

MERCER BOROUGH REGULAR MEETING

May 3rd, 2016

Attendance: Beth Hillmar, Jerry Johnson, Frank Curl, Cliff Hughes, Mayor Ross Vernon, Caroline DaCosta, Jac Carter, Joe Kurtanich, Debbie Sarvis

VISITORS

Dan Goncz presented the Gannet Fleming WWTP Improvement progress report and announced that the bid opening for construction is scheduled for September. Jac Carter moved to approve Penn Power's Utility Easement contract for the new WWTP electric service with Jerry Johnson seconding. Vote carried with Cliff Hughes abstaining. Jerry Johnson moved to approve the PNC payment requisition # 8 in the amount of \$ 81,344.94. Frank Curl seconded the motion and vote carried unanimously.

John Zohoranacky asked council to consider revising the current burning ordinance that allows residents to burn leave and yard waste from 6:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. He stated the toxins and particles in leaves can cause long term respiratory problems and be especially troublesome to small children and the elderly according to the DEP and EPA. He added that these agencies are urging municipalities to enact ordinances restricting this practice and provided the DEP's sample ordinance. Jerry Johnson commented that council should look into the issue and refer the information over to the Solicitor. He added that in the mean time the current ordinance should be enforced and the police and the Mayor should be directed to do so.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Frank Lord and Aaron Sines candidates for the vacant council seat introduced themselves to council.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Frank Curl moved to accept Bonnie Kramer's decision to rescind her letter of intent for the Borough Council's position with Jac Carter seconding. Vote carried unanimously. Frank Curl moved to appoint Aaron Sines to the vacant council seat with Jac Carter seconded. After discussion a roll call vote was taken. Jac Carter, Cliff Hughes, Jerry Johnson and Beth Hillmar voted yes. Caroline Dacosta voted no. Aaron Sines was sworn in by the Mayor and took his seat on council. Jac Carter moved to appoint Frank Lord to the Vacancy Board with Cliff Hughes seconding. Vote carried unanimously.

Jac Carter moved to approve the Snow Ordinance Amendment with Aaron Sines seconding. Vote carried unanimously.

Beth Hillmar announced that the remainder of the unfinished business will be tabled to the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Council reviewed a letter from Charlotte Urey asking for help with a storm water problem. Joe Kurtanich stated that previous council decided that it was a civil issue between her and her neighbor across the road.

Council discussed Kaitlyn McElrath's request for a handicap parking space in front of her barber shop on W. Venango Street. Jac Carter stated that he and Jim McGhee would look into the issue.

Council discussed the complaint from John West on N. Pitt Street that informed council that vehicles from the businesses uptown were parking for long periods of time in front of the houses on that street leaving no parking for the homeowners. Ross Vernon informed council that Jarett Whalen's law office was moving to location solving many of the problems. The Administrator advised council that the Solicitor had researched other municipality's ordinances that regulate residential parking and would have an opinion for the next meeting.

Caroline DaCosta informed council that Jim McGhee had worked on her drainage issues but the water was still backing up into her basement. Jac Carter agreed to look into the problem.

REPORTS

Joe Kurtanich reviewed the April 12th Engineers Report with council. He reported that the South Shenango Street Sewer project came in \$ 85,000.00 over budget and additional change orders expected. Mr. Kurtanich stated that he and Jim McGhee were working on a smaller scoped project and then reviewed the remaining items on his budget.

Jac Carter informed council that a Grant Street resident was experiencing sewer back-ups due to a sag in the main sewer line. He advised council that this main should be scheduled for repair. Council discussed several areas that were in need of storm drain repair.

The Administrator announced that the accounting firm of Stillwagon and McGill had performed the audit and would attend the May 10th meeting to review the Financial Statements.

Frank Curl started that estimates for costs to dredge the Brandy Springs Park pond were \$ 39,900.00 including engineering and surveying. He said the plans were sent to the DEP but they are working on other ways to reduce the costs.

The meeting was legally adjourned.

Submitted by,

Debbie Sarvis
Administrator