

Canonsburg Borough Council Voting Meeting

September 11, 2023

6:30 PM

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Chandler at 6:30 pm.

Moment of Silence called by Mr. Chandler.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call:

Mr. Eric Chandler, President – Present

Mr. Edward P. Yorke - Present

Mr. Tom Lawrence - Present

Mr. John Severine - Present

Mr. Richard Russo - Present

Mr. Richard Bell, Vice President - Present

Mrs. Tina Bails - Present

Others Present: Borough Manager Denise Lesnock, Mayor David Rhome, Solicitor Joseph Dalfonso, Public Works Director Tom Lawrence, Police Chief Alex Coghill, Code and Zoning Enforcement Officer Melissa Graff

Absent: Engineer, Jeff Marcink.

GUESTS:

Steve Cypher and Luke Rayle, Cypher and Cypher - provided a slideshow handout and gave a slideshow presentation on the 2022 audit

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- Christina Hollandsworth, 344 Park Dr. – Chapter 50 of the legislation, for the Canonsburg Borough, under powers and duties, of recreation and park board states, “The Recreation and Park Board shall maintain, operate, and supervise the public parks, playfields and all outdoor and indoor recreation areas and facilities owned or controlled by the Borough of Canonsburg (with the exception of the municipal swimming pool). With that being said, I

am again requesting that the borough enforce this regulation. One way would be to distribute a portion of the parks and rec budget directly to the pool budget for the 2024 year. Taking this step would allow discussions and decisions pertaining to the needs of the pool to take place in an efficient manner between public works, the borough manager, and the pool director while consulting with council as needed. It would also allow the park board to focus on the park itself, as the borough pays the pool director to take care of the pool. It will also help ensure that we are taking care of what we have before adding more that needs taken care of. I was told last summer that there was no money to replace the lifeguard stands despite concerns and injuries. I get it, there is only so much money to go around, but then they had the money to build another play set in a park that already had three (3). On a side note, it was implied to me at the beginning of the season that there was no money for the pool this year because of a personal issue. On a more recent occasion, when discussing next year's budget, I was told, "you scratch my back, I'll scratch yours". I don't believe that method of doing business is in the best interest of the borough or the pool. That note brings me to another consideration. I want to point out that the vast majority of conversations and interactions that I have had and that I have witnessed with various council members, have been very nice and very respectful, but there's always that one (1) or two (2). I urge council and I tried to find one and couldn't, so I am thinking that they need to develop a code of conduct for council members in regard to when to question a cost and/or micromanage their own employees. Currently, information is being misconstrued, misunderstood, and sometimes manipulated. It disrupts the workday and productivity. It can be very unnerving as an employee. Conduct and demeanor should also be considered and addressed. Belittling, condescension, and hostility should not be permitted. There should also be a time limit to these interactions as they are distracting from the task at hand for the borough employees themselves. I know several borough employees have left previously because of this treatment and I have seen it

Mr. Dalfonso – Could we please not get into other borough employees?

Christina Hollandsworth – Ok. So, the only other thing on that is keys. Who should have keys to what, and when should they be utilized? Should an entering person have access to chemicals, filtration systems, and chemical feeders? Additionally, I would like to ask that the pool director be included in discussions pertaining to the pool. There were two (2) additional

instances this summer where there were meetings at the pool that I wasn't given any notice of. Being the person responsible for the day-to-day operations of the pool, it is imperative that the pool director be included in these meetings and discussions so that they understand what is going on instead of having to play catch up or get information third or fourth hand or have questions left unanswered. Even in the off season, I will happily volunteer my time to attend meetings and events for the betterment of the pool and the borough. I am going to go ahead and turn over the next point to Abby who has actually worked at the pool, she just finished her sixth season at the pool.

- Abby Hollandsworth, 344 Park Dr. – So, I run the Instagram for the pool. I am in college, and I am a junior, and my major is marketing and advertisement. We posted a poll just to get feedback for the summer, and I wanted to read some of the comments. One was from a woman named Allie, and she said, “my family had a great time. The director was amazing and very well organized with her team.” A girl named Irey said, “ I loved it.” A woman named Emily said, “my family enjoyed swimming at Canonsburg. The lifeguards are so kind.” Caroline commented, “this pool is absolutely incredible.”, and J Mack said, “we love the pool.” With this being said, we just ask that you please ensure that the pay freeze for the summer help is lifted. We understand that the pool staff wages are a huge concern for the budget, and we did work through some budgeting and staffing issues this year and we will continue to utilize the budget as efficiently as possible without sacrificing safety or standards. We also have a few ideas to increase revenue moving forward that will be mentioned at a later time. Most of our staff from last year did return this year but most of them came back out of pure loyalty, but we do not believe that this will carry them into another year especially when they can receive higher wages at Southpoint and Washington pool. It is a common misconception that lifeguards just sit in a chair all day, but we actually ensure the safety of each patron. We consistently scan the pool. We are trained to be able to recognize, respond, and reach a distressed swimmer within thirty (30) seconds. We maintain focus on the water while monitoring behavior, enforcing pool safety rules, communicating with patrons, and sometimes dealing with parents yelling at us for reprimanding their child. Our cleaning personnel gets the pool, restrooms, and premises ready for the day by vacuuming both pools, skimming both pools, ensuring all trash has been taken care of, cleaning all toilets, bathroom

mirrors, sinks, faucets, and showers. Our bathroom cleaners pull out the mats every morning, mop the mats, mop the floors, and put them back in. Our bathroom cleaners also have to constantly clean up fecal matter and other messes on a daily basis. Then our desk workers collect daily admission and accounts for all comings and goings, ensure that children do not leave without an adult, ensure that children leave with the appropriate adult, take calls, and call 911 for an emergency. So, we do a lot of work, and all of the pools in the area are offering wages so we are hoping to have our pay freeze lifted.

- Bernie Price, 615 Highland Ave – After sitting through last week’s meeting about the sewer authority, I would hope that that guy was a financial guy doing business for a couple people on the sewer authority. I would hope that we could get the sewer authority themselves to come to a meeting and explain to us why they want to sell it because from what I heard, older people in this borough pay dearly down the road, and I’m going to be one of those people, I am one now, but I think we need to hear from the sewer authority themselves not a financial person that’s making money from them and only two (2) of them showed up. I hope that in the future before any decisions are made that we have the sewer authority themselves come and give us some figures and tell us why they need to sell it.

PRESIDENT’S COMMENTS:

Mr. Chandler advised that tunnels to towers was held this weekend and there was over 500 people, including runners and walkers in attendance, and what he noticed was that there was not a parking issue. Everyone was able to find adequate parking. It was a great event, and from his understanding, tunnels to towers raised more money than any of the other races. He also stopped by South Canonsburg’s and Mt. Olive churches clothing drive. It was well attended. A lot of people came down, and there are a lot of people in Canonsburg that are in need, so they received what they got.

MAYOR’S COMMENTS:

Mayor Rhome reported that there were over 240 people for the clothing drive. It was very orderly and the folks holding the clothing drive were very thankful and would like to do it again. They also left the lot cleaner than it was before they got there. On the towers run, the

radio was silent. It went off without a hitch and under the chief's command that is what we attribute that to.

VOTING ITEMS:

1. Motion to approve August 14, 2023, meeting minutes of Canonsburg Borough Council.

Mrs. Bails made a motion to approve the August 14, 2023, meeting minutes of Canonsburg Borough Council. Seconded by Mr. Yorke.

No questions on the motion.

Roll Call:

Mr. Bell - Yes

Mrs. Bails - Yes

Mr. Yorke - Yes

Mr. Lawrence - Yes

Mr. Russo – Yes

Mr. Severine - Yes

Mr. Chandler - Yes

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

2. Motion to approve all bills presented on the current warrant lists.

Mr. Bell made a motion to approve all bills presented on the current warrant lists. Seconded by Mrs. Bails.

Mr. Russo – Question. Just so you guys know there's one item being held out from the parks and rec fund. It is a check at the top of the page. "Friends of the Park", \$2500.00 and that is not being paid at this point

Mr. Yorke – Thank you

Roll Call:

Mr. Severine - Yes

Mr. Russo - Yes

Mr. Bell - Yes

Mr. Yorke - Yes

Mrs. Bails – Yes

Mr. Lawrence - Yes

Mr. Chandler - Yes

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

3. Motion to approve Spartan Construction Services Change Order No. 5 in the increase amount of \$9,537.04 for miscellaneous upgrades and revisions on Contract 2021-08.

Mr. Severine made a motion to approve Spartan Construction Services Change Order No. 5 in the increase amount of \$9,537.04 for miscellaneous upgrades and revisions on Contract 2021-08. Seconded by Mrs. Bails.

Mr. Yorke – Yeah, we had a discussion last week in an executive session, was any steps taken to take care of that situation?

Denise Lesnock, Borough Manager – We have a meeting set up

Mr. Yorke – What day?

Denise Lesnock, Borough Manager – I don't recall

Mr. Chandler – Right off hand I don't. I think it's next week or no Friday

Mr. Yorke – Friday of next week?

Mr. Chandler – Friday of this week

Mr. Yorke – Thank you

Mr. Chandler – Any other questions?

Roll Call:

Mr. Lawrence - Yes

Mr. Russo - Yes

Mr. Yorke - Yes

Mr. Severine - Yes

Mrs. Bails – Yes

Mr. Bell - Yes

Mr. Chandler - Yes

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

4. Motion to approve Spartan Construction Services Pay Application No. 13 in the total amount of \$170,392.41 for work completed to date on Contract 2021-08.

Mr. Bell made a motion to approve Spartan Construction Services Pay Application No. 13 in the total amount of \$170,392.41 for work completed to date on Contract 2021-08. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence.

Mr. Yorke – Yeah, hey Brian, that thing I talked to you about up there, do you have any answer?

Brian Moody, Public Works Director – No

Mr. Yorke – You going to let me know?

Brian Moody, Public Works Director – Yeah

Mr. Yorke – Thank you

Roll Call:

Mr. Yorke - Yes

Mr. Bell - Yes

Mrs. Bails - Yes

Mr. Severine - Yes

Mr. Lawrence - Yes

Mr. Russo - Yes

Mr. Chandler - Yes

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

5. Motion to approve S.E. Schultz Electric Change Order No. 2 in the increase amount of \$5,365.80 for miscellaneous upgrades and revisions on Contract 2021-09.

Mr. Yorke made a motion to approve S.E. Schultz Electric Change Order No. 2 in the increase amount of \$5,365.80 for miscellaneous upgrades and revisions on Contract 2021-09.

Seconded by Mr. Severine.

No questions on the motion.

Roll Call:

Mr. Bell - Yes

Mr. Lawrence - Yes

Mr. Severine - Yes

Mr. Russo - Yes

Mr. Yorke – Yes

Mrs. Bails - Yes

Mr. Chandler - Yes

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

6. Motion to approve S.E. Schultz Electric Pay Application No. 13 in the amount of \$8,239.72 for work completed to date on Contract 2021-09.

Mr. Yorke made a motion to approve S.E. Schultz Electric Pay Application No. 13 in the amount of \$8,239.72 for work completed to date on Contract 2021-09. Seconded by Mr.

Lawrence.

No questions on the motion.

Roll Call:

Mr. Severine - Yes

Mrs. Bails - Yes

Mr. Yorke - Yes

Mr. Lawrence - Yes

Mr. Russo - Yes

Mr. Bell - Yes

Mr. Chandler - Yes

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

7. Motion to approve Maxim Construction, LLC Change Order No. 1 in the increase amount of \$3,900.00 to replace the existing gutters on the pavilion on Contract 2023-03.

Mrs. Bails made a motion to approve Maxim Construction, LLC Change Order No. 1 in the increase amount of \$3,900.00 to replace the existing gutters on the pavilion on Contract 2023-03. Seconded by Mr. Bell.

No questions on the motion.

Roll Call:

Mrs. Bails - Yes

Mr. Yorke - Yes

Mr. Severine - Yes

Mr. Bell – Yes

Mr. Lawrence - Yes

Mr. Russo - Yes

Mr. Chandler - Yes

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

8. Motion to approve Alex E. Paris Contracting Company, Inc. Pay Application No. 1 in the amount of \$200,035.53 for work completed to date on Contract 2023-04.

Mr. Yorke made a motion to approve Alex E. Paris Contracting Company, Inc. Pay Application No. 1 in the amount of \$200,035.53 for work completed to date on Contract 2023-04. Seconded by Mrs. Bails.

No questions on the motion.

Roll Call:

Mr. Lawrence - Yes

Mr. Russo - Yes

Mr. Yorke - Yes

Mr. Severine – Yes

Mrs. Bails – Yes

Mr. Bell - Yes

Mr. Chandler - Yes

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

9. Motion to approve Resolution # 08-2023 (authorization for Borough Manager and Council President to sign a Highway Occupancy Permit).

Mr. Lawrence made a motion to approve Resolution # 08-2023 (authorization for Borough Manager and Council President to sign a Highway Occupancy Permit). Seconded by Mr. Yorke.

No questions on the motion.

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

10. Motion to approve Ordinance #1376 (Temporary Signs).

Mr. Yorke made a motion to approve Ordinance #1376 (Temporary Signs). Seconded by Mrs. Bails.

Mr. Russo – Question. Just clarification Joe. I was talking to John about this. The change was we've eliminated rights-of-way both borough, utility, and all of that that they just can't do that. Did we eliminate the need for a permit?

Joe Dalfonso, Solicitor – Mhm

Mr. Russo – So, for temporary signs, call them yard signs or whatever, there's no permit needed. Is there any restriction on

Joe Dalfonso, Solicitor – They just can't put them on borough property or in borough rights-of-way. So, the biggest issue we saw during the spring election is that public works was going out to take care of an area that had all of these political signs. That's why the code committee and we looked at this issue.

Mr. Russo – So, aside from the political, well the political too, so anybody can come to town and put up as many signs as they want on private property or property they have gotten approval to put them on. So, I can put up a sign at my house and my neighbors, as long as he says ok, and those signs can stay up. They don't need a permit to do it, they can stay up indefinitely, and they can be for anything

Joe Dalfonso, Solicitor – It's once per thirty (30) days. There is a limit in there, but I don't recall what it is off of the top of my head

Mr. Russo – And I apologize when we talked about it I did not know that we were eliminating the actual need for a permit

Joe Dalfonso, Solicitor – And there was a reason for it, right. It's real easy to do a permit system for one type of sign, a political sign. It was discussed at the code committee meeting that it would be really hard to permit for other types of signs. You have signs for gutter repair, hailstorm damage, a whole host of other things subject to the same regulations. One type of signs you can't have regulations on and allow other types of signs to remain unpermitted.

Mr. Russo – So, couldn't we have some type of, I mean I just see the risk of it is that there is no control over the sign permit process

Joe Dalfonso, Solicitor – There's control over the problem areas in town that you were having all the issues with. It wasn't your front yard; it wasn't Eric's front yard it these areas where you typically see these signs that the borough was never permitted to

Mr. Russo – I understand that, but so, if someone comes in and they want to put up signs for gutter helmet, right

Joe Dalfonso, Solicitor – Mhm

Mr. Russo – And they put them up on all private property where folks have said they can

Joe Dalfonso, Solicitor – Mhm

Mr. Russo – And they walk through the blocks, and everybody says, "yeah, you can put up whatever sign"

Joe Dalfonso, Solicitor – Mhm

Mr. Russo – I guess I just missed that and so I don't like the fact that folks aren't required to come in and get some type of approval to put up a sign

Mr. Yorke - If somebody puts in "Jesus Saves", how are you going to stop them?

Mr. Russo – Right. I just think there is a risk that we are going to be pounded with signs.
Maybe not

Mr. Chandler – Joe, in terms of signs on private property, that has always been regardless of the change to this ordinance, I could put up a sign on private property versus the right-of-ways

Joe Dalfonso, Solicitor – Yes

Mr. Russo – But didn't you need a permit in the past?

Joe Dalfonso, Solicitor – No, unless it was a political sign

Mr. Chandler – Right. The only permit that you needed in the past was for a political sign

Mr. Russo – Ok. I got ya

Mr. Chandler – What other questions do you have? Ok. All in favor by saying "I"

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

11. Motion to approve Ordinance #1377 (Amusement Devices).

Mrs. Bails made a motion to approve Ordinance #1377 (Amusement Devices). Seconded by Mr. Severine.

No questions on the motion.

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

12. Motion to approve Ordinance #1378 (Solid Waste Ordinance).

Mr. Yorke made a motion to approve Ordinance #1378 (Solid Waste Ordinance). Seconded

by Mrs. Bails.

No questions on the motion.

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

13. Motion to approve advertising Bid Specs for Solid Waste Hauling Contract.

Mrs. Bails made a motion to approve advertising Bid Specs for Solid Waste Hauling Contract.

Seconded by Mr. Bell.

No questions on the motion.

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

14. Motion to approve closing Pike St between Greenside Ave and N. Jefferson Ave including the intersections of N. Central and Pike Street (for the Canonsburg Old

Fashioned Christmas Event to be held Dec. 1st and 2nd). Mr. Bell made a motion to approve

closing Pike St between Greenside Ave and N. Jefferson Ave including the intersections of N.

Central and Pike Street (for the Canonsburg Old Fashioned Christmas Event to be held Dec.

1st and 2nd). Seconded by Mr. Yorke.

No questions on the motion.

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

15. Motion to approve entering a storm sewer easement agreement with Canonsburg

Senior Lofts, LP concerning property located at 803 First St. Mrs. Bails made a motion to

approve entering a storm sewer easement agreement with Canonsburg Senior Lofts, LP

concerning property located at 803 First St. Seconded by Mr. Bell.

No questions on the motion.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Falconi Field Lease (a meeting will be scheduled)
2. Chartiers Flood Control Project (Goatscape)
 - a. Meeting with Army Corps
3. Borough Building Landscaping (waiting on final design)

4. Public Works parking lot paving (waiting for the completion of the bond project)
5. Eastend Playground Improvements (Some stuff came in, but still waiting on other stuff)
6. Public Works fence and gate (waiting for the completion of the bond project)
7. Amend Street Opening & Excavation Ordinance
8. Frank Sarris Parking (Tabling)
9. Statue for Dr. Letterman (Tabling)
 - a. Eric to approach the Jefferson Historical Society
10. Meeting with CHJSA, on September 18, 2023, at 6:30 PM

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Fire Department Open House (Road closure from Water St. to Greenseide Ave., on October 21, 2023, from 8AM to 3PM)

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Mrs. Bails to adjourn the meeting at 7:33 PM. Seconded by Mr. Yorke.
All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 7:33 PM.

Submitted by:

Melissa Graff