

Canonsburg Borough Council Meeting

Monday, January 13th, 2019

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. Edward P. Yorke- Present

Mr. Richard Russo- Present

Mr. Harold Bowman - Present

Mr. Richard Bell, President - Present

Others Present: Borough Manager Denise Lesnock, KLH Engineer Veronica Bennett, Solicitor Joseph Dalfonso, Public Works Director Tom Lawrence and Police Chief Alex Coghill

Absent: Mayor David Rhome

GUESTS:

None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

1. Cassie Mamula of 227 South Jefferson Avenue approached the podium to explain a problem with water entering the basement of her home when it rains that began when the handicap curbs were installed in the Borough. Ms. Mamula explained she has lived in the home for 29 years and it was never an issue until the curbs were put in and that her father had already installed a french drain. There has since been a water main break and the carpets in the basement had to be pulled. Mr. Bell

asked Mr. Lawrence to check on this issue and report to Ms. Lesnock. Ms. Lesnock took Ms. Mamula's information to get in touch with her after research was done.

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS:

Mr. Bell reported that there will be two meetings on January 16th about the zoning ordinance and the new pool house. Mr. Bell stated that he would like to have a meeting regarding sewer tap procedures that includes Mr. Russo, Mr. Yorke, Mr. Chandler and Ms. Bennett. Mr. Russo asked that Ms. Deater from the Sewer Authority also be invited. Mr. Bell asked Mr. Dalfonso about setting up a meeting with the Houston Borough about a few sewer issues.

Mr. Bell announced to the audience that Mayor Rhome's mother had passed away and sent his condolences to the family.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Rhome was absent from the meeting.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Ms. Bennett reported on the following:

1. Zoning ordinance meeting will be held on January 16th and Ms. Bennett has been working with Mackin on the Subdivision and Land Development ordinance and should have a rough draft to present within the next month.
2. Mr. Dalfonso is looking over the street opening ordinance and would like for a vote to be made to advertise it. The ordinance will set forth stricter guidelines on utilities to make sure the roads are paved correctly after work has been done and funds will have to be paid upfront in case the work is unfinished. Ms. Bennett stated that she will send the ordinance to the new councilmen to look over. Mr. Russo then asked if the new ordinance was more restrictive or less restrictive than other communities to which Ms. Bennett answered that it was in line with other communities and that five other communities that KLH Engineers has worked with have the same ordinance. Ms. Bennett then

explained that the current process would change and no longer be done completely in the borough office.

3. UP Church parking lot - Ms. Bennett sent an inspector to the lot and it was observed that the lot is beginning to break down in sections, it has been reported to Independent who did the paving work. The areas will have to be milled and paved again which won't be possible until sometime in the spring months, the retainage has not been released and the contract is still open.
4. Pool House meeting will be held on January 16th.
5. Ridge Avenue - With the stricter street opening ordinance, Ms. Bennett stated she hopes that PA Water Company will come forward to help monetarily with the curb issues on Ridge Avenue. Mr. Severine stated that he noticed that at the entrance of the UP church, there has been a lot of water laying and not draining.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Dalfonso reported on the following:

1. The Borough closed on the Eagle's property in December.
2. The parking lot on Jefferson Avenue was still owned by the Redevelopment Authority and was supposed to be transferred to the Borough in 1988 but the documentation was never finalized, it has now been taken care of.
3. Interviews we held with custodians for the pension plans, the pension board has a recommendation to be voted on tonight.
4. Working with Josh Smith, code enforcement officer, regarding ordinances.
5. Zoning ordinance updates.
6. Police intern policy for Chief Coghill
7. Letter was sent to the Trovato family regarding Little Joe's Market property.
8. Executive session needed to discuss litigation.

Mr. Russo asked that at the last meeting he had left two questions with the colleague that filled in for Mr. Dalfonso to which he replied that it would be best to answer both in executive session.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. **Administration and Finance:** Mrs. Bails stated she reviewed bills and invoices with Ms. Lesnock and approves paying the bills.

Motion to approve Canonsburg Borough bills.

Mrs. Bails made a motion to pay the bills. Seconded by Mr. Yorke

No questions on the motion.

Roll Call:

Mr. Bowman-Yes

Mr. Yorke - Yes

Mr. Russo - Yes

Mrs. Bails-Yes

Mr. Severine- Yes

Mr. Chandler-Yes

Mr. Bell-Yes

7 Yes. 0 No. 0 Absent. Motion Carries.

2. **Code** - Mr. Severine stated that code officer, Josh Smith, would like to switch vehicles with Tom Lawrence and asked if a vote was needed to do so. Ms. Lesnock explained that it had been discussed and that everyone agrees on it and there would be no issue. Mr. Severine presented the code enforcement report of December 2019 and explained that Mr. Smith has been cleaning up the town. Mr. Bell stated how impressed he has been by the work Mr. Smith has done since taking the position.

Black Alley - Behind the new Washington Hospital doctor's office. There have been white arrows painted on the road making the alley one way but the Borough did not paint the arrows or give the approval for anyone to do so and there is not a "one way" sign. Mr. Lawrence explained that he believes the contractors painted the arrows during construction and were not removed. Mr. Chandler suggested that the arrows be removed.

Meadow Lane - There have been issues of speeding and there are no speed limit signs posted. Mr. Lawrence explained that there is a portion of the road that has not been adopted and it will not be adopted until the

contractor returns to fix the road.

Amazon Deliveries - Amazon drivers parking on the street to make deliveries and blocking traffic. Chief Coghill suggested contacting Amazon.

Water Street - Mr. Severine asked Mr. Lawrence to explain the issue with the water issue on Water Street, Mr. Lawrence stated that Josh Smith contacted the property owners to ask them if the Borough could install a temporary system on their building to redirect water from their downspouts to see if it would alleviate issues with flooding for a business at the end of the road. The property owners said that they would not allow it unless the Borough signed something stating they were liable if any issues arose. Mr. Lawrence suggested the Borough not move forward with the temporary fix. Mr. Severine stated that the owner of the business will have to find a solution to drain the water in the basement. Mr. Chandler reiterated that the Borough will not do the temporary pipe system.

Mr. Russo asked what the process was to turn in a complaint to Code Enforcement, Mr. Severine passed the question to Ms. Lesnock who explained that there was a form to fill out and return to the code office.

3. Public Works- Mr. Bowman did not have a report.

4. Public Safety- Mr. Bowman reported the following:

The Canonsburg Volunteer Fire Department in the month of December 2019 responded to 13 calls consisting of:

1 Hazardous Condition Calls

2 Good Intent Calls

5 Service Calls

3 False Alarms

2 Rescue Call

Average 9 firefighters per call, 34 minutes per call. \$0 in damage.

5. Facilities- Mr. Bell reported that the meeting for the pool building is scheduled and that discussion has to be held about the two properties that the Borough recently acquired. Mr. Bell explained that the property on Greenside Avenue has not been completed due to the Redevelopment Authority's demolition process being held up but it should be scheduled soon.

6. Parks and Recreation - Mrs. Bails reported on the following:

1. January Park Meeting - The bid for the new pavilion was awarded to Excalibur Construction, the materials have been ordered. Construction should begin in a couple months once everything needed is signed.
2. 2020 Projects - Cleaning of pool slide, insulation of skate park, new east end park equipment, pool PA system, new pool robot vacuum, BPW pavilion has been taken down by Public Works, paving pool driveway, remove dead trees, new signage, paint Crosby House.
3. Mr. Russo stated that Pool Manager, Adam Manion, will return for the 2020 season and will take his chemical test in February.

Mr. Chandler asked about moving the skate park, Ms. Bails said that it had been discussed but it's not currently a priority and that residents have been more welcoming to it.

Discussion was held about the cameras in the park.

7. Re-Development:

Mr. Chandler stated nothing to report at this time. Mr. Russo asked Mr. Chandler to meet and get updated on redevelopment at a later time.

8. Sewer Authority:

Mr. Bell explained that there has not been a sewer authority committee for quite some time but that Mr. Yorke and Mr. Chandler will now head the committee. Mr. Chandler said that he had nothing to report but would get in contact with Mr. Yorke.

VOTING ITEMS:

1. Motion to approve the December 9th, 2019 meeting minutes of Canonsburg Borough Council Meeting.

Mr. Chandler made a motion to approve the December 9th, 2019 meeting minutes of Canonsburg Council Meeting. Seconded by Mrs. Bails.

No questions on the motion.

7 Yes. 0 No. 0 Absent. Motion Carries.

2. Motion to approve Resolution #01-2020 (Resolution for Plan Revision for new land development at Bluff Avenue, Lot 9 Duplex).

Mr. Russo made a motion to approve Resolution #01-2020 (Resolution for Plan Revision for new land development at Bluff Avenue, Lot 9 Duplex). Seconded by Mr. Yorke.

Mr. Russo asked if this was regarding the duplex owned by Mr. Derrico and asked to verify that taps were not purchased before the building was constructed. Mr. Russo inquired if everything needed is in place before the Borough signed off and asked where in the process is it stated how many taps are needed. Ms. Bennett explained that a planning module was skipped during this process but that a planning module does not issue sewer taps but allocates capacity and that sewage is the responsibility of the municipality - the authority signs off on the treatment and the borough signs off on the conveyance and once DEP approves the module, then sewer taps can be acquired. Mr. Russo asked who determines how many taps are needed to which Ms. Bennett explained that DEP has guidelines for how many taps are needed based off of EDUs. Mr. Yorke asked if the building currently has no sewage hooked up and no occupants to which Ms. Bennett agreed.

7 Yes. 0 No. 0 Absent. Motion Carries.

3. Motion to approve the pension board's recommendation to transfer pension services for the Police and Non-Uniform Pension plans to Girard.

Mrs. Bails made a motion to approve the pension board's recommendation to transfer pension services for the Police and Non-Uniform Pension plans to Girard. Seconded by Mr. Bowman.

No question on the motion.

Roll Call:

Mr. Bowman-Yes

Mr. Yorke - Yes

Mr. Russo - Yes

Mrs. Bails-Yes

Mr. Severine- Yes

Mr. Chandler-Yes

Mr. Bell-Yes

7 Yes. 0 No. 0 Absent. Motion Carries.

4. Motion to advertise for a new Public Works employee.

Mr. Yorke made a motion to advertise for a new public works employee. Seconded by Mr. Bowman.

No question on the motion.

Roll Call:

Mr. Bowman-Yes

Mr. Yorke - Yes

Mr. Russo - Yes

Mrs. Bails-Yes

Mr. Severine- Yes

Mr. Chandler-Yes

Mr. Bell-Yes

7 Yes. 0 No. 0 Absent. Motion Carries.

5. Motion to approve renewing the Borough Manager's Contract.

Mr. Bowman made a motion to approve renewing the Borough Manager's contract. Seconded by Mr. Russo.

Mr. Russo stated he didn't have time to review the contract, that he would like to have a workshop on it and table the vote until next month or he could ask the questions now. Mr. Bell explained that it has been past practice for the borough managers to have a contract and has to be revoted on every reorganization year (every two years) based on the Borough Code. Mr. Russo explained that council had not had the opportunity to discuss the details of the contract prior to the meeting. Mr. Bell asked if this was better suited to be discussed in executive session to which Mr. Dalfonso agreed.

Tabled.

6. Motion to reappoint Robert Luksis to the Sewer Authority.

Mr. Severine made a motion to reappoint Robert Luksis to the Sewer Authority. Seconded by Mr. Chandler.

No questions on the motion.

7 Yes. 0 No. 0 Absent. Motion Carries.

7. Motion to reappoint Lou Gadani to the Park Board.

Mr. Yorke made a motion to reappoint Lou Gadani to the Park Board. Seconded by Mrs. Bails.

No questions on the motion.

7 Yes. 0 No. 0 Absent. Motion Carries.

Mrs. Bails discussed that people were soliciting door to door about utility suppliers on Sunday afternoon, Mrs. Bails explained that she asked to see a permit from the Borough and the solicitor stated that a permit was issued to her boss, she then checked with the borough office who told her a permit was not issued. Mrs. Bails discussed making badges for solicitors who receive a permit from the Borough and that signs were installed in the borough stating no solicitation could be done with a permit. From the audience, Mr. Roman stated that the signs were confusing and that it reads “No Solicitation Permit Required” and does not include needed punctuation. Ms. Lesnock presented a copy of a solicitation policy that is handled to those who acquire a permit, if someone can not show a permit from the borough they should call 911. Mr. Dalfonso suggested that the borough office provide a list to the police department of those who have permits, Chief Coghill said the police department are in the dark when it comes to solicitation.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Town Park pool house meeting scheduled for January 16th.
2. Zoning map revision meeting scheduled for January 16th
3. Solicitor is sending a letter about flooding issues to the owners of Little Joe’s Market.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Mr. Chandler inquired about getting involved with the Junior Council Person Program and passed out literature explaining the program. Mr. Chandler stated the last comprehensive plan was done in 2005 with Cecil and suggests that it be updated.
2. Mr. Russo inquired about the trash issues in the Borough and asked why the complaints went to County Hauling and not to the Borough office. Mr. Russo suggested that the borough office begin to take the complaints so that council can gauge how the company is doing. Ms. Lesnock stated that Mr. Russo is invited to come to the next meeting with County Hauling to discuss and problems and possible solutions to the trash pickup issues. Mr. Bell explained that County Hauling is a new company and has recently hired a woman to do community development, purchased a system to install on the garbage trucks to record the streets and track pick up problems and has a lot of employee turnover. Multiple discussions were held. Mr. Chandler asked if something could be done with their performance bond. Mr. Russo stated that before anything is done with their bond, the complaints need to be tracked by the borough office so that their performance can be gauged in house. Mr. Bell explained that he believes the issue is that County Hauling is a new company and the business grew too fast. A meeting will be scheduled with County Hauling.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Executive Session held from 7:56 pm to 8:54 pm.

Motion to approve renewing the Borough Manager's contract.

Earlier in the meeting: Mr. Bowman made a motion to approve renewing the Borough Manager's contract.

Seconded by Mr, Russo.

Roll Call:

Mr. Bowman-Yes

Mr. Yorke - Yes

Mr. Russo - Yes

Mrs. Bails-Yes

Mr. Severine- Yes

Mr. Chandler-Yes

Mr. Bell-Yes

7 Yes. 0 No. 0 Absent. Motion Carries.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Mrs. Bails to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 pm. Seconded by Mr. Yorke.

All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Submitted by:

Callie Munch