

**BURGETTSTOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**REGULAR BUSINESS MINUTES**  
**OCTOBER 3, 2022**  
**Call to Order**

Pledge of Allegiance

Public comments and questions not pertaining to the agenda items will be held to the end of the meeting.

James Smith II made the Motion to Pass the October 3, 2022, Agenda  
Second by-Ross Johnson

Attending: Council Members: Annie Hull  
Ken McKinney  
James Smith II  
Ross Johnson

Mayor: Luke Snatchko  
Solicitor: Falco Muscante  
Secretary: Debbie Resnik  
Treasurer: Debbie Resnik

Visitor Pam Church Ron Allison Jr  
Gary Manges Debbie Cowden  
Kobe Sarracino Mary Oddi  
James Oddi Anthony Gianfresco  
Sandra Edmond

Roll Call: All Present

Vacancy Seat: Two (2) letters of interest  
a. Ron Allison Jr.  
b. Gary Manges

**Questions/Comments:**

James Smith II, "I feel council should take into consideration that Ronald Allison during the election had 80 votes as a write in."

Ken McKinney made the Motion to appoint Ron Allison Jr. to fill vacancy seat  
Second by-Ross Johnson  
Motion Carried-None Opposed

James Smith II made the Motion to Pass Resolution No. **2022-004** of the Council of Borough of Burgettstown to fill a vacant position as member of council  
Second by-Ken McKinney

**Questions/Comments:**

None

Motion Carried-None Opposed

Ronald Allison II was Sworn in on October 3, 2022, to hold the Oath of Office Seat by Mayor Luke Snatchko

1. Review / Approval minutes from the Regular Meeting held September 12, 2022  
Motion Carried-None Opposed

**Persons to be Heard-** None

**2. Financial Report-**

Resnik read unpaid bills totaling \$35,228.85

James Smith made the Motion to pay the unpaid bills

**Questions/Comments:**

Ken McKinney, "What fund is the police 4<sup>th</sup> quarter payment taken from?"

Resnik, "Funding will be pulled out the of Tax Savings Account."

Ken would like council to take this expenditure from the American Rescue Fund

Ken McKinney made the Motion to pay the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter payment in the amount of \$30,726.25 from the American Rescue Fund to pay the McDonald Police

Second by-James Smith II

Motion Carried-None Opposed

Ken McKinney made the Motion to pay the unpaid in the amount of \$4,502.60 from the General Fund Account

Second by-James Smith II

**Questions/Comments:**

None

Motion Carried-None Opposed

Fire Relief Check was received on 9/21/2022 in the amount of \$7,129.32

Check was cut to the BVFD on 09/21/2022

Commonwealth of PA Municipal Pension in the amount of \$15,541.35 was received on 9/29/2022

Cut was cut to Lincoln Financial plus \$830.65 Borough contribution totaling \$16,372.00 for investment to the Non-Uniform Fund

Budget Workshop date scheduled- November 12<sup>th</sup>

- Auditor will be present
- Advertisement will be placed

Ken McKinney made the Motion to accept the Financial Report as given

Second by-Ross Johnson

**Questions/Comments:**

None

Motion Carried-None Opposed

### 3. Council Comments/Reports-

#### **Public Works-Ross Johnson**

Highland Avenue in front of the Lee and Martin Funeral Home

- Sinking and Caving in areas needs addressed
- Catch Basin near area that is sinking is full of water
- Ross needs to address the mining company on these issues

Ted Wright gave his letter of resignation for 10/9/2022

Ross Johnson made the Motion to accept Ted Wright letter of resignation for 10/9/2022

Second by-James Smith II

#### **Questions/Comments:**

None

Motion Carried-None Opposed

Correspondence was received from a resident who would like permission to maintain the paper alley behind 44 Florence Avenue if her offer is accepted

Council granted permission but the borough will not take any ownership of alley

#### **Parks and Recreation**-James Smith II

- Ross Johnson performed a Safety Audit on the Burgettstown Park
- Safety issues were found
- Park will remain closed until items are addressed and corrected

Ross Johnson contacted a playground contractor to come and evaluate and give the borough cost estimate to have issues fixed

#### **Special Projects**-Ken McKinney

Curb installation on Scott Street

- Spoke with Smith Township for borrowing curb equipment
- Borough needs to line up project with Smith Township and they will collaborate with us on this install
- Shred It -October 22<sup>nd</sup>, Location-Borough Parking Lot, Time-10:00 AM to 1:00 PM

#### **Code Enforcement/Building Permits-**

- 1910 Main Street sidewalk opening
  - a. Contacted owner will try to have repaired by Oct 15<sup>th</sup>
  - b. Opening was for Peoples Gas curb box

### 4. **Mayor Report-Police /Fire Department** -Luke Snatchko

- Police Report filed as read by McDonald Police
- Statue of Liberty-  
Base was discussed and reviewed  
Gary Manges will set Statue of Liberty on pedestal

Ken McKinney made the Motion to add to the agenda the pedestal install at the Veterans Park  
Second by-James Smith  
Motion Carried- None Opposed

Ken McKinney made the Motion to have the pedestal installation for the Statue of Liberty not to exceed \$1,500.00  
Second by-James Smith

**Questions/Comments:**

Gary Manges asked Luke Snatchko if he had any detailed plans on how this base will be installed

Luke and Gary will meet and review a plan following meeting

Motion Carried-None Opposed

Ken McKinney questioned if the PA One Call was placed  
Resnik, "Yes, borough can begin any time all utilities were marked."

Mayor discussed Homecoming Parade route

- left turn into Napa
- traffic will be one-way

**Question/Comments:**

Debbie Cowden spoke to the McDonald officer regarding ATV's, minibikes riding on the streets of Raymond Street and private property on the corner of Olive and Reed and Reed and Raymond

Residence have contacted the Police numerous times and asked for these matters to be addressed

Officer Kubacki replied, "McDonald has a pursuit policy that states officers cannot chase off road vehicles, so when we turn the lights on, they take off and we cannot chase."

Debbie Cowden, "I fully understand that."

Officer Kubacki, "As for the number of calls and response time that will need to be addressed to the Chief."

Annie Hull asked Luke Snatchko if he could address these issues with the Chief of Police

**5. Solicitor's Report- No Report**

Legal Matters will be discussed in the Executive Session

**6. New Business**

Halloween

- October 31<sup>st</sup>
- Time: 6 to 8 PM

Fire Department will close off the streets as they deem necessary

**Questions/Comments:**

Ken McKinney questioned if this needs to be place on the agenda each year

Falco Muscante, "I see them on agenda as an announcement."

Mayor would like to be notified of all road closures

#### **6. New Business Continued-**

Falco will email Resnik copy of the Event Ordinance to be sent out to all councilmembers for input and changes that might need to be made before next meeting

- Next meeting motion to advertise

#### **7. Old Business-**

Clearing and opening vegetation in area of Elm Street, Grant Street and McClure Alley

- Blight is spreading down Center Avenue
- Homes are returning to nature (woods)
- Mayor feels that borough should start enforcing Ordinances
- Falco questioned if alley is a paper alley and what is the usage
- Falco feels borough needs to look at the situation and will address in Executive Session

#### **8. Correspondence-** Valenti's property Bank Building

- October 4<sup>th</sup>
- Dump truck parked in front of building to remove debris
- One day event

#### **9. Council Remarks-**

##### **Statue of Liberty-Ken McKinney questioned**

What is the time- frame on the Statue of Liberty base?

Luke Snatchko will meet with Gary Manges to see his concerns

Luke Snatchko timeframe before October 15<sup>th</sup> homecoming

#### **10. Public Participation-**

Anthony Penzone -1338 Main Street

Expressed his concerns and would like to see what council is doing or will be doing to correct the Water Storm run off on Short Street after severe weather occur

- Expressed his flood insurance premiums
- Replacement items in lower level furnaces, water heaters, etc.
- Molds is becoming a factor
- Cash flow is being looked at now to see if his property is feasible or would demo be the correct alternative
- Questioned if Pete Blue was aware of ownership of that road
- Had concerned with the height and wood pile industry and the wood chips
- Wood chips are clogging the storm drains
- Should be held accountable to put socks or a material that would stop this debris coming onto the roadway and clogging up the catch basins

Anthony Penzone, "I think other steps should be governed by the borough to make Pete Blue put up slit fencing and socks to stop these wood chips and take these safety precautions."

Falco, "We are looking into other Ordinances and steps that might help and we will be talking with the borough engineer."

Anthony Penzone and solicitor discussed conditional usage open blanket ordinance  
Anthony Penzone expressed a strong concern with the sewage water.  
He would like the borough to intervene with the Sewage Authority to help have this matter resolved by the engineers.

Discussion on this matter will be addressed in the Executive Session

**Question/Comments:**

Kobe Sarracino questioned if the survey done would help in this matter and what was surveyed

Ross Johnson, "No, and the entire area of Short Street was surveyed."

Mary Oddi, "With the park closure would it be possible to use the park anyway for Boo-in-the-Park."

Annie Hull, "No with the safety issues findings the council is keeping the park closed."

Mary Oddi, "What about postage costs that was incurred?"

Annie Hull, "We agreed to the \$200.00 and that will be cut to you."

Annie Hull, "We did not discuss postage reimbursement, but I will review the minutes."

Mary Oddi, "The council is cruel for taking back the usage of the park after it was approved for Boo-in-the-Park."

Annie Hull, "Council disapproved the usage no charter papers were provided."

Annie Hull, "The charter papers have been an issue, but with the safety issues we will not open the park for the Boo-in-the-Park event."

**11. Executive Session-7:39 PM**

- Personnel, Potential Litigation and Real Estate
- Action will be taken

Intervened back into session @ 10:18 PM

James Smith II made the Motion to add based on information received from our borough engineer, Motion to proceed with preliminary engineering, dye testing and field engineering not to exceed \$7,500.00 and a Motion for engineer to solicit proposals for CCTV

Second by-Ken McKinney

**Questions/Comments:**

None

Motion Carried-None Opposed

Ross Johnson made the Motion to add based on information received from our borough engineer, Motion to proceed with preliminary engineering, dye testing and field engineering

Not to exceed \$7,500.00

Second by-Ken McKinney

**Questions/Comments:**

None

Motion Carried-None Opposed

Ross Johnson made a Motion to solicit proposals for CCTV

Second by-Ken McKinney

**Questions/Comments:**

None

Motion Carried-None Opposed

**11. Executive Session Continued-**

Ross Johnson made the Motion to add the hiring of two Street Public Works position employees based on recently completed application process

Second by-James Smith II

Motion Carried- Ross Johnson, James Smith II, Annie Hull

Opposed-Ken McKinney

James Smith II made the Motion to hire Public Works employee Greg Javens at the rate of \$18.00 per hour

Second by-Ross Johnson

Motion Carried- Ross Johnson, James Smith II, Annie Hull, Ron Allison

Opposed-Ken McKinney

**Questions/Comments:**

Ken McKinney “Where is council going to get the money to pay for two full-time employees and health insurance?”

Annie Hull, “We budgeted for two full-time employees \$78,000.00 with allocation of more for 2022 budget and we never replaced our second employee. Budget 2023 will be less budget depending on the insurance.”

Ken McKinney, “Why wasn’t I part to this discussion?”

Falco, “You are being a part of this now or are you speaking about the cost?”

Ken McKinney, “No about hiring two employees?”

Falco, “You can speak and discuss it right now nothing is prohibiting you from speaking about it now.”

Ken McKinney, “I understand that, but you excluded me from being in the executive session for all other discussions and now we are hiring two people?”

Falco, “This is now your time to discuss that nothing is stopping you from that discussion. The conflict issue does not exist any longer.”

Ken McKinney, “It did not exist as I should not have been excluded.”

Falco, “It did because he was on the table as part of the discussion.”

Ken McKinney, “I am not done with this as I am telling you all that right now.”

Falco, “You are more than able right now to voice your concerns and issues on the hiring before the vote is taken.”

Falco, “The vote should not have been taken until the issues were ready.”

Annie Hull, “Should we rescind the vote?”

Ken McKinney, “No because I opposed.”

Falco, “Correct”

Luke Snatchko, “If you feel you did not have a chance to state your case as to why we do not need two employees, then we need to step back and hear your case.”

Ken McKinney, “I just do not understand where council produced hiring two employees. Obviously, people have been talking among themselves.”

Annie Hull, “We did talk the night of the interviews and you were present when we were talking about hiring a borough manager.”

Ken McKinney, “That had nothing to do with hiring two road employees.”

Annie Hull, "Well it did have something to do with two road employees as we have been looking for a borough manager position that maybe down the road, he could be appropriate for the position."

Ken McKinney, "Maybe down the road when Debbie was leaving, and I thought we were going to use the STAMP program."

Annie Hull, "Which we can, but we are not doing this at this minute we are now looking at hiring two employees."

Annie Hull, "So tell me what your issues are with hiring the two employees."

Ken McKinney, "The issues are where is the borough getting all this money. We have major problems in this borough that is the issues."

James Smith, "After we done a cost breakdown we are still under budget."

Luke Snatchko, "One guy is not a crew. If you want to have a road crew, you need two employees."

Ken McKinney, "The borough does not have enough work for two employees."

Luke Snatchko disagreed with comment and asked to move on

Council spoke on sub-contractors' costs

Ken McKinney, "You have a third of the budget for police. You have a third of the budget for the road crew that only leaves a third of the budget for projects that need done."

Ross Johnson, "That is the cost of doing business. Just as you stated, you need employees to get the job done. You even said why do we sub out work. Now, we are going to have a crew that has experience so the borough will not have to sub work out."

James Smith, "I am only worried about the buddy system."

Ken McKinney, "That is the cost of doing business."

James Smith, "That is accountability."

Ken McKinney, "You better hire a grant writer because that is the only way things are going to get down around here."

Council all in agreement in looking for a grant writer

Motion Carried- Ross Johnson, James Smith II, Annie Hull

Opposed-Ken McKinney

Ross Johnson made the Motion to hire Public Works employee Joseph Wilson at the rate of \$18.00 hour

Second by-James Smith II

Question/Comments:

Ron Allison "When will he be able to start?"

Annie Hull, "Both said two-week notice, but probably we able to start sooner."

Ron Allison, "They need to get familiar with the back-hoe, snow equipment."

Motion Carried-Ross Johnson, James Smith II, Annie Hull, Ron Allison

Opposed-Ken McKinney

## **12. Motion to Adjourn- @ 10:20-PM**

James Smith II made the Motion to adjourn

Second by-Ross Johnson

Motion Carried-None Opposed



