

Canonsburg Borough Council Meeting

Monday November 13, 2017

6:30 PM

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Bell at 6:33 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 and KLH Engineer Mr. Bob Robinson

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None

GUESTS:

None

President's Comments:

Mr. Bell stated it was a busy weekend with a Friday night vigil for fallen Officer Scott Bashioum and Monday a dedication of the bridge on South Central for Officer Scott Bashioum. Saturday morning dedication monument for the Civil War hero Doctor Letterman. All events were well attended.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Rhome reported on the following:

1. March Police Report was included in the Board's package for review. Over 500 calls responded to.

2. Parking Enforcement Report was included in the Board's package for review.

3. Mayor Rhome thanked those that contributed to the bridge dedication.

4. November 9, 2017 at the Pittsburgh Marriot the Police Department was awarded the Platinum Award/Triple A Award. This is the highest award to achieve. Mayor Rhome congratulated the Police Department and the officers.

5. December 2, 2017 is Canonsburg Light Up Night. There will be a festival from 1pm to 9 pm. The Canonsburg Chamber, Youth Center and Canonsburg Borough are working on the event as well as others.

6. Weaver Avenue and Third Street, coming from Gladden Road, would like to install a stop sign. This area has been monitored for a while and neighbors have asked for the consideration of a stop sign.

7. Street interviews continue. Mayor Rhome anticipates some streets qualifying.

Mr. Severine discussed speed humps versus using stop signs to slow down traffic. Mayor Rhome said this will be discussed with a committee. Mr. Bell said to consider a stop sign now until the committee can review further.

Engineer's Report:

Mr. Robinson reported on the following:

1. Senior Center roof replacement-the contracted documents have been sent. CLU Insurance is the insurance agency.
2. North Central Avenue, Elm Alley and Yoney Drive Sanitary Sewer Repair Rehabilitation-paving is completed and inspected. Mr. Robinson discussed a letter regarding a change order. This project was over the contracted amount due to two buried manholes that required adjusting to grade and adding another manhole. On North Central, Penn Dot required density testing; this was not part of the contract. A third party conducted the density testing. There were numerous areas that needed small repairs that required pipe replacement. The project was over the contracted amount \$39,000. Mr. Robinson stated he had a letter of explanation, pay request and Change Order for the December meeting.
3. Midtown Parking Lot improvements are completed. There is a pay application recommended for approval of \$39,071. This project was under contract by \$265.90.
4. 2018 LSA Grant Application-KLH submitted the grant application for electrical improvements to the Senior Center. The total application was for \$88,000 in which \$73,000 was requested for LSA. The remaining \$15,000 will be local matching funds.
5. Apple Hill has some paving deficiencies. Mr. Robinson will review these areas. There is still a maintenance bond period in effect. Mr. Robinson will notify the developer as they are responsible for repair.

Solicitor's Report:

Mr. Derrico reported on the following:

1. Cell Tower Ordinance-The prior contact is no longer employed with the firm which resulted in a delay. Dan Cohen provided Mr. Derrico with a current proposal which Mr. Derrico will have for next month.

Mr. Sharkady inquired about the legal opinion of voting with an Executive Session. Mr. Derrico has requested an advisory opinion and will provide a response on legal letterhead.

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.

No questions on the motion.

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- Report provided last week.

4. Facilities, Energy and Technology- No report

5. Parks and Recreation:

Mrs. Bails reported on the following:

1. Goal to have a job Description and list duties, by January 2018, for new pool manager when hired.
2. Pool has been closed for the winter.
3. Waiting to hear regarding LSA Grant request response.

6. Redevelopment: Team working on street interviews.

VOTING ITEMS:

1. Motion to approve minutes from October 9, 2017 Borough Council Meeting.

Mrs. Bails made a motion to approve minutes from October 9, 2017 Borough Council Meeting.

Seconded by Mrs. Coleman.

No questions on the motion.

All in favor. Motion Carries.

2. Motion to add ¼ mill the 2018 tentative budget and approve the 2018 tentative budget.

Mrs. Bails made a motion to add ¼ mill the 2018 tentative budget and approve the 2018 tentative budget. Seconded by Mr. Bowman.

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.

Discussion regarding a ¼ mill tax increase which equates to \$1.00 a month/\$12.00 yearly.

Mr. Sharkady inquired about the budgeted overtime of \$100,000 for Police Officers and asked with the budgeted overtime why are there part-time Police Officers. Ms. Lesnock stated most of it is contractual. She said most of the expense is for construction work that the Borough is reimbursed. Ms. Lesnock said the expense offsets the revenue side of the budget. Mr. Bell said it is contractual as Officers are contracted for events such as Fourth of July and construction and road work for companies. The money comes back to the Borough. Mayor Rhome stated Officers are contracted for the football games. Ms. Lesnock stated roughly \$24,000 is for Chuck Tenney. Mr. Bell said the auditor suggested the accounting procedure for this line item.

Mr. Bell stated health insurance increased to \$14,000. Mr. Severine to provide Ms. Lesnock with contact information for a broker for an insurance company. Mr. Bell stated the structure of health care has changed with increases of 37% to 40% for insurance. Aetna and Health America discussed from a person from the public. Mr. Bell said the 2018 budget is “bare bone.”

Discussion regarding a 1/10 mill tax increase per family which equates to \$1.00 a month/\$12.00 yearly. Mr. Bell said if public sentiment is bad, then the Authority has until the second meeting in December to change it. A resident from the public stated the Borough Authority should not be afraid to increase taxes so roads can be repaired or hire police or fire fighters. Another resident from the public stated Canonsburg is a poor town. Further discussion regarding notifying the community of a tentative increase for infrastructure improvements. Mr. Derrico suggested using websites and digital signs to notify the public of the reasons why the tentative tax increase. Mr. Sharkady said the water company and other utility companies will probably increase their fees. Mr. Bell mentioned the streets that have

been repaired as well as the gas and sewer lines. Mr. Bell said a lot of good is being done in the town. Mrs. Coleman asked about the reassessments. Ms. Lesnock said \$30,000 was budgeted for refunds and \$15,000 was given back so far. Ms. Lesnock stated \$15,000 is budgeted for 2018. Ms. Coleman said if taxes need raised, the Borough cannot keep waiting. Mr. Bell said the community over the last twenty years has functioned well and has new investors coming into town. Mr. Bell said if taxes are raised, it is just to keep “the Borough above ground.” Mayor Rhome stated some residents are asking about alleys being paved next year. Mr. Rhome also said the community as commented positively to the paving that has been done. Mr. Bell said if residents are upset over the 1/10 mill increase, then the Borough can reconsider. Mr. Bell said it is not an easy decision to raise taxes. Mr. Bell thanked Council members for taking the initiative to move forward.

3. Motion to close Greenside to Central from 1pm to 9pm December 2, 2017.

Mr. McGarry made a motion to close Greenside to Central from 1pm to 9pm December 2, 2017.

Seconded by Mrs. Bails.

All in favor. Motion Carries.

4. Motion to install a stop sign at Gladden and Weaver at Third Street.

Mrs. Bails made a motion to install a stop sign at Gladden and Weaver at Third Street. Seconded by Mr. Severine.

All in favor. Motion Carries.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Park By-laws- January 2018 meeting.
2. Weight Limits Ordinance-Still working on.
3. Amendment for cell tower ordinance-was addressed by the Solicitor.

NEW BUSINESS:

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

None

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. McGarry to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 pm. Seconded by Mrs. Bails.

All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.

Enclosures:

Year to Date Budget Report

Submitted by: Michelle LoBello

