

**BURGETTSTOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 5, 2024**

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.

Attending: Council Members:

Ken McKinney

James Smith II

Gary Manges

Beth Hoppe

Mayor:

Luke Snatchko

Solicitor:

Lane Turturice

Secretary:

Debbie Resnik

Treasurer:

Debbie Resnik

Visitors:

Pam Church

Sheila Golonka

Ross Johnson

Maria Golonka

Jerry McClain

Lisa Slopek-Sinkko

Roll Call: All Present

Any additions to the Regular Scheduled Agenda-
None

James Smith II made the Motion to pass February 5, 2024, Agenda

Second by-Gary Manges

Motion Carried-None Opposed

James Smith II made the Motion to approve the Reorganization Meeting held
January 2, 2024.

Second by-Gary Manges

Questions/Comments:

None

Motion Carried-None Opposed

James Smith II made the Motion to approve the Regular Scheduled Meeting Minutes
held January 2, 2024.

Second by-Pam Church

Questions/Comments:

None

Motion Carried-None Opposed

Beth Hoppe made the Motion to approve the Workshop Meeting Minutes held January 22, 2024.

Second by-Gary Manges

Questions/Comments:

None

Motion Carried-None Opposed

Person to be heard-None.

1. Financials: Debbie Resnik

- Burgettstown Volunteer Fire Department received \$12,361.83 for 2 mill tax.
- James Smith II made the Motion to pay the unpaid bills in the amount of \$3,451.63.

Second by-Gary Manges

Questions/Comments:

Motion Carried-None Opposed

Pam Church, "I have a question on the \$500.00 department purchasing without a vote and want to know if that was designated for any certain reasons?"

Resnik, "Are you wondering about the \$500.00 if a department is out on a project and would need to make an emergency purchase?"

Pam, "Yes, I was told that the borough can spend \$500.00 without a vote. Is that for department heads? "

Ken McKinney, "Yes"

Debbie Resnik, "Yes"

Pam, "Okay I understand that."

Lane, "The expenditure should be approved that day."

Ken, "We never did that."

Lane, "You should start."

Pam, "I was not sure as we never had it that high in the past."

Ken McKinney and Debbie Resnik, "I was in the past at \$1,500.00."

Pam, "So can James Smith and Gary Manges use it for their departments if needed?"

Ken McKinney, "Yes council just needs to be careful."

Discussed the Fire Department breakfast for Santa expenditures.

2. Council Reports:

Street Department -Gary Manges

Gary Manges would like the council to consider the purchase of a paving roller.

Gary Manges purchased a 24 ft. pipe in the amount of \$460.00 to complete the Dinsmore entrance project when the weather permits.

Lane Turturice stated that the paving roller does not have to be a public bid.

Luke Snatchko questioned Gary Manges on how much he feels the roller is worth.

Gary Manges, "Roughly around \$7,000.00.)

Pam Church, "Can we make payments on this purchase?"

Pam Church, "I feel it is a good idea to have."

James Smith made the Motion to purchase the paving roller from McDonald Borough in the amount of \$4,000.00.

Questions/Comments:

Ken McKinney made the comment that the borough had a paving roller in the past and it got rolled over the hill with the employee on it so be careful.

Ken McKinney, "It sits around more than it gets used."

Expenditure purchase will be taken out of the Liquid Fuels Account.

Motion carried- 3 to 2.

Ken McKinney -Opposed

Beth Hoppe-Opposed

Pam questioned where the council is going with the rafter storage expenditure as it was approved in December 2023 minutes.

Gary Manges would like to build a lean roof instead of the rafter storage shelving.

Ken McKinney will still oppose the rafter storage shelving.

The council will put on upcoming agenda to revote on this project at the next upcoming meeting.

- James Smith II made the Motion to accept purchasing a paving roller from McDonald Borough in the amount of \$4,000.00.
Second by-Pam Church
Questions/Comments:
Ken McKinney questioned if it was a ride on or walk behind the paver.
Manges, "It is a ride on paver."

Park and Recreation-James Smith II

GPS System-

- Ken McKinney discussed the GPS System and bid amount.
- The monthly initial fee is \$95.00 a month.
- \$27.00 a month

Discussion:

Gary Manges, "Why do we need this system?"

James Smith, "Tracking trucks when plowing."

Ken McKinney, "It will tell you when oil changes are do."

Beth Hoppe, "I feel having the GPS System is more important than the cameras at this time."

James Smith II made the Motion for purchasing the GPS System

Second by-Beth Hoppe

Question/Comments:

None

Motion Carried 3 to 2

Pam Church opposed.

Gary Manges opposed.

James Smith II reviewed what progress he will be doing in the Veteran's Park.

Gary Manges would like to work with James Smith II on the Burgettstown Borough sign project along with finishing the Veterans Park.
James Smith II would like to have Gary Manges involved in completing these projects.

Facebook-

- Discussed the pros and cons on Facebook page.
- Account managers, the office computer should be the administrator, but the secretary will not have access.
- Moderators will be designated as members come and go.

Ken McKinney, "I was not at the last meeting but the only concern I have for the platform is that it does not become bullshit."

Ken, "I see both sides several Municipalities and Boroughs use Facebook.

Pam, "I feel that we need to get more information out to the residents."

Pam put a post on Burgettstown What Is Going On, and she received positive 100 responses.

Pam put a report together on the replies if the council would like to review.

Luke, "So are we talking about soliciting things from the town because it sounds like this is what James would like to do?"

Pam, "No Luke that is not what I am saying. I am telling you what I did not what the borough is going to do."

Luke, "Well that is what we are talking about now is what the borough is going to do."

Pam, "My point is how we need to get more information out to the residents."

Luke, "Okay thank you for clarifying that."

Lane, "May I suggest that you set up governing rules and guidelines on that page along with a social media policy in writing. If not, it could turn into a mess for the borough."

Lane, "Make sure the page is setup under the borough not his personal page."

Luke, "There is a lot of legalities to this. It is not just opening a Facebook page and typing away."

Ken McKinney, "That is why I want this just to be informational."

James Smith would like a Motion to move forward with the Facebook setup.

Pam Church made the Motion to accept and move forward with the Facebook setup.

Second by-Gary Manges

Questions/Comments:

None

Motion carried-None Opposed

James Smith made the President and Vice President the moderators.

Cameras-Proposal

James Smith read the proposal for installation in the amount of \$3,600.00.

James Smith is asking the council for a Motion to purchase camera system.

Cameras Continued-

Pam Church questioned where the cameras are going to be placed.

Pam Church feels that we need additional information and more proposals.

Beth Hoppe, "Is this a commercial system? If so, this is not a bad price."

Ken, "This is the same contractor that place them at the park."

James, "This being commercial grade is not a bad price."

Beth Hoppe made the Motion to purchase the cameras for the borough buildings.

Second by-James Smith

Questions/Comments:

None

Motion carried – 3 to 2.

Pam Church -Opposed

Gary Manges-Opposed

3. Solicitor- Lane Turturice

- Questioned if council approved the sale of the police safe and scales at the Workshop Session.
- Resnik, "Yes"

Motion for the Resolution to sale or recycle of the police scales.

Motion for a Resolution for bidding out the police safe.

Beth Hoppe made the Motion to Approve the Resolutions for the sale or recycle of the police scales and bids for the police safe.

Second by-Gary Manges

Questions/Comments:

Lane Turturice questioned if under \$500.00 for the bid of the scales and safe.

The council agreed.

Lane discussed and reviewed the bid specs for the borough properties which are up for sale.

Lane will complete needs more information from the courthouse before proceeding.

Ken McKinney asked the council if they would like to use the appraised value for the reserve.

The council agreed.

Motion to put properties at 136 Center and 45 Main Street Ext out to public bid with the minimum reserve of the appraised value.

Beth Hoppe made the Motion to put the properties at 136 Center and 45 Street Ext. out to public bid with the minimum of reserve appraised values.

Second by-Pam Church

Question/Comments:

None

Motion carried-None Opposed

4. Mayor Report-Police/Fire Department-

Motion to appoint Ross Johnson as EMC Coordinator

Pam Church made the Motion to accept Ross Johnson as EMC Coordinator

Second by-Beth Hoppe

Questions/Comments:

Pam questions if we still had documents when Tom Repole was EMC Coordinator.

Resnik, "Yes he returned everything, and I handed over to Greg Javens."

Motion carried-None Opposed

Police Report -Officer Carlton

- Report filed as read.

Questions/Comments:

Gary Manges questioned if Smith Township handled the fights at the High School.

Officer Carlton, "No they are handled in house."

Fire Report-Jerry McClain

- Report filed as read.

Ken McKinney questioned Mayor if he had a full count on how many residents are signed up on the One Call Now System.

5. New Business -

OT Compensation-Needs clarification added to the Employee Handbook.

The council agreed that Lane Turturice will add section to Employee Handbook.

Pam Church voiced her opinion that the employee should have received his OT.

Gary Manges voiced his opinion as the council should have discussed the matter.

The mayor voiced his opinion that it is law and policy.

Beth Hoppe stated that all members were contacted and asked their thoughts, and all agreed.

Pam, "I did not agree."

Beth, "So you are the minority vote and majority rules."

Pam, "I am just voicing my opinion."

Mayor thanked and appreciated the council for how they spent the borough tax dollars.

Shred It was discussed.

- Look for a sponsor.
- Will inquiry if Washington Financial as they sponsored prior year.

6. Old Business –None

Pam Church made the Motion to appoint Greg Javens for the vacancy position.

Second by-Gary Manges

Questions/Comments:

None

Motion carried 3 to 1.

Beth Hoppe -opposed.

7. Correspondence-Land Bank

The council discussed the Land Bank letters regarding the 5-year taxes.

Mayor, "The Land Bank still did not give the borough the blight assessment that was in the contract."

Lane Turturice will review if the council agrees.

Mayor, "I think we should check to see if we are still involved in the program."

Resnik, "We are we paid the yearly fee."

Pam, "I feel it is a positive thing. I realize 5 years but after the locations are development it will bring in tax revenue."

8. Council Comments- None

9. Public Participation-

Harry Hardling had concerns with:

- a. Who is running the borough meetings?
- b. Why the President let the mayor interrupt the Vice President.
- c. Why the borough is purchasing a \$3,500.00 camera system and the borough denied an employee OT hour.
- d. Questioned Lane Turturice on the Mayor's powers.

President Ken McKinney responses:

- a. Meetings are run by the president of council.
- b. Feels that the meeting did not need to be interrupted as the mayor and vice president was discussing/ disputing on a matter that was brought up.
- c. Mayor just commented to keep the meeting moving as the council was moving from the agenda items.
- d. Cameras are a safety issue for the employees and theft.
- e. Camera purchase has no impact on the council's decision of the employees OT dispute.
- f. President feels that everyone starts to talk and does not understand the measures and why council had to take the measures for the denial of OT.
- g. Employee understood and was satisfied with decision after discussion.

Lane Turturice would not speak on the question of the mayor's power as the council did not engage him to do so when he asked.

Lisa Slopek-Sinko gave her explanation and clarification of Facebook bans on any social media platforms.

- a. Banning people from Facebook pages or any social media platform page is legal to do so.
- b. Not bound by freedom of speech.

Lane Turturice disagreed when it comes to the side of government.

- a. Federal litigation could arise.
- b. Municipalities have been sued over the Right-to-Know issues involving Facebook pages.
- c. Public Officials, screening or banning people and not others, would not isolate the borough from liabilities.

- d. The solicitor thinks the idea is great, but the borough must be safe.

Pam Church agrees there are different laws being a government to being a private user.

Ross Johnson thanked Gary Manges and the road crew for an excellent job on the snow removal.

Motion to adjourn- Into Executive Session @ 7:11 PM