

Regular Meeting Minutes
October 10, 2024

President Bob Tate called the meeting to order. All members were present. Janet Helbig moved to approve the September minutes and the Town Hall meeting Minutes and was seconded by Jake Tate. Jason Heaton moved to accept the agenda as is and was seconded by Janet Helbig. Both motions were passed all in favor. Jake Tate moved to support Act 525 previously discussed at last month's meeting and was seconded by Jason Heaton. The motion carried. Lou Little moved to hear the citizens present at the meeting and was seconded by Jason Heaton. The motion passed all in favor.

Correspondence

Liquid Fuel Allocation estimated at \$49,423.35 for 2025. A letter from Bill and Monica Sepp expressing their feelings about the West Mayfield Fire Department. They had asked if the fire department could burndown a house they had purchased on W 4th Ave and kept getting excuses only to find out that the department was not certified to do that. They also noted that in 2022 the department was given 1 year to stand on their own but they still haven't. They are throwing in their vote to decertify the fire department as suggested by the FSRC committee.

Citizen's Comments

Janet Jurich Pico, 3767 West 5th Avenue followed up on her request last month if the fire department could burn a large brush pile at her neighbors since we aren't permitted to burn. This would be done as a case by case. Jake moved to have the fire department get rid of the brush pile with the consent of the property owner. Jason Heaton seconded the motion that passed all in favor.

Arlene Catarcio, 686 Harbison Road wanted to know what is going on with the fire department. That will be discussed.

Herb Bloxsom, 780 Elk Avenue, Rochester Pa owns property where the old laundromat was. He is interested in setting up a food truck selling Napoli pizza for more than 14 days a week. He has already obtained a mobile license and a retail license. He has apartments in the building that have been redone and he has graveled the parking lot. He would like to try it for 4 days a week. All agricultural rules and regulations will be followed – he is working with Patrick on that. He does have to have zoning permission to allow the food truck. Joe Budicak will look into this.

Chris Berkfelt 1015 37th Street asked about the street light on Boden Street and Rock Avenue. Janet has contacted Duquesne Light but they are extremely busy.

Motion to return to the regular order of business was made by Bill Heaton and seconded by Lou Little. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

Streets, Lighting & Bridges; Building, Grounds and Equipment – Jake Tate – Craig Street Alley is still under construction – it has been milled and 4 truckloads of limestone has been added. Would like to do a binder coat and will try to talk to Youngblood about it. The street department employees would like to have the borough check into medical insurance. Jason Heaton will look into some insurance companies.

Bill Heaton – report on paving – Youngblood will begin paving on October 28th.

Stop signs – a couple of our stop signs are illegal – especially at the park.

Fire & Police – Lou Little – no calls in September. Lou wanted to clarify that when Bill Sepp asked about burning down the house, it had asbestos and that is why the fire department couldn't do it. Only certain departments can deal with asbestos.

Sewers & Sanitation - Bill Heaton – The cost to fix the drainage problem will cost about \$5,000. They will need about 5-6 trench boxes to fix it. Bill will get bids on doing that.

Emergency Management – As stated in last month's meeting, Eli Kosanovich has been recommended to fill the position of emergency management coordinator upon Bill Heaton's retirement at the end of 2024. County will need a letter acknowledging Mr. Kosanovich as the new coordinator along with a copy of the minutes showing council approval. Mr. Jason Heaton moved to accept Eli Kosanovich as the new emergency management coordinator beginning January 1, 2025 and was seconded by Mr. Jake Tate. The motion passed unanimously. Homewood has requested that we provide emergency management to their municipality.

Finance & Litigation – Jason Heaton received a list of customers who have not paid their garbage bills from Aiken Refuse. There is over \$14,000 owed to them from non-payment of bills. As a borough, we do not have any obligation to collect – Joe will look into what may be done.

Ordinance – Jeff – bushes on West 8th Avenue have been taken care of.

Parks & Recreation – The park will officially be closed for rentals as of October 31. Apps for shelter rental next year will begin in January.

Solicitor – Joe Budicak – none

Mayor – none

Chief Johnson – none

President Tate – Proposal from Beaver Falls to provide fire service to West Mayfield with a 3 year contract. All equipment will be provided. The cost will be \$25,000 for 2025; \$26,250 (5% increase based on projected operating and salary increases) for 2026; and \$27,625 (5% increase based on projected operating and salary increases) for 2027.

Jason questioned if we have to accept the proposal. Nora Soos asked if we have to pay them when then come – no. Bill Heaton suggested that we ask for bids – you can but it’s not required. An ordinance will have to be drawn up.

Gayle Hironimus , 3060 Knappe Street asked what would happen if the borough has to institute a fee for fire service. What if someone can’t afford to pay – would they still get service? They can’t deny service – you would get service whether you can afford to pay or not.

Mike Cailor – West Mayfield Volunteer Fire Department Secretary – one of the factors given for having Beaver Falls provide fire service is because they have a manned station. If we outsource to Beaver Falls, there may come a time that their station isn’t manned.

Elizabeth Carter, 901 Rock Avenue, - response time is essential. It is in our best interest to go to Beaver Falls.

Bill Heaton said that we need to make sure that we are comparing apples to apples – response time, medical paid or not paid, etc.

Deborah K Martin, 4407 West 5th Avenue asked why we are dragging this out when we are all in agreement that the fire department should be decertified.

Nora Soos remarked to just get it over with.

Jeff Seybert moved to request an offer for a formal contract from Beaver Falls to provide fire services for West Mayfield and was seconded by Janet Helbig. A roll-call vote passed the motion as follows: Janet Helbig – yes; Bob Tate – yes; Jeff Seybert – yes; Jake Tate – yes; Jason Heaton – yes; Lou Little – no; Bill Heaton – yes.

Bill Heaton moved to request that Chippewa Township also submit a formal proposal to provide fire services for West Mayfield and was seconded by Jason Heaton. A roll-call vote passed the motion as follows: Janet Helbig – yes; Bob Tate – yes; Jeff Seybert – yes; Jake Tate – yes; Jason Heaton – yes; Lou Little – no and Bill Heaton – yes.

Solicitor – none

Mayor – none

Chief - none

New Business

Streets, Lighting & Bridges; Buildings & Equipment – Jake Tate – Leaf Pick- will begin on October 21st; Park closing is October 31st; Brian the ditch along Patterson Avenue needs cleaned out. The truck was fixed; leaf machine is okay the little truck still needs work and we need bearings for the plow.

Fire & Police – Lou Little – none

Sewers & Sanitation – Bill Heaton – Halloween trick or treat – October 31st from 6 until 7:30

Finance & Litigation – Jason Heaton – Why wasn't council notified when there was a person taken to the magistrate? Jason should have been notified as the head of finance and litigation and also should have been involved in the contract.

Ordinance – Jeff Seybert –none

Parks & Recreation – Janet Helbig – trunk or treat, October 12 from 11-2. As of October 31st there will be no more shelter rentals for the park.

Mayor – none

Solicitor – none

Bob – none

Contingent upon any information from Joe, it is okay for the food truck to be used on the old laundromat property.

Chief – none

Code Enforcement Report – 3 occupancy permits this month; 1 demolition permit (supposed to be happening this weekend)

Approval was given to pay bills and ratify purchases made by committees.

Bill thanked Kevin and his group for all of the work they did regarding the Fire Department Services.

Bill moved to adjourn at 8:00 pm and was seconded by Janet. The motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia J. Lansberry
Borough Secretary