

## **Canonsburg Borough Council Special Voting Meeting**

Monday, January 24, 2022

6:30 PM

### **CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Chandler at 6:32 pm.

**Moment of Silence** called by Mr. Chandler.

### **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, Mayor David Rhome, Solicitor Joseph Dalfonso, Public Works Director Tom Lawrence, Deputy Chief Donald Cross, Engineer, Jeff Marcink.

**Absent:** Police Chief Alex Coghill

### **GUESTS:**

Scott Weightlovich, Government Public Affairs Manager for Columbia Gas introduced DJ Jarvey who is leading the project, and Mariah Wise who is the engineer planning the project. Scott handed out two maps and two facts sheets to the members of council. One was for Pitt St and the other was for Smith St. Mariah explained the scope of each project was highlighted in yellow on each sheet. She explained the first project is Smith St a little of Pike St. The Pitt St project is from Tannehill to Jefferson and also covering Greenside, Central and some activity on Craighead St. The maps and facts sheets indicate what all is involved with the projects. All main lines and customer service lines that are capped off at the main lines will be replaced. Scott advised this is a significant customer benefit for everyone because customer

will get a new main and a new service line and don't have to worry about it. For those folks that have meters indoors, per PUC regulations/guidelines they have to go into each home and have the meters moved outside. We will work with those customers who don't like the fact that the meters will be moved to the outside and make sure they are placed in a suitable location.

Jeff Marcink, KLH Engineering confirmed the lines are being replaced all the way through to the meters and DJ stated yes and the meters will be moved outside. Mrs. Bails then advised Columbia Gas has done her lines 3 times and asked if they were going to dig this back up again. Scott asked Mrs. Bails to explain, and she described all that was done.

Mrs. Bails then wanted to know if Columbia Gas was going to dig up the sidewalk again from McKnown halfway down Pitt St. Mariah advised she was not sure, but they can look into what was already done there to see if it needed to be dug up again. Scott took Mrs. Bails address and advised they will look further into this and get back to her.

Mr. Severine asked if Columbia Gas and PA American Water were going to do the same streets at the same time. Mr. Chandler advised PA American Water will be attending the meeting right after Columbia Gas so that question can be asked when they arrive. DJ advised his understanding is that on College St, where the water company is working right now is part of a bigger project with the borough. Columbia Gas is coordinating with the Borough and the Water Company, and we are doing the bigger projects, but it was moved up to at least try and do a street or two in correlation with PA American Water. Mr. Severine then asked which company is going to repave the road. Mr. Lawrence stated at this time the only project that is being jointly worked on is College St. and that is because the gas company was asked to come in at the same time the water company was and the borough already allocated the money for the restoration on College St. Mr. Lawrence went on to say there is a real good chance the gas company will replace whatever they used and wherever they dug, and they will do curb to curb and do the restoration.

Mr. Lawrence asked DJ if the main gas lines were being replaced in each street. DJ

advised they are changing pressures. They are taking it from a low-pressure system to a medium-pressure system to allow us to have smaller pipelines to feed more customers for a more reliable source for the customers. Because of how big the project is, there is different piping. There is steel, coated steel and different types of plastics. Some of these will be full replacements, some of the plastics lines that were installed will need to be evaluated and make sure that it meets the standards for today. There is the potential for them to be taken out and then re-qualify it. Because we have a bigger project, it gives us the availability to flex, and bend based on school requirements and what the water company is doing and take advantage of the opportunities that are presented. It is going to be a very fluid replacement program that is going to require a lot of communication.

Mr. Chandler commented that is it mainly the communication piece of it. It is just to give residents a heads up as to what is going on. What have you guys done in terms of communication? Scott explained they have already sent customer letters at the end of December to all customers for both of these projects. If we had email addresses, we sent emails as well. In addition, on the ground, we will hang door cards, as far as no parking signage, we will yield to your expertise. If there is something that works better than just a cone, please let us know because the last thing we want is to have a vehicle towed. DJ went on to explain as they start systematically working through this, our coordinators and our contractors will start door tagging. As far as the no parking goes, this is typically handled by the municipality/township basis. We found using a cone is the best because people see them, but we will work with you. It is going to be a challenge that we will have to work through. Everyone has been notified by a letter that has been mailed as well as an email, we will door tag when we do the main line work. As we work the project we will continue to door tag as we go, and then when the service crew switches in we will door tag and business card with another coordinator and the contractors will start touching base with the customers so we can begin scheduling service replacement because typically we do all of that in the same day. We will take the customer out of service, replace the service and then re-light all of the appliances and to do that we need to get into the home. Scott confirmed they will set up all the appointments and if someone is on vacation, we will make those arrangements to get them back into service. We are entering the homes, we are doing safety checks, we will check all

gas appliances and interior lines to make sure everything is operating properly. If we do find an issue like something wrong with the hot water tank or the dryer, we will red tag it and it will be the customers responsibility to fix that appliance if they find an issue but other safety issues that are on our side we will take care of when we do the safety checks. DJ clarified anytime we are doing work on the inside of a customer's home, we go in and do a preliminary investigation, as long as the customer has given us access to the home. We trace out all the lines, cycle all the appliances so we can identify any issues up front. If it is something simple and we are in a position to fix it then we do that, but we are regulated by the PUC so at some point, if it's an unsafe situation, and outside the scope for us to handle then we have to red tag it but 99% of that is found out up front. We have had cases where imposters have posed as utility workers, so all of our contractors and employees carry ID badges, we encourage folks to ask for identification. They will sit and wait for a customer to call our call center to verify they do work there so the imposters usually leave when they get questioned.

Mr. Severine asked if both projects are going to be worked at the same time and Columbia Gas advised not in the beginning but at some point they could be.

Mr. Lawrence asked that a copy of the letter that was sent to the residents be given to the borough manager. Also, make the work zones realistic. Don't block off a block and a half but you're only working on a portion of that.

Mr. Russo thanked Columbia Gas representatives for coming to the meeting. Mr. Russo then advised there was money designated by the borough, Columbia Gas and PA American Water for paving, so he asked if Columbia Gas is able to move the money they have designated to pave E. College St. to another street since the borough is already going to be paving E. College St. For example, if you dig up a street but don't have to pave it because the borough or water company is going to do it, it saves you money, so can you move those funds to another street that might need it that Columbia Gas isn't even doing? Scott appreciated and recognized the coordination with the borough and the water company so if you have a proposed 5-year paving plan with streets you have in mind, let Mariah know she is coordinating our projects 3-5 years ahead of time, so at least if we know what direction the

borough is headed we can plan our projects accordingly. Mr. Russo then asked if there was something that is non-utility based would Columbia Gas be able to go in and help the borough out . Scott advised they have specific guidelines from the PUC that they must follow so it would be hard for us to pave in an area that where we didn't have a project. What we could do is come up with a paving co-op plan. For example, if there are 12 streets in the borough that cost \$1,000,000, the borough, Columbia Gas and the water company could all chip in \$333,000 and everything gets paved.

Mr. Russo then advised on Belmont Ave, one of the complaints is the marker poles that basically says "danger...don't come near me". Our neighborhood has a lot of those stand-up marker poles and I finally worked through getting a surface mount identifier. What are the guidelines on putting in surface mount identifiers as opposed to stand-up marker poles? DJ advised it is going to be a combination of both because we have to follow our standards.

Mr. Chandler thanked Columbia Gas for attending the meeting.

Jason and Eric, PA American Water – stated as of right now they have all of East College St. which all the main line is laid on and we started services. We roughly have 70 services, and we are halfway complete with those right now. The next street is Craighead St., all the main line is laid and the bactine test came back good on the main. We will start services as soon as we are done with E. College St. or if the weather breaks and we can get another crew in. There are 31 services on Craighead. Blaine Ave, is done, the main is in and the water is in. We do not have bactine in it yet we can't flow the main due to we do not have a catch basin close enough. If there is a break in the weather, we will get it bactined and services will follow street by street. There roughly 260 services total for all of the projects in Canonsburg this year. Short street has not started yet and there is 1200 feet of main with 30 services. Moore Ave has about 350 ft of main and it's 700 foot long. If the weather breaks we will get in and finish laying that main. W. College St has all of the main in and there are 40 services. Park Dr. is done and has 10 services. North St. is done and has 25 services. Grace and Glenn are done with 26 services on Grace and 20 on Glenn. All these services should be done by the first week of April with paving to follow as soon as the plant is open.

Mr. Chandler advised at the beginning of the project, there was a lack in communication, so he asked what PA American Water is doing or has done in terms of communication because he only got a little piece of paper in my mailbox after the project began. The representative from PA American Water advised there should have been an automated call from us as far as what we call code reds explaining a project was beginning. There should be several notices that go out, one before the start of construction, one that says, “hey services will be starting soon” and one that says, “hey services are done, and restoration will be starting soon”.

Mr. Bell suggested that both Columbia Gas and PA American water exchange information and phone numbers with the police department as well as public works so if there is an issue, question, or concern with anyone, it can be addressed accordingly.

Mr. Chandler thanked PA American Water for attending the meeting and providing all of the information on the projects.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

**PRESIDENT’S COMMENTS:**

Mr. Chandler explained for the record we held an executive session via zoom on Wednesday, January 19, 2022, to talk about personnel. In February, we are going to move seats around so council will not be sitting in the same seats. It was already mentioned about the \$20,000 donation from PA American Water. With regard to the Junior Council program, he met 2 weeks ago with school principals, and they are excited about the program. They have applications out now and they will be filled out until February 11 and once he gets the applications, he will share them with council, and we can pick through the individuals for the program.

**VOTING ITEMS:**

- 1. Motion to accept Canonsburg Borough’s Civil Service Commissions certified police officer candidate Zachery Thomas Powell.**

Mr. Bell made a motion to accept Canonsburg Borough's Civil Service Commissions certified police officer candidate Zachery Thomas Powell. Seconded by Mrs. Bails.

No questions on the motion.

All in Favor. Motion carries.

**2. Motion to hire Police Candidate Zachery Thomas Powell as a regular full-time Canonsburg Borough Police Officer effective Monday, February 14, 2022.**

Mr. Bowman made a motion to hire Police Candidate Zachery Thomas Powell as a regular full-time Canonsburg Borough Police Officer effective Monday, February 14, 2022. Seconded by Mr. Bell.

No questions on the motion.

**Roll Call:**

Mr. Bowman - Yes

Mr. Yorke - Yes

Mr. Russo - Yes

Mrs. Bails - Yes

Mr. Severine - Yes

Mr. Bell - Yes

Mr. Chandler - Yes

7 Yes, 0 No, 0 Absent. All in Favor. Motion carries.

**3. Motion to authorize KLH to proceed with design changes for Contract #2021-07 Lou Bell Parking Lot and retaining wall.**

Mr. Bell made a motion authorize KLH to proceed with design changes for Contract #2021-07 Lou Bell Parking Lot and retaining wall. Seconded by Mr. Severine.

No questions on the motion.

**Roll Call:**

Mr. Bowman - Yes

Mr. Yorke - Yes

Mr. Russo - Yes

Mrs. Bails - Yes

Mr. Severine - Yes

Mr. Bell - Yes

Mr. Chandler - Yes

7 Yes, 0 No, 0 Absent. All in Favor. Motion carries.

**4. Motion to authorize KLH to proceed with design changes for Contract #2021-08,09 Public Works Building upgrades.**

Mr. Russo made a motion to approve advertising an amendment to the Uniform "Police" Pension Ordinance. Seconded by Mrs. Bails.

No questions on the motion.

**Roll Call:**

Mr. Bowman - Yes

Mr. Yorke - Yes

Mr. Russo - Yes

Mrs. Bails - Yes

Mr. Severine - Yes

Mr. Bell - Yes

Mr. Chandler - Yes

7 Yes, 0 No, 0 Absent. All in Favor. Motion carries.

**5. Motion to approve the Borough Managers 2022-2023 Contract.**

Mrs. Bails made a motion to approve the Borough Managers 2022-2023 Contract. Seconded by Mr. Bell.

No questions on the motion.

**Roll Call:**

Mr. Bowman - Yes

Mr. Yorke - Yes

Mr. Russo - Yes

Mrs. Bails - Yes

Mr. Severine - Yes

Mr. Bell - Yes



Mr. Chandler - Yes

7 Yes, 0 No, 0 Absent. All in Favor. Motion carries.

**6. Motion to approve CDBG Resolution #01-2022 (allocation of \$1000,000 for home and rehab and \$260,000 for East Pitt from McKnown to Tannehill St. and Street and Sewer Improvement CD 21-03 from Adams Ave. to Greenside Ave.)**

Mrs. Bails made a motion to approve CDBG Resolution #01-2022 (allocation of \$1000,000 for home and rehab and \$260,000 for East Pitt from McKnown to Tannehill St. and Street and Sewer Improvement CD 21-03 from Adams Ave. to Greenside Ave.) Seconded by Mr. Russo. No questions on the motion.

**Roll Call:**

Mr. Bowman - Yes

Mr. Yorke - Yes

Mr. Russo - Yes

Mrs. Bails - Yes

Mr. Severine - Yes

Mr. Bell - Yes

Mr. Chandler - Yes

7 Yes, 0 No, 0 Absent. All in Favor. Motion carries.

**7. Motion to pass Resolution #02-2022 fixing the Tax Collector's bond at 30% of the 2021 tax duplicate.**

Mr. Severine made a motion to pass Resolution #02-2022 fixing the Tax Collector's bond at 30% of the 2021 tax duplicate. Seconded by Mrs. Bails.

**Roll Call:**

Mr. Bowman - Yes

Mr. Yorke - Yes

Mr. Russo - Yes

Mrs. Bails - Yes

Mr. Severine - Yes

Mr. Bell - Yes

Mr. Chandler - Yes

7 Yes, 0 No, 0 Absent. All in Favor. Motion carries.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

1. Fee Resolution

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Workshop on January 31<sup>st</sup> to discuss the use of the American Rescue Plan money

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by Mr. Bell to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 PM. Seconded by Mrs. Bails

All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Submitted by:

Melissa Graff