

Canonsburg Borough Council Meeting

Monday September 11, 2017

6:30 PM

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Bell at 6:30 pm.

Moment of Silence called by Mr. Bell.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call:

Mr. Paul Sharkady-Present

Mr. John Severine-Present

Mrs. Tina Bails - Present

Mr. Joe McGarry - Vice President-Present

Mrs. Fran Coleman - Present

Mr. Harold Bowman - Present

Mr. Richard Bell –President- Present

Others Present: Solicitor Mr. Jeff Derrico, Borough Manager Ms. Denise Lesnock, Mayor David Rhome, Fire Chief/Public Works Mr. Tom Lawrence, Chief of Police Mr. Alex Coghill and KLH Engineer Mr. Bob Robinson

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

1. Wilma Piechnick 611 Julia Drive, Canonsburg, Pa 5317 addressed Council regarding an on-going issue with her neighbor. She said her neighbor has been diverting water different ways into her yard. On July 31, 2017, she was in touch with the Code Enforcement Officer and he came to survey things. She said her neighbor's yard is mud and dirt. She said he was getting water into his basement so he started to do anything to divert the water. She said he has used a tarp and bales of hay and letting the tarp run water into her yard. She said he has also used dirt to have water drain into her yard. She discussed a heavy rainfall over a month ago. She said her neighbor prepared for the rainfall by putting two huge rocks on top of his porch, on the side, damming the water. There was a hole with a 4-inch pipe that drained water into her yard. This flowed next to her wall. There was debris, pebbles and straws that washed down to her garage. Ms. Piechnick said Troy Lucas, Code Enforcement, checked the situation. She said he noticed a huge, horizontal crack on her garage wall. She said Mr. Lucas was going to give her neighbor a citation with 30 days to fix the problem. She said a week went by with nothing happening. She said Mr. Lucas told her the neighbor is doing everything asked. She said there was a second hard rain. Her neighbor bought huge rocks, dammed the rocks with water swirling to a huge outdoor plastic storage container to and below his fence. She saw the water and not just damage to her property. She called Mr. Lucas. She said Mr. Lucas told her it did not matter if the water was coming into her yard. She said he called the police; however, she wanted Mayor Rhome called. Two officers arrived; Officer Eckles was one of the officers. She said Mr. Lucas said he was going to dig a trench and put a drain pipe in, which had to be done by July 21, 2017. She said the only thing that was done was her neighbor getting huge clumps of dried dirt. He covered the channels he made with the dirt. She said it ended with Mr. Lucas saying this would be completed by Monday. The officers could see all this water pouring into her yard. She said the water started pouring in her yard since Mid-July. Ms. Piechnick discussed her take on conversations with Mr. Lucas. Mr. Bell asked her if she ever tried calling the Borough Manager as Ms. Lesnock is his boss. Ms. Piechnick said she never thought to call the Borough Manager.

Ms. Lesnock said she and Mr. Lawrence drove to the area, did not go onto private property. She said

Mr. Lucas took pictures and sent them to her on this date. Ms. Lesnock would like to address it with Mr. Lucas. Ms. Lesnock said if she has to go on the property she will. Mr. Bell asked her to go look. Mr. Bell said Council is interested in her issue, however, Ms. Lesnock oversees the employees. Mr. Bell said to go through Ms. Lesnock. Ms. Piechnick agreed. She said her situation is worse than over.

2. A resident addressed Council regarding her parents' house on South Central. She said there are weeds and trees overpowering her parents' home. Mr. Lawrence said he will take a look at it. Mr. Bell said the street commissioner will see who that area belongs to and Council will handle it.
3. Representatives for the Canon McMillan Stadium Project were present. They said they were available to answer any questions. No questions asked.

GUESTS:

1. Jan Lawrence, Library Assistant with the Frank Sarris Library, discussed a new "I Learn to Read" initiative at the library in which the library will attend every Kindergarten Open House. Students will receive a library card on the spot. To date, 375 kindergarteners received a library card plus 40 at St. Pat's. In October, a library representative will visit each class. When a student comes to the library for the first time with their library card they will receive a welcome packet. The welcome packet will consist of a backpack and an activity card. Once the activity card completed, the student will become a Rock Star and will receive a metal during a second classroom visit and their picture on the library "Hall of Fame" wall. Ms. Lawrence reported on the summer programs which consisted of 80 children and adult programs with 3,357 patrons. Trivia Night is October 21, 2017. Time to be determined. Council is invited to attend to form a Trivia team and challenge the library teams. There will be a Halloween Bash in October as well.

Rich Russo, with the Town Park Board, addressed Council. He reviewed the following:

1. Dining Around the Pool- Mr. Russo stated this was extremely successful and raised enough money for a new roof on the pool house. He thanked Mr. Severine, Mrs. Bails and the committee that organized the event.
2. Letter of Support- The Park Board is looking for the Borough to match funds with the \$200,000 LSA grant request. The match would be contingent upon receiving the grant. They are getting a match from Friends of the Park and will allocate funds from the Town Park recreation tax account as well as asking the Borough, from the General Fund, for a match of \$14,000, which is a 20% match. Mr. Bell stated there is a meeting on September 19, 2017 at 6:30 in Council Chambers; this will be a voting meeting and will be discussed at this time.
3. McEwen Road- Mr. Bell stated Council was addressed a few months ago about closing the road, then presented with a petition from residents that wanted the road closed. Mr. Bell stated a letter was sent to Cecil Township that Council was thinking about closing the road and to see what their comments were. No comments received at this time. Council has not voted.

Tom Bouchard, 2307 Shamrock Lane addressed Council. Mr. Bouchard said there was a rumor of McEwen Road being closed. Mr. Bouchard said a lot of people work in Southpointe bought houses in that area. He said Southpointe is the focus point of the county with all the new businesses. He further stated it would have a detrimental effect on property values as well as the restaurants they patron. Mr. Bouchard said the number one problem is people going too fast/speeding. Closing the road would require all those working in Southpointe to go through Canonsburg which is only redirecting traffic. School buses and plows use the road. Mr. Bouchard said there are many ideas to think about. He said McEwen is the life blood of the neighborhood to get to Southpointe without having to go back through Canonsburg. He said there are 7 people on his street that work in Southpointe. Mr. Bouchard said this would cause emergency management issues. Mr. Bouchard discussed the traffic issues between 4:30 and 6:00pm leaving Southpointe and into Canonsburg traffic and vice versa. He said both ways,

commuters are passing McEwen. He recommends a stop sign from where Shamrock Lane meets McEwen due to speeding. He suggested as many stop sign as possible on that road to deter people from coming that way to slow traffic down. Mr. Bouchard stated these should be tried before closing the road.

Mr. Bell said when Council was approached about McEwen Road, Council took comments and asked if there was a petition. Mr. Bell said one person did come to a Council meeting and a petition was provided. The Borough Solicitor drafted a letter to Cecil Township to start dialogue, to see what options were available. The letter did not definitely state the road would be closed.

Mr. Bouchard mentioned the possibility of a bridge at the bottom of Gladden Road into Southpointe to alleviate all the neighborhoods from getting traffic. Mr. Bell said it was discussed years ago and not sure why that was not feasible. Mr. Bell said he wants to keep things viable to everyone, he said there is one group that wants it closed. Mr. Bell asked how many people in the room were against closing the road, the majority of people raised their hands.

Open dialogue continued. A resident asked how many names were on the petition. The Borough Manager said approximately between twenty-one and twenty-three names were on the petition. Mr. Bell discussed Apple Hill and Cecil Township, and how the opening to Rose Avenue was blocked for Canonsburg emergency vehicles. Due to a few residents' wishes, Cecil closed the road. Mr. Bell said residents came to the Borough and asked about closing McEwen and Council was willing to look at it. Stop signs discussed. Mr. Bell said this will be tabled and other options will be looked at such as speed humps. Cecil Township called and asked what the Borough plans were for the road. The Solicitor sent a letter to Cecil Township in which Cecil has not responded to the letter.

Gene Cargnoni, 1121, McEwen Avenue, Canonsburg Pa stated putting up more stop signs is a waste of time. He said he never came to Council asking to close the road; he came saying he would need Council's help in controlling the traffic. Mr. Bell said the police have been sent to monitor traffic, however, the police cannot be there 24 hours a day. Mr. Bell said Council is looking at other options, this will be tabled to allow Council to see what other ideas they can come up with. Mr. Bell said he can see there is an interest in keeping the road open. He said people forgot there are people that work in Southpointe and that is why they bought their house in this area. Mr. Bell said PennDOT's rule is that stop signs are not for traffic control. Mr. Bell said an alternative that he, the Chief and the Mayor discussed is increased police enforcement. Mr. Bell said that some will be surprised because when people are arrested it may be a neighbor. Mr. Bell said another alternative is to ask the Chamber of Commerce in Southpointe to put in their newsletter there will be increased enforcement and to ask drivers to consider the neighborhood when driving through. "Local Traffic Only" signs are a possibility as well. Mr. Bell said he hopes he can slow traffic down. He also said there are people that have lived there long before Southpointe and they were used to it being quiet and slow paced.

Another resident spoke stating there should be a speed limit sign when entering McEwen. Mr. Bell said a 15 MPH can be placed but it cannot be enforced because it is not in the vehicle code. Mr. Bell said Council will not do anything else unless it is advertised or make sure all residents know. Another resident said to include everyone and not just those on McEwen. Mr. Bell agreed. She said she is very concerned about the value of her home. Mr. Bell said he agreed. Another resident asked if a counter could be placed to see how many cars use the road. He said he counted cars from 4:30 to 5:15 and 25 to 30 cars at most use the road. Another resident asked about the end of Gladden. Mr. Bell said it is a valley. Mr. Bell said years ago it was discussed to put a road in but he is not sure why it did not happen. A resident asked how information will be advertised. Mr. Bell said the Borough could use the Observer Reporter, Face Book and website. A resident said minutes from July have not been posted on the website. Ms. Lesnock said there is a new website: www.canonsburgboro.com. It was mentioned if Council was stuck on a decision to pull the residents from East End. Mr. Bell said Council is not one

way or the other and will not divide the town by picking a side. Council will do what is best. A resident asked if Council decides to close the road do they have to go to the County Court of Pleas. Mr. Bell said they do not. Mr. Severine gave the example of Rose Avenue. Mr. Bell said whatever they do, it will be done legally. Mr. Bell said there are a majority that do not want the road closed and Council will look at other alternatives. Mr. Bell said to give Council a try as they do not want to make miserable things for them. Mr. Bell said he will make sure Council gets the word out.

Discussion held that August Minutes could not be on the website because they are not voted on until tonight.

Presidents Comments:

Mr. Bell said the Dining in the Park was very nice, well presented and was impressed with the looks of the swimming pool. He said it was a nice evening and definitely saw a nice profit. He thanked Mrs. Bails, Mr. Severine and Mayor Rhome.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Rhome reported on the following:

1. March Police Report was included in the Board's package for review. The amount of 911 calls in August were 531, 4,988 miles patrolled in the Borough and 51 trips to the Magistrate.
2. Parking Enforcement Report was included in the Board's package for review. Mayor Rhome stated the numbers will go down with the closing of PNC Bank.
3. Mayor Rhome said it was a special day remembering 9-11 and remembering those who gave the ultimate sacrifice.
4. November 11, 2017 is the Letterman dedication in front of the Municipal Building. The time is not yet determined.
5. Dining in the Pool- Mayor Rhome stated it was a very nice evening and guests commented it was nice seeing Council at the event.
6. PNC Bank will be closing September 15, 2017.
7. Mayor Rhome said he and some of the businesses in the McDonald's area are not satisfied with the results of the creek beds being cleaned. Mayor Rhome stated, in his opinion, for the amount of money paid, the company did not do a good job. Strnisha Construction did the work. Mr. Lawrence said they did exactly what they were contracted to do: they cut and removed trees of certain sizes. Mr. Lawrence said it is undergrowth and foliage and is not the trees. Mr. Lawrence said the only way to resolve that issue is to spray two to three times a year. Mr. Lawrence said Strnisha did an excellent job. Mr. Robinson, Engineer, agreed the job was done well. Mr. Robinson said it is under growth. Ms. Lesnock said it is \$3,000 every time it is sprayed the entire length. The prime time to spray is in the spring time. Discussion to hold until this is reviewed with budget talks.
8. Canonsburg Oktoberfest is September 15, 16 and 17, 2017. Streets will shut down on September 14, 2017 at 6:00 pm. and will remain closed until 9:00 pm on September 17, 2017. Permits are in place with PennDOT.
10. Drug National Take Back at Shop N Save in conjunction with the Mayor and the Police Department will occur October 28, 2017 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. This is a successful program that takes drugs out of the water systems.
11. Pet Search is October 22, 2017 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm with the Fire Department and Animal Control. There will be a vaccination process. This year, it will be called the Scott Bashioum Memorial Clinic which will take place in the Fire Department.
12. August 28, 2017 Canonsburg Fire Department, Police Department and the Mayor attended the first day of school at the new Muse Elementary School. This was the first time in the history of Canonsburg

that Canonsburg students left the town and went to a neighboring district. It was well received by the children. Fire Chief, Mr. Lawrence said it was unique.

13. Mr. Reynolds will be retiring from the park. Mayor Rhome personally thanked him for his years of service as did Council.

14. Vacant Building Ordinance still requires completion by the Solicitor.

15. Fire Prevention- under the direction of Fire Chief, Mr. Lawrence, Canonsburg is now a Fire Prevention District and have joined with Cecil, North Strabane and Canonsburg to be in every school together.

16. November 2, 2017 at the Sheraton Hotel at Station Square, Amen Corner group is hosting the 17th Annual Luncheon from 11:30 pm to 1:30 pm. This will be an awards luncheon with recognition for the deceased and with Officer Cross and Officer Saiva. The Mayor invited Council to join him and Chief Coghill. Last year two Canonsburg officers received awards. This year, Officer Scott Bashioum, Officer Cross and Officer Saiva may receive an award on a certain level.

Chief Coghill reported on the following:

1. The Police Department has a new AED from the state SOP

2. The Washington County District Attorney's Office Domestic Sex Crimes Unit provided two recorders and two cameras. This will enhance their ability to investigate domestic violence.

3. Applied for a grant for a mobile finger print identification unit. It is a Samsung phone that scans a finger print which provides an automatic identification.

4. Testing on Standard Operating Procedures, officers are required to re-read SOP with a 50-question test with the requirement to pass at 80%.

5. The Ambush curriculum is completed as well as the videos with Sergeant Cross and Chief Coghill as well as another officer from Allentown. This will be a mandatory class for all police officers in Pennsylvania.

Mr. Bell said it is a great for the Canonsburg Police Department to be involved in, except for the reasons why Canonsburg is involved. Chief Coghill said there were 3 kill zones the night of the ambush. Mr. Bell said they should be commended. Mr. Bell also said Chief Coghill has been a speaker and a valuable tool for many agencies.

Mr. Severine mentioned PNC is closing.

Engineer's Report:

Mr. Robinson reported on the following:

1. Senior Center roof replacement-CLV Corporation was the low bid out of 2 bids for \$72,700. KLH recommends awarding the bid to CLV.

2. North Central Avenue, Elm Alley and Yoney Drive Sanitary Sewer Repair Rehabilitation-Roto Rooter to start construction September 17,2017. KLH will have a Construction Inspector on site. Mr. Robinson said it is typical to have a construction inspector with a utility contract.

3. Mid-town parking lot and public alleys – The project was awarded to John Caruso, the next step is the notice to proceed to the contractor and a pre-construction meeting, which may occur next week. During the construction phase, the contractor will have 30 days, although should not take 30 days, to mill, base repair and line painting. The lot will have to be closed. Decision to close Monday – Thursday.

4. McEwen- Mr. Robinson said there was comment about adding a stop sign. Mr. Robinson stated that was not legal. You have to have studies and traffic counts. Speed humps are considered traffic calming. Mr. Robinson recommends adopting a policy. A speed hump is approximately \$3,000. Speed humps can slow traffic down but also slow emergency vehicles down. Mr. Severine stated he visited other

communities to view their speed humps. Speed tables discussed.

Solicitor's Report:

No Report

Mr. Severine inquired about the Cell Tower ordinance. Mr. Derrico stated he has not received return phone calls to complete this yet.

Mr. Severine inquired about the Vacant Building Ordinance. Mr. Derrico stated he owed Mayor Rhome an apology as this is not completed due to his busy schedule.

Committee Reports

1. **Administration and Finance:** Mrs. Coleman stated bills were reviewed and made a motion to approve paying bills.

Motion to approve Canonsburg Borough bills.

Mrs. Coleman made a motion to pay the bills. Seconded by Mr. McGarry.

Roll Call:

Mr. Bowman-Yes

Mrs. Coleman-Yes

Mr. McGarry-Yes

Mrs. Bails-Yes

Mr. Severine-Yes

Mr. Sharkady-No

Mr. Bell-Yes

6 Yes. 1 No. Motion Carries.

2. **Code:** No report.

3. **Public Works and Public Safety-** Mr. McGarry reported the following:

For the month of August 2017, the Canonsburg Volunteer Fire Department responded to 25 calls which consisted of:

11 emergency

3 alarm calls

7 assisted calls

3 public service calls

1 landing zone

An average of 5 men per call, spending an average of 50 minutes per call, no reportable damage

4. **Facilities, Energy and Technology-** No report

5. Parks and Recreation:

Mrs. Bails reported on the following:

1. Mrs. Bails thanked Michelle LoBello, Mr. Lawrence and the Public Works Department for the excellent job, Mayor Rhome, Mrs. Coleman, Mr. Bell, Mr. Severine and Mr. McGarry. It was a very successful affair. Mrs. Bails stated she appreciated all the help.

2. Mr. Reynolds resignation. The Park Board will be looking for applicants which will be advertised for a new Pool Director or Pool/Park Director and Maintenance. There will be a special meeting regarding this.

3. The last Sunday afternoon concert was the Jazz Symphony Orchestra from Washington.

4. No report on the pool attendance as of yet. Mrs. Bails said Mr. Lawrence and his staff kept the pool and park clean and operational.

5. Talks of moving the Skate Board Park in the back area. Mr. Severine said the reasoning is to make the bottom area all parking. Mrs. Coleman asked why parking on grass was permitted during the

Dining Around the Pool function. Mr. Severine said those needing a handicapped space do not want to park on top.

6. The Basketball Court is doing well. Residents are pleased with police officers patrolling and surveillance cameras (installed at the ball fields and basketball court)

7. The Park Board is asking Council to consider the vote for the match on the LSA Grant. This will be discussed further on September 19, 2017.

6. Redevelopment: No report. Mr. Severine asked about the walk around. Ms. Lesnock received a form today from Kerry Fox. Ms. Lesnock said the most important thing is to have the street list from Mr. Lawrence. Mr. Bell asked if unused monies (due to utility companies working on a streets) from surveyed streets can be used for other streets. Mr. Lawrence said the money cannot be used if it was allocated to a certain street. Particular streets discussed. Mr. Bell commended Mr. Lawrence for working well with the utility companies which benefit the Borough and them. Mr. Lawrence said he and the Chief have been monitoring the utility companies, in particular, not working on parallel roads. Discussion held regarding four different utilities working on roads in a certain area at one time.

VOTING ITEMS:

1. Motion to approve August 14, 2017 meeting minutes of Canonsburg Borough Council.

Mrs. Bails made a motion to approve the August 14, 2017 meeting minutes of Canonsburg Borough Council. Seconded by Mr. McGarry.

No questions.

All in favor. Motion Carries.

Mr. Severine stated to make sure the minutes go on the website. Discussion held that the minutes have to be approved prior to being on website. Minutes are on the new website. Discussion held regarding preliminary minutes being posted.

2. Motion to post preliminary Canonsburg Borough Council Voting meeting minutes on the Borough website.

Mr. Severine made the motion to post preliminary Canonsburg Borough Council Voting meeting minutes on the Borough website. Seconded by Mrs. Bails.

No questions.

All in favor. Motion Carries.

3. Motion to re-approve the subdivision of John Wudkwyh (311 Euclid Ave.) based upon recommendation from the Planning Commission.

Mr. McGarry made a motion to re-approve the subdivision of John Wudkwyh (311 Euclid Ave.) based upon recommendation from the Planning Commission. Seconded by Mr. Severine.

No questions.

All in favor. Motion Carries.

Mr. Derrico explained the motion is for a re-approval of what Council approved a year ago. It was conditionally approved by the Planning Commission last year upon receiving variances. Mr. Wudkwyh submitted the variance request and received approval. Because this was over a year it required a re-approval from the Planning Commission and Council.

4. Motion to approve Canon McMillan School District Land Development Plan for Phase I work at the existing Memorial Stadium on the contingency it meets with all the specifications from the engineers.

Mr. McGarry made a motion to approve Canon McMillan School District Land Development Plan for Phase I work at the existing Memorial Stadium on the contingency it meets with all the specifications from the engineers. Seconded by Mrs. Bails.

No questions.

All in favor. Motion Carries.

5. Motion to award contract #2017-03 (Senior Center Roof Replacement) to CLV Corp. in the amount of \$72,700.

Mr. McGarry made a motion to award contract #2017-03 (Senior Center Roof Replacement) to CLV Corp. in the amount of \$72,700. Seconded by Mr. Severine.

Roll Call:

Mr. Sharkady-No

Mr. Severine-Yes

Mrs. Bails-Yes

Mr. McGarry-Yes

Mrs. Coleman-Yes

Mr. Bowman-Yes

Mr. Bell-Yes

6 Yes. 1 No. Motion Carries.

Mayor Rhome and Mr. Bell discussed the cost and if there were other options such as another building or smaller building. Mr. Bell discussed the possibility of the new senior apartments and the offer to build a senior center on the property.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Park By-laws- Almost complete

2. Vacant building ordinance-The ordinance is complete and being reviewed by the Solicitor.

3. Weight Limits ordinance- Mr. Lawrence and Mr. Robinson are working together on the Weight Limits Ordinance.

4. Amendment for Cell Tower Ordinance-The Solicitor is working on.

NEW BUSINESS:

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

None

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Mc Garry to adjourn the meeting at 8:22 pm. Seconded by Mr. Bowman.

All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:22 pm.

Enclosures:

A. Monthly Police Report and Parking Enforcement Report of August 2017.

B. Resignation Letter of Pool Director, Jim Reynolds

C. Resolution #4 and Resolution #5 from CHJSA regarding developer rules, regulations, schedule of fees and deduct meters.

Submitted by: Michelle LoBello

