

Canonsburg Borough Council Meeting
Monday, March 9th, 2020
6:30 PM

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Bell at 6:32 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 - Absent

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

Absent: KLH Engineer, Veronica Bennett

GUESTS:

None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Tom Vacca, 212 Columbia Drive - Mr. Vacca brought up that his address along with approximately 300 of his neighbors who are located in the Borough of Canonsburg have to pay their Canon McMillan School District taxes in Cecil Township and believe it is discrimination and asked that Canonsburg representatives demand that all citizens pay their school district taxes to the Canonsburg tax collector. Mr. Vacca explained that being a Canonsburg resident, he is

unable to vote for the Cecil tax collector and that he has tried to speak to the school district to no avail. Mr. Bell stated that he believed that that portion of the 1st ward was annexed years ago. Mr. Vacca stated that he has spoke to both the Mayor and Mr. Severine about this issue and that Jordan Tax Service is only at the Cecil Municipal building only a couple times a year for people to pay their taxes. Mr. Yorke stated that he used to be on the school board and the issue was brought up many times but was never fixed and that the area was annexed because at the time, Cecil Township wasn't very developed. Mayor Rhome stated that he spoke to a few different representatives who believe this may be a county issue but is actively working to look into the issue to see what could be done. Mr. Russo asked that Mayor Rhome's contacts be given some time to work through the issue, Mr. Bell stated that this problem should be handled by the Borough and should not be Mr. Vacca's responsibility.

Bernie Price, 615 Highland Avenue - Mr. Price explained that he is a current school board member and resident of the east end of Canonsburg and that during the election he was told the issue needed to be handled by the county elections office. Mr. Price stated that he brought up this issue during the primaries and nothing had been done. Mr. Bell promised to have some sort of update by the next council meeting.

Chuck Cerenzia, 103 Ridgeview Avenue - Explained that he owns property on Whites Lane that is located in both Canonsburg and Chartiers and has been going through the process to complete a mini subdivision. Mr. Cerenzia explained that he has been through a few meetings to get this completed and needs a signature from Canonsburg on his drawing to finalize the subdivision. Mr. Dalfonso explained that his subdivision was recommended to be approved by the planning commission and was on the agenda to be voted on. Discussion was held about who from Canonsburg Council and who from the planning commission needed to sign the drawing for approval.

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS:

Mr. Bell reported on the following:

1. Greenside Meadows has been demolished.

2. ARC Human Resources - Will bring a lot of jobs and business to town, hopes to be open by November.
3. Ameri-Precision Metals - Walkthrough and ceremony will be held on Friday. Will bring 100+ new jobs to the area and the company hopes to hire Canonsburg residents who are qualified.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Rhome reported on the following:

1. February 2020 Police and Parking Enforcement Report which included 53 parking tickets and 23 warnings. Parking permit totals have increased due to the agreement with ARC Human Services.
2. Cleanup Pennsylvania - April 19, 2020 from Noon to 4:00 PM, so far 20 people have signed up.
3. Parking on sidewalks - Police have been issuing warnings and citations.
4. Active Shooter Preparedness and Response Class - March 31st at Canonsburg Library, interested individuals should contact the Mayor or Chief Coghill.
5. Police officers have continued making random visits to Canonsburg churches.
6. All Clad Annual Beautification Day - Waiting to hear back from All Clad.
7. Temporary Parking Space at Renovation Nation located at the corner of Perry Como and Euclid Avenue.
8. Four Coins Drive, Richland Avenue, Elm Street and South Jefferson Avenue - Speed Complaints have continued, Mayor Rhome has been in touch with the school district and the high school student body has been told that speeding is to cease immediately. Mayor Rhome asked that two 25 mph speed signs be installed on Four Coins Drive. Mrs. Bails asked about a stop sign being installed as well, Mayor Rhome asked that these two changes be put into place first and will revisit a stop sign if needed. Mr Chandler asked if 25 mph was too fast for the area, Mayor Rhome explained that 15 mph speed zones are only allowed in park and school zones, Chief Coghill explained that that is a state law.

Mrs. Bails commended both Officer Tom O'Rourke and Dennis Cole for their patrol on Gladden Road and Second Street.

9. Movie shoot - A gentleman from Los Angeles would like to do a movie shoot in Canonsburg at the Cecil Street ballfields between May 1st and May 3rd in the evening. This would be the fourth movie filmed in the Borough. The Baseball Association would have to give permission but Chief Coghill would need to put safety measures into place if approved, the police department would be reimbursed for security. Insurance certificates must be turned in.
10. 5k Bunny Run - April 18th at 8:30 AM sponsored by the Canonsburg Chamber at the Canonsburg Hospital.
11. Ordinances for the Solicitor - Freedom of Speech and Noise Ordinances for Joe to review and be put in the next month's packets.

Mr. Severine asked if the Weights and Measures police officer was still in operation, to which Chief Coghill said yes.

Mr. Russo asked about the Jefferson parking lot being blocked off for construction at the former Brody's furniture building which has been causing parking problems for surrounding businesses. Mr. Russo asked how parking permits were paid for during construction, because there are about 20 spots blocked off. Mayor Rhome explained that he spoke to The Bar Association, Alterio's Catering and 10x The Glam salon and was told they have not had an issue and it was left that if anyone had an issue to get in touch with himself or Chief Coghill and the situation would be revisited. Mayor Rhome explained that any parking spots that are blocked off have been paid for.

Mr. Russo asked about the February police report and under traffic citations stating that there were only 2 speeding citations for the whole year so far. Chief Coghill explained that speeding is difficult in the area and there are more issues like stopping at stop signs and traffic lights.

Mr. Chandler asked about the average response times stated in the Fire Department

monthly report and asking if there is a baseline response time to compare to. Mayor Rhome explained that since the new incentive program began, response time has gotten better.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Ms. Bennett was absent from the meeting.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Dalfonso reported on the following:

1. Ordinances from the Mayor - Special Events ordinance is under review. All pending ordinances should be ready by the next month's meeting.
2. Jordan Tax Garbage Delinquencies - Ms. Lesnock found the resolution naming Jordan Tax Service as the collector for delinquent garbage fees but still looking for the contract. Mr. Dalfonso reached out to Jordan Tax Service's solicitor who stated they may have an issue with the collection ordinance. Ms. Lesnock is attempting to set up a meeting but they have been unresponsive so far.
3. Planning Commission - Meeting was held on February 6th. Two items were brought to planning and both were recommended by the board for approval from council. Mr. Russo asked if it is possible to give Jordan Tax Service a deadline to respond to a meeting. Mr Dalfonso explained that Jordan works with a law firm in Pittsburgh for collections and that the solution needs to begin with them. Discussion was held about the process of a garbage lien.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. **Administration and Finance:** Mr. Yorke stated he reviewed the bills with Mrs. Cecchine and found that everything was in order and approved paying the bills. Mr. Yorke explained that he was asked by Mr. Severine to review purchasing and found that everything purchased was routine and had proper receipts.

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 asked who was responsible for removing temporary signs in yards and telephone poles because it is making the community look junky. Mr. Russo asked if the gentleman who does community service for the Borough would be able to go around to remove signs every once in a while. Mr. Lawrence explained of a time where Public Works removed a lost dog sign and it caused a lot of issues. Mr. Russo explained it's more so "we buy houses" and scam job signs that are littered all over the area. Mr. Bell asked if public works is driving around and have the extra time to remove the signs. Mr. Lawrence explained that as soon as a sign is put in in the Gateway Gardens, they are immediately removed. Discussion was held about which signs need to be removed at first sight.

Mr. Russo complimented the code report and pointed out that the last page included abandoned properties that can be included with the land bank list.

3. Public Works- Mr. Bowman presented the February 2020 Public Works report.

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

The Canonsburg Volunteer Fire Department in the month of February 2020 responded to 16 calls consisting of:

0 Fire Calls

6 Hazardous Condition Calls

0 Good Intent Calls

3 Service Calls

3 False Alarms

1 Special Incident Call

0 Alarm Calls

3 Rescue Calls

Average 9 firefighters per call, 36 minutes per call. \$0 in damage. The incentive program is working well with an average of 11 firefighters responding at nighttime.

5. Facilities - Mr. Bell stated that a Pool house meeting needs to be set up. Ms. Lesnock explained that Mrs. Bails would like to have the meeting as a workshop meeting held in the evening so that park board members can attend. Mr. Russo asked that a meeting be set up tonight. Monday, March 23rd at 6:30 PM was decided. Mr. Bell asked an additional meeting can be held after the pool house meeting for the Fourth of July committee.

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

1. New slide was installed
2. Robotic pool cleaner was ordered.
3. New PA System to be installed.
4. Crosby house to be painted and cleaned up. Something had fallen on the roof and looking into getting shingles replaced.
5. New driveway at the Park circle has been tabled due to the new house being constructed in the near future.
6. Mr. McKenery is helping with a picnic table fundraiser for Friends of the Park, tables will be \$900 each.
7. New VFW 191 pavilion - Progress is being made.
8. Park Board has decided not to install bat boxes in the park for the safety of the children in the area.
9. Mr. Lucas is looking to refurbish the small playground.

10. Ms. Hina has agreed to help park board members with grants

11. Two new signs to be installed in the park.

Mr. Severine asked about the tree that fell on the Crosbie House. Mrs. Bails explained that it was a branch that has since been cleaned up and that there is not any structural damage, it just needs a few shingles replaced.

Mr. Chandler inquired about what grants are being applied for and what the overall goal for the park was for the next 5-10 years. Mr. Russo explained that there is a Town Park Master Plan that is constantly being updated.

Mr. Russo asked for council's opinion on paving the other half of the pickleball court.

Mr. Lawrence explained that has spoken to Ms. Lesnock about adding the project to upcoming road paving projects to receive a better price.

7. Re-Development:

Mr. Chandler stated he has been working with Mr. Russo on a Community Development Coordinator job description that can be provided to talent recruiters to find candidates. Mr. Russo thanked Mr. Chandler, Mr. Bell and Mayor Rhome for their help. Mr. Bell asked that Ms. Lesnock is involved to make sure that there are finances available for the new position.

8. Sewer Authority:

Mr. Yorke reported that he attended the Sewer Authority meeting on February 27th. Mr. Yorke explained that when the Sewer Plant opened 5,000 people used the facility and there are now 18,500 people that use it. Mr. Yorke complimented the Sewer Authority board and employees for their good work.

Mr. Chandler stated he was unable to find Sewer Authority meeting minutes online and asked that Ms. Lesnock reach out to receive those minutes and to make them available online.

VOTING ITEMS:

1. Motion to approve the February 10th, 2020 meeting minutes of Canonsburg Borough Council Meeting.

Mr. Chandler made a motion to approve the February 10th, 2020 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 rolling road closure for the Memorial Day Parade on May 25th, 2020.

Mrs. Bails made a motion to approve a rolling road closure for the Memorial Day Parade on May 25th, 2020. Seconded by Mr. Severine.

No questions on the motion.

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

3. Motion to approve a rolling road closure for the Fourth of July Parade on July 4th, 2020.

Mrs. Bails made a motion to approve a rolling road closure for the Fourth of July Parade on July 4th, 2020. Seconded by Mr. Severine.

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

4. Motion to approve road and parking lot closures for the Greater PA Bavarian Oktoberfest for September 17th-20th.

Mr. Severine made a motion to approve road and parking lot closures for the Greater PA Bavarian Oktoberfest for September 17th-20th. Seconded by Mrs. Bails.

No question on the motion.

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

5. Motion to approve road and parking lot closures for the Canonsburg Old Fashioned Christmas for December 3rd-5th.

Mrs. Bails made a motion to approve road and parking lot closures for the Canonsburg Old Fashioned Christmas for December 3rd-5th. Seconded by Mr. Russo.

No question on the motion.

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

6. Motion to approve Resolution #02-2020 (Authorizing participation in the PSAB Junior Council Person Program).

Mr. Chandler made a motion to approve Resolution #02-2020 (Authorizing participation in the PSAB Junior Council Person Program). Seconded by Mrs. Bails.

No questions on the motion.

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

7. Motion to approve the Canonsburg Borough Civil Service Commission's certified Canonsburg Police Civil Service list effective March 10th, 2020 and will expire on March 9th, 2021.

Mr. Severine made a motion to approve the Canonsburg Borough Civil Service Commission's certified Canonsburg Police Civil Service list effective March 10th, 2020 and will expire on March.9th, 2021. Seconded by Mrs. Bails.

Mrs. Bails asked about the order of the list and who would be considered first, Chief Coghill explained that based on their scores, they have to consider the top 3 first.

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

8. Motion to appoint Kenneth N. Schott, III to the Frank Sarris Public Library Board.

Mrs. Bails made a motion to appoint Kenneth N. Schott, III to the Frank Sarris Public Library Board. Seconded by Mr. Chandler.

Mr. Bell asked if anyone else was interested, Ms. Lesnock explained this was the only letter of interest.

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

9. Motion to approve Charles Cerenzia Jr. Subdivision No. 1 at Whites Lane contingent on the Engineer's advisement as recommended by the planning commission.

Mr. Chandler made a motion to approve Charles Cerenzia Jr. Subdivision No. 1 at Whites Lane contingent on the Engineer's advisement as recommended by the planning commission.

Seconded by Mr. Severine.

No questions on the motion.

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

10. Motion to approve St. Patrick Parish final site contingent on the Engineer's advisement as recommended by the planning commission.

Mr. Yorke made a motion to approve St. Patrick Parish final site contingent on the Engineer's advisement as recommended by the planning commission. Seconded by Mr. Severine.

No questions on the motion.

7 Yes. 0 No. 0 Absent. Motion carries.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Town Park pool house meeting - Scheduled for March 23rd at 6:30 PM.
2. Zoning map revision meeting - Scheduled for March 20th at 1:00 PM.
3. County Hauling Meeting - Needs scheduled.
4. Mr. Russo asked if KLH Engineers can look into the Jersey Barrier issue at Guntown Beer. Mr. Lawrence stated that this issue was supposed to be taken care of with a grant and that Public Works could possibly fix it temporarily but wouldn't fix the overall problem. Mr. Yorke stated that he spoke to the property owner and that he felt as though he was left in the dark, Mr. Lawrence explained that he has been in touch with the property owner but that any fix that he could make would not last and that engineering may not like the idea of a temporary fix. Mr. Russo asked that the Engineer have a response to the issue by the April meeting. Mr. Bell explained that this has been an issue

for quite some time and was supposed to be handled by HMT and Associates and then the job moved to KLH Engineers when Canonsburg switched. Further discussion was held.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Mr. Russo asked Ms. Lesnock to report on the meeting that was held at the Borough office earlier in the day, Ms. Lesnock explained that they finalized the process for Real Estate sales and transfer paperwork that will make it easier on all involved.
2. Mr. Lawrence stated that he did not know that Ms. Bennett was going to be absent from the meeting but that KLH has been working on a lot for him and that he met with another KLH Engineer employee to go over streets to be paved in the future and receive cost estimates, he also met with an employee for sanitary sewer repairs including Jefferson Avenue. Mr. Lawrence asked that council give him ideas for streets they would like to be paved.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Executive Session regarding personnel held from 8:33 PM to 9:29 PM.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Mr. Yorke to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 PM. Seconded by Mr. Russo.

All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 9:11 PM.

Submitted by:

Callie Munch