done to correct this. There used to be a curb on Rock Avenue that kept water from running onto property but it has been eroded away. This has been paved over also. The DEP complaint has been received by the borough and will be answered. Jake did speak with the DEP representative and will be notified as soon as a report has been finalized. The decision by DEP will be between the landowner and DEP. Any action that has to be taken will be taken. Mr. Heaton will contact DEP and also contact our solicitor to see what part of the problem can be handled by the borough.

Vickie Strojek, 1017 also commented that there was never a problem with flooding of other property until Mr. Tate purchased the property and that he didn't even seem to care enough to do anything to correct the problem. She feels that nothing is going to be done. She is ready to bring in the state.

The owner of the Ice Cream Truck and her driver wanted to know what needed to be done to permit them to operate in the Borough. Since they do not go door to door selling their product they are not required to have a solicitation permit. There is Article 2901 which was provided by Chief Johnson that covers that type of solicitation. Since the borough did not adopt this, the ice cream truck is permitted to continue in the borough. They are thankful because the children really love it when they see the truck coming.

Kathy Brewer, 3628 Matilda Street had a phone call from Linda Stanley. She works for the company that owns PTC Alliance and they would like to know what the borough would like them to put on the property that they own across from the old B & W offices. This is the parking lot that had all of the trash dumped in it but they have cleaned that up and fenced it in to keep that from happening. Council will take a look at the property and get with them to try to determine what would be the best solution.

Arlene Katarsik, 686 Harbison Road was called in early spring because a picture was taken that she needed to cut the shrubbery on a part of property that she owns because you couldn't see to pull out of the street. She wanted to report several other intersections in the borough that have the same problem. One is the corner of Short Street and 37th Street and the other is the corner of Knape Street and 37th. Both have hedges that block the view of traffic turning from those intersections left

onto 37th Street. We will take a look and have the property owners cut back their hedges. She also wanted to know if Harbison Road was going to be paved. Mr. Heaton said that he would address that under old business.

Nora Soos, 102 Second Avenue suggested that a community building be erected on the PMAC property.

No other citizens had any comments so council will return to the regular order of business.

Old Business

Streets, Lighting & Bridges and Building, Grounds and Equipment – Jake Tate - Park has been mulched but the nasty rain that flooded out the park washed out a lot of it. We tried to fluff it up; Gravel has been placed on top of the blacktop on Craig Street Alley and it has been pipe the whole way down, but rain is going to wash the gravel right out. Sunday at 10 a.m. Bill, Brian and Jake are going to meet there and try to figure out a way to slope it so that the gravel won't keep washing away.

Fire & Police - Lou Little – Fire Calls – Call # 25 7/5 – Motor Vehicle Accident 3708 W 5th Ave; Call # 26 – 7/16 – 815 37th Street car smoking, high grass; Call # 27 – 7/30 – Patterson Avenue – Tree/Wires down; Call #28 – 8/10 White Township citizen lockout.

Sewers & Sanitation – Bill Heaton – **Streets** – Paving. Met with Widmer about the bid from Youngblood. We will need to accept the original base bid plus Option 3 as listed below:

Base Bid:	\$125,803.17
Option 3:	\$23,815.99
Total:	\$149,619.16

Youngblood has been made aware that we will make some changes.

Jake Tate moved to accept the base bid as listed above with Option 3 and was seconded by Janet Helbig. A roll-call vote passed the motion as follows: Bill Heaton – yes; Janet Helbig – yes; Bob Tate – yes; Jeff Seybert – yes; Jake Tate – yes and Lou Little – yes. Mike Ceravola who is responsible for the sports complex being made on West 2nd Avenue has said that he will help with the cost of paving West Second Avenue. Council will also speak with A.J. from Tru Plumbing to see if he would be willing to contribute as well.

Trees on Lenox have been trimmed.

Sewers - MS4 – On Friday there was an inspection by DEP. They inspected the garages and other parts of the property. We were tagged with 2 violations – permit was expired and our yearly status report has not been received. I checked with Widmer and our permit had been extended so it is not expired and I completed the yearly report and submitted it. We have to put spill kits in each garage and also at the fuel tank; we also need to put a big mat over the floor drain to keep debris from going down the drain; and they wanted to know where it drains out. They also inspected our MS4 work and were thrilled with it.

The big rain that flooded the park also flooded a couple of basements. Drains were clogged on Walnut Street and Craig Alley & Robinson Pipe had to be called. I would like to have permission to run a camera up to see where the problem is on Craig Alley so that we can fix it. Lou moved and was seconded by Janet to give permission to camera Craig Alley. The motion passed all in favor.

Finance & Litigation – Pat for Jason requested permission to enroll Jenna in two online learning classes: Your Role as a Municipal Secretary/Administrator – 5 virtual classes for \$150 and the other Municipal Budgeting and Finance – 5 virtual classes for \$100. Bill moved to permit enrolling Jenna in the classes, seconded by Janet and passed all in favor.

Ordinance – Jeff Seybert – West 9th Avenue grass was cut.

Parks & Recreation – Janet Helbig – We need parking signs - no parking shelter rentals only; we also need to post signs that the pickle ball court is available- play at your own risk and bring your own net. Kevin will add this to our website also.

There were six rentals for this month. I would like a street light at Bowden & Rock Avenue. I reported 3 street lights out to Duquesne Light.

President Bob Tate – none

Mayor Cogley – none.

New Business

Streets, Lighting & Bridges; Buildings, Grounds and Equipment– Jake Tate – We need hot patch, cold patch and gravel. These do not need to be requested because they are required for regular maintenance. Salt needs to be ordered. Bill will get the number for Costars from Eli. This should have been ordered already. Bob Tate suggested that we look into Heritage in Wampum for the purchase of anti-skid because it is cheaper.

We need a pole saw. We have an Eco powerhead but need the saw. Lou moved to authorize the purchase of a pole saw to reach over 10 feet not to exceed over \$250.00 Jeff seconded the motion that passed all in favor.

The lights in council chambers need repaired and I would like to get bids for the repairs. We should look into buying new tubes and replacing them. Sue Woods on 3524 Jamison Street has a number of tubes in her garage that she is willing to donate. We thank her and we will pick them up.

The pavilions need flood lights replaced.

Fire & Police – Mr. Little – none

Sewers & Sanitation – Bill Heaton – CAPS report has been completed. This has to be done every year so that we are eligible to receive sewer tap-ins.

When Licia & I had our meeting here with Mr. Bielunas, I noticed that the first door on the south side of the building had been damaged and had a metal strip hanging down. The chute on the chipper ran into it. The strip has been removed.

Jake Tate - because of the recent storms, some damage was done to the MS4 work. The borough is responsible for the repairs. There was some discussion about water running down from Chippewa and we should contact DEP to look into the retention pond located in Chippewa. Also discussed the water running down from White Township.

The tree between field 2 and 3 need to be removed. Bids are required. There is a movie night on Saturday, August 17th. Everyone is invited.

Ordinance – Mr. Seybert – none

Finance & Litigation – none – excused from meeting

Parks & Recreation- Janet Helbig – Do we need reflectors for helicopters making emergency landings in our ballfield? The fire department has them and they are put out when they are needed.

President Bob Tate – Discuss the removal of the ordinance committee because Tina & I are taking care of the ordinances. Bill Heaton brought up that it is really not a good idea to remove the committee because who would take care of it when you are no longer on council? You could consider merging the streets/lighting & bridges with building/grounds & equipment and even

merge ordinance with finance and litigation. Mr. Tate will think about it and bring it up again at the next meeting.

We also need to consider adopting the Unified Property Maintenance Code. New Brighton, Rochester, Patterson and several other municipalities have done this. The code is somewhat more restrictive than our current ordinances but also more up to date. The only drawback is that you have to buy a copy of it to review the content. Before we decide to adopt this ordinance, we need to find out the cost of purchasing it so that we can review it before any decision is made. We will bring this up at the next meeting.

Jimmy Brooks wants to extend his garage on his side yard. He will be installing a better system for painting. The addition has to be under 1000 square feet. If it becomes a nuisance to the neighborhood we will address it.

Mayor Cogley – Attended an MS4 workshop and meeting. This also had to do with flood plain administration. She asked who the flood plain administrator was and Bill Heaton said that she was. The Mayor has always held that position in the borough. She needs to get data from the previous administrator. FEMA has to have it. We are the only ones in the local area who did the MS4 work. She also found out the PEMA has money available to help with MS4 funding. Bill will contact them. She asked if we had any litigation from flooding in the borough and we have not. There has been some flooding of basements in the flood area and losing part of the road.

Tina Lampus – Code Enforcement – High Grass – 4 closed, 3 open; vehicles – 2 open; Trash cleaned up, 2 open; Safety 10 open. One excavation permit was issued, one occupancy permit and one contingent occupancy permit. They are continuing clean-up at the foundry.

Bills to be paid and purchases made by committees were approved.

Any other business – the mayor asked for permission to check with Blackhawk High School to get students willing to help seniors

Meeting adjourned by approved Bill Heaton and Jake Tate motion at 8:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Lansberry
Borough Secretary