

Canonsburg Borough Council Meeting

Monday March 12, 2018

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. Eric Chandler-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, KLH Engineer Mr. Scott Groom, Fire Chief/Public Works Mr. Tom Lawrence and Chief of Police Mr. Alex Coghill.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Joan Kness, 110 Victoria Drive, Canonsburg Pa, addressed Council regarding a development in North Strabane. She stated North Strabane are Canonsburg neighbors, they shop Canonsburg establishments, use the library and attend the churches. She stated the new development will increase traffic, possible 682 more cars, from Victoria Court coming onto Weavertown to Morganza Road. She asked Council to consider how to manage the increased traffic. Mr. Bell appreciated Ms. Kness' comments.

2. Nancy Gregory, East Street, Canonsburg Pa, addressed Council regarding the increased traffic from Weavertown Road. She asked if anyone on Council has communicated with the developer, Mr. Bove, for approval for access through Canonsburg. She discussed a denial to use Crawford Street as an access road. She asked Council to not sweep their concerns “under to rug” as North Strabane has.

3. Robert Tumble, 345 West Pike Street, Canonsburg, Pa addressed Council regarding a \$55 citation received while parked in the fire lane for two minutes at Keystone Hardware on March 6th, 2018. He provided a handout for review and reviewed the information. He stated he was approached by the Fire Inspector, Jason Brown, who issued the citation and explained the procedure for paying the fine. Mr. Tumble stated he felt a warning should have been issued as others have received verbal warnings when sitting in their car. Mr. Tumble asked the following questions: can a Fire Inspector issue a parking violation, can a tracker trailer park in the fire lane for hours unloading Keystone products be issued a fire lane violation and can trailer trucks in front of the City Mission and L&M Flower Shop be issued a citation by the Fire Inspector. He stated he would like his \$55 to be donated to the Canon McMillan School Lunch Program for under privileged children. Mr. Tumble said a violation should not be given for not being in a car for two minutes. Mr. Derrico said there have been concerns/complaints for a while, especially from Shop N Save. Therefore, an effort was started to enforce the code with warnings and then citations. Mr. Derrico said the Code Enforcement Officer; Troy Lucas issued the citation and not the Fire Inspector Jason Brown. Mr. Brown arrived after the citation was initiated. The Code Enforcement office has granted Keystone Hardware a loading/unloading zone. Keystone Hardware is to paint the area designated. Mr. Bell said both the Fire Inspector and Code Enforcement officer have the authority to issue citations. Mr. Bell said a warning may have been provided if the car was occupied.

He also said elected officials cannot interfere with Code Enforcement's job. A sign will be posted at the designated area. Further discussion that the property owner asked that the fire lane be designated for loading/unloading as well as asked the Borough to enforce it. Discussion held regarding the right to ask for a hearing in front of the magistrate. Mr. Derrico said it is no longer an issue as it has been taken care of. Mayor Rhome said the department is now doing what it was asked to do. Mr. Derrico said citizens didn't know of some of the ordinances or know there is now someone to enforce them. Mr. Derrico suggested sending a letter to merchants yearly to remind them of the building inspections. The cost of mailings is approximately \$165.00 ; Mr. Derrico and Mr. Chandler offered to cover the expense. Mr. Chandler said the community needs educated on the ordinances. Mayor Rhome stated every commercial business in town has been visited. Manpower to distribute the mailers ahead of time discussed. Mr. Brown said a mass mailing was completed when the process was first enacted. He then put the businesses into four groups and mailed a courtesy letter to the group when their inspection timeframe was due. Mr. Brown said a dozen businesses out of all the businesses are complaining. Ms. Lesnock suggested to first send a courtesy letter to those complaining instead of everyone. Mayor Rhome agreed .

A question from the public was asked about dropping off items at the City Mission. Mr. Bell said it is not a fire lane. A police officer has the choice to have the car moved or issue a ticket. Mr. Bell said the community is aware of parking for the City Mission and the town tries to work with them.

GUESTS:

None

President's Comments:

Mr. Bell thanked the Central Assembly of God Church for their dinner function for First Responders which provided a free dinner for 400 people. Mr. Bell said the church goes out of their way to provide a wonderful evening. Mr. Bell mentioned the guest speaker at the dinner who was a wounded military ranger in Somalia. Mr. Bell said it was a very nice event and again thanked the church.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Rhome reported on the following:

1. Police Report was included in the Board's package for review.
2. Parking Enforcement Report was included in the Board's package for review.
3. Mayor Rhome thanked the Central Assembly of God Church for the First Responders dinner.
4. Mayor Rhome thanked the guests in attendance at tonight's meeting.
5. February 21, 2018 was the annual Fire Chiefs meeting. The Fire Department and Western Pennsylvania Fire Chiefs extend a thank you for allowing the use of the quarters for their annual meeting.
6. Mayor Rhome mentioned the Resolution to be voted on asking citizens to vote in the special election for Congress. He stated to look at the candidates and facts when deciding.
7. August 11, 2018 is Paper Shredding from Iron City Shredding from 9:30 am to 11:30 am.
8. February 25, 2018 the Fire Department hosted Pet Search which vaccinated 300 animals. The program continues to grow. Pet Search would like to return twice a year due to the success of the program.
9. June 15, 2018 the Farmer's Market will begin at the Masonic Hall parking lot.
10. Mishap Report from Officer Eckles (tracker trailer trucks coming through town) From January 26, 2018 to February 20, 2018 there were 25 inspections consisting of a Level 1 and a Level 3. 18 citations were issued for the violations with 10 paid to date

without going through the courts.

10. Jesse James King passed away on April 16, 2016. A Canonsburg officer working with the DEA was successful with the conviction of Matthew David Adams for eight years.

11. Drug Take Back Program is April 28, 2018 from 10 am to 2 pm at Shop-N-Save. This is a successful program keeping drugs out of the water systems and landfills. Last year over 600 lbs. of drugs received.

12. Mayor Rhome stated the Fire Department has gone above and beyond assisting Canonsburg and Houston with flooding issues.

Chief Coghill discussed the following:

1. Chief Coghill and Sergeant Cross were asked by the Training Commission to take part in their curriculum development this year. It is six to seven days out of the year. Last year, they assisted with the development of the Ambush Curriculum. Mr. Bell mentioned last year Chief Coghill and Sergeant Cross participated in a mandatory training video for an active shooter. Mr. Bell said this was commendable of the Canonsburg Police Department. Council expressed their interest in viewing the video.

2. Chief Coghill spent the day with Israeli Special Forces who toured schools. They will begin training for active shooter and terrorists in schools. Chief Coghill said it was a privilege spending the day with them. Chief Coghill said they develop a training program and provide seven days to train. They have a grant writer to assist with federal money for the training. Mayor Rhome stated the Police Department will find the money for this program.

Engineer's Report:

Mr. Groom reported on the following:

1. Senior Center Roof replacement-work is scheduled for March 14, 2018 pending weather.

2. MS-4- the application was submitted March 6, 2018.

3. 2018 LSA Application- the Borough was awarded a LSA grant in the amount of \$44,000. KLH is working on designs for electrical upgrades.

Solicitor's Report:

No report.

Committee Reports:

1. **Administration and Finance:** Mrs. Coleman stated bills and invoices were reviewed with Ms. Lesnock 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. Chandler-Yes

Mr. Bell-Yes

7 Yes. 0 No. Motion Carries.

Mrs. Bails asked about the office for the Fire Inspector. Mrs. Bails asked why Council was not made aware and she asked where the money was coming from for the office. She stated she was asked by a

resident about the money to pay the salary and expenses for the Code Enforcement Officer and the Fire Inspector. Mrs. Bails said her response was that positions are in the budget. Discussion held regarding the Fire Inspector being in place for two years and why is it now being questioned. Mr. Brown's office was moved to an old storage room with only a couple hundred dollars spent for new carpeting and two boards for a wall. No new furniture was purchased. Mrs. Bails asked why the decision was made for his office. Mrs. Coleman stated the current space was not meant for 3 people in one office.

Mr. Bell suggested those questioning these positions and expenses can attend a Borough meeting to ask questions.

2. Code: No report.

3. Public Safety- February 2018 the Canonsburg Voluntary Fire Department consisted of 18 calls:

2 rescue EMS calls

2 hazardous calls

4 service calls

2 good intent

4 weather calls

4 test calls

There was an average of seven men per call spending an average of ninety minutes per call. Zero money lost damage.

Mrs. Coleman mentioned the street walk across from the Senior Citizen Center stating that area is very dark after daylight hours. There is a cross-walk light that is not being used. Mayor Rhome said extra illumination was added near the Brewery which was the darkest area of town. There will be a Phase 2 in the Spring. Discussion held regarding the Seniors at the Senior Center to use the cross-walk light button. Mayor Rhome will speak to the Senior Center. Mr. Lawrence will assess the area.

4. Public Works- Mr. McGarry thanked Mr. Lawrence and his department for their work.

5. Facilities-Mr. Bell stated the Senior Citizen Center state inspection showed concerns of peeling paint. The room at the Senior Center was painted. Mr. Bell said the Borough workers approved the work. Mayor Rhome discussed the free community service program established through the court system. The FITS program from Washington County jail was discussed. The free program utilizes non-violent criminals in work programs; the FITS program was used to paint the Police Station.

TownPark pool house roof was discussed. A few bids were received for the roof. Currently waiting for the Engineer's determination regarding the safety of the wall. Mr. Lawrence discussed the timing of bidding the wall repair as well as having time to repair the wall before the pool season. It was also discussed if the wall can be repaired after the season. Mr. Bell said a decision is needed on the wall as relating to the safety of the wall. This could hinder the pool opening this season.

6. Parks and Recreation:

Mrs. Bails reported on the following:

1. Park Board is waiting for the Engineer's determination regarding the wall at the pool house.

2. The Park Board is in the process of hiring a pool manager as well as hiring a Concession Stand Manager or renting the concession stand.

3. Replacing a slide with a new slide

4. Participation in the Easter Egg Hunt. The Park Board will be serving coffee and beverages at the Pavilion. The Easter Egg Hunt is at 10:00 am on March 31, 2018.

5. New signs will be posted soon.

6. The fencing around the Skate Board park has been removed.

7. There will be a guest speaker at the next Park Board meeting to discuss liability and waivers.

Mr. Chandler asked if there was a master plan for the park. Mrs. Bails said it will be revamped after the pool house has been addressed.

8. Mr. Severine discussed vandalism to a slide at the park. Mr. Lawrence stated the fencing from the skateboard park was taken down as well. Mr. Lawrence asked for the residents at the East End playground to report any suspicious activity to deter the vandalism.

7. Redevelopment: Mr. Chandler distributed a handout regarding the process for community assessment and the development of a five-year plan.

VOTING ITEMS:

1. Motion to approve February 12, 2018 meeting minutes of Canonsburg Borough Council.

Mrs. Bails made a motion to approve February 12, 2018 meeting minutes of Canonsburg Borough Council. Seconded by Mr. Chandler.

No questions on the motion.

All in favor. Motion Carries.

2. Motion to approve Ordinance #03-18 (A resolution calling upon all citizenry to become informed, become involved and vote in the special election for Congress in the 18th Congressional District.)

Mr. Chandler made a motion to approve Ordinance #03-18 (A resolution calling upon all citizenry to become informed, become involved and vote in the special election for Congress in the 18th Congressional District.) Seconded by Mrs. Coleman.

No questions on the motion.

All in favor. Motion Carries.

3. Motion to approve sponsoring a paper shredding event to be held in the Borough parking lot for 2 hours at a cost of \$450.00.

Mrs. Bails made a motion to approve sponsoring a paper shredding event to be held in the Borough parking lot for 2 hours at a cost of \$450.00. Seconded by Mr. McGarry.

No questions on the motion.

Roll Call:

Mr. Chandler-Yes

Mr. Severine-Yes

Mrs. Bails-Yes

Mr. McGarry-Yes

Mrs. Coleman-Yes

Mr. Bowman-Yes

Mr. Bell-Yes

7 Yes. 0 No. Motion Carries.

4. Motion to approve a letter of support to the Canonsburg Houston Sewer Authority.

Mr. McGarry made a motion to approve a letter of support to the Canonsburg Houston Sewer Authority. Seconded by Mrs. Coleman.

No questions on the motion.

All in favor. Motion Carries.

5. Motion to approve a 90-day trial period for one side parking on the south side of the 500 block of Chartiers Avenue.

Mr. Severine made a motion to approve a 90-day trial period for one side parking on the south side of the 500 block of Chartiers Avenue. Seconded by Mrs. Bails.

No questions on the motion.

All in favor. Motion Carries.

Mayor Rhome stated the motion was for public safety and begins April 2, 2018. Residents can come to a Council Meeting if they have questions or concerns. Residents can install parking pads according to

regulations; the Borough will work with residents for permits at no charge.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Park By-laws/Hiring a Pool Manager- 2 resumes have been received. Interviews will be arranged.
 2. Weight Limits Ordinance- on-going.
 3. 2018 Fee Schedule- Council members met today at 5:30 pm. Council will meet again at 5:30 pm at next month's Agenda Meeting.
 4. Ordinance review-will discuss at next month's Agenda Meeting.
- Discussion regarding focusing on several ordinances at a time. A committee will need to be formed to due the lengthy process of ordinance review.

NEW BUSINESS:

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

None

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. McGarry to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 pm. Seconded by Mrs. Bails.
All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Enclosures:

- A. Park Board Meeting Minutes of March 2, 2018.
- B. Year to Date Budget Report.

Submitted by: Michelle LoBello

