

Canonsburg Borough Council Meeting

Monday July 9, 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, KLH Engineer Ms. Veronica Bennett, Public Works Mr. Tom Lawrence and Mayor David Rhome.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

1. Doug McHenry, Canonsburg, addressed the Board. He first discussed pickle ball and the charitable donations made to the Armory (\$10,550 since their establishment) including raising \$3,700 in one day for their kitchen. Mr. McHenry stated his group worked hard to help the Dine Around the Pool event last year. He said the Pickle Ball group donated \$600 for a grand prize. He thought some of the proceeds from the event were going towards a Pickle Ball Court. He discussed an article he read in a magazine. He thanked those involved for removing a port a john in his neighborhood. He discussed Pickle Ball and stated Council needs to get involved. He stated his group has spent over \$1,700 without financial help from Council. They have the largest membership in the area. Sixty individuals have paid \$20 for membership. New members pay \$30. He said they are fortunate to have a parking lot in which they painted blue lines. Mr. McHenry discussed the record keeping for their group. They have raised \$11,100 towards their project. He stated the group is asking Council to designate a spot in the parking lot in the next budget. He stated he does not think the Friends of the Park or the Park Board should pay. He discussed the condition of the parking lot. He asked Council to meet with a group from pickle ball to discuss the project. He asked for an official bid to see who would be interested in helping the project. He again asked Council to pave the lot. He discussed neither the Park Board nor Canonsburg Borough can depend on grants for improvements. He stated he was frustrated Council has not taken any action to restore the lot or provide a piece of asphalt. He said if Council pays for the asphalt his group will pay for the fencing, nets and the pavilion. He said the Borough needs to invest in this project. Mr. Chandler asked if the old tennis court area can be used. Mr. McHenry said there are alternatives. Mr. Severine said a road was put in the lower ball field for parking. Discussion on the dimensions needed for Pickle Ball and the lot.

2. Juanita Ditullio, 229 Oak Alley, Canonsburg, Pa addressed Council regarding trees falling. This issue has been on-going for years. She sent a letter to the owner in August 2017 to address the trees. She stated the owner of Townview Health and Rehabilitation had an arborist assess the trees and would address the issue but has failed to do so. She stated the trees still have tags. Over the years trees have fallen on homes. She stated one year it took Townview 22 days to remove a dead tree that had fallen on a home. He confused her home for another. Ms. Ditullio discussed the curb at Townview which is not

raised and causing water to go over the hill and placing the homes in jeopardy. She stated her son's home has constant water. She stated this curb was broken when she viewed it in February of 2018. She stated the water is running from the Townview parking lot, going down the hill and washing out the driveway. She asked Council to approach the owner regarding these issues. She distributed copies of correspondence. She provided a map of the area. She contacted the Borough Manager. Mr. Bell said Mrs. Bails explained to him the situation. Mr. Bell said he spoke with the Borough recorder who works for Townview as well as left a message for the owner who has not returned his call. Mr. Bell also spoke to Mr. Lawrence who was not aware of water issues. Mr. Bell said this is a civil issue as trees are on Townview's property. Mr. Lawrence said the Borough of Canonsburg has done what is their responsibility as far as the curb. Mr. Bell said they want to help all they can. Mrs. Ditullio's son said he has walked to Townview to speak to the owner and gets the run around. Discussion regarding the curb on Townview's property. Mr. Bell said they cannot tell him what to do as it is private property. Mr. Derrico said the owner's concern is dead, dying trees as it is a liability issue. If it is a live tree, then it is an insurance issue. Mr. Derrico said the Borough is sympathetic, however, they cannot act. Mr. Bell will attempt to talk to the owner to be a good neighbor. Discussion of prior owner taking care of the trees. Mr. Bell said he will attempt to talk to the owner or visit him at Townview.

3. Bob McAdams, 136 East Pitt Street, Canonsburg Pa addressed Council regarding the new state firework law. He stated on the fourth of July 2018, his house and his neighbors "were under attack". He said the new law states fireworks cannot be set off within 150 feet of a home. He contacted the police and the officer spoke to the individual setting off the fireworks. He also said his yard and roof were covered in debris. He called the State Police, who indicated there is a \$100 fine; they will contact the Canonsburg Police regarding fines. Discussion held regarding the new law; there is no where in Canonsburg to set fireworks off and be safe. Mr. Bell asked for statistics and is waiting to receive the information. Mr. Bowman said an individual can be charged with Causing and Risking a Catastrophe. Further discussion regarding the previous law and the new current law. Now, the problem is fireworks can be set off anytime. Mr. Bell said Council cannot supersede the state. There is no time restriction per the new law. Mr. Bell said if fireworks are set off late in the night, the police can address the situation. Mr. Bell suggested state legislators be contacted. Individuals can call 911 if fireworks are set off after 10 pm.

4. Dan (last name not provided), Hawthorne Street, Canonsburg Pa addressed Council regarding trash pickup on Friday. Trash is set out prior to Friday and afterwards the cans are left out over the weekend. Pictures of Strawberry Alley after July 4, 2018 were shown to Council. Discussion the garbage is attracting pests. Mr. Bell said reminders of when to place trash receptacles out for trash pickup will be addressed. Discussion this is every week and not just for the July 4th holiday.

GUESTS:

1. Rich Russo with the Park Board provided an update:

1. Parks are doing well with very good crowds. The new pool director is doing very well. Mr. Russo thanked Council for their support.

2. Mr. Russo discussed a large tree that needs to be removed due to safety concerns at a cost of \$1,800. Mr. Russo discussed the issue with Mr. Lawrence and Ms. Lesnock. The pool house entrance will need to be shut down for the tree removal. Police presence was requested or cones near the entrance.

3. Sign project presented to Council. The project was discussed with Mr. Lawrence. Mr. Russo discussed cleaning up signage around the park that is out of date, blank due to age and duplicated signs. Goal is to consolidate signs. Handicap and speeding signs will not be changed. Public Works will be consulted.

4. Budget- On budget year to date.

5. Sound barrier curtain ordered due to a complaint regarding noise. Signage was added to the basketball court as well as not clearing vegetation to decrease noise. More frequent police presence was added as well. Only one complaint has been received.

6. Project list provided to Council with detailed information on projects per the request of Mr. Chandler.

7. Pool supplies purchased from Rolling Hills Country Club discussed, in particular, the lounge chairs. Some lounge chairs were disposed due to age and being beyond repair. Friends of the Park purchased the pool supplies.

8. Payment for the new roof at the pool house discussed. Mrs. Coleman had several questions for Jesse from the Friends of the Park.

-Friends of the Park-Mrs. Coleman asked who the members are of the Friends of the Park. Jesse stated this was started in the 1990's and started a 5013c corporation, to allow tax benefits, with the primary mission to enhance the Canonsburg Park. There are two official members: Missy Osterman, President and Jesse Treasurer.

-Dine Around the Pool- Mrs. Coleman stated tickets and information for this fundraiser was solely for the new roof. Mrs. Coleman discussed benefit monies and how they are distributed. She asked why the Friends of the Park only paid for half of the roof costs. Approximately \$22,000 was raised with \$10,000 going towards the roof. Mrs. Bails said the fundraiser was solely to pay for the roof over the woman's bathhouse; she stated committee members stated the Dine Around the Pool was for the new roof. Jesse said he heard rumors about the proceeds going towards the new roof, he researched advertisement and could not verify this. Mrs. Bails said the main project was the new roof and that is what the money was to be used for and was mentioned in booklets/advertisements. Grants discussed that were denied. Mr. Russo said Friends of the Park is the "host" of fundraisers due to their 5013c status. Mr. Russo stated discussions were held last year with Friends of the Park regarding the new roof and the wall of the main building. The roof was repaired and paid under the General Fund of the Park Board. Ms. Lesnock said it was in the meeting minutes that it did not have anything to do with the Borough account and the arrangement was for payment to come from Dine Around the Pool and Friends of the Park. Further discussion regarding the budget line item the payment was made from. Mr. Russo said the Park Board had never formerly provided the Friends of the Park a request for the money for the new roof. Some of the Park Board members did recall the conversation regarding the allocation of fundraising monies to the new roof; others of the Park Board did not. Friends of the Park do not pay for capital projects. Mr. Russo stated it was the fault of the Park Board for not formerly making the Friends of the Park aware of the request. A compromise was made with the Friends of Park to pay half of the new roof. The Park Board paid \$12,000 and still remains in budget. Friends of the Park paid \$10,000. Mr. Russo said the relationship with Friends of the Park is good and provide money for many items. Mrs. Coleman said it is 100% wrong. Jesse said he never heard of the money going to the roof. He said the firm policy is to put the request in writing and in this particular case there is nothing in writing. In spirit of cooperation, they agreed to pay half of the new roof. Mrs. Coleman said it is Borough money because people believed the fundraiser was for a new roof. Mr. Bell said they are working for the same goal and it can be worked out. Mr. Russo said the program and solicitation information listed several projects and not just the roof. Mr. Chandler asked the process for fundraisers and requests for money. Jesse discussed various fundraisers and stated a written request is needed. Mr. Bell said he can understand the confusion after reviewing the advertising and prior Canonsburg minutes, especially a comment from Mr. Russo stating enough money was raised for a new roof. He further said it can be worked out easily. Mr. Russo said the fault in advertising was the fault of the Park Board. Mr. Russo said the other half of the roof came out of the Park Board budget in which this account is not over budget. Mr. Bell said the confusion is unfortunate and the Friends of the Park do good. Mr. Bell said Mrs. Coleman oversees

finance and is responsible to explain expenditures. Mr. Chandler said communication is key. Mr. Russo discussed a grant applied for which clearly states what the monies will be used for; the money, if the grant is approved, will go to the Friends of the Park.

-Mrs. Coleman said Council was to receive an accounting of what is in the Friends of the Park account. Mr. Russo said the information is online and is taxed filed information.

2. Leslie, Coordinator of Adult Programs with the Frank Sarris Public Library discussed summer adult programs:

1. Summer Reading Challenge for Adults. A ticket is given for every book checked out for a weekly drawing. The Summer Reading Challenge is until early August.
2. July 26, 2018 Frick Pittsburgh is bringing the Armchair Tour of Clayton, free of charge from 6 pm to 7 pm. Brings the museum to the library.
3. Fiction Book Club meeting July 11, 2018. New members welcomed.
4. Non-Fiction Book Club meeting July 16, 2018 at 2 pm. New members welcomed.
5. Evening Fiction and Non-Fiction Book Clubs have been requested and may be a possibility if enough requests are received.

President's Comments:

Mr. Bell stated he understands people's frustrations. However, there are few residents that want to be on Council because they are "shot at" and they cannot defend themselves. Mr. Bell said all of Council does their best and if they had money the Borough would have pickle ball courts and parking lots. Mr. Bell encouraged those interested to run next election. Mr. Bell said they try to not raise taxes and Council does not avoid issues. He discussed a road collapsing on College Street and the \$80,000 to repair.

Mr. Bell recognized the two Boy Scouts in attendance at the meeting.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Rhome reported on the following:

1. The monthly Police and Parking Department reports provided to Council. The police department patrolled 5,000 miles in the Borough, 48 parking tickets issued, 36 warnings, 30 court trips, 537 911 emergencies.
2. The deplorable condition of Morgan Street discussed.
3. 90-day extension on the north side parking on Chartiers Avenue requested. Mr. Lawrence is active in the situation. Residents will be made aware of the extension.
4. Highland Avenue issue. Mayor Rhome has visited many times. The car has only been seen parking one time in the last couple weeks per police monitoring. At this point, not sure of individuals residence. This will continue to be monitored.
5. Continue work on parking issues on McEwen and Glenn Street. The police and Mayor have visited the area. Per the police, everyone is parked legal.
6. June 13, 2018, the Mayor received a letter from the DEA regarding Officer Chuck Tenney, who was instrumental in the arrest of a drug dealer with a sentence of 29 years.
7. Fourth of July was a wonderful success. A lot of hard work between the police department, ambulance, fire, Mayor's Office, Public Works, Chamber of Commerce and the Fourth of July Committee. Only 1 medical issue due to heat exhaustion reported.
8. August 11, 2018, the Borough Building will have the Paper Shredding Event. Two boxes per car. Time is 9:30 am to 11:30 am.
9. New Business Grand Openings:
 1. Beauty Shop at 16 West Pike Street

2. Arcadia Place Apartments-Mayor Rhome said this was something he thought he never would see in his lifetime. This building was the old School of Nursing Building at Townview Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. Renovations from top to bottom. Mayor Rhome said it is “one beautiful place.” Mayor Rhome encouraged individuals to view.

3. Fix UR Cats on West Pike Street.

10. Community service monitoring – 56 hours community service for the month of June

11. Canonsburg United Presbyterian Scouts volunteered preparing for the fourth of July.

12. Camp Splash- The police and fire department are involved in programs.

13. New Light Church on Belmont Avenue provided many volunteers for mulching and weeding.

14. Promise Lane-requesting a stop sign facing South only.

15. On the voting agenda to sell the components of the automatic license plate reader system to Castle Shannon Borough for \$1,500. There were no costs to purchase originally.

16. Part Time Police Officer Mike Blair has resigned. Will continue to search for a part-time officer.

17. Sergeant Cross completed certification in operating a police motorcycle. It was a two-week class.

18. October 2018 Symtec Training. The Mayor would like to host again.

19. Chief Coghill and Sergeant Cochran attended training on Mass Events.

20. Executive Session requested.

Mr. Severine asked about a dental business on McEwen as the usage of the building has changed. There are 10-15 cars parked in that area. Mr. Severine stated the business came in after Canonsburg Code changed. Code to review.

Engineer's Report:

Mrs. Bennett reported on the following:

1. Senior Center Electrical Upgrades- Ads to be provided to Ms. Lesnock. Goal is to open bids prior to next month's meeting.

2. College Street-after reviewing costs, there is nothing to reduce costs. Clean-up and repairs are most of costs. An option is a base bid on the main repairs such as removing debris and sealing the sides of the stonework. Alternates can be added to the bid. Estimated cost is \$80,000. Ms. Bennett will research LSA grants for sidewalks. Mr. Lawrence said it must be addressed and stabilized now.

Ms. Lesnock asked about the alternate option with the water issue with the Pizza shops. Mr. Derrico said it worked.

Solicitor's Report:

1. Juniper Alley, paper Alley, each neighbor will claim 500 feet. Deed prepared; Council to sign off on quick claim deed. This has been done previously. Mr. Derrico stated it is appropriate.

Mr. Severine asked about the Landlord Meeting. Mr. Derrico sent letters to the owners using the list Mr. Severine provided. Half of the owners contacted him and most indicated they have off street parking for their tenants. They stated they will speak to their tenants to use the parking. Mr. Derrico said some of the conversions were done many years ago and some purchased the property after it was converted. Mr. Severine said if current owners would sell they will sell as a single use residence. Mr. Derrico has met with five owners and has a meeting scheduled with a sixth owner. Mr. Derrico said they have been pleasant and cooperative. Mr. Severine said tenants have asked their landlord for gravel on grass parking. Discussion regarding using old millings to assist with the parking issue.

Mr. Severine inquired about Fios lines from a year ago. Mr. Chandler said there is legislation for

municipalities to have WiFi access. Mr. Derrico said there has not been any further action.

Mr. Bell discussed a letter from Coen regarding a request for towers from companies. A Borough can lose control of rights. Mr. Derrico to review. Mr. Bell said Council is not in favor of towers being installed without their control. Mr. Derrico to write a letter to legislators stating Council is not in favor.

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. Bails 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. Chandler-Yes

Mr. Bell-Yes

7 Yes. 0 No. Motion Carries.

2. **Code:** Mr. Severine reported on the following:

1. Permit request from a business to purchase a parking spot in the library lot. The owner would like two designated parking spots. Mr. Lawrence said the size of the trucks being parked should be considered.

2. A shack that someone wants to convert to a catering business was discussed. Mr. Severine asked if it is a vendor status or a business. This will go through the Zoning Hearing Board and Planning Commission.

3. **Public Safety-** June 2018 the Canonsburg Voluntary Fire Department responded to 17 calls consisting of:

2 Rescue/EMS

7 Hazardous Conditions

1 Good Intent

1 Service Call

3 False Alarms

2 Fire

1 Weather related call.

There was an average of six men per call spending an average of 22 minutes per call. Zero-dollar loss in property damages. The Major Report highlighting 125 calls year to date was provided to Council.

Mrs. Bails discussed grass cutting businesses that have trailers. She suggested the businesses use orange cones when parking. Mayor Rhome to discuss with Chief Coghill.

4. **Public Works-** The Fire Department Report provided to Council.

Mr. Lawrence provided a street update:

Jefferson and Glenn Avenue are complete. Allocations for 2016 are complete.

Smithfield Street is in process. Water Company working on the street. Mrs. Bails said things are a

“mess”. Mrs. Bails asked if sidewalks and curbs will be done. Mr. Lawrence said the Gas Company

must do the one side. The Borough will do the rest. Mrs. Bails asked about her street. Mr. Lawrence said it is the Gas Company and Water Company's responsibility to repair the street; they will be completed first. Several streets discussed such as East Pitt and McGowen. No idea when Central will be done. Mr. Lawrence suggested Council write representatives requesting a completion date. This road is a state road. Ms. Lesnock will send letters to Senator and Representatives. Ms. Lesnock did contact Penn DOT.

5. Facilities- Mr. Bell said all buildings are working well and the park was discussed.

6. Parks and Recreation:

Mrs. Bails reported on the following:

1. 1,200 people utilized the pool on July 4, 2018. The Fourth of July Committee paid for admittance.
2. New filtration system is being paid for by the revenue of the swim lessons.
3. The pool director is doing a good job.
4. Concerts going well, 300 people at July's concert.
5. Concession stand is going well.

Mayor Rhome stated there is extra police presence at the pool due to being very busy.

7. Redevelopment- Mr. Chandler announced the first Community Conversation July 12, 2018 at the Sarris Library from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. The theme is, "Getting to Know your local government." The goal is to introduce Council and what ward residents reside. An overview of the agenda was provided to Council for review.

VOTING ITEMS:

1. Motion to approve June 11, 2018 meeting minutes of Canonsburg Borough Council.

Mrs. Bails made a motion to approve June 11, 2018 meeting minutes of Canonsburg Borough Council.

Seconded by Mr. Chandler.

No questions on the motion.

All in favor. Motion Carries.

2. Motion to sell the components of the automatic license plate reader system to Castle Shannon Borough for \$1,500.

Mr. McGarry made a motion to sell the components of the automatic license plate reader system to Castle Shannon Borough for \$1,500. Seconded by Mrs. Bails.

No questions on the motion.

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.

3. Motion to release and quick-claim a portion of a "paper alley" Juniper Alley adjoining Lot 41 of the McNary Addition #2 of Randy and Rose Sochor.

Mrs. Bails made a motion to release and quick-claim a portion of a "paper alley" Juniper Alley adjoining Lot 41 of the McNary Addition #2 of Randy and Rose Sochor. Seconded by Mr. McGarry.

No questions on the motion.

All in favor. Motion Carries.

4. Promise Lane stop sign tabled.

Discussion held regarding the process for a stop sign. Ms. Bennett stated a traffic study is needed.

Mr. Lawrence discussed the following:

1. Council to establish I & I plan. Sanitary lines need addressed.
2. Road projects plan for 2019 needs established. Morgan Street, Arlington and Four Coins discussed. Ms. Bennett discussed a Road Botics program that takes a video of all streets and transfers to a video program. Ms. Bennett to obtain pricing.
3. Tractor for cutting weeds is 30 years old and need to bid for a new tractor.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Park By-laws- Committee to meet again.
2. Weight Limits Ordinance-The committee continues to review.
3. 2018 Fee Schedule- The committee continues review.
4. Ordinance Review-The committee continues to review.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Establish a policy to prohibit individual elected officials or employees from contacting our outsourced professionals (e.g. Building Inspector, Engineer, Solicitor or Labor Attorney) without contacting the President of Council or the Borough Manager. Mr. Bell said some elected officials were contacting professionals in which a bill is generated that was not Council approved. Mr. Bell said the process is to contact the Borough Manager first, if Ms. Lesnock is not available then contact Mr. Bell. Mr. Chandler mentioned that a Code of Conduct for Council should be established.
2. Mr. Bowman is a member of the Pension Committee.
3. Council to attend the North Strabane Board Meeting of July 17, 2018.
4. Mr. Severine stated Cricket Store moving to Pike Street.
5. Chartiers Cleaners sold and will open as Interior Design business. The building will be remodeled.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Executive Session held from 9:10 pm-10:51 pm

Motion to raise wages of the Camp Splash Counselors: high school age and/or first year counselor will make \$8.25 hour all other counselors will make \$9.00 hour for the remainder of the camp 2018.

Mrs. Bails made a motion to raise wages of the Camp Splash Counselors: high school age and/or first year counselor will make \$8.25 hour all other counselors will make \$9.00 hour for the remainder of the camp 2018. 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. Chandler-Yes

Mr. Bell-Yes

7 Yes. 0 No. Motion Carries.

Motion to pay Cheryl Fee's health insurance premiums until Dennis Fee reaches the age of 65 years old.

Mr. Severine made a motion to pay Cheryl Fee's health insurance premiums until Dennis Fee reaches the age of 65 years old. Seconded by Mrs. Bails.

No questions on the motion.

Roll Call:

Mr. Bowman-No

Mrs. Coleman-No

Mr. McGarry-Yes

Mrs. Bails-No

Mr. Severine-No

Mr. Chandler-Yes

Mr. Bell-No

2 Yes. 5 No. Motion Failed.

Discussion that this was a difficult vote.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Mr. McGarry to adjourn the meeting at 11:03 pm. Seconded by Mrs. Bails.

All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 11:03 pm.

Enclosures:

A. Planning Commission Meeting Minutes of June 6, 2018.

B. Year to Date Budget Report.

