

BURGETTSTOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR BUSINESS MINUTES
JANUARY 9, 2023
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 January 9, 2023, Agenda
Second by-Ronald Allison

Attending: Council Members: Annie Hull
Ken McKinney (Absent)
Ronald Allison
James Smith II
Gary Manges

Mayor: Luke Snatchko
Solicitor: Dave
Secretary: Debbie Resnik
Treasurer: Debbie Resnik

Visitors: Kobe Sarracino Donna Sandridge
Shawn Sandridge John Cherok II
Mary Oddi
Karen Mansfield-ObsERVER Reporter

Roll Call: Absentee
Ken McKinney

Persons to be Heard- Shawn Sandridge (Short Street)

Concerned about the broken storm drainpipes.

Gary Manges gave an update on the camera and addressed the council is working on the entire area.

1. Concerned regarding Blue's dirt holes which are covered with plywood is going to become a destruction.
2. Concerns with the 60- ton salt that is delivered to the business above his home.
3. Questioned who contacted the DEP.
 - a. Feels soil sample needs to be taken killing his grass, ground is becoming a swamp and wildlife are coming around for the salt.
Mayor Luke Snatchko addressed and stated former council Ross Johnson contacted them who was our Street Department liaison previously.
4. Bamboo seedlings are clogging his gutters.
Council had a prior incident with this vegetation concern and Annie Hull advised Shawn that this vegetation has no restrictions.
Mayor Luke Snatchko advised Shawn that the borough is not permitted to manage any agricultural wildlife or vegetation (plants)
5. Noise and equipment running from established business.

- a. Excessive noise coming from above business making erosion socks.
- 6. Propane bottles over the banks behind Lincoln Street
 - a. Concerned with 2 trees on borough right away that needs cut up and removed.
Ron Allison will address this with road crew.
 - b. Concerns with the 6-ton salt trucks delivering to business above on a 6-ton road limit

Mayor would like to discuss with Shawn and Gary Manges after the meeting a solution to repair the upper pipe so that the water will flow down and not enter Shawn's home when heavy rains occur.

Person to be Heard-John Cherok II

- 1. Would like council to consider the cross walk be placed back on Main Street since the Heist Distillery is open for business.
- 2. Minutes not posted on website.
- 3. Senior Center bingo
- 4. Website meeting change to be posted on website.
- 5. Concerned resident and taxpayer with hearing a rumor that Smith Township Fire Department and the Burgettstown Borough refusing to assist each other.
(Referenced the fire in Langloth)

Mayor Luke Snatchko assured Mr. Cherok if a fire occurs in the borough that Smith Township Fire Department and other surrounding departments would be called to assist. the mayor cannot speak on behalf of Smith Township Fire Department on who they would call to assist.

Reappointments 2023:

Annie Hull made the Motion for Reappointments for:
 Engagement letter to accept Maiello, Brungo & Maiello as 2023 solicitor.
 Engagement letter to accept Redcon Engineering as borough's engineer
 Engagement letter to accept Municipal Consulting Services as Building Inspector, Code Enforcement Officer, and Zoning officer
 Engagement letter to accept Deltron Consulting as borough's auditor for 2023.
 Second by-Ronald Allison
 Questions/Comments-None
 Motion Carried-None Opposed

James Smith made the Motion to reappoint Debbie Resnik as Secretary/Treasurer
 Second by-Annie Hull
 Questions/Comments-None
 Motion Carried-None Opposed

James Smith made the Motion to reappoint Greg Javens for the Emergency Management Coordinator

Second by-Annie Hull

Questions/Comments-

Mayor questioned if the council needed to appoint someone for the vacancy board.

Solicitor stated, if necessary, council can put on February's agenda and act at that time.

Motion Carried-None Opposed

Annie Hull made the Motion to reappoint Ms. McGee to represent the Burgettstown Borough Sewage board.

Second by-Ronald Allison

Questions/Comments-None

Motion Carried-None Opposed

James Smith made the Motion to accept Washington Financial Bank as Borough's Repository for 2023

Second by-Annie Hull

Questions/Comments-None

Motion Carried-None Opposed

Letter of Resignation: Tabled

Council tabled the Letter of Resignation for Teresa Walsh, Tax Collector effective, January 1, 2023

Acceptance will take place February meeting.

1. Review / Approval of Minutes

Annie Hull made the Motion to approve the Regular Business Meeting Minutes held.

December 12, 2023

Second by-James Smith II

Motion Carried-None Opposed

2. Financial Report-

Annie Hull made the Motion to pay the unpaid bills in the amount of \$5,669.03.

Second by-James Smith II

Questions/Comments-None

Motion Carried-None Opposed

Annie Hull made the Motion to authorize Ronald Allison Jr. as check signer on all borough accounts

Second by-James Smith II

Questions/Comments-None

Motion Carried-None Opposed

Letter will be written to Washington Financial to add Ronald Allison Jr. as a check signer.

Ronald Allison made the Motion to rescind opting employee's deduction of 3% monthly to cover employees' pension funding due to the non-uniform plan is fully funded and will be reviewed on yearly basis.

Second by-Annie Hull

Question/Comments-None

Motion Carried-None Opposed

3. Council Comments/Reports-

Public Works-Ronald Allison

Ronald Allison made the Motion to accept the Grant proposal with obligation to purchase the leaf truck.

Second by-Annie Hull

Questions/Comments:

Mayor questioned is President Ken McKinney okay with these obligations of the grant?

Resnik, "Yes he put this Motion on the Agenda for tonight's meeting."

Annie Hull, "He also stated this truck was in the January issue of the Borough News."

Kobe Sarracino, "What year is this truck, and the borough is spending \$22K for leaves?"

Ron Allison, "This truck is new and will do multiple tasks of cleaning the streets and catch basins."

Mayor, "The infrastructure of our basins is filled with debris and silt from over the years, so this vehicle will be utilized year around."

Motion Carried-None Opposed

Parks and Recreation-James Smith II

Fence discussion tabled.

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

Annie Hull made the Motion to accept the changes in the contract made in the Burgettstown/Smith Township Police Contract

Second by-Ronald Allison

Question/Comments- John Cherok

Questioned if the Police Contract was properly done and did it need to be put out for bid?"

Solicitor, "No it did not need to be bid."

Cherok, "Okay I was just making sure."

Kobe Sarracino, "We do not have any police until February 1st correct."

Annie, "Correct"

Kobe Sarracino, "State Police are 45 minutes away from Pittsburgh and Washington. The State Police will not come for all calls, so how did council let the town go like this?"

Kobe Sarracino, "Luke I see on the agenda you contacted the Lieutenant and what did he say?"

Luke, "I was in contact with the State Police back in December there was a possibility that the State Police might have been an option. They were not interested in any new areas, but they would provide police service and will do the best they can."

Kobe Sarracino, "My point is council had 9 months to decide since the time you were given the letter and council did nothing and McDonald advised the council they were done. How can you do this to a town that needs police coverage?"

Kobe Sarracino, "I do not like this at all and a lot of others in Burgettstown, but I was the

only one who came to voice my opinion.”

Kobe Sarracino, “Smith Township will not be able to manage the borough and Smith Township.”

Kobe, “I am disappointed in council’s disrespect for the people in Burgettstown in not having police protection until February 1st it is unprofessional and inexcusable.

John Cherok, “I agree with her.”

Event-July 14th and 15th Community Day

- **100-year anniversary of the Burgettstown Fire Department**

The Hoist – is now opened

Stottlemeyer Park Sign -Installed waiting for plexiglass

Veteran’s Banner Campaign- Taking registration forms till March 1, 2023 forms can be picked up at the Burgettstown Borough office during business hours.

Questions/Comments: John Cherok

John Cherok was told by two individuals that they were upset as they purchased a banner for \$100.00 last year and were notified they must pay \$50.00 to put their banners up this year. Otherwise, they would not have their banners put up. Is this correct or incorrect?

Luke, “That is incorrect”

Luke, “The cost of the banners will be \$125.00. This covers the printing cost, the hardware, and the shipping costs. Last year’s cost was \$100.00 and was never stated this was a onetime fee.”

Cherok, “Did those individuals know this was not a one-time fee.”

Luke, “Yes”

Proceeds will be going to the Slovan VFW, Burgettstown American Legion, Burgettstown VFW and Atlasburg VFW.

Luke explained the time and workforce needed that goes into placing these banners throughout the town.

5. Solicitor’s Report-

Ron Allison made the Motion for the Resolution to Modify Chief Administrative Officer of the Burgettstown Pension Plan from Annie Hull to Ken McKinney

Second by-James Smith

Questions/Comments:

None

Motion carried-None Opposed

Annie Hull made the Motion to accept the Resolution for the Tax Ordinance millage rate for 2023.

Second by-Gary Manges

Question/Comments-None

Motion Carried-None Opposed

Annie Hull made the Motion to Amend the Resolution for Lien Letters and Tax Certifications from \$25.00 to \$50.00 per parcel.

Second by-Gary Manges

Questions/Comments-None

Motion Carried-None Opposed

6. New Business-

KLH Engineers, Inc. would like to have a support letter for The Collection System Flow Meter Installation Project

Questions/Comments-Luke Snatchko

Gary Manges, "This will not increase the sewage rate, will it?"

Resnik, "No"

Luke, "Will this help with the issue the borough they are having on Main Street."

Resnik, "Yes"

Annie Hull made the Motion to appoint Luke Snatchko a liaison to the Police Department.

Second by-James Smith

Question/Comments-Kobe Sarracino

Could you define the definition of the police liaison?

Luke, "The police liaison will function as an intermediary between the Chief of Police and Smith Township Supervisors and Burgettstown Council."

Kobe Sarracino, "So they will come to you if they need anything."

Luke, "Correct"

Kobe Sarracino, "So when I attended Smith's meeting last week, they did not have any idea who was the liaison."

Annie Hull, "They would not have known as we are appointing tonight."

Kobe Sarracino, "Will you be sitting in on Smith's meeting."

Luke, "That is something that I am not obligated to do, but something I have the right to do. I will be having Public Safety meetings time to time."

Kobe Sarracino, "Okay"

Motion Carried-None Opposed

Annie Hull made the Motion to advertise for changes for future Compensation for Council and Mayor positions.

Second by-Gary Manges

Question/Comments-Kobe Sarracino

Kobe, "What paper will this be advertised in?"

Resnik, "Washington Observer"

7. Old Business-

Short Street Project Update-Gary Manges

- waiting on the engineer report
- camera pictures

Questions/Comments:

Shawn Sanders spoke the elevation of the area.

Kobe Sarracino questioned the Zoning of that area and how did Blue's get to place a business in a Residential Zone.

Luke, "They received a Zoning Variance and a Conditional use on the Zoning."

Kobe Sarracino, "How are they allowed to have those logs stacked that high?"

Council this is all being worked on.

Scout Hut Proposals -Tabled

8. Correspondence-

Repository Sale Washington County -March 15th @10:00 AM

McDonald Police letter confirming end of the police services contract.

Mayor's letter to Lieutenant Eric V. Erhardt, State Police services from 01/01/23 through 01/31/23.

9. Council Remarks-Luke Snatchko

Luke was working with Washington Parks and Recreation, Jeff Donahoe and Debbie Vraninin on a historical marker for the Panhandle Trail. Washington County is receiving one marker on the Panhandle Trail for this section.

10. Public Participation-Kobe Sarracino

Kobe Sarracino questioned if we receive the grant for the leaf vac truck where council is taking the debris.

Annie Hull, "We do not know if we are even receiving the grant yet."

Kobe Sarracino, "Luke what barracks does Lieutenant Eric Erhardt from?"

Luke, "Washington"

Donna Sandridge, "When is the Waste Management contract up?"

Resnik, "This year August 1, 2023"

Kobe Sarracino, "Do you have any sanitation companies interested in bidding?"

Resnik, "Yes this will be a public bid."

Kobe Sarracino, "When did Teresa Walsh put in her resignation?"

Resnik, "January 1st"

John Cherok, "Did she give a reason for her resignation?"

Resnik, "Busy if family"

Resnik explained to Kobe Sarracino what the Liquid Fuels Checking Account was and usages.

11. Executive Session- Personnel and Legal Matters

a. Action will not be taken.

b. Council entered executive session @ 7:15 PM

12. Motion to Adjourn- @ 8:02 PM

Ronald Allison made the Motion to adjourn.

Second by-James Smith II

Motion Carried-None Opposed

